

The Disciples

Lesson At-A-Glance


Scripture Reference
Luke 5:1-11, 8:1-3

Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Epiphany 5

Lesson Focus
**Jesus calls people like me
to follow him.**



Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Arrival Time Kids take turns tossing coins in a basket and do an Activity Page.	Activity Pages 	Masking tape, basket, coins, markers or pencils
Circle Time Kids greet each other using the letter D, hear about the church season, and count coins.	Leaflet	Basket with coins that landed in it during Arrival Time
Prayer Time Kids use hand motions to pray.	None	None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)


	Spark Resources	Supplies
The Disciples Storytelling Leader or kid reads aloud from the Spark Story Bible, and kids illustrate one part of the Bible story.	Spark Story Bibles	None
Follow Me Kids sing a story song to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	None
Faithful Followers Kids draw themselves and others following Jesus.	Leaflets	Pencils or markers

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Find the Fish Kids find the Christian fish symbol, Ichthus, in a fish puzzle.	Leaflets	Pencils or markers
Fishing with Nets Kids learn real-life facts about fishing with nets.	Leaflets	None
Follow the Savior Kids play a game of follow the leader.	None	None

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids select what they will do at home this week and make the sign of the cross as a blessing.	Leaflets	Pencils, scissors
Prayer Time Kids pray using an add-on prayer.	Family Pages 	None

 Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content! Watch a short Lesson Prep video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find four downloadable resources for this lesson: an Activity Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

Gather (10 minutes)

Arrival Time

Set out copies of the Activity Page for this lesson, and markers or pencils on a table.

Place a basket at one end of the room, and tape a line of masking tape on the floor a short distance away. As kids arrive, give them at least one coin each. Ask them to stand behind the line and take turns tossing their coins into the basket. When everyone has had a turn, ask them to bring you the basket with the coins that made it in, and to pick up the ones that didn't make it, putting them in a separate place.

Invite kids to do the Activity Page. When all kids have arrived, invite them to join you in a circle or small group.

Spark Resources

Activity Pages



Supplies

Masking tape

Basket

Coins

Markers or pencils

Circle Time

Let's welcome everyone today. For each person in our class, we will say, "God welcomes name of kid into the family of God!" Today we meet Jesus' friends, the disciples. The disciples had lots of names—James, Joanna, John, and Susanna—to name a few. But they all had the name *disciple*, and that name starts with *D*. Let's use the letter *D* today as we greet each other. Tell something about yourself that begins with the letter *D*. I will go first. "Did you know that I am a disciple of Jesus and you are disciples of Jesus? We definitely are." Give each kid a turn, helping those who might struggle with this.

If the kids in your class tried the Faith on the Go! activities from last week's leaflet, be sure to invite kids to share what they did. Ask everyone how they showed love to someone or helped another person during the last week.

Hold up the leaflet and point to the star on the green background. **Let's look at the front of our leaflet. Who can tell me what season it is here at church? (Epiphany) What symbol or shape do you see here? (star) Epiphany is the season of stars and kings. Why do you think that is? (Three kings followed a bright star in the sky to find Jesus.) Yes! And today we celebrate the fifth week of Epiphany.**

Today we got to try a coin toss when we came to class! Let's see how many coins made it into the basket. Encourage the kids to count out loud as you take the coins out, one by one. **Our Bible story today has something to do with coins, but that's not all.** Arrange the coins in the shape of a fish. **What does this look like?** Wait for responses. **Yes, a fish. Coins and fish! When Jesus called his first disciples, some of them were busy fishing. Another man was counting coins. But when they heard Jesus call, all of them did the same thing. Can you guess what that was?** Pause for responses. **They dropped what they were doing.** Stop. Toss a coin into the basket. **And followed him!**

Spark Resources

Leaflet

Supplies

Basket with coins that landed in it during Arrival Time

Prayer Time

Invite kids to follow your motions. As you pray, point out each body part (eyes, ears, and hands).

Dear God,

**Thank you for eyes to see your world,
Ears to hear your Word,
And hands to do your work,
Help us to follow Jesus!**

Amen.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

The Disciples Storytelling

Jesus asked some special friends, called *disciples*, to share his work. Let's read the story of The Disciples in our Spark Story Bibles. It comes from the Gospel of Luke. As you listen to the story, imagine that you are standing with the disciples. What do you see? What do you hear?

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

None

Pass out the Spark Story Bibles and invite everyone to find The Disciples on pages 258-263. Wait until all kids have found the story, assisting those who may need help. Encourage kids to follow along as you read or ask for a volunteer to read aloud.

Now, tell us what you imagined you would have seen that day. Be ready to give suggestions of images in the story (*the seashore, a boat, a group of disciples, Jesus*). Go around the room and ask kids to tell you what they imagined. Point out something that you like about each image.

Have a brief conversation about the story. Ask the kids these questions:

1. What were some of the names of Jesus' disciples? (*Simon, Mary, James, Joanna, Andrew, John, Matthew, Bartholomew, Philip, Thomas, Thaddaeus, Judas, Susanna*)

2. What jobs did the disciples have before joining Jesus? (*fishing, collecting money*)

3. What would you have done if Jesus asked you to follow him while you were busy working? Affirm all responses.

Follow Me

If kids are not already seated at a table, move to one for this activity. Give each kid a leaflet.

Look at the first page of your leaflet. What did Jesus ask the fishermen to do? (*drop their nets and follow Jesus*) **Use your large sticker to show what they dropped.** Hand out stickers so kids can complete the picture.

Let's sing a song to help us remember today's Bible story! Look at the words in your leaflets, and sing or say the words with me! Sing one phrase at a time to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat," inviting kids to echo you. At the end of each verse, have kids speak, "Says Jesus!" Sing or say each verse together until kids are comfortable with them.

In a real sea song, sailors worked or moved while they sang. Let's pair up in groups of two or three and sit cross-legged on the floor. Help kids get into groups. **Now join hands and while we sing, you can rock back and forth as if you were on a boat!** Sing the song through again, rocking back and forth this time.

Let's look at the bottom of this page and read about where we can find this story in the Bible.

Today's Bible story, The Disciples, is from the book of Luke. Luke wrote many stories about Jesus and his friends, the disciples. Disciples are people who believe in and follow Jesus. They wanted to follow Jesus because he loved them.

Now look at the bottom of the third page in your leaflet. It has the same words that we just read, but it's missing some important words. Use the word stickers to fill in the blanks. Which word do you think goes where? (*disciples, follow, Jesus*) After attaching the stickers, read the statements together.

If you are interested in teaching your kids a Bible memory verse from the story, use this one. Teach it to them by inviting them to echo what you say, one phrase at a time.

[Jesus said], "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." Luke 5:10b

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

None

Faithful Followers

Invite kids to open to the second page of their leaflets.

When Jesus called his disciples, he gathered quite a crowd! Tall, short, fat, skinny, dark or light skinned, all kinds of people listened to Jesus. On this page, draw different kinds of people following Jesus. Don't forget to put yourself in the picture!

While kids are working, ask them who they are drawing. How many people do they think followed Jesus? Remind kids that all sorts of people love Jesus, not only those who look like them.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Pencils or markers

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Find the Fish

Let's look at the third page of the leaflet. When Jesus went out on the boat with Simon and Andrew, what did they catch? (fish) The shape of a fish was used by the early Christians as a secret sign of faith. We call this shape an *Ichthus*, *ICK-thus*. *Ichthus* is a really fun word to say. Let's say *Ichthus* five times and find five *Ichthuses* on this page.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Pencils or markers

Now look at all the fish in the five different columns. There are six fish in each column, but only two of those columns have exactly the same six fish in them. Can you find which columns have the same fish? Pause while kids look. When you think you've found those two columns, circle them. (columns 1 and 3) Great job! Remind me to fish again with you disciples!

Fishing with Nets

Turn to the back page of your leaflets. How many of you have gone fishing before? Pause. What did you use to catch your fish? Pause for responses. The people of Jesus' day did things a little differently. Let's look at the pictures on this page to see how those fishermen caught their fish. Read through the leaflet with the kids. Do you think anyone still uses nets like these to go fishing today? Pause again. They do! Whether on the Sea of Galilee or out on the open ocean, many fishermen still use nets to catch their fish, even now.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

None

Follow the Savior

When Jesus first called the disciples, what did they do? (*They followed him.*) **Let's play a game of Follow the Leader right now, but we'll call it "Follow the Savior!" We're going to travel around the room (or church) in single file. If I hop on one foot, you do the same. If I suddenly stop and sit down, you do, too! Ready? Let's go!** If time allows, let everyone have a chance to be the leader for a few minutes.

Spark Resources
None

Supplies
None

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

Thank you for coming to class today. We learned about the disciples and how they dropped everything to be with Jesus. Jesus calls people like you and me to follow him. We can invite our family and friends to follow Jesus, too.

Direct attention to the back of the Faith on the Go! slip on the bottom of the back page of the leaflet, and have the kids fill in the blanks with the name of someone they want to give this slip to, their own name, and today's date. Encourage them to mark one or more of the ideas or add their own. Have kids cut the slip off on the line, ready to give to someone else.

After class, give this slip to someone you want to do the activity with. It's like a coupon for time with you. Next week, we can tell each other what we did to share God's love and remember our Bible story!

When we make the sign of the cross, we remember that God is with us every moment of every day. Make the sign of the cross on your forehead or in your hand to remember God's protection this week. Then make the sign of the cross in a friend's palm and say, "Jesus calls people like me to follow him." At the end of class, do the same for each kid and ask them to do the same for you.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils
Scissors

Prayer Time

Let's do a fishing prayer! I will throw out a line, and then we'll go around the room and each of you can add one word to the prayer.

Dear God, thank you for . . . Jesus.

Thank you for . . . (*Kids add their own words.*)

Amen.

Be sure to send the leaflets and Family Pages home with kids, dismissing them as appropriate.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

