

## Fishing for Men: Matthew 4:18-22

**Set Up:** This week's Bible study involves the boys in a role-play.

Characters needed: Simon Peter, Jesus, Andrew, James, John, and Zebedee, who will all perform the actions as they are read.

Props: A blanket for a net and a box or blocks for a boat.

**Commander Says:** As Jesus walked along the shore of the Sea of Galilee (*Jesus walks along the shore*), He saw two brothers who were fishermen, Simon, called Peter, and his brother Andrew, catching fish in the lake with a net. (*The brothers fish from the boat with the net.*)

Jesus said to them, "Come with Me, and I will teach you to catch men." (Jesus calls the fishermen.)

At once they left their nets and went with Him. (Peter and Andrew leave their nets and follow Jesus.)

Jesus went on and saw two other brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in their boat with their father, Zebedee, getting their nets ready. (Jesus sees James and John in their boat. James and John are preparing their nets.)

Jesus called them, and at once they left the boat and their father and went with Him. (Jesus calls James and John, and they leave the boat and their father to go with Jesus.)

Explain that several of Jesus' disciples were fishermen, including His first four disciples, Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John.

Ask: "What did Jesus mean when He told the fishermen that He would teach them to catch men?" (Jesus wanted to teach them to tell others about Him, so others could come to Jesus too.)

The boys should know how to tell this to an unsaved person: Everyone is born a sinner and disobeys God and deserves punishment for sin, but God sent His Son Jesus to die in your place. Jesus took your punishment because He loves you. If you believe Jesus died for you and are sorry for your sins, you can ask Jesus to forgive you, and He will.

**Review:** Ask: "Why do people need Jesus?" (Because everyone is a sinner.) "How can people be saved?" (By believing in Jesus and asking Him to forgive their sin.) "Why is fishing like telling about Jesus?" (Catching a fish is like bringing a person to Jesus.)

Let the boys take turns "fishing" with a homemade fishing pole. Make one by tying a string to the end of a stick. Attach a spring clothespin to the other end of the string. Have the boys cast the clothespin "hook" over a table. On the other side, a commander attaches a small prize to the hook, and the boy reels in the prize.

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Color this picture of J. B. Beaver. Can you say the blue point Spiritual?



A Royal Ranger is Spiritual. He prays, reads the Bible, and witnesses.

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