



## For Toddlers

**Summer Theme:** CPR – God cares, God protects, and God rescues.

**Early Childhood Essential:** I am a sinner who needs Jesus.

**Memory Verse:** “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.” – John 7:37.

**Bible Story Focus:** Jesus Calls His First Disciples (Matthew 4:18-22)

### **Lesson Overview:**

In this lesson, children will hear of Jesus’s call to his first disciples to come follow him. Children will learn that the disciples dropped everything in their lives because they knew that only Jesus could quench their thirst and heal their hearts. Just like these disciples, our hearts too, are thirsty for Jesus.

[WATCH THE WEBISODE HERE!](#)

## For Preschoolers

**Summer Theme:** CPR – God cares, God protects, and God rescues.

**Early Childhood Essential:** I am a sinner who needs Jesus.

**Memory Verse:** “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.” – John 7:37.

**Bible Story Focus:** Jesus calls His First Disciples (Matthew 4:18-22).

### **Lesson Overview:**

In this lesson, children will hear of Jesus’s call to his first disciples to come follow him. Children will learn that the disciples dropped everything in their lives because they knew that only Jesus could quench their thirst. He is the one we truly need. Just like these disciples, our hearts too, are thirsty for God.

### **Pre-Video Discussion:**

If you had to go on vacation and could only bring your very favorite thing, what would it be?

[WATCH OUR WEBISODE HERE](#)

### **I Wonder Questions (Post-Video):**

I wonder...

What were Peter and Andrew doing when Jesus came to them?

\*They were fishing.

What did Jesus ask Peter, Andrew, James, and John to do?

\*He said, "Come follow me."

Does Jesus want us to come follow him too?

\*Yes, only he can quench the thirst in our hearts.

### **Early Childhood Family Activity Idea: Paper Megaphone**

Make a paper megaphone with your kiddo to remind us that just like Jesus called his disciples to follow him in today's story, he calls us to follow him too! To start, grab some scissors, tape, and a piece of paper. Cut a strip off your paper short-ways and set aside for later. Next, take the large piece of paper and roll it into a cone shape and tape it together. Finally, take the piece of paper you set aside earlier and tape it to the cone to be a handle.

## **For Elementary**

### **Topic:**

Jesus calls his first disciples.

### **Lesson Overview:**

Jesus chose twelve friends to help him with God's rescue plan. In today's lesson, children will hear the disciples leaving everyone and everything they knew to follow Jesus. Kids will be encouraged to think about what they would be willing to give up in order to follow Jesus and identify people in their lives who they can tell about Jesus.

### **Key Scripture:**

Matthew 4:18-22

### **Elementary Essential:**

**God is good:** He cares for his people.

### **Memory Verse:**

"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink." – John 7:37.

### **Follow-Up Activity: Lake Day**

1. Go to a nearby lake with art supplies and allow kids to write about and draw what they see, or spend time fishing just like the disciples did in today's bible story.
2. Read today's bible story and discuss: What would it have been like to be fishing and have Jesus come up to you and tell you to follow him?

- **Intro Video Link:** <https://vimeo.com/431908744>
- **Bible Story Video Link:** [LifeKids: Jesus and his First Disciples](#)

### **Post-Video Discussion Questions: First, read Matthew 4:18-22**

- **What did the disciples leave when they followed Jesus?** (*Their nets/boats, their father*)
- **Are there things or people in your life that you can't imagine leaving behind to follow Jesus?** (*Take responses*)
- **What do you know about Jesus that helps you know he is worth following?** (*Take responses*)
- **What did Jesus tell Simon & Andrew they would fish for?** (*People*)
- **What does Jesus mean when he says they will fish for people?** (*They will tell other people about Jesus and help them follow Him*)
- **Are there people in your life you could tell about Jesus and encourage them to follow him?** (*Take responses*)

### **Extended Study for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders:**

Have kids list out things they believe are more important than Jesus and discuss why they think they are more important. What do they think these things will do for them or how do they think these things will make them feel? Pray to God to give you a heart that thirsts for Christ more than you thirst for those other things.