

date: 4/30/17**Bible Passage: Luke 5:1–11**
(Disciples)

Jesus Calls His Disciples

REMEMBER VERSE

**Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and
believes him who sent me has eternal life.**

John 5:24a

Inspire

Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives

It was hard not to notice the heavysset woman and her son at the busy intersection in the heat of the day. He respectfully carried her bag and waited for her as she labored over the curb. When we finished with our appointment about 45 minutes later, we again saw them headed the opposite way. The prompting from the Holy Spirit was strong and immediate. I told my two kids we were going to see if they wanted a ride.

What followed was a pleasant 30-minute detour from our plans as we drove the mother and son to their destination. The conversation was interesting and humorous. We learned they were refugees of Katrina who had moved here four years ago. She was reliant on the bus routes and had been to our side of town to collect a radio station prize of a free dinner. As we prepared to drop them off, she asked if she could pray for our family. I asked her to please do so and promised to pray for them as well. She reached for my hand and gave me a squeeze before we pulled away.

I was overwhelmed with gratitude that God had allowed us to be a part of blessing others. I wanted to be sure my kids didn't miss the enormity of the situation. I verbalized my thinking: how our easy car ride across the same distance was a long hot bus ride for them. I marveled at how incredible the timing of everything was to line up so perfectly, from the bus they took that morning, to the exact time we spent in the doctor's office. If one thing had been off, we would have missed meeting them. The kids' eyes lit up as they connected the dots and they saw how amazingly God had worked. We praised God for calling us to be His servants.

Stephanie Bennett
Tru Team

Equip

Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage

What exactly did it look like to be called by Jesus? Most people knew Jesus as a rabbi or teacher, as Jesus probably dressed like a rabbi. Every young Jewish man began a religious education and hoped to be chosen by a prominent rabbi for further training. Rabbis would choose their followers (disciples) very carefully, and potential followers would go through years of training in an attempt to prove themselves. But Jesus had a plan. He wasn't looking for the most educated men with social status. He was looking for men with whom He could have a relationship. These men were teachable, hard workers from humble backgrounds.

Second, Jesus sought them out rather than the reverse, as was appropriate for the system. None of the future disciples came to Jesus to ask to follow Him. He pursued them in the places they worked and lived. With these first disciples, they were convinced of His power with the catch of their lives. Jesus—the Son of God—took the time to seek out these men and get their attention.

Finally, Jesus had His Father's bigger picture in view. As He picked these men, He was already setting up His plan. He chose 12 disciples. (A disciple is someone who follows and learns.) Jesus spent three years in life-on-life relationship with each of these men. Not only did He train them, He also exposed them to wonders beyond what they could imagine. He prepared them to be catalysts for the greatest movement ever seen on earth. Jesus' relationship with the 12 disciples set an example for the type of relationship He wants with each of us: He wants to be part of our lives, He will seek us out, He wants us to know Him, and He wants to use each of us in His great plan.

Support

Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word

Read over Luke 5:1–11. Think about your own life. Think about the first time you heard God calling you to be part of His plan.

Read the passage again. Do you see any parallels between this situation and your life? When did His calling on your life begin? In what ways did He pursue you? How has that changed everything for you?

Spend some time this week praying and asking God to reveal the narrative of your calling. Thank Him for all the ways He has revealed Himself in your life. Thank Him for inviting you to be part of His amazing plan.

Small Group
SECTION

EXPLORE::: 10 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about the day's portion of The Big God Story.

What Is Different?

In this part of The Big God Story, Jesus calls 12 men to be His disciples. Although they appeared ordinary and very different from other rabbis' disciples, these men were just who Jesus wanted as His followers.

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- [What Is Different? Images](#) (see Resources)

PREPARE AHEAD

Print the What Is Different? images.

RELATE

Welcome children, and show them the What Is Different? images. Explain that they can look at each set of pictures (each image has four versions) and figure out which picture is different from the rest. **Look carefully at these pictures. Which one of these is different from the others? What's different about the one you chose?** Help children (as needed) to identify the picture that's different and tell why.

DISCOVER::: 25 min.

Host/Worship Leader/Storyteller

Children participate in discovering God's Word through Bible verse memorization, interactive storytelling techniques, and worship as response.

Ponder Point

Jesus Calls His Disciples

Chloe's Rules

Host/Worship Leader

SUPPLIES

- [Chloe's Rules videos](#)

RELATE

Welcome children as they're entering the large group meeting area. *Tech: Cue Chloe's Rules video.* The theme song will play as the Worship Leader/Host enters and makes his way up front, welcoming and greeting children along the way. This should be a high-energy entrance. *Tech: Cue preschool program theme song.* Choose and play two upbeat worship songs of your choice from a worship album that complements the theme and focus of the lesson.

Mail Time

Host/Worship Leader

SUPPLIES

- [Mail Time intro clip and image](#) (see Resources)
- [Remember Verse image](#) (see Resources)
- [Remember Verse cards](#) (see Resources)
- [Mail Time envelope art](#) (see Resources)
- Envelope (large)
- Bibles (your personal and large children's)
- Mailbox

PREPARE AHEAD

Print or copy the Mail Time envelope art and attach to a large envelope. Print or copy one Remember Verse card and put it inside the envelope.

RELATE

Tech: Cue the Mail Time intro clip and image. Choose one volunteer to hide the mail and another to find the mail. Have the “Seeker” close her eyes while the “Hider” finds a good place to hide the Remember Verse. Once the mail has been hidden, the Seeker will begin to look for the mail while children give clues to its whereabouts by calling out “hot” and “cold.”

Once the Seeker finds the mail, the Host invites her to pull out the enclosed Remember Verse. Next, the Host should find the Remember Verse in his Bible and read the words aloud. Talk about the meaning of the verse while interacting with children.

Lead children in reciting the Remember Verse several times together using a variety of engaging methods. Hand motions, different voices, various speeds, and character integration are all great ways to help commit the Scripture to memory. For longer verses, approach the verse one section at a time, increasing what the children repeat back each week.

REMEMBER VERSE

Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life.

John 5:24a

REMEMBER VERSE DEFINITIONS

Eternal: Lasting forever and ever

REMEMBER VERSE MOTIONS

Very truly I tell you: Nod head in affirmation, cup hands around mouth.

whoever hears my word: cup hands around ears.

and believes him who sent me: Point index fingers to the sky.

has eternal life: Point right index finger outward and make a circular motion.

Wardrobe of Wonder

Storyteller/Host/Worship Leader

SUPPLIES

- **What’sIt:** Fishing Pole (see optional image in Resources)
- Wardrobe of Wonder
- Small stools or chairs (2)

What’sIt: Fishing Pole

Many of the disciples were fishermen when Jesus called them. When we answer Jesus’ call in our life, we become fishers of men.

RELATE

Tech: Cue the Wardrobe of Wonder intro clip and image. Invite a child volunteer to “spy” on the What’sIt by peeking into the wardrobe. Each time the wardrobe door opens, *cue the Wardrobe of Wonder sound effect*. Have him whisper the identity of the What’sIt in your ear to ensure he knows what it is.

Invite your assistant to sit on the stools with you. Then lead the group in asking the assistant yes-or-no questions about the What’sIt. Once the children have guessed correctly, ask your assistant to retrieve the What’sIt from the wardrobe and bring it to you. Thank your volunteer and encourage him to sit with his small group.

ASK

What’s this we’ve found in the wardrobe today? Children answer. **When would we use a fishing pole? What does it help us do?** Pause for responses. **Have any of you ever used a fishing pole? I wonder, why would this be in the wardrobe today?** Discuss possibilities with children. **Those are all very good thoughts. Well, we’re about to find out because ... friends, do you know what time it is? It’s time for The Big God Story!**

The Big God Story

Luke 5:1–11

Jesus Calls His Disciples

Storytelling Technique: Actions

SUPPLIES

- [The Big God Story intro clip and image \(see Resources\)](#)
- [What’sIt: Fishing Pole \(see optional image in Resources\)](#)
- [Wardrobe of Wonder sound effect \(see Resources\)](#)
- Props: fishing net, stool

SET UP

Place the props and What’sIt Fishing Pole near the stage. If using the fish (or bean bags to represent fish), have them within reach for use when prompted during storytelling. Place the stool in the center of the stage.

RELATE

Tech: Cue The Big God Story intro clip and image. **Hi, everybody! Every week we hear part of The Big God Story, and I can’t wait to learn more today! Where do we find The Big God Story?** Children respond. **Yes! In the Bible! Before we start, we need to stop and ask Someone to come and teach us. Do you know who that is?** Children respond. **That’s right! God! Let’s pray and ask Him to come and teach us.** Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

In the beginning, God had a really big plan for the whole world! Part of God’s big plan for the whole world was to send a Savior to save us from our sins. Sins are the things we do wrong—the bad choices we make. Do you know who came to save us from sin, so we could know God and be with Him forever? Pause for responses. **That’s right ... God sent Jesus to save us! Jesus followed God the Father’s plan exactly, and He wanted to find some other people to help Him with God’s big plan.**

One day, Jesus went down to a lake to teach the people. While He was teaching, He saw some men. Do you know who they were? I’ll give you a hint ... it has to do with our What’sIt! *Tech: Cue Wardrobe of Wonder sound effect.* Hold up fishing pole as children respond. **Yes! They were fishermen. Instead of using fishing poles like this one, they used nets to catch their fish.** Hold up net. **A fishing pole catches one fish at a time, but a net can catch**

many fish all at once. Jesus went over to these men as they were cleaning their nets. Sit on stool and pretend to clean net. Jesus told the men to go back out and put their nets in the deep water. One of the men, named Simon, told Jesus they had tried all night to catch fish and hadn't caught anything. But Simon knew there was something special about Jesus, so he said they would try again. Children pretend to cast net as Storyteller throws net over side of "boat."

What happened next? Do you think they caught a lot of fish, or nothing? Children answer. **Yes ... they caught a lot of fish!** Encourage children to toss their fish into net. **In fact, they caught so many fish their nets began to break. They couldn't even bring all the fish into the boat because there were so many!** Everyone pretends to pull heavy nets into boat. **So another boat had to come out and help. Even then, there were so many fish the boats began to sink! Jesus had just performed a miracle for these fishermen. The fishermen were amazed! They knew Jesus was unlike anyone else!**

Remember how I said Jesus wanted to find people to help Him with God's big plan? Well, these fishermen were the first people Jesus chose! When they came back to the shore, Jesus told them to come with Him. Do you think they went? Children respond. **Yes!** Do you think they took some time to think about it? Children respond. **No!** They knew Jesus was unlike anyone else. So when He called them to come, they followed Him.

That day, Jesus called four fishermen to come and follow Him. Soon after, He called eight more men. That's 12! When Jesus called, all 12 men left everything they were doing to follow Him. There's a word for people who have decided to follow God. They're called "disciples." Let's say that word together. Children repeat. **Disciples!** Excellent. A disciple is someone who follows a teacher, learns from him, and models or copies his behavior. After disciples learn enough, they go and teach other people the things they've learned from their teacher.

But there was something special about these disciples. It's a little bit like the activity you did earlier. When you looked at the pictures (substitute with activity used), they seemed similar, but some of them were different. The special thing about the 12 men Jesus chose to follow Him was that they got to spend every day and every night with Jesus, learning from Him. He showed them how to care for people and teach people about His love. Jesus showed them the very best way to live. When Jesus returned to heaven, He told the disciples to go out into the world and make other disciples by telling them all about Jesus.

When we choose to trust and obey Jesus, we become His disciples! As Jesus' disciples, we get to show the world God's love and everything Jesus teaches us. Friends, where do we get to learn all about Jesus and His love? From the Bible, that's right. How else can we learn these things? Kids answer; interact with their responses. Good thinking. We can learn from our moms, dads, leaders—the people we know who love Jesus, trust Him, and obey His words. These people can help us learn more about Jesus by showing us the very best way to live—the way Jesus lived when He was here on earth.

Worship as Response

SUPPLIES

- Instrumental music (quiet and on a loop at beginning)
- Worship song (suggestion: "I Can Sing," TruWorship *Sincerely Yours*)

RELATE

Lead children in a time of corporate worship response in prayer. **There are many ways we can get to know people better. We spend time together. We talk with one another, ask questions, and listen to what the other person tells us. Today we'll have a chance to pray out loud, asking God questions about the things we want to know about Him.** (Note: After you finish this time together as a large group, children will meet in their small groups and pray

together about the questions they have for God.)

Play an instrumental song in the background, and begin by praying with children. Encourage them to respond to God's Spirit. Give a brief explanation of how they will respond to God together. Invite children to come up, or stand where they are, and share their questions for God in prayer. As you sense this time is closing, worship together with "I Can Sing." As the room begins to quiet, close with a corporate blessing. Then dismiss children to their small groups to talk and pray together with their leaders before they move into RESPOND.

RESPOND:: 20 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them and respond through creative activities and games.

Wonder Questions

Small Group Enhancements, coloring pages, and discussion questions help your group go deeper into today's portion of The Big God Story.

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- [Wonder Questions coloring pages \(see Resources\)](#)
- [TruWonder Small Group Enhancements timeline and images \(see Resources\)](#)
- Crayons

RELATE

In The Big God Story today, we heard how Jesus chose 12 disciples as part of God's big plan for the world. God wants you and me to tell everyone about Him and how much He loves us. We get to be part of God's big plan!

I wonder ... Why does God want me to know Him?
I wonder ... How can I know God more?
I wonder ... How can I be more like Jesus?

BLESS:: 5 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- [Remember Verse cards \(see Resources\)](#)

RELATE

In the Bible, people would sometimes use their words to remind each other of things that were true about God. Today we're all going to have a chance to bless each other with our words. Help children form pairs. If a child doesn't have a partner, help her locate a leader. **You get to take turns saying the blessing to each other. One of**

you will go first, and then your partner will speak the blessing over you as well. Model this for children by pairing up with another leader or child and speaking the blessing. Have children repeat after you.

May you know God's love (children repeat), **and share His good news everywhere you go** (children repeat).

After children have blessed one another, gather everyone around you and close with a final group blessing:

Children, may you follow Jesus wherever He calls you.