

CITY SG – February 5th, 2023

Today's Bible Story: For the Sake of the Call (Calling of the Disciples) • *Luke 5:1-11, 27-32*

Today's Bottom Line: Include people who are left out.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Do to others as you want them to do to you.* Luke 6:31 (NIRV)

1. One Fish, Two Fish

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Bible, floor tape

What You Do:

- Mark a “boat” (circle) in the center of your group with floor tape. The boat should be JUST large enough for all kids to stand inside.
- Assign each “fish” (kid) a color (red, blue, yellow, green)
- Guide kids to swim (mingle) around your environment.
- At random times, call different colors of fish to jump in the boat like:
 - Red fish
 - Blue fish
 - Red fish, yellow fish
 - Green fish
 - Green fish, blue fish, yellow fish
- Add mayhem—and end the game—by calling “ALL FISH!”
- BUT, every time you call a group to the circle, ask the kids in the circle to answer a Bible Story review question.

QUESTIONS:

- After 40 days in the wilderness, what did Jesus do? (*travel from town-to-town teaching and healing*)
- What type of people did Jesus meet when He traveled? (*ordinary, everyday people*)
- What did Simon Peter do? (*He was a fisherman.*)
- Whose boat did Jesus climb into to talk to the people gathered on the shore? (*Peter's*)
- How did Peter show respect for Jesus' authority? (*by obeying Jesus and lowering their nets*)
- What happened when Peter and his friends did what Jesus asked them to do and lower their nets? (*they caught a lot of fish*)
- Who helped Peter and with the nets? (*James and John*)
- Why was the crowd shocked to see Jesus choose Peter James, and John as close friends? (*because they were ordinary people*)
- Who was suspicious of Jesus' teaching? (*religious leaders*)
- Why did people ignore Matthew? (*because he was a tax collector who worked for the Roman government*)
- What did Jesus do to make the tax collectors and outcasts feel included? (*He shared a meal with them.*)

What You Say:

“In our Bible story today, we learned that Jesus included EVERYONE. He chose Peter, James, John, and Matthew—people who other people left out—to be His followers. He even chose them to be His CLOSEST friends, the disciples! Jesus knew that EVERYONE is important because EVERYONE is made in God's image. That means that everyone YOU meet is important and worthy of love, too!

“So, how can you [**Bottom Line**] include people who are left out? (*play with them; choose them for a team or as your partner; sit by them; etc.*) Great ideas! Just like Jesus, you can choose to [**Bottom Line**] include people who are left out. Because when you include EVERYONE, you show others Who God is and what God's like. And that's a GREAT thing!”

2. Golden Rule

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: “Memory Verse Cards” and “Traffic Signs”, Bibles, Two buckets, Floor tape

What You Do:

- Designate a start and a finish line for two teams to have a relay with the floor tape.
- Together, look up this month’s memory verse, Luke 6:31, using the navigation tips below then read it out loud.

Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders: Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When kids find the table of contents, lead them to find “Luke” in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find “Luke,” lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find “Luke.” Help the kids find the page. When they find “Luke,” explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 6. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 31 in chapter 6.

Non Reader Option: Read the verse aloud to the group.

- Once you’ve read the verse, divide your group into two teams.
- Place the folded signs from the “Traffic Signs” Activity Page along the relay route.
- Instruct the teams to stand behind their start line.
- Place a bucket with the “Memory Verse Cards” at the starting line for each team.
- Direct the kids to take turns removing a card from the bucket, and Driving (running) with it towards the finish line.
- Once at the finish line, instruct kids to place the card in the correct order, and return to the starting line.
 - However, along the way, direct the kids to obey the traffic signs placed along the track.
- Continue the game until all cards have been transported to the finish line and the verse is assembled in the correct order.
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Non Reader Option: Read the traffic sign to the child as he/she encounters one.

What You Say:

“It was fun to watch you drive to the finish line and obey the rules of the road. Grown-ups do the same thing when they drive. What do you think would happen if someone decided to ignore the rules of the road? *(Invite responses—get a ticket, get into an accident, people would get hurt, etc.)*”

“Just like there are rules for the road, life has rules, too. They’re designed to keep people safe and make space for all kinds of people. When Jesus spoke this month’s memory verse, He was sharing a life rule. What do you think Jesus meant when He said, ‘Do to others as you want them to do to you’? Can you give me an example of what that might look like? *(Invite responses—being kind to those around you, speaking kindly and not rudely, intentionally talking to someone who is lonely, including others, help with chores, etc.)*”

“Jesus was telling us that what we say and do for others should match how we want to be treated. Now that we know what this verse means, how should you treat those who feel left out? *(Invite responses—include them in what you are doing, welcome them, get to know them, show them they’re important, stand up for them, etc.)* No one wants to feel left out. There are so many ways to **[Bottom Line] include people who are left out** and make them feel important by what you say and do.”

3. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: One piece of blank paper per group, markers, or pens

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to form a circle.
- Take a blank piece of paper and ask the kids tell you a few ways they can include people who are left out and write them on the paper.
- Place the paper in the middle of your group.
- Ask kids to review the list and quietly think of things they can do THIS week to include other people.
- Close your group time in prayer.

What You Say:

“God, You love us all so much! Everyone is important to You! Help us show others they are important and valued. Open our eyes to see opportunities to respect and **[Bottom Line] include people who are left out** by what we say and do. We know when we respect the people You made, we respect You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

4. Extra Time Activity

What You Need: Color the Bible verse page (one per child), markers

What You Do:

- Pass out the Color the Bible verse page.
- Review the verse together
- Kids can color the letters of the verse
- Encourage the kids to hang this in their room, or somewhere where they will see it daily as a reminder to treat others well by including them.