

## LESSON 4—THE GREAT CATCH

**Bible Reference:** Luke 5:3-10

**Key Verse:** 1 Peter 5:7—“Casting all your worries on him, because he cares for you.”

### OVERVIEW

- Bible Story
- Key Verse
- Prayer Part
- Small Group Activities
- Review

### ITEMS NEEDED:

- Signs for: *Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John*
- A bean bag
- Signs for: The Lord’s Prayer sign
- Each small group will need items for the “Foam Name Plate” craft.
- A place where students can turn in prayer requests

### BIBLE LESSON

*(Based on Luke 5:3-10)*

SAY: Good morning. We are so glad that you’re here today. Today we’re continuing our series called “Way Beyond Myself” which is all about the idea that God has the power to do things that are “Way Beyond” what you and I could ever do on our own.

### CONTROL TOOL

Anytime I say, “That’s impossible!” I want you to say, “Not for God!”

*Practice a few times. If you want have a boys verses girls competition to see who can be louder.*

REPEAT after me: *All things are possible for God.*

### Review

ASK: **Who remembers some of the stories we’ve talked about?** *(Jesus healing the paralyzed man; Jesus sending Peter to pull a coin from a fish’s mouth; Jesus and Peter walking on water.)*

REPEAT after me:

“Jesus can heal.”

“Jesus can forgive sins.”

“Jesus can do the impossible.”

### Act-It-Out

*Choose two volunteers and give them signs that say “Simon Peter” and “Jesus.”*

*Then choose three more volunteers and give them the signs that say, “James” and “John.”*

SAY: Whenever you hear the name, “**Jesus,**” say, “**Lord of all!**” Let’s practice.

*Tell the story and have your characters act it out. They can even repeat their character's sentences after you:*

Tell the Story (adapted from Luke 5:1-11):

Now it happened, while the multitude pressed on **Jesus** and heard the word of God, that **Jesus** was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. **Jesus** saw two boats standing by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them, and were washing their nets. **Jesus** entered into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. **Jesus** sat down and taught the multitudes out of the boat. When he had finished speaking, **Jesus** said to Simon, "Put out into the deep, and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered him, "Master, we worked all night, and took nothing; but at your word I will let down the net." When they had done this, they caught a great multitude of fish, and their net was breaking. They beckoned to their partners in the other boat, that they should come and help them. They came, and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But Simon Peter, when he saw it, fell down at **Jesus**' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, Lord." For he was amazed, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had caught; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. **Jesus** said to Simon, "Don't be afraid. From now on you will be fishers of men." When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything, and followed **Jesus**.

SAY: This was an incredible miracle that amazed these future disciples and showed them that Jesus was more than just an ordinary man. Simon Peter called him, "Lord." And today we want you to know that Jesus is Lord of all.

SAY: When I point to this side, I want the all the boys to say, "**Jesus is ...**"  
Then I'll point to the other side, and I want all the girls to say, "**Lord of all.**"

*Go back and forth between the two sides three times to see who can be louder.*

SAY: Jesus is Lord and He is the only way that any of us can be "saved" and go to Heaven.

**CONTROL TOOL**

Leader: "*That's impossible!*" Students: "*Not for God!*"

SAY: We want you to see that God can do the impossible—which includes filling a net full of fish. But an even bigger miracle is that God can save you and me from our sins.

REPEAT after me:

"Jesus can heal."

"Jesus can forgive sins."

"Jesus can do the impossible."

SAY: Let's give our volunteers a hand for helping us.

**KEY VERSE**

SAY: From now on anytime I say "*What do you know?*" I want you to say, "*Jesus Saves!*"

Leader: "*What do you know?*" Students: "*Jesus Saves!*"

SAY: I need some help to spell an important word that has to do with our key verse today. To do this, I'm going to need a few volunteers to help me spell with your bodies. That's right, I need some body-spellers.

*Choose 4 volunteers*

*Begin positioning their hands and arms to spell the word FISH without telling the students what letters you are making.*

SAY: I have positioned their hands and arms to spell a word. Raise your hand if you think you know what word we've spelled.

*Once the word is guessed, clap for the volunteers and let them sit down.*

ASK: **Can anyone tell me a story about fish in the Bible?** (There are several: Jesus feeding the 5,000, the nets being full of fish, Jesus preparing breakfast for the disciples after His resurrection, Jesus sending Peter to pull a coin from the fish's mouth.)

SAY: The word "fish" isn't in our verse today but "fishers of men" or "fishermen" is. Listen to today's main verse.

*Read from your Bible Luke 5:10*

SAY: When we follow Jesus we also learn how to be "fishers of men".

ASK: **What do you think it means to be a "fisher of men?"**

SAY: Instead of catching fish we catch people. We get to tell others about Jesus so that they too can give their lives to Christ and be saved.

ASK: **What does it mean to be "saved"?** (A person is saved the moment he accepts Jesus as his Lord and Savior—the moment he gives his life to Jesus. That's when a person is saved.)

ASK: **What is a person saved from?** (From their sins, from a life without God and from the punishment for their sins.)

ASK: **What do you use to catch fish?**

ASK: **What do you think you use to reach people for Jesus?** (God's word, good actions, a love for Jesus, kindness, to be willing to tell others about how Jesus saved you.)

SAY: Never be ashamed that you know and follow Christ. And there are a lot of ways that you can tell others about Jesus. This is part of God's plan for you but His plan for you also begins with YOU coming to know Jesus and being saved yourself.

Leader: *"What do we know?"* Students: *"Jesus Saves!"*

Leader: *"That's impossible!"* Students: *"Not for God!"*

SAY: Give yourselves a hand for doing such a great job with our verse today.

### **PRAYER PART**

*Choose 2 volunteers to hold the "Lord's Prayer" sign. Ask your kids to say it with you.*

ASK: **After being with Jesus, what did the disciples ask Jesus to teach them?** (To pray)

SAY: This is how Jesus taught them to pray and it is our example too. I want to encourage you to ask your parents to say this prayer with you each night before you go to bed and in the weeks to come, we'll be learning more about prayer too.

SAY: But right now, I want to show you something more about prayer.

*Choose 1 volunteer*

TELL your volunteer that you are going to throw a bean bag to him and you want him to catch it and throw it back. Do this several times.

ASK: **What does it mean to “cast” something?** (“Casting” is another way of saying “throwing” ...kind of like “casting” a fishing line to try to catch fish—You’re “throwing” it out into the lake.)

SAY: We are going to read about something that God wants us to throw or “cast” His way.

*Read 1 Peter 5:7 from your Bible.*

ASK: **What does God want you to “cast” or “put” on Him?** (Your cares.)

ASK: **What kind of “cares” or “burdens” do you think God wants you to put on Him: Some of your cares; A few of your cares; Just your really big cares; Or all of your cares?** (All your cares.)

ASK: **Why can you cast all your cares on God?** (Because He cares for you.)

TOSS the item back and forth with your volunteer again, but each time you throw it, say a care or worry that someone might have—Here are some examples below...

-“Let’s say you get scared in the middle of the night. You can cast that care on God.”  
(*Throw the bean bag. Ask your volunteer to throw it back.*)

-“Let’s say someone in your family gets really sick and you’re worried about them...  
Your can cast that care on God.” (*Throw the bean bag. Ask your volunteer to throw it back.*)

-“Let’s say someone in your family goes on a business trip and you’re afraid something bad might happen to them... You can cast that care on God.” (*Throw the bean bag. Ask your volunteer to throw it back.*)

-“Let’s say someone at school is bullying you... You can cast that care on God...and you also need to tell your parents.” (*Throw the bean bag. Ask your volunteer to throw it back.*)

SAY: Casting your cares on God means talking to him about the things in your life that bother you, worry you, or burden you. It means giving your concerns and cares to Him.

ASK: **What are some cares or worries that you have?**

SAY: Everybody bow your heads and close your eyes. First, I want you to “cast your cares on God.” Right now just tell Jesus what is on your heart and mind...(pause for a few seconds)... I’m also going to call out a few of the prayer requests that were turned in this morning and as I do, I want you to ask Jesus to help these situations. Then keep praying for these cares anytime you think about them this week.

**Conclude by praying** specifically for your students to trust Jesus and have His peace. Thank the Lord that He answers prayer and that what is impossible for us is possible for Him....

### **Dismiss to Small Groups**

SAY: Right now it is time for our small groups, so I'm going to dismiss you one row at a time.

*Dismiss rows of chairs to the tables in the rooms. Give them specific directions where to go.*

## **SMALL GROUPS**

### **Craft**

*(NOTE: Today you might want to introduce the craft to everyone and explain what it means before dismissing them to their tables.)*

SAY: Today we're going to make name plates out of foam cut-outs. Each of you will get a foam rectangle and we want you to spell your name and then decorate it however you like.

SAY: But before we begin I want you to know that there are two things we want this name plate to remind you about your life:

- (1) Anytime you look at this name plate and see your name, remember who Jesus said you would be—A “fisher of men.” If you are saved, that's who you are and God has given you the privilege of being able to bring other people to Him.
- (2) Again, anytime you look at this name plate, we also want it to remind you that YOU can cast your cares on God because He cares for YOU.

So, let's go over those two things again.

- (1) Everybody say, “I am a fisher of men.”
- (2) Everybody say, “I can cast my cares on God...because He cares for me.”

*Use the picture and instructions on the back page to help lead your students in making a “Foam Name Plate” craft.*

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Below are questions that you can discuss with your students before, after or during the activity:

-Name someone you know that you think might not know Jesus.

-How can you find out if they know Jesus or not?

-What are some ways that you could tell them about Jesus?

-Why do you think some people never tell anyone about Jesus?

-What are some other things you can do to help bring people to Jesus?

*(Pray for them—Some people worry about family members and close friends who don't know Jesus and this is a care that they can give to God. Giving a care like this to God doesn't mean that you pray for it once and never pray for it again. Picture it like a fishing rod—you cast it out but you also reel it back in. There are many concerns you'll have in your life, like praying for a “lost” person, where you will pray for them over and over again.)*

**Prayer**—*“What some cares that you would like to give to God today.”* Take prayer requests and pray with your students.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

FOR OLDER STUDENTS—Ask your students to write a letter to God either about something that worries them or about someone they want to come to know Jesus.

FOR OLDER STUDENTS—Give students a small piece of paper. Tell them to write on it the name of a person that they think might not know Jesus. Tell them to fold the paper over and to use a tack to pin it to a cross in your room. This will be a reminder this semester to continue praying specifically for these people.

FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS—Ask your students to draw a picture of something that worries them or someone they want to come to know Jesus.