GENESIS TO REVELATION | BIBLE ACCOUNT

Jesus Calls the Fishermen

Luke 5:1-11



YOUR BIBLE READING

Jesus called fishermen into a new life of following him.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

An Empty Night and a Boat for Teaching



Luke 5:1-11

A crowd pressed around Jesus beside the lake of Gennesaret, eager to hear God's word. Nearby were two boats. The fishermen had come out of them and were washing their nets. Their work belonged to life on the lake, where boats and nets were tools for earning a living. The scene brings together people listening to Jesus and workers finishing a night that had not brought the catch they wanted.

Jesus stepped into the boat that belonged to Simon and asked him to put out a little from the shore. From the boat, he sat and taught the crowd. The account does not tell us every word of the teaching, so there is no need to supply a new sermon. It shows Simon's ordinary working boat becoming a place from which people could hear the word Jesus was giving them.

When Jesus finished speaking, he told Simon to go into deeper water and lower the nets for a catch. Simon explained that they had worked all night without catching anything. This was not a man who had forgotten to try fishing. He and the others had already put in the effort. The instruction came after an unsuccessful night, when the nets were being washed and the work might have seemed finished.

Even so, Simon said that because Jesus had spoken, he would lower the net. He named the disappointment honestly and then responded to the instruction. The story does not describe his trust as pretending the night had gone well. It places his empty catch and his willingness beside one another. They moved into the water and let down the nets, beginning an action that would soon astonish everyone who had been working there.

Remember: Following Jesus can lead us to serve people in new ways.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

From a Great Catch to a New Calling

Luke 5:1-11



The catch was so large that the nets began to break. Simon and his companions signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help. The partners came, and the fish filled both boats until they began to sink. The account describes abundance beyond what the workers could easily manage alone. Help from the other boat became necessary, and the astonishing catch involved a group rather than one person showing off his skill.

Simon Peter fell at Jesus' knees. He was overwhelmed and spoke of his own sinfulness, asking Jesus to go away from him. He and everyone with him were amazed by what had happened. James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were among Simon's partners and shared that amazement. The focus had moved beyond the number of fish toward the one whose word had brought such a catch after their empty night.

Jesus told Simon not to be afraid. From then on, his work would concern gathering people alive. The picture drew on Simon's work as a fisherman, but pointed toward a new calling. People were not being described as objects to trap or harm. Jesus was inviting Simon into work that would bring others toward life with God. The unexpected catch became part of an invitation larger than making that day's fishing business successful.

When they brought the boats to land, they left everything and followed Jesus. Luke does not list the arrangements they made afterward or give a separate farewell speech. He records the decisive response: they followed. The passage begins with washed nets and an empty night and ends with a new direction for their lives. Jesus had used a boat, given an instruction, met Simon's fear, and called him beyond the work he had known.

Pause and think: How might listening honestly and accepting help prepare you for a responsibility you have not yet imagined?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

A Calling That Values People



Simon did not hide the fact that the night had been unsuccessful. Honest disappointment can belong beside willingness to listen. In your life, you might need to explain that you tried something and found it difficult. A trusted teacher or grown-up can help you consider a next step. Failure at one task does not make you a failure as a person or mean you have nothing left to learn.

The fishermen signaled for help when the catch was too much. Working together was part of the event. We can remember that help is not only for moments when nothing works. A large task, even a joyful one, may require other people's hands. Sharing responsibility can protect people from carrying more than they can manage and make room for everyone's contribution to matter.

Jesus' picture about gathering people points toward life, not force. Following him should never mean trapping, frightening, or pressuring another person into belief. People deserve honest words and respectful care. The fishermen's leaving was their particular calling; children are not being told to abandon home. We can explore faith with safe adults while considering how everyday kindness can help others feel welcomed.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Jesus met the fishermen in ordinary work and called them toward a new life of gathering people with care.

How might listening honestly and accepting help prepare you for a responsibility you have not yet imagined?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. What happened when they lowered the nets again?

2. What did the fishermen do on reaching shore?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ They come ashore and follow Jesus.
- ☐ The fishermen lower their nets and catch many fish.
- ☐ Jesus teaches from Simon's boat.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw two boats helping with nets full of fish.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

Following Jesus can lead us to serve people in new ways.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Luke 5:10-11

A thoughtful conversation

Jesus' fishing picture means gathering people into life with God, not trapping or controlling them. This call to adult disciples is not an instruction for children to leave caregivers.

Activity answers

1. They caught so many fish that they needed another boat's help.
2. They left everything and followed Jesus.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 3, 2, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

Jesus, help us follow you and care for the people around us. Amen.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Luke 5:1-11. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration: original DigiPick artwork made with AI assistance; an artistic interpretation.
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