



MONTHLY BIBLE STORY

Catching Fish

MATTHEW 4:18; LUKE 5:1-7

BIBLE WORDS

"And the power of the Lord was with Jesus."

LUKE 5:17, NIV

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus can do anything.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

STORY TIME

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some children (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

WHAT YOU NEED: Preschool Bible, butcher paper, washable markers, painter's tape, and scissors

WHAT YOU DO: Make a simple boat shape on the floor with painter's tape. Make sure it's large enough for every child to sit in it. Cut a large square piece of butcher paper, and draw a net about half the size of the paper. Turn the butcher paper over, and draw a larger net on this side. Lightly draw in simple outlines of fish in a variety of colors in this larger net. Position the paper on the small, empty net side near your story area.

LEADER: "Hello, friends! I'm so glad to see you today. Come join me in this boat (*point*) on the floor. Today's true story from the Bible (*hold up the Bible*) begins with Jesus. Jesus was teaching a crowd of people when more and more came to hear Him.

"Jesus got in Peter and Andrew's boat, sat down, and continued teaching. And when He was finished, Jesus said: 'Let's go fishing!' Peter told Jesus that he and Andrew had been fishing all night but hadn't caught anything. (*Hold up or position the empty net side towards the children.*) Do you see any fish? (*Pause.*) Me either! Jesus told Peter to put his fishing net down into the water. Help me put the net out. (*Put the empty net side face-up on the ground near the tape boat.*) Then Jesus did something only He has the power to do. First, there was a fish! And then there was another fish, and another, and another! (*Flip the paper over so the full net is face-up.*) Do you see any fish now? (*Pause.*) YES! There were TONS and TONS of fish! Wow! Look at that! Jesus filled their net with so many fish that their net almost broke! That's a lot of fish! **Jesus can do anything!"**



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CRAFT TIME

Gather small groups of children around you at a table for toddler craft time. Depending on the size of your group, you may lead the craft two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in craft time. That's okay. Feel free to send home the craft materials for them to complete with their mom or dad.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Fingerprint Fish Bookmark" Activity Page, cardstock, washable ink pads, scissors, baby wipes, and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Fingerprint Fish Bookmark" on cardstock and cut, one cutout per child. Write each child's name on their paper.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to decorate their fish by pressing their finger on the ink pad, then pressing it down on their paper to fill in the fish outlines. Clean hands as needed.

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "We're going to make a bookmark today that has lots and lots of . . . (show the bookmark to the children) FISH! That's right! There are so many fish—just like in our story today! There are also a lot of different colors you can choose to fill them with! Take your pointer finger, (wiggle your pointer finger) and press it on the ink pad. Then, pick a fish to press it on. (Pause.) Great job! Keep going! You can choose different colors for your fish, make them any color! (Pause.) Super-duper! Look at all those colorful fish! Jesus filled Peter and Andrew's net with fish because **Jesus can do anything.**"