

7. Jesus Calls Peter



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Leader Notes:

- View [this session's focus](#), faith nurture goals, leader devotional, and story symbol (click on the story symbol to download or print).
- For the full set of DWELL Flex story symbols use the link in the sidebar.
- Need this as a PDF? Just [print this page](#) and choose to save/print as a PDF.

Take a few moments to greet the children and let them know how glad you are to see them.

I love exploring God's story with you. Let's get ready to do that together.

Breathe

Use this time to focus your attention on God.

Do this with me: calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out. *(Demonstrate a few deep "in and out breaths" with eyes closed.)*

Tell and Wonder

Let's enter God's story together. Here's the story symbol for the part of God's story that we'll be spending time in today. I wonder what clues it gives us about the story we're about to hear? *(Show the story symbol. Accept any answers without giving away whether or not the kids have guessed correctly.)*

Listen closely as we read the story together to see which story our symbol represents.

Read "Jesus Calls Peter" aloud (below), pausing throughout to allow children to answer the wondering questions. NOTE: It's always a good idea to read through the story beforehand so you'll be able to tell it well.

You can also read the story from a children's Bible or a simplified translation of Scripture like the New International Reader's Version (NIRV). Remember to pause throughout to allow time to wonder.

Pray

Close with prayer. Thank Jesus for inviting us to follow him. Ask him to show us people to whom we can show his love.

See [5 Ways to Pray with Kids](#) for other ways to pray.

Respond

Select and do one or more of the response activities from God's Big Story card #90 or check out [5 Ways to Retell a Bible Story with Kids](#) for some fun ways to retell this story. Include older kids in the retelling by having them read the story aloud while the younger children act it out.*

**God's Big Story cards can be ordered from FaithAliveResources.org.*

Easy Extra

Tell your group that Jesus wants us to follow him too. Share your own testimony about following Jesus. Give examples of what it means for you to follow Jesus in your everyday life, like how it affects the decisions you make, and how you communicate with Jesus.

Help your group understand that following Jesus means living in a way that pleases him, a way that helps other people around us learn more about Jesus and his love. Invite kids to suggest specific ways to do that—trusting Jesus to care for us; showing kindness to others; being obedient; praying to Jesus; wanting to learn more about Jesus; and helping other people learn more about Jesus.

Story: Jesus Calls Peter [Luke 5:1-11](#)

Jesus was at the beach, teaching about God. As he did, the crowd got bigger and bigger as more and more people joined the group. Wherever Jesus went, people followed. Everyone was eager to hear the amazing things that Jesus said about God.

Sometimes such a huge crowd gathered around Jesus that it became difficult to see and hear him—especially if you were at the back of the crowd, and especially if you were short! That's what was happening on this day. It was getting harder for Jesus to speak loud enough for everyone to hear. People from the back started pushing and shoving, trying to get closer to the front.

I wonder if you've ever been in a squishy, noisy crowd like that. *(Pause for responses.)*

Jesus had to find another way to teach so everyone could hear. He noticed Peter's two boats pulled up on the shore. Perfect, Jesus thought. He climbed into one of the boats and asked Peter to row out a little way. Then Jesus sat down in the boat and taught the people from there. When he finished, the people slowly started walking home and Peter and his friends started to pack up their nets for the day.

Jesus watched them. They were tired because they'd been out all night. They were also tired because they had set down their nets and hauled them up lots of times, and guess what? They caught no fish. That's right! Not one.

How do you think you would feel if you had fished all night and caught nothing? *(Pause for responses.)*

But Jesus said to Peter, "Row out there into the deeper water and throw out your nets again." Think about it. They'd already fished all night and caught nothing. And now Jesus—a teacher, not a fisherman—was telling them to go out during the daylight and try fishing again.

What do you think Peter thought of that idea? *(Pause for responses.)*

Peter looked at Jesus and said, “Master, we’ve just been fishing—in fact, we fished all night and didn’t catch a thing!” But there was something about Jesus that made Peter want to obey him. So Peter and his brother Andrew piled their nets back into their boat and headed out toward the deeper water. They figured they would give it a try.

I wonder what they were thinking as they rowed that boat. *(Pause for responses.)*

What happened next was incredible! *(Whisper.)* It was as if all the fish in the entire Sea of Galilee swam straight for Peter’s net. In just minutes, the nets were ripping! Peter and his brother yelled to the other fishermen who were still on the shore. “Hurry up! Help us!” While they waited for their friends to come, their own boat was sinking because of the weight of all those fish!

Now what do you think Peter was thinking? *(Pause for responses.)*

It took a while, but they finally got the fish into two boats. Imagine! Two boats loaded with fish! If they thought it was hard to row out to the deep water when they were tired, how hard do you think it was to row back to the shore with that load of fish?

How do you think the muscles in their arms felt? *(Pause for responses.)*

Peter was amazed. When he got his boat safely back to shore, the first thing he did was kneel down in front of Jesus. Peter felt surprised—and mixed up! Again he had that feeling that made him want to worship and obey Jesus. At the same time he felt afraid because of Jesus’ awesome power! If Jesus had such power over the fish of the sea, then Peter figured Jesus was too great a man to speak with an ordinary fisherman like him. Peter didn’t know how to explain his feelings to Jesus, so he said, “Perhaps you should leave, Jesus. I’m just a sinful fisherman.”

But Jesus had something else in mind. Instead of saying goodbye to Peter, this is what Jesus said: “Don’t be afraid, Peter. From now on I want you to follow me. Come with me and help me in my work. From now on we’ll work with people instead of fish. There are many people who still need to hear the good news from God. Come, be my disciple.”

Wow! What thoughts do you think went through Peter’s mind when he heard that? *(Pause for responses.)*

Peter had to make a big decision, but he made it fast. Peter tied up his boat. He packed up his nets. He walked away with Jesus. Peter had decided to follow Jesus.

Looking for More Activities for This Story?

Click below to access the full age-specific *Dwell* session for this story:

- [2nd-3rd Grade: Jesus Calls Peter](#)
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