

James and John

Jesus' Disciples
Lesson 2

Lesson Objectives

- The children will tell the story of Jesus' meeting with James and John.
- The children will describe James and John's response to Jesus.
- The children will describe one way they can follow Jesus wholeheartedly.

Lesson Text

Mark 1:19-20

Scripture Memory Verse

Trust in the Lord with all your heart.
Proverbs 3:5

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Something Fishy

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: Without Delay

Craft: Leaving the Boat

Scripture Memory: Whole Hearts

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



James and John

Something Fishy

The children will preview important words and ideas from today's Bible Story as they complete this activity.

Materials

For each child:

- pencil
- crayons

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

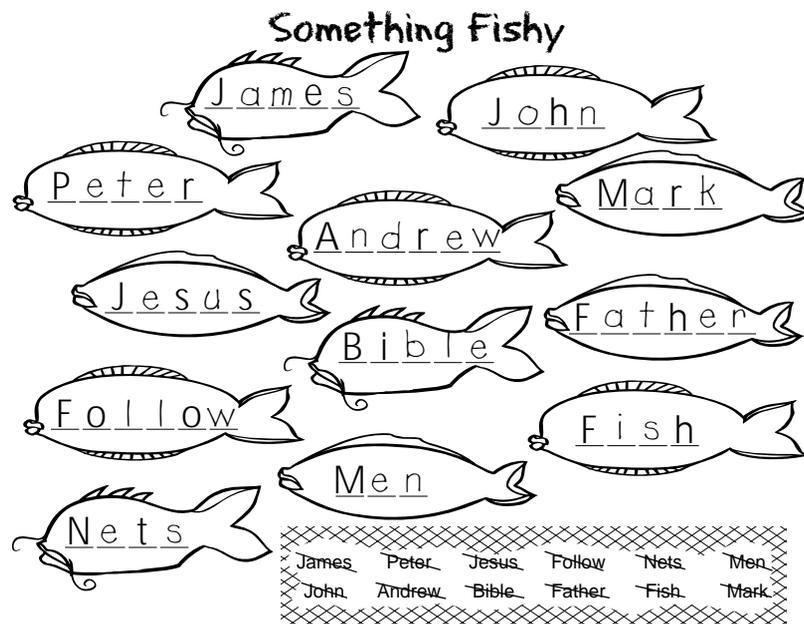
Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page A to show the children as an example.

Instructions

1. Greet the children as they arrive. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page A, pencils and crayons to the children.
2. Explain that the children are going to fill in the blanks, using the words in the box at the bottom of their pages. The first one has been done for them. Tell the children that these are words that they will hear in their Bible Story today.
3. When the children have finished, encourage them to color their pages. Circulate among the children to offer help and answer questions. Make sure the children write their names on their pages.
4. For any children who finish early, encourage them to draw a picture or write a story on the backs of their pages using the words from this activity.

Teacher Tips

- Think of other fun ways to bring the "fish and nets" motif into your class area.



B James and John

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Without Delay

The children will tell the story of Jesus' invitation to James and John to follow him.

Materials

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

Practice presenting this story with emphasis and enthusiasm, using your copy of Reproducible Page B.

Introducing the Bible Story

Seat the children around a table or in a circle on the floor. Have your Bible open to Mark 1:19-20. Introduce today's Bible Story by telling the children that they are going to hear about some other men who were called to follow Jesus and what these men did.

Presenting the Bible Story

Last week, we learned about two special men. They were brothers and they were fishermen. One day, Jesus saw them and he called them to come and follow him. Can anyone remember the names of these two men? (Peter, or Simon, and Andrew) The Bible says that when Jesus called them, they followed right away. Why do you think they followed right away? (They wanted to be with Jesus.)

Today we are going to learn about two more people Jesus called to follow him. This week, our Bible Story comes from the New Testament book of Mark. Hold up your Bible opened to Mark. Listen to what the Bible says happened after Jesus called Peter and Andrew:

When [Jesus] had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him. (Mark 1:19-20)

After Jesus had called Peter and Andrew, he went a little farther. Then he saw two more men. They were brothers and they were fishermen too! Their names were James and John. Their father's name was Zebedee. Can you say Zebedee? (Say it with the

children.) Jesus called them "without delay." That means, right away! James and John left their father in the boat and followed Jesus.

Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page B. Tell the children that they are going to help you tell the Bible Story using their pages. Explain that you will read the words written in the small letters and they will read the words written in the big letters.

Warming Up:

Begin by reading aloud the entire story on the back of this Lesson Card, having the children follow silently. Next, read only the words in large print aloud to the children as they follow silently. Finally, ask the children to read only the words in large print together with you. Do this two times.

Ready to Read:

Tell the children to listen carefully as you read the story. Pause when you come to a word in large print to cue the children that it is their turn to read. Read the story together with the children in this way two times. Ask the children for volunteers to read the story alone or with a partner.

Share and Tell

James and John were like Peter and Andrew in three ways. Who can tell me how they were alike? (They were brothers; they were fishermen; they followed right away. The children may think of additional ways.) All of these men wanted to be with Jesus. Do you want to follow Jesus? Why do you want to follow Jesus? (Take responses.) There are a lot of people who would like to follow Jesus but they do not know how. Can you think of someone like that? Let's all try and think of someone that we can tell about Jesus this week. (Invite the children to share names.) Remind the children to use their copies of Reproducible Page B to help them tell the story. Close with a prayer for everyone to share about Jesus this week.

Teacher Tips

- Pray to have Jesus' heart to go "a little farther" in your preparation and delivery. Think of little things that you can do to enhance this story through expression and enthusiasm.

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James and John

When he had gone a little farther,
Jesus saw **James** son of Zebedee
and his brother **John** in a boat,
preparing their **nets**. Without delay he
called them, and they left their
father Zebedee in the boat with the
hired **men** and followed **him**.

Mark 1:19-20

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James and John

Leaving the Boat

The children will make a craft to remind them that James and John left their boat to follow Jesus.

Materials

For each child:

- 1 plain paper plate
- 1 straw
- 1 piece of construction paper, 4" x 4"
- invisible tape
- crayons or markers
- 1 piece of gauze or loosely woven fabric, 2" x 2" (optional)
- miniature fish stickers (optional)

For the teacher:

- stapler
- scissors
- hole punch

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. Cut the paper plates in half and staple them together for the children, as shown in Figure A.
2. Tape one straw to the inside of each paper plate, as shown in Figure B.
3. Punch two holes, one inch from the top and one inch from the bottom, in each of the construction paper squares for the children, as shown in Figure C.
4. Cut out the pictures of James, John and Zebedee from the copies of Reproducible Page C for the children.
5. Make a sample of the craft to show the children.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's craft, saying: *In our Bible Story, we learn that Jesus called James and John to follow him. James and John were fisherman just like Peter and Andrew. Today, you are going to make a boat to remind you that James and John left their boat to follow Jesus. Show them your sample. Hold up the pictures of James and John to show that they can be removed.*

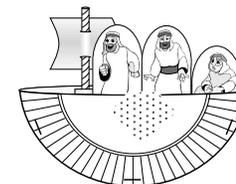
2. Explain that the picture of Zebedee does not come out of the boat because he did not leave the boat to follow Jesus.
2. Give the children the paper plate boats and construction paper squares that you prepared. Show them how to place their paper squares over their straws to make sails, as shown in Figure D.
3. Distribute the pictures of James, John and Zebedee and the tape. Show the children how to tape their pictures of Zebedee to the insides of their boats, as shown in Figure E.
4. If available, distribute the pieces of gauze to the children and have them tape them to the sides of their boats, as shown in Figure F. If it is not available, have the children draw pictures of nets on the sides of their boats.
5. Have the children place their pictures of James and John inside their boats. With the time that remains, distribute the crayons and have the children decorate their boats. Suggest that they draw a water line on the side with fish, for example. If available, have them place small fish stickers on the net or in the water.
6. Have the children write their names on the sides of their boats.

Conclusion

Have the children hold up their boats with James and John. Ask them: *What did James and John do when Jesus asked them to follow him?* (They left their boat and followed Jesus right away.) Ask the children to show you what James and John did when Jesus asked them to follow him. (They should take James and John out of the boat.) Close with a prayer thanking God for Jesus.

Teacher Tips

- You can staple the straw, picture of Zebedee and gauze to the boat instead of using tape. However, you should be the one to use the stapler and not the children. Be careful to cover any sharp edges with a piece of masking tape.



James and John

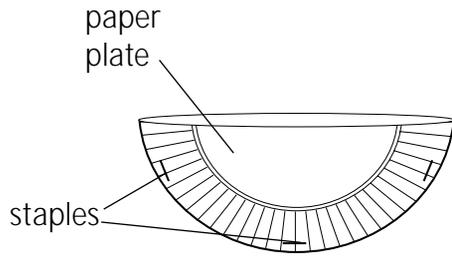


Figure A

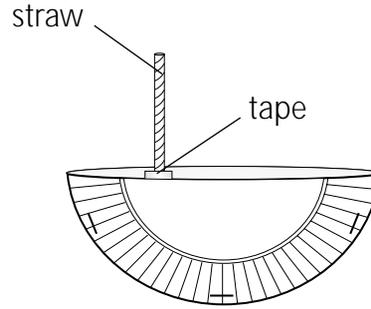


Figure B

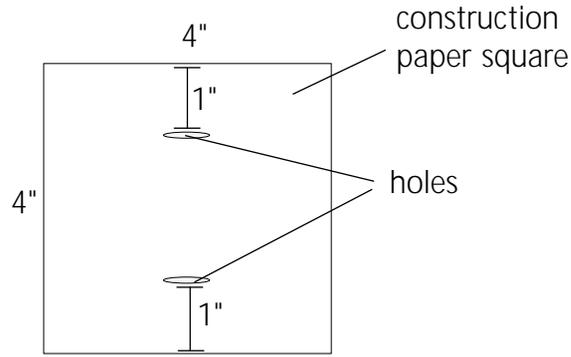


Figure C

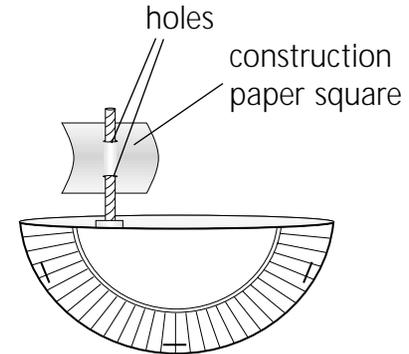


Figure D

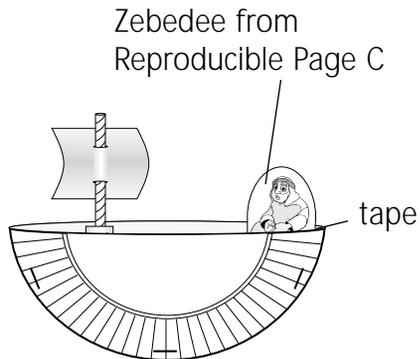


Figure E

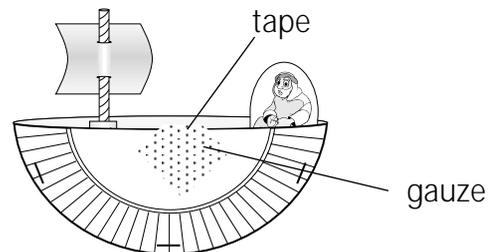
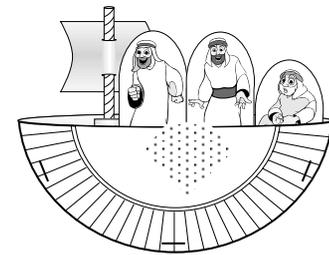


Figure F



Finished Craft

James and John

Whole Hearts

The children will learn and memorize today's Scripture Memory Verse as they think about being wholehearted for God.

Scripture Memory Verse

Trust in the LORD with all your heart.
Proverbs 3:5

Materials

No additional materials required.

Preparation

Practice leading this activity with enthusiasm and excitement.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In our Bible Story today, we learn that Jesus called James and John to follow him. James and John were brothers and they were fishermen. They left their boat and their father and followed Jesus. How do you feel when you have to leave your parents to go somewhere? (Take responses.) It can feel scary or sad to leave your mother or father. But then you feel happy when you get there. For example, sometimes it feels scary to leave your parents to go to a new school, but when you get there and make new friends you forget that you were afraid. James and John had to leave their father to follow Jesus. Maybe they felt a little scared. But after they were with Jesus, I think that they were very excited and happy.*
2. Show the children the Scripture Memory Verse on the back of this Lesson Card. Read it to the children slowly. Explain that "trust" is when you do something you believe in even though you may be afraid. *For example, pretend you are afraid to ride a roller coaster and the other kids make fun of you. Then one of your friends comes over and tells you he is afraid. He trusts you enough to tell you. You tell him that you are afraid too. Both of you trusted each other enough to tell the truth.* Ask the students to think of a time when they had to trust someone. Tell the children that James and John trusted God to take care of them, so they left their boat and their father and followed Jesus.
3. Have the children say the verse together with you five times.

Start slow and get faster each time.

4. Ask the children: *What does it mean to do something with all your heart?* (Take responses.) Explain that it means to do something with all of your energy, love and attention. Ask them to share examples of things that people do with all of their hearts. (Answers may include: playing sports, caring for a baby brother or sister, practicing an instrument, etc.)
5. Explain to the children that you are going to say the memory verse and they will repeat it exactly the way you say it:
 - Say the verse in a monotone voice, looking down, with no body movement. The children should imitate you. Ask the children: *Did we say the memory verse with all of our hearts?* (No)
 - Say the verse in a slow, quiet voice, looking up a little, and holding your hands together. The children should imitate you. Ask them: *Did we say the memory verse with all of our hearts?* (No)
 - Say the verse in a louder tone, moving your hands slightly. The children should imitate you. Ask them: *Did we say the memory verse with all of our hearts?* (No)
 - Say the verse in a joyful and confident tone, moving your hands to express your feelings wholeheartedly. The children should imitate you. Ask them: *Did we say the verse with all of our hearts?* (Yes!)
6. Ask the children to take turns standing up and saying the verse from memory with all of their hearts.

Conclusion

Ask the children how they feel when someone comes over to play with them, but that person does not really want to be there. Does it make them feel special? (No) Pretend that you are welcoming some new students to class in a half-hearted way. Does it make them feel special? (No) Ask the children how they think God feels when we do not trust him with all of our hearts? Does it make him feel special? (No) Encourage the children to trust God this week with all of their hearts. Close with a prayer for the children to think of ways that they can make God feel special.

Teacher Tips

- Think of additional role play situations.

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Trust in the LORD with
all your heart.

Proverbs 3:5



Lesson Objectives

- The children will tell the story of Jesus' meeting with James and John.
- The children will describe James and John's response to Jesus.
- The children will describe one way they can follow Jesus wholeheartedly.

Lesson Text

Mark 1:19-20

Scripture Memory Verse

Trust in the LORD with all your heart.

Proverbs 3:5

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Drop Your Nets

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: First Things First

Game: Following Faithfully

Bible Skills: Love Letters to the Churches

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



pre
class

ACTIVITY

Drop Your Nets

The children will review this week's Bible Story as they make these puzzle pictures.

Materials

For each child:

- glue stick
- 1 piece of black construction paper
- crayons
- 1 medium envelope
- lined paper (optional)

For the teacher:

- scissors
- Reproducible Pages:*
- Page D, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. Cut out the puzzle pieces from the copies of Reproducible Page D for the children.
2. Place each puzzle in an envelope.

3. Make a sample puzzle picture to show the children.

Instructions

1. As the children arrive, explain that they are going to make a puzzle picture that reviews this week's Bible Story about James and John. Show them your example.
2. Distribute the envelopes with the puzzle pieces, construction paper, glue sticks and crayons to the children. Tell them to put the pieces of the puzzle together on top of their construction papers. When all the pieces are in place, have them glue their puzzles to their construction papers. Have the children color their picture puzzles with crayons.

3. Circulate among the children to offer help and review the Bible Story with the children.
4. For children who finish early, encourage them to write a story in their own words called "James and John Follow Jesus" from Mark 1:19-20. Make sure they write their names on their papers.

Teacher Tips

- Make a few extra copies of Reproducible Page D on colored card stock and laminate for extra puzzles for future Preclass sessions. Or, invite the parents to donate the materials and/or the time to make extra puzzles (or other activity materials) for the children to have at home.

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N**First Things First**

The children will describe one way they can follow Jesus wholeheartedly.

Materials

No additional materials required.

Preparation

Practice leading this activity with wholehearted enthusiasm!

Reviewing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Mark 1. *In our Bible Story this week, we learned about Jesus calling James and John to follow him. Do you remember what James and John did? (Take responses.) The Bible says that right away Jesus called them and they got out of their boats and followed. I think that James and John were happy to follow Jesus. They did not complain or make excuses. They just got out of the boat and followed Jesus. They made the right choice. They followed Jesus and I think they had happy hearts. Did you know that you can be like James and John? Each of you can make the right choices every day to do the things that Jesus would do—with a happy heart.*

Life Application

Explain to the children that they are going to pretend to go through a whole day and think of the difference between following Jesus halfheartedly and wholeheartedly. Divide the children into two groups. Line them up side by side with the lines facing each other. Have the children sit on the floor or in a line of chairs. Choose a group to be the "half-hearts" and a group to be the "whole-hearts." Tell the groups that they will be able to switch roles halfway through the activity.

Explain that you are going to describe something that they do every day. The half-hearts will show how to do it halfheartedly. The whole-hearts will show how to do it wholeheartedly. Do one for them as an example.

Example: Waking Up

Halfhearted: open eyes; yawn; look out the window with a ho-hum attitude and shuffle around the room complaining that it is too early. Wholehearted: open eyes wide; look out the window and thank God for a beautiful day; ask yourself what you can wear today that will look really great for school.

Now tell the children to listen to you carefully as you give them each events that happen during a typical day. Have each group act out the event according to their roles. Be prepared to jump in and offer help and ideas to make the distinction clear.

1. Greeting Mom and Dad
2. Reading the Bible and praying
3. Getting dressed
4. Going to school

At this time in the activity, tell the children that they can now change roles. The half-hearts can become the whole-hearts and vice versa.

5. Doing homework
6. Obeying parent(s)
7. Eating dinner
8. Going to bed

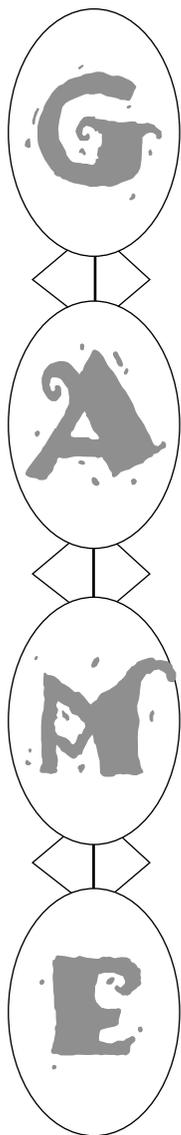
Conclusion

Have the children sit in a circle and ask them: *Who do you think was happier, the halfhearted group or the wholehearted group?* (The wholehearted group—although, the children's answers may differ. Stress that the wholehearted group had a better and happier attitude.) Go around the circle and have the children each say one way that they will follow God wholeheartedly today. Close with a prayer for the children to desire God with all of their hearts.

Teacher Tips

- Pray to be a great example of wholeheartedness for this lesson. Consider the impressions that you will make by your attitude and preparation.





Following Faithfully

The children will experience how James and John trusted Jesus when they followed him.

Materials

For each child:

- 1 index card

For the teacher:

- 2 scarves
- 1 medium size box or container
- chairs, tables or large boxes

Preparation

1. Using the children's index cards, make two sets of numbered cards based on half of the number of children in your class. (For example: If you have 20 children, you will have two sets of cards numbered 1-10.) On the backs of one set, label the cards "Jesus" and on the backs of the other set, label the cards "James and John."
2. Set up a simple obstacle course using chairs, tables or boxes. Make sure that the children have a wide space to pass through, and that there are no sharp surfaces exposed. The obstacle course does not have to be longer than ten to fifteen feet in length.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's game: *In this week's Bible Story, we learned that Jesus called James and John to follow him. James and John were brothers and they were fishermen. They left their boat and their father to follow Jesus. In our game today, you are going to think about what it means to trust Jesus and follow him faithfully.*
2. Show the children the obstacle course that you have prepared. Explain that each of them is going to take a turn to be "Jesus" and "James and John." They are going to take turns leading and being led along the obstacle course.

3. Place all the numbered cards in the box. Have each child pick a number.
4. Once each child has a number, tell them to find their partner who is holding the matching number.
5. Explain to the children that they will take turns playing "Jesus" and "James and John." The child who plays "Jesus" will lead his blindfolded partner "James and John" through the obstacle course. He must take very good care of his partner who is trusting him the way James and John trusted Jesus.
6. Help the children form two single-file lines: one with the children playing "Jesus" and one with the children playing "James and John." The children should be standing beside their partners.
7. Put blindfolds on the children playing "James and John."
8. Tell the children playing "Jesus" to lead their blindfolded partner by the hand around the obstacle course.
9. Once a pair reaches the end of the obstacle course, they should return to the beginning and switch roles. Put the blindfold on the new "James and John" and send them off with their new "Jesus" partner through the obstacle course.
10. Repeat this process until every pair has had a chance to be a leader and a follower.

Conclusion

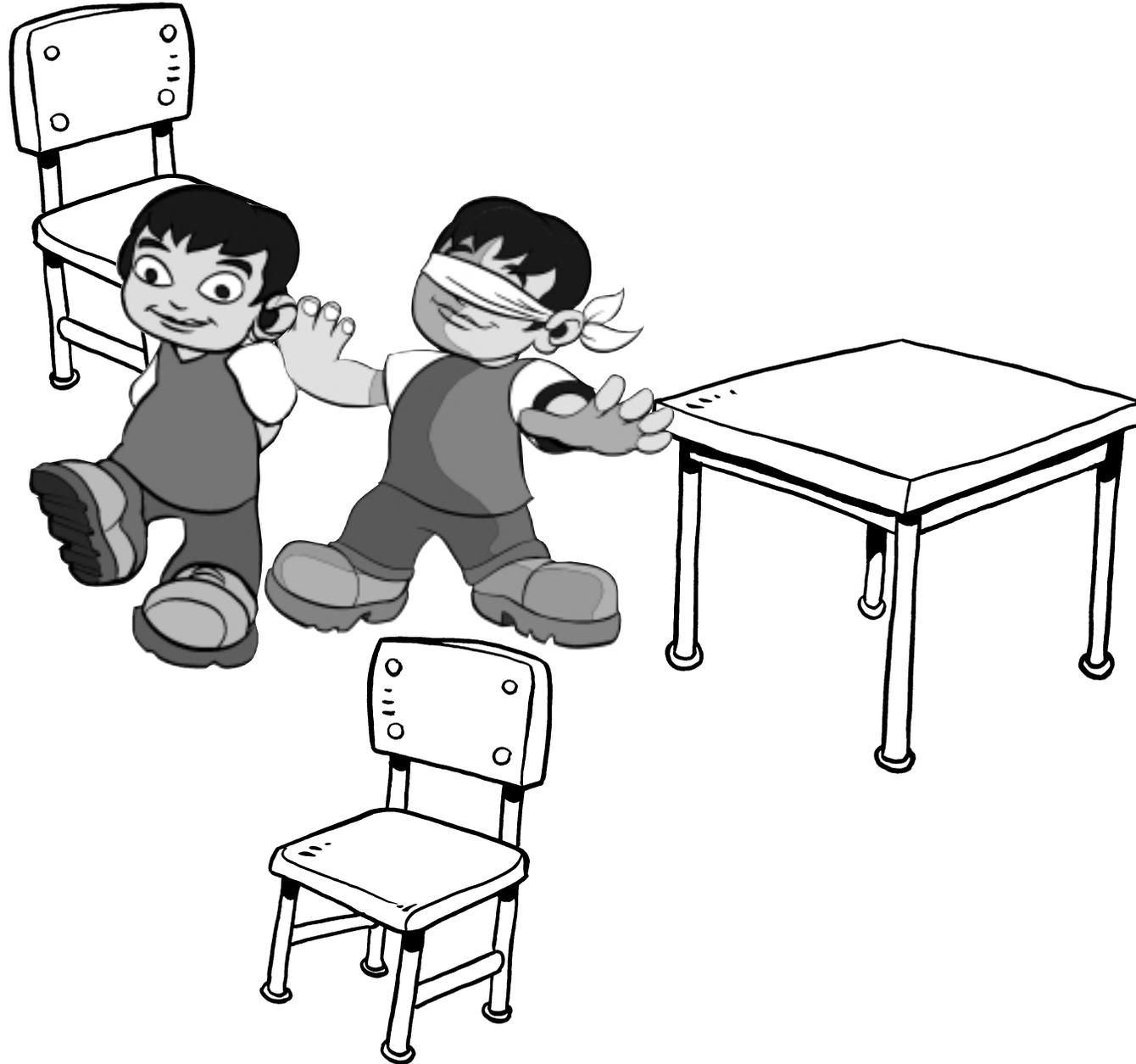
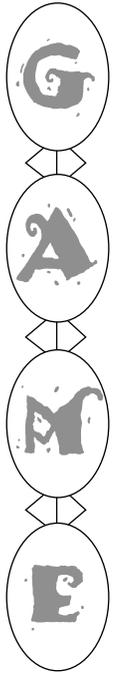
Bring the children together into a circle. Ask each them: *How did it feel to pretend to be Jesus? What did you like about it? How did it feel to pretend to be James and John? How did it feel to trust your partner? Close with a prayer for the children to learn to trust God.*

Teacher Tips

- You do not need to make a complicated obstacle course for children this age. Just a few "obstacles" will provide a challenging path that they can enjoy safely.



James and John





Love Letters to the Churches

The children will continue learning the New Testament books and one important idea about each one.

Materials

For the teacher:

- scissors
- project display board from Unit 5 Lesson 1 Bible Skills
- 8 boats from copies of Reproducible Page F from Unit 5 Lesson 1 Bible Skills
- 8 Velcro squares with adhesive backing, approximately 1"

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. Prepare the next eight boats from the copies of Reproducible Page F from Unit 5 Lesson 1. Write one of the following New Testament books on each of the boats (combining 1&2 Corinthians and 1&2 Thessalonians): Acts, Romans, 1&2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1&2 Thessalonians.
2. Place the small pieces of adhesive Velcro hooks on the backs of each boat.
3. Place the small pieces of adhesive Velcro loops on the project display board, about four inches apart.
4. Practice leading this activity with enthusiasm.

Acts and Letters

1. As the children arrive, seat them in front of the display board. Tell them that today they will continue learning the New Testament books of the Bible as they build up Jesus' Fishing Fleet.
2. Begin by asking if any of the children remember the books from last week, Matthew through John. Finish the review by reading them aloud with all the children.
3. Introduce the new books to the children: *Today, you are going to learn about ten more New Testament books. They are called books, but they are actually letters that were written to churches all around the world. Almost all of them were written by the apostle Paul. Paul traveled to many cities and taught people*

about God and Jesus. He wrote these letters to remind the people that he loved them and Jesus loved them. He also reminded them to obey Jesus.

4. Point to the boat labeled "Acts" on the display board. Explain that the book of Acts was written by Luke, the same man who wrote the gospel of Luke. (Point to the boat labeled Luke.) Explain that Acts was written to give God's people a history book of the church, and that it is called "Acts" because it tells about all the things or "acts" that the disciples did to build God's church. Ask the children to say all the books together with you from Matthew through Acts.
5. Point to the boat for Romans. *The book of Romans is Paul's letter to the disciples who lived in Rome. In this letter, Paul tried to teach and remind the people that God loved them very much and that nothing could stop God's love from reaching them. Let's say them all together now. Say all the books together from Matthew through Romans.*
6. Point to the boat for 1&2 Corinthians. *In these books, Paul writes letters to his friends in the city of Corinth. Can you say "Corinth" with me? In these letters, Paul explained some very important rules to the people and told them that they must follow these if they want God to be happy with them. Let's say them all together now. Say all the books together with them from Matthew through 1&2 Corinthians.*
7. Point to the boat for Galatians. *In this book, Paul wrote a letter to his friends in the city of Galatia. Can you say "Galatia"? In this letter, he reminded the followers of Jesus that God wanted them to live by the Spirit. That means that they should pray and ask God to lead them everyday. Let's say them all together now. Say all the books together with them from Matthew through Galatians.*
8. Point to the boat for Ephesians. *In this book, Paul wrote a letter to the disciples in the city of Ephesus. Let's say "Ephesus" together. Paul wanted his friends in the Ephesian church to know that they were all members of God's family! Let's say them all together now. Say all the books together with them from Matthew through Ephesians.*





9. Point to the boat for Philippians. *In this book, Paul wrote a letter to his very special friends in Philippi. Let's all say "Philippi." In this letter Paul told the Philippian church to be happy no matter what happens because God will take care of them! Let's say them all together now. Say all the books together with them from Matthew through Philippians.*
10. Point to the boat for Colossians. *Let's all say "Colossians." In this letter, Paul reminded his friends that Jesus is like a picture of God for people to see so that they can know God. Let's say them all together now. Say all the books together with them from Matthew through Colossians.*
11. Point to the boat for 1&2 Thessalonians. *Let's all say "Thessalonians." Paul wrote two letters to his friends in Thessalonica. He wanted to tell them to never, ever stop believing and trusting in God. Let's say them ALL together now. Say all the books together with them from Matthew through 1&2 Thessalonians.*

Conclusion

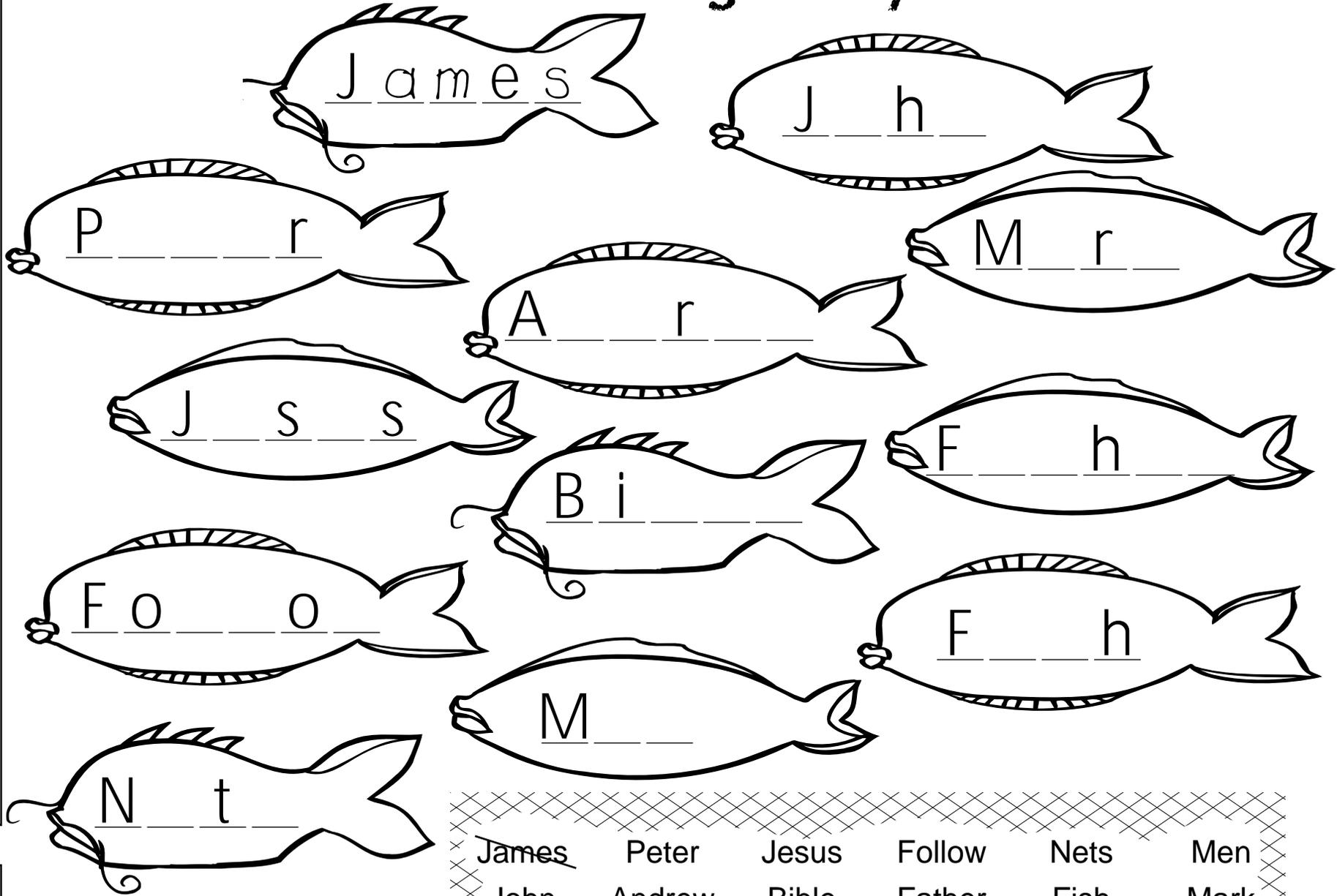
Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page E. Tell the children to take these home with them. The children can study them by tracing over the letters and decorating their pages. Encourage them to teach someone in their family what they learned about these special books of the New Testament. For example, they can ask their parents what other book Luke wrote besides the gospel of Luke. (Acts) Close with a prayer for the children to love the Bible.

Teacher Tips

- There is a lot to cover in this activity. Stay energetic and enthusiastic. Let the children see your personal appreciation for each book by pointing out to them your favorites and which books helped you in certain situations.



Something Fishy

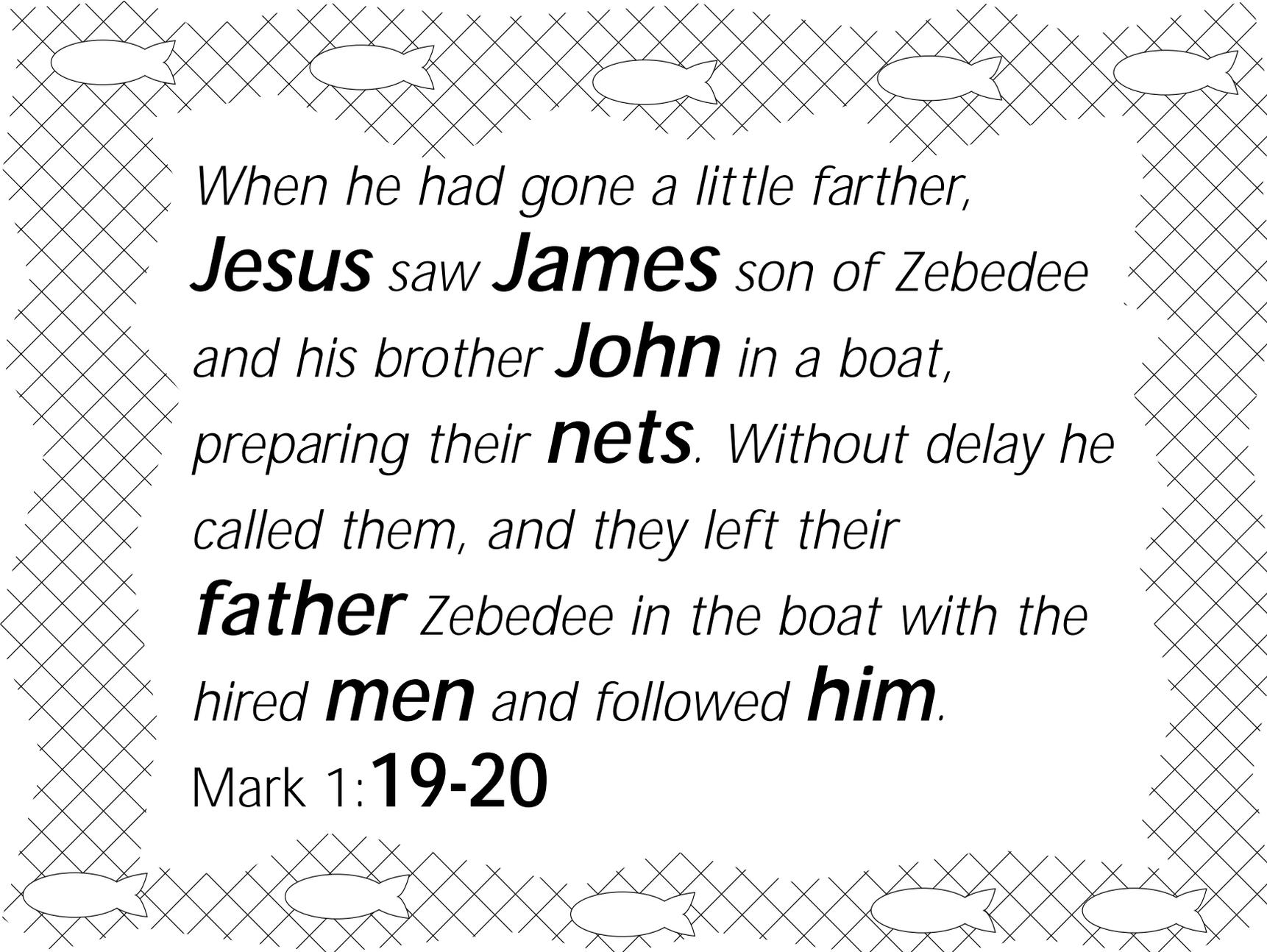


James Peter Jesus Follow Nets Men
John Andrew Bible Father Fish Mark



Core/Bible Story

1 copy for each child

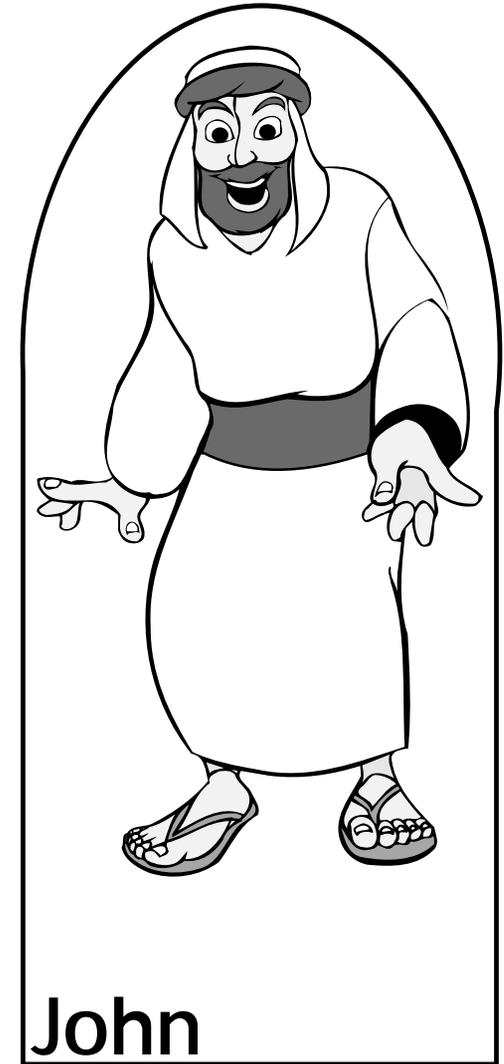
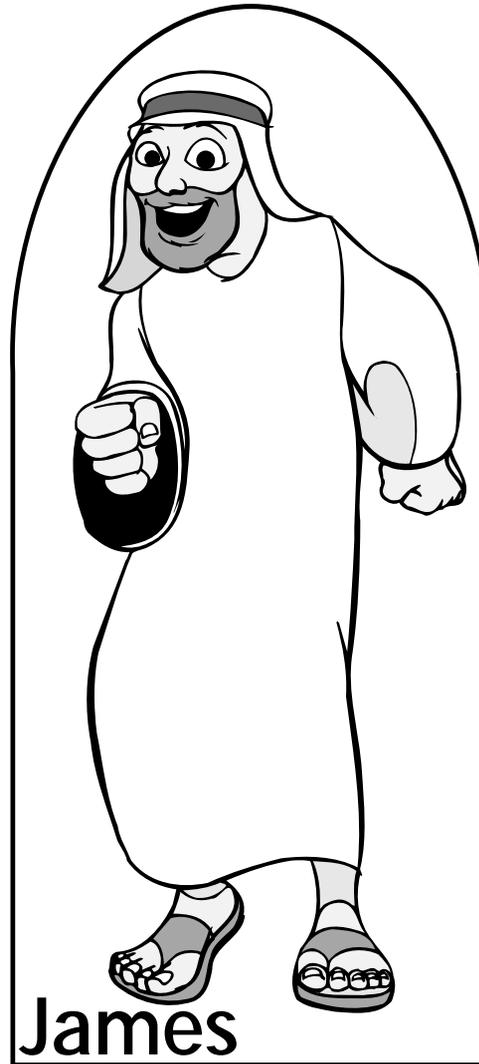
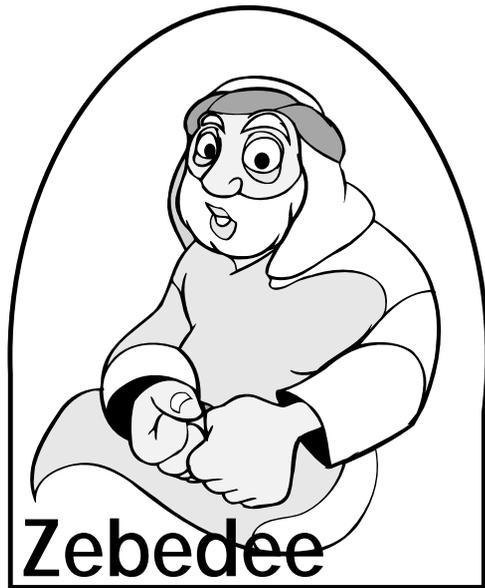


*When he had gone a little farther,
Jesus saw **James** son of Zebedee
and his brother **John** in a boat,
preparing their **nets**. Without delay he
called them, and they left their
father Zebedee in the boat with the
hired **men** and followed **him**.*

Mark 1: **19-20**

Core/Craft
1 copy for each child

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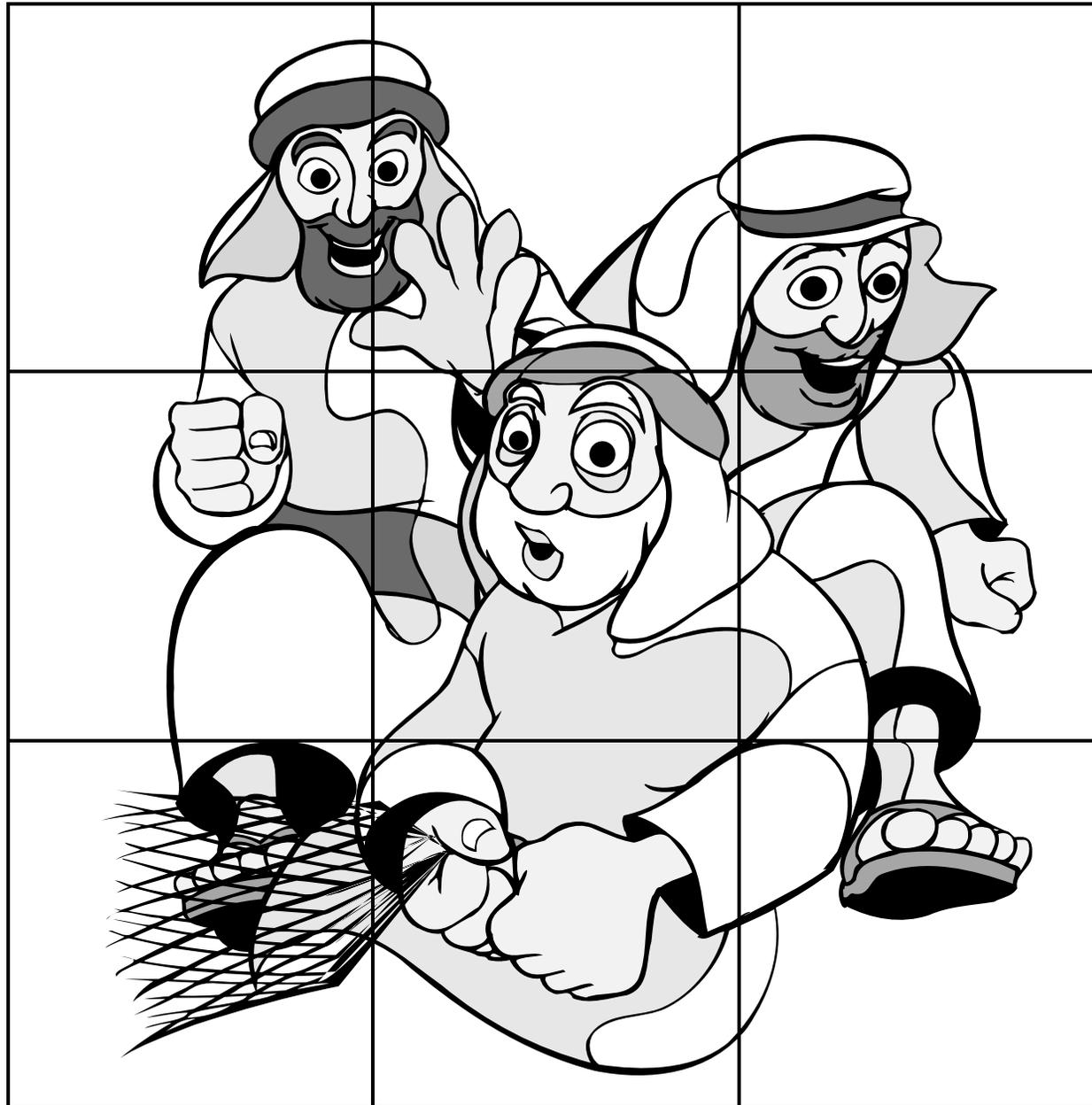


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Supplement/Preclass

1 copy for each child



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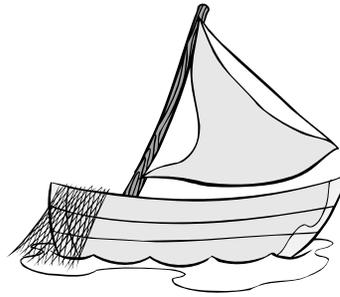
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Supplement/Bible Skills

1 copy for each child



Matthew 1&2 Corinthians

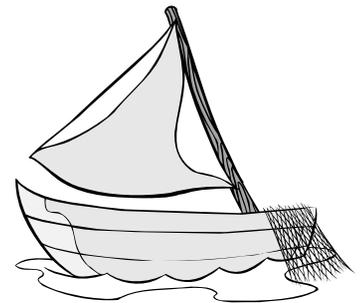
Mark Galatians

Luke Ephesians

John Philippians

Acts Colossians

Romans 1&2 Thessalonians



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