



WEEK 4

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

Jesus invites us to be like Him.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Calls the Disciples:
Matthew 4:18-23

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Backwards Follow the Leader
- **ACTIVITY** | Backwards Fishing

TEACHING TIME

- **MUSIC** | Worship Time
- **THE BIG IDEA** | Jesus invites us to be like Him.
- **BIBLE STORY** | Matthew 4:18-23
- **ACTIVITY** | No More Nets
- **PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- **DISCUSSION** | Snack and Discussion
- **ACTIVITY** | Circle Time
- **ACTIVITY** | Net Rubbings
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Psalm 118:24a

PLAY TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page of the Week
- **ACTIVITY** | Blanket Catch
- **ACTIVITY** | Potato Head People



WEEK 4

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

Jesus invites us to be like Him.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Calls the Disciples:
Matthew 4:18-23

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Backwards Follow the Leader

- Welcome back again! In this series, we're learning about how Jesus is not like any other person. Jesus is not normal and Jesus invites us to be like Him!
- We're going to play Backwards Follow the Leader!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have the kids line up behind you and follow you as you do wacky and not normal actions, such as hopping like a frog while mooing like a cow, or marching while singing "Happy Birthday," or flying like a bird while roaring like a lion. When you call out "Backwards!" everyone in the line will turn around to face the other direction, and a new leader (the kid at the back of the line) will become the leader. Then, have the kids switch places, and call out "Backwards!" again about 20 seconds later.*
- **Was it easy to follow the leader and do the motions the leader was doing?**
- Jesus wants us to follow Him and do the things He does, like loving people and telling them His story.

ACTIVITY | Backwards Fishing

- We're going to play with pretend fish and use a fishing pole to catch them. We're learning today about men whose job was to catch fish. Those men were called fishermen.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the service, make a toy magnet fishing pole by cutting two pieces of two-foot-long string and tying them onto yardsticks or long dowel rods. Then, tape small magnets to the bottom of the string. Print the Backwards Fishing printables and cut the fish cards apart. Put metal paperclips on each fish card and spread them all out on the floor on one side of the room. Have the kids form two lines on the other side of the room and give the first kids in each line a fishing poll. Tell*

them to walk backwards down to the fishing area and use their fishing pole to try and catch some fish. You could also use a magnetic fishing set like this.

- Instead of using a fishing pole like we just did, fishermen use a net to catch a lot of fish at one time. We're going to hear about four men who were using nets to catch fish when Jesus came and changed their lives.

TEACHING TIME

MUSIC | Worship Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Spend time singing with your preschoolers. You can sing any songs you'd like, but for this lesson we like, "I Will Follow" by Summit Kids and, "I Will Make You Fishers Of Men" by Wonder Kids

THE BIG IDEA | Jesus invites us to be like Him.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:
 - Ask the kids to give you a drum-roll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.
 - Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back. (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections.)
 - Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.
 - Write it on a piece of paper and hide it inside a Bible. Have one of the kids find it in the Bible. When it's found, read it to the kids.
- This week's Big Idea: **Jesus invites us to be like Him.**

BIBLE STORY | Matthew 4:18-23

- Last week, we learned about when Jesus was tempted to do wrong, but didn't give in. **Why didn't He give in?** Because Jesus is God, and Jesus is perfect. He is not normal! Let's hear another story about something Jesus did next.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the story in your Bible and read it to your preschoolers.
- **Where was Jesus when He saw two fishermen?** Jesus was walking beside the sea when He saw two fishermen who were using a net to catch fish.
- **Who were the two fishermen Jesus talked to first?** They were two brothers named Simon (also called Peter) and Andrew.
- **What did Jesus say to the two brothers?** Jesus said, "Come and follow Me." They chose to follow Jesus. They left their fishing nets and their boats and quickly followed Jesus.
- Then, Jesus saw two more brothers who were getting their nets ready to go fishing. One brother was James and the other was John.
- **Did James and John follow Jesus, too?** Yes! James and John left their father with the fishing nets and followed Jesus, too.
- Jesus invited the fishermen to stop catching fish and come follow Him and tell other people His story. Jesus wasn't trying to catch fish. Jesus wanted them to join Him in helping people know God loves them.
- Jesus invited us to follow Him, too. He wants us to help people and tell them about Him and His love. Jesus invites us to be like Him.

ACTIVITY | No More Nets

- Jesus invited the fishermen to leave their fishing nets and follow Him. We can pretend to use a fishing net and act out the story we heard from the Bible.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids toy [nets](#) and toy fish to play with. Show them how to hold the net by its side and throw it into an open area of the room. Have other kids toss fish into the net, then have the kids holding the net pull it back as if they are catching fish.
- We can pretend there are a lot of wiggly fish in our net. The fish make the net heavy.
- **Can you leave your nets and come follow me now?** We can leave our nets right there just like the brothers in our story did.
- Just like Jesus invited the brothers to follow Him, Jesus invites us to be like Him and tell people about Him.

PRAYER

- Let's spend time talking with God in prayer.
- Dear God, Thank You for sending Jesus to be our example. Help us follow Jesus and be like Him. Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME

DISCUSSION | Snack and Discussion

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass out a snack to all of your preschoolers and ask them to sit and listen while they eat. Your discussion will be more effective when they're busy sitting and snacking!
- **Who did Jesus tell to follow Him?** (Two brothers, Simon Peter and Andrew.)
- **What were the brothers doing when Jesus talked to them?** (Fishing.)
- **When Jesus said, "Come follow Me" did the brothers follow Jesus?** (Yes.)
- **Did James and John use a fishing pole or a net to catch fish?** (A net)
- **When Jesus said, "Come follow Me," did James and John follow Jesus?** (Yes.)

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the service, print the Fish printables and cut out a fish for each kid. Have the kids join you in a circle on the floor. Put a net in the middle of the circle and give each kid a paper fish. Let them take turns saying the Big Idea and putting their fish in the net.
- **Does Jesus want you to stop what you are doing and be like Him?** Yes, just like the fishermen needed to stop catching fish so they could learn to do what Jesus was doing, we can choose to follow Jesus too, no matter what we're doing.

ACTIVITY | Net Rubbings

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tape tulle or a net to a table. Give each kid a piece of paper to put over the net and show the kids how to rub the side of a crayon over the paper to make an imprint of the pattern. They can use a variety of colors to make their pictures colorful and unique.
- In our story today, the men were using nets to catch fish, but Jesus asked them to leave what they were doing to follow what He was doing instead.
- You can take home your picture to remind you that you can be like Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 118:24a

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming Folder for ideas on how to help your preschoolers memorize Bible verses. Here are the hand motions for this month's memory verse . . .

THIS (point to the ground) **IS THE DAY** (hold both arms over your head in a circle) **THAT THE LORD** (point up) **HAS MADE** (clap your hands once).

PLAY TIME

While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page of the Week

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid a coloring page, plus markers or crayons. As they color, remind them how Jesus invites us to follow Him and tell others about Him.

ACTIVITY | Blanket Catch

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the service, draw a fish on a balloon. Let the kids hold the sides of a blanket or a sheet and bounce the balloon up and down, like catching a fish in a net. You can use several balloon fish for older kids.
- We played a fun game where we all bounced the fish balloon up and caught it again with our pretend net, just like the fishermen from our story.

ACTIVITY | Potato Head People

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the pieces from Mr. Potato Head toys for the kids to stick into Play-Doh to make faces. Show the kids how each face is different, unique and special.
- You made a person who is different from everyone else's, just like you are different from everyone else. Jesus is different and special. We can be different and special, like Jesus!

Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.