



# FISHING FOR MEN

Lesson 10

## BIG IDEA

This message of salvation is called the Gospel and it is Christ’s net. This message is the net he uses to draw His people to Himself.

## KEY VERSES

Matthew 4:18-22

## MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 4:19-20

“Come, follow me,’ Jesus said, ‘and I will send you out to fish for people.’ At once they left their nets and followed him.”

## • PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

### BIBLE LESSON: INTERACTIVE

- Bible
- Photocopies of nets and net casting pictures (included)

### GAME

- Several fishing poles (see craft)
- 100 fish with paper-clips (see craft)
- Rope or tape for game boundaries

### CRAFT

- 12” pieces of dowel ¼ inch dowel, one per person (or wide kebab sticks with the sharp ends cut off)
- Fish templates on colored cardstock, six fish per child
- Paper clips, about 6 per child
- Magnets
- Sturdy string, about 3 feet per person
- Tape
- (optional) Wiggly eyes and other decorations for fish

### WORKSHEETS

- Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 per child)





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## BIBLE LESSON • INTERACTIVE

lesson 10

This lesson is used by permission from Truth for Children with the understanding that we reproduce it word for word. Leaders and teams are free to condense the lesson on the field as needed.

1. Read the scripture aloud - Matt. 4:18-22
2. In this story the Lord Jesus Christ is walking by the sea called the Sea of Galilee. He comes to two brothers, one named Peter and the other Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea, because they were fishermen. **Everybody stand up and pretend you are casting your nets into the sea.**
3. The Lord said to the two men, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Did they do what he said and followed Him? Yes they did! The two brothers immediately dropped their nets, completely abandoned them, and followed Him. **Now pretend to drop your nets and run in place.**
4. The Lord and the two men, Peter and Andrew, walked on a little further by the sea, and they saw two more men, also brothers. One brother was named James and the other was named John. They were fishermen also. They were in their father's boat where they were mending their fishing nets. Jesus called them to follow Him. What do you think they did? Do you think they followed Him too? Yes they did! The Bible tells us they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed Him. The Lord Jesus Christ has a powerful call! **Everybody pretend you are fixing your fishing nets. Now put them down and run in place after Jesus. Good job. Everybody sit down.**
5. Isn't it amazing?! The call of our Lord is so powerful that just by Him calling their name, they left everything (their jobs, their family, their friends - ALL of it) and followed Him. From that day on, these men were Christ's men. They were men chosen of God and appointed as Christ's fishermen. When Christ called them He told them they were no longer going to cast their nets for fish. He was going to make them fishers of men.
6. Only God has that kind of power. Can you do that? What if someone who you had never seen before walked up to you and they said, "Jackson, follow me?" Would you do it? You wouldn't if he was just a regular man; but this was not a regular man. This man was the Son of God! When the Son of God commands you to follow Him, do you think you can say "No"? You can't say "No," and you won't want to!
7. How many of you have been fishing? What are some things you have to know in order to catch fish? You have to know where the fish are. You have to know how fish act. You have to have a net to catch them with. How you catch fish is a picture of how God draws His people to Himself.
8. How many of you have seen a net before? (Hold up the net or the photo of a cast net provided). This is a fishing net, also called a cast net. It is in the shape of a circle or square, and it has small weights distributed around its edge.
9. Casting a net is a skill that must be learned. Someone has to teach you to cast it correctly in order to catch fish. As you can see in this picture the net is cast or thrown by hand in such a manner that it spreads out flat on the water and sinks. Fish are caught as the net is hauled back in. This simple device has been in use for thousands of years. This is a small net but in these pictures you can see that nets can be really large and can be used to catch a LOT of fish.
10. What happens after the net is thrown into the water? How does it catch fish? First you have to know where the fish are. You then cast the net over them and the fish swim into it, become



# FISHING FOR MEN

BIBLE LESSON • INTERACTIVE (CONT.)

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tangled and cannot get out. The fisherman then pulls the net back into the shore or boat and the fish are caught.

11. The Lord Jesus told these men He was going to make them fishers of men. What do you think this means? Does that mean He was going to have them go where men are and throw a net over them? No! This is just a story to demonstrate to us how the Lord uses men of His own choosing (His fishermen) to tell sinners how they are saved from their sins.

12. This message of salvation is called the Gospel and it is Christ's net. This message is the net He uses to draw His people to Himself. The Lord Jesus Christ came to this earth, fulfilled all the laws of God, and shed his own blood for His people's sins. This message is the Gospel. The message is good news, and God commanded his preachers (His fishermen) to declare this message throughout all the world. At the Lord's command we cast the net of the gospel out into all the world and He fills it with His fish. Where ever God sends his pastors to preach the gospel, it is like a fisherman casting his net, and God fills the net with His people and He draws His people safely to Him. What a beautiful illustration of his grace and mercy!

Reproducible curriculum produced and written by Truth for Children. Adapted visually and/or translated for use on short term mission trips by Experience Mission.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where did Jesus find his first disciples?
2. Did they follow him?
3. What did they leave behind when they followed him?
4. How does Jesus call people today?
5. How can you help Jesus call people?
6. What kinds of things should people leave behind when they follow Jesus?  
(focus on poor character qualities and sinful choices)
7. What is God's message called?
8. Where can you find what God says about the gospel?

### SIMPLIFIED LESSON OPTIONS

- Tell the account of the disciples fishing with Jesus in simple story form or read from a children's bible.
- Ask 3-4 of the simpler discussion questions.



# FISHING FOR MEN

CRAFT & GAME

Lesson 10

• CRAFT •

**OBJECTIVE: FISHING GAME**

Make a fishing pole and catch fish!

**MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM**

- Scissors, staplers, rulers, hole punches

**DIRECTIONS**

- Cut out fish templates
- Attach a paper clip to the front of each fish, tape in place
- Tie or tape magnet to one end of the string
- Tie the other end of the string to the end of the stick
- Go fishing!

**MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM**

- 12" pieces of dowel ¼ inch dowel, one per person (or wide kebab sticks with the sharp ends cut off)
- Fish templates on colored cardstock, six fish per child
- Paper clips, about 6 per child
- Magnets
- Sturdy string, about 3 feet per person
- Tape
- (optional) Wiggly eyes and other decorations for fish

**EXAMPLE**



**SIMPLIFIED CRAFT OPTIONS**

- *Pre-cut fish*
- *Attach magnets to string before club*

• GAME •

**OBJECTIVE: FISHING RELAY**

Teams race to catch all their fish.

**MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM**

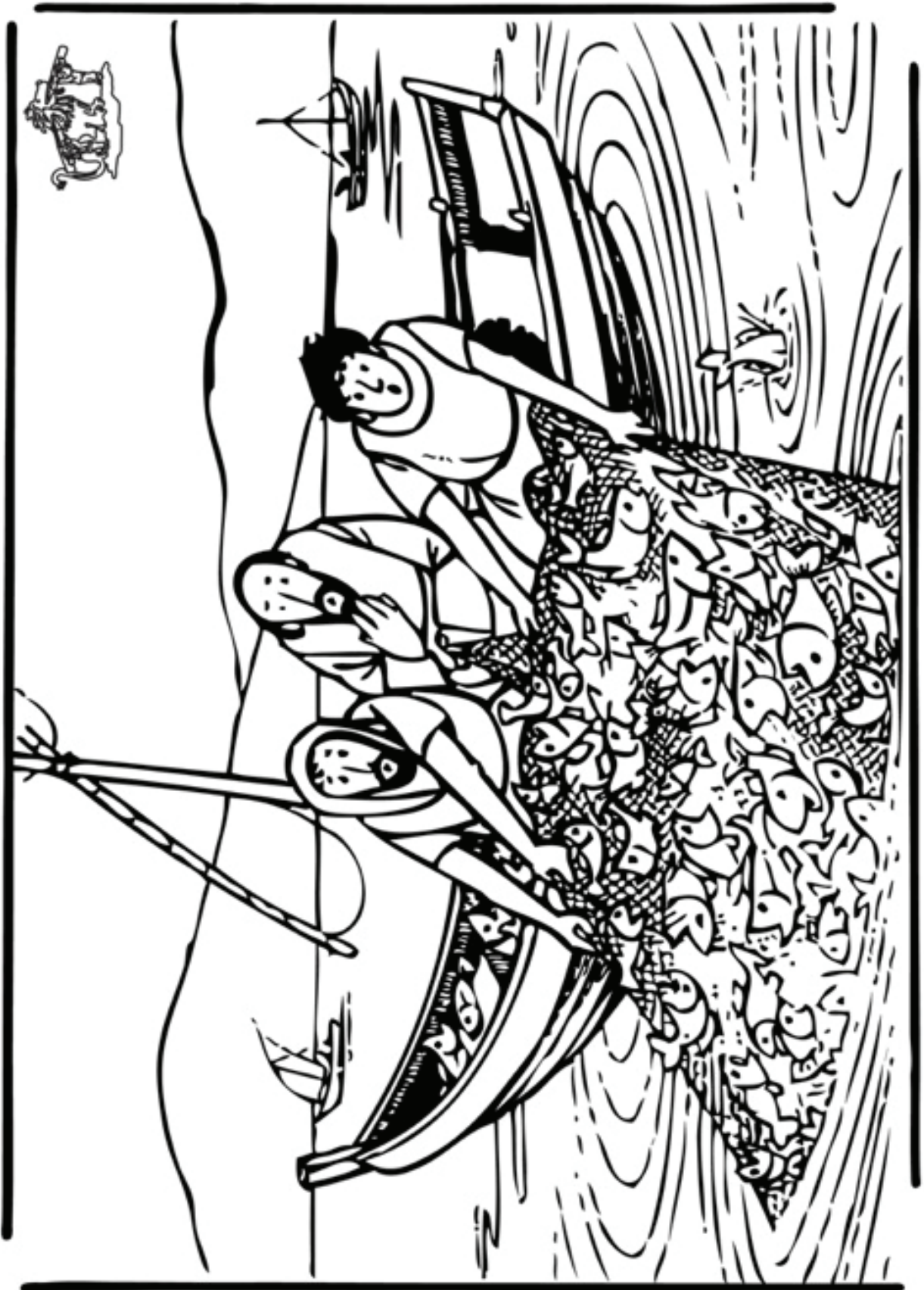
- Several fishing poles (see craft)
- 100 fish with paper-clips (see craft)
- Rope or tape for game boundaries

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Divide group into several smaller teams
- Teams line up behind rope
- Divide the fish equally among teams and set in piles across the play area from the teams (in a bucket perhaps)
- The first player from each team holds the fishing pole, runs to the fish, catches a fish, returns to his team and hands the pole to the next player
- This relay continues until all of the fish are caught and the players have returned to their line

**SIMPLIFIED GAME OPTIONS**

- *Play relay with the paper fish only, no fishing poles*
- *Make extra sets of fish for the relay rather than using the kid's fish from their art project*





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