

The Case of the Fishermen Who Followed

Matthew 4:18-22; 27-28; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11; John 20:30-31;21:24-25

**Story-telling Tips**

Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Choose story action cues and/or prepare storyboard figures, if using. (Included in Visual Aids books)
3. Practice telling story with the storyboard pictures, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary.

During your presentation:

1. Maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story.
2. Put up storyboard figures/add story action cues as you tell the story. Allow the children to help you put them on the board, if desired.
3. Include the children in your story with a few questions about what they think will happen or words/concepts that might be new to them.

INTRODUCTION/ LISTENING ASSIGNMENTS

“Our story is called: The Case of the The Case of the Fishermen Who Followed. Here is your listening assignment... ”

Read from Detective Dan’s Listening Assignment signs, but questions are summarized below:

Detective Dan’s Lesson #1 Listening Assignment:

I need to find out:

- 1. Who were the fishermen?**
- 2. Who did they follow? What happened to them as they heard God’s Word?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible Verse is 1 Peter 1:23: “For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.”

When we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus, this is called being born again. That’s because this is how God gives us a new life as one of His people. God uses His Word, the Bible to do this wonderful thing inside our hearts.

I need to find out:

- 1. What happened as the fishermen listened to Jesus teach from God’s Word, the Bible?**
- 2. What did God’s Holy Spirit help some of the fishermen write down? Which of the fishermen wrote down the words to our Bible verse?**

Detective Dan’s Lesson #3 Listening Assignment:

I found six clues, but only 4 of them are in the story.

They are: a rabbit; a market; a net full of fish; the moon; a bad guy; and, a book.

Hold up each of them for the children to see as you identify them.

I need to figure out:

- 1. Which four belong in the story and which two don’t?**
- 2. Who confessed that he was a sinful man? What did Jesus do?**

Read the assignment questions, THEN SAY,

“Ok, Deep Down Detectives! Put on your best listening ears and see if you can hear the answers to Detective Dan’s questions. When I finish telling the story, we will see if we can answer all the questions.”

Read the Bible Truth story, answer questions, present the gospel and lead in prayer.

Listening Assignments answers; the gospel; and, an ACTS prayer are included with the story text at the end.

The Case of the Fishermen Who Followed Matthew 4:18-22; 27-28; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11; John 20:30-31;21:24-25

Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics) Numbers correspond to storyboard pictures and placement upon the storyboard. Always feel free to use less pictures, if it's best for your kids. Simply black out the numbers next to pictures you do not plan to use. All pictures are found in the Visual Aids book. Put BG (background) pictures on storyboard ahead of time. SB pictures (listed below in story text) are added to board as you tell the story. These numbers are also found on the back of each picture.

Tip: Stack pictures in numerical before telling story for easy use. Use sticky-back velcro to attach pictures to storyboard felt. Use sticky-tac putty to stick a picture on top of another picture.

If there was one thing that (SB1) Peter, Andrew, James and John knew, it was fish. Some of these fish you may have heard of before-- like sardines and tilapia. There were others you probably haven't heard of--like musht and biny fish.

But Peter, Andrew, James and John knew them all and caught them all. They were fishermen. Fish were their living. So, most every night, when the sun went down behind the hills (move BG 3 behind hills) and the (SB2) moon rose up in the sky, (SB3) Peter, Andrew, James and John gathered their nets, hopped in their boat, and sailed out to the middle of the big Sea of Galilee.

"Whoosh", they threw out their nets onto the wavy waters. "Bloop, bloop, bloop," down the nets sank into the depths below. Then "Grrrrrunt," they pulled the heavy nets back into their boat, filled with (SB4) flippy-floppy fish. Catch fish on the lake at night. (SB5) Sell fish in the market by day. Sleep a little bit, then do it all over again. This was the life of fishermen, Peter, Andrew, James and John.

Can you pretend to throw out a big net and pull it back in?

Well, that's the way life was supposed to go. But (SB6) one night, things went very, very differently. Out went the nets—"Whoosh." And down went the nets –"Bloop, bloop, bloop." (Yes, that was all the same as usual.) But this time, there was no "Grrrrrunt" when the nets came up out of the water. They were easy to pull back in. Too easy. Uh oh...

Why do you think, the nets were so easy to pull in?

The nets were easy to pull in because there were NO fish in the nets at all! There were no fish that first time they threw out the nets...or the second or the third or the fourth. Not a single musht or biny or sardine or tilapia fish the whole night long. Not even one! So, as the moon set and the sun came back up the next morning, it was a very sad Peter, Andrew, James and John who rowed their empty boat back to shore and pulled it up on the beach. (SB7) No fish caught meant no fish to sell at the market... and no money in their pockets. (SB8) They would just clean their nets and go to bed. Ugh! This was the worst night ever!

But then, someone came down to the beach that sad morning who was about to turn the worst NIGHT ever into the best DAY ever for those fishermen. Can you guess who it was?

Who do you guess?

It was Jesus! (SB9) He had come down to the beach with a big crowd of people—right there where Peter, Andrew, James and John were cleaning their nets.

Now when you and I go to the beach, it might be to swim in the water or play in the sand, but not Jesus and this crowd.

Why do you think they had come to the beach?

Jesus had come to teach to them from God's Word.

But why had Jesus chosen THAT spot? The Sea of Galilee was a huge lake. Jesus could have picked many places to take that big crowd. But on purpose, He led them right there near those sad, tired fishermen. Jesus had a plan!

Can you guess why? Let's find out!

Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)

Jesus (SB10) borrowed Peter’s boat and pushed it out to shore a little ways. Then He began teaching from God’s Word.

Peter, Andrew, James and John listened to Jesus preach as they cleaned their nets. And as those fishermen listened, (SB11) God’s Holy Spirit started to work in their hearts. He was using God’s Word to help them begin to believe in Jesus as more than just a teacher.

Jesus knew what was going on inside of those fishermen. This had been His plan. He had planned for them to hear Him teach from God’s Word that day. He had planned for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts. Because, He had planned for those four fishermen to be His disciples! They would be His special friends who would live with Him and go with Him everywhere He went. He would teach them God’s Word and He prepare them to tell the whole world the good news of salvation... and it was all starting right then!

When Jesus finished teaching, He rowed to shore and gave the boat back to the fishermen. “Get into your boat and row back out onto the lake,” Jesus told them. “Throw out your nets again.”

Peter was tired. They had just finished cleaning those big nets. He didn’t want to get them dirty again. It wouldn’t do any good to go back out anyway. Everyone knew fish come out at night, not during the day!

But Peter went ahead and obeyed Jesus, in a grumpy sort of way. “Jesus, we have been out all night and caught nothing, but because you say so, we will go back out.” What did a teacher know about fishing anyway, he must have thought.

Was Peter right about Jesus? Did He really know so little about fishing?

Well, it was a good thing those fishermen DID obey Jesus, as they quickly found out! (SB12) “Whoosh” they threw out the net, “Bloop, bloop, bloop” down went the nets, then “GRRRRRRRUNT” they pulled them back in, with the biggest grunt ever. The nets were so full of fish that they couldn’t hold them all. The nets were so full of fish that they even began to RIPPPPPP!

Once more (SB13) the Holy Spirit worked those fishermen’s hearts. He helped them put all the pieces together. Jesus had CAUSED this amazing catch of fish. And He had done it in a way that only God could do. Jesus wasn’t just a teacher of God’s Word. He was MORE! Could Jesus be the Messiah, the Special One sent by God to save His people, they began to wonder. Wow!

Peter wasn’t just amazed. He was ashamed, too. He had grumbled and doubted Jesus. (SB14) He fell down on his knees before Jesus and said, “Go away from me. I’m a sinful man.” What would someone like Jesus want with him, Peter thought.

Do you think Jesus left Peter and went away?

But Jesus did NOT go away. He knew Peter was a sinner. He had come to be Peter’s Savior. Jesus stayed and said to Peter and the others. “(SB15) Leave your fishing nets and come follow Me. No more catching biny or musht fish for you! I’m making you fishers of men. I will use you to bring God’s Word to people so they can learn about Me—the Savior—and be saved from their sins.”

And that’s exactly what Peter, Andrew, James and John did. They (SB16) put down their nets, and left their boat...and even all those floppy-floppy fish. And they followed Jesus, right then and there.

For one, two, three years, Peter, Andrew, James and John followed Jesus as His disciples. They (SB17) listened to Him preach God’s Word. They (SB18) watched Him do many amazing things by God’s power. Then, at the end of those three years, they watched Jesus do the most amazing thing of all: (SB19) they watched Him choose to suffer and die on the cross for the sins of God’s people.

Story with lines separating paragraphs (text in bold, optional interaction cues in italics)

Jesus was buried in a cave grave that day, but He didn't stay there. On the third day, Jesus rose up from the dead in victory! How happy Peter, Andrew, James, John and the other disciples were!

For forty, wonderful days, Jesus spend time with His disciples. He taught them from God's Word and He gave them work to do. (SB21) "Go into the whole world and teach everyone about Me! Tell them to turn away from their sins and trust in Me as their Savior!" Jesus told them.

The disciples were happy to obey. They (SB22) went out and preached about Jesus from God's Word. And as they preached God's Word, the Holy Spirit used it to work in the hearts of those who listened. Many believed! How happy were Peter, Andrew, James and John to see God use His powerful Word to save so many people!

God used these men to preach His Word, but He used them to do something else, too.

Can you guess how else He used them?

God used them (SB23) to write down His Word, too. Fisherman Peter wrote down the words to our Bible verse: "You have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God." He knew what it meant for God to use His Word to work in his heart and save him from his sins.

Fisherman John wrote down a whole book full of all he had heard Jesus preach and had seen Jesus do. When John finished writing his story of Jesus, he wrote these words: "These things are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Messiah and be saved too."

And every word that Peter and John wrote down came out perfectly. Why? Because (SB24) God's Holy Spirit was at work in them in a special way. He was making John and Peter's words, God's Words, too. He made sure everything written down just right.

And now, YOU can read the words that Fisherman Peter and John wrote down in YOUR Bible! They are written down in the books we call the Gospel of John and First and Second Peter. God has used the words they wrote down to help many, many people believe in Jesus and be saved. He might even use them to save you! Ask Him!

Cracking the Case: (story wrap-up for Listening Assignments)

It's time to see how we did with our Listening Assignment.

Detective Dan's Lesson 1 Listening Assignment:

1. Who were the fishermen? Peter, Andrew, James and John.

2. What happened to them as they heard God's Word? Who did they follow?

God's Holy Spirit worked in their hearts and they began to believe in Jesus. They became Jesus' disciples--His special friends who followed Him as He taught God's Word and did amazing things.

For You and Me:

God can work in our hearts, too, when we hear God's Word. We can ask our teachers and our parents to help us understand what we hear. We can ask God to work in our hearts and help us to believe in Jesus as our Savior.

Detective Dan's Lesson 2 Listening Assignment:

Our Bible Verse is 1 Peter 1:23:

"You have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God."

When we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus, this is called being born again. That's because this is how God gives us a new life as one of His people. God uses His Word, the Bible to do this wonderful thing inside our hearts.

1. What happened as the fishermen listened to Jesus teach from God's Word, the Bible? God's Holy Spirit worked in their hearts and they began to believe in Jesus. They became Jesus' disciples--His special friends who followed Him as He taught God's Word and did amazing things.

2. What did God's Holy Spirit help some of the fishermen write down? Which of the fishermen wrote down the words to our Bible verse?

He helped them write down parts of His Word, the Bible. Peter did.

For You and Me:

God can work in our hearts, too, when we hear God's Word. We can ask our teachers and our parents to help us understand what we hear. We can ask God to work in our hearts and help us to believe in Jesus as our Savior.

Detective Dan's Lesson 3 Listening Assignment:

Our six clues were: a rabbit; a market; a net full of fish; the moon; a bad guy; and, a book.

1. Which four belong in the story and which two don't? The market; the net full of fish; the moon and the book were in our story. The rabbit and the bad guy were not.

2. Who confessed to Jesus that he was a sinful man? What did Jesus do? Peter confessed that he was a sinful man. Jesus would be Peter's Savior. He asked Peter (and the other fishermen) to come follow Him as His disciples.

For You and Me:

Like Peter, we are sinners who need to confess our sins and be forgiven. We can trust in Jesus as our Savior. We can be one of God's dearly loved people. God loves to help us do this! Ask Him!

The Gospel (story wrap-up if NOT using Listening Assignments)**Our Bible Truth is:**

What's So Special about the Bible?

It Alone Is God's Word...God uses it to save His people!

God loves to use His Word to save people. He can use it to save us and make us His people. Take time to listen to God's Word. You can even listen to the stories of Jesus that God used Fisherman John and Fisherman Peter to write down. Ask God to work in your heart as you listen. Ask Him to help you turn away from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior! He loves to help us!

Close in prayer.

Closing ACTS Prayer

- A** We praise You, God, that You are our Savior.
- C** God, You are so kind to offer to save us, but sometimes we still want to keep on doing things our own way. Please forgive us. Help us to turn to You as our Savior.
- T** Thank You for giving us Your Word, the Bible. Thank You for what You tell us about You and about ourselves in it. Thank You for how You use it to save people like us from our sins so we can be Your people.
- S** Work deep inside our hearts as we listen to Your Word, the Bible! Use it to help us turn away from disobeying You and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to love You and live for You.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.