

Wandering Heart

"Jesus sought me"

Children's Curriculum
for Luke 5:1-11
The First Sunday in Lent
by Rev. Anna Strickland



Main Idea: Jesus chooses us to be disciples.

Engaging the Story | LUKE 5:1-11

Scripture Retelling

*Text in **bold** is part of the story. Actions in italics are prompts for children to engage the text physically. These can be read aloud or modeled by the leader.*

One day as Jesus was by the Sea of Galilee, people began to crowd around him, trying to hear what he had to say.

Place your hand behind your ear to hear Jesus better.

On the shore, Jesus saw two boats where the fishermen were washing their nets after a long night of fishing.

Pretend you're the tired fishermen and wash your nets.

Jesus climbed into the boat that belonged to Simon Peter and asked him to take it out into the water so he could teach the people who had come to hear him speak.

Row your boat into the lake like Simon.

After he was done teaching the people, Jesus told Simon Peter, "Take the boat into deeper water and let out your nets so you can catch some fish."

Simon Peter told Jesus, "Sir, we've been out here all night trying to catch fish but our nets have come up empty."

Show Jesus your empty fishing nets.

"But if you say so, we'll try again." So Simon Peter and the other fishermen on the boat let out their nets. Soon they caught so many fish that their nets began to break! They called to their friends in the other boat to come help them with their enormous catch.

Pull the heavy nets into the boat.

Both boats were overflowing with fish, and they were all amazed. When he saw this miracle, Simon Peter bowed down before Jesus and said, "Go away from me, sir. I am not worthy to be in your presence."

Bow down like Simon.

Engaging the Story *(continued)*

Scripture Retelling *(continued)*

But Jesus said to Simon Peter, “There’s nothing to be afraid of. From now on you will catch people instead of fish.” When the boats arrived on the shore, Simon Peter and his fellow fishermen left their boats behind and followed Jesus.

Reflection

- What do you think Jesus was teaching about at the Sea of Galilee?
- The fishermen tried all night to catch fish and caught nothing. Have you ever tried really hard at something and didn’t get it? What did that feel like?
- Jesus came to Simon Peter and chose him to be a disciple. Can you think of a time when you were chosen for something special? How did that feel?
- Simon Peter was a regular person—he wasn’t rich or powerful or famous. He even told Jesus he felt unworthy, but Jesus chose him anyway—just like Jesus chooses us. Why do you think Jesus chooses regular people to be disciples?

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for always being near me. I know I could never run farther than you could follow. Help me to be a disciple like Simon Peter, following Jesus every day. Amen.

Extension Activities

Activity A) Play a Game: Hide and Go Fish

Materials

None

Instructions

Pick one person to be “Jesus.” They will close their eyes and say the Lord’s Prayer (if children have learned it) or count to twenty while the others hide. When the prayer is over, “Jesus” will seek out the other children like Jesus sought his first disciples. When a child is found, they become a “fisher of people” and help “Jesus” seek until all children are found.

Activity B) Read a Book: *We Follow Jesus*

We Follow Jesus. Written by Christine Way Skinner, illustrated by Céleste Gagnon. Twenty-Third Publications, 2021.

Touching on several other topics that will emerge throughout this series, this book talks about what it means to be a disciple and follow Jesus. Read the book together or make it available for older children to read independently. You might also choose to read this book as a children’s moment in worship or send a video read-aloud to parents during the week.

Extension Activities *(continued)*

Activity C) Creative Expression: Woven Nets

Materials

- Twelve 1”x 9” strips of construction paper per child.
- Markers or crayons.

Instructions

Invite children to write sentences about themselves on the strips of construction paper, 10 per child. Each child will also need 2 blank strips to create a woven net. You might provide sentence starters such as “I like...” “I am...” “I can...” or “I love...” You might also provide written examples of sentences such as “Jesus chooses me to be a disciple,” or “Disciples follow Jesus.”

Once children have written on their strips, they can start weaving the strips into a net. Take one blank strip and tape one end of five strips to it, about 1” apart. Then tape the other blank strip across the other ends of the strips to hold them together. Invite children to weave the remaining five strips in between the “warp” strips, alternating, going over and under. Leave some space between each strip for the holes in the net. Secure the ends with tape as needed.



SAMPLE



About the Author

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Operations Support & Content of A Sanctified Art

Anna Strickland (*she/her*) looks for the Divine in the everyday like treasure in clay jars and first encountered God in the integration of her spiritual self and artistic self. She is a former teacher and college minister, a proud Texas Longhorn and graduate of Iliff School of Theology, a Baptist to the core ministering in ecumenical spaces, and a lover of chaos anchored by the belief that the Spirit is most active in the spaces between us.

A Sanctified Art LLC is a collective of artists in ministry who create resources for worshipping communities. The Sanctified Art team works collaboratively to bring scripture and theological themes to life through film, visual art, curriculum, coloring pages, liturgy, graphic designs, and more. Their mission is to empower churches with resources to inspire creativity in worship and beyond. Driven by the connective and prophetic power of art, they believe that art helps us connect our hearts with our hands, our faith with our lives, and our mess with our God.

Learn more about their work at sanctifiedart.org.

