

Lesson 25: Jesus' First Disciples

Activities

Game Activity: Go Fishing

Art History Project: Duccio's *The Calling of the Apostles Peter and Andrew*

Art Project: Paint with Egg Tempera

Craft Project: Make a Cloth Fish

Game Activity: Fishers of Men

Coloring Page: Jesus Calls Two Fishermen to Be His Disciples

Game Activity



Go Fishing

This activity uses a magnetic fishing pole, even though the disciples used nets to catch their fish.

Materials

- Unsharpened pencil
- Scotch tape
- String (about 12 inches long)
- Small magnet (U-shaped magnets work well, but you can use any magnet you can tie a string to)
- 8 small metal paper clips
- Aluminum foil
- Fish pattern (Student Page 267)
- Pencil
- Big bowl (e.g., punch bowl, your largest mixing bowl)
- Water
- Scissors

Directions

- 1 Fill the bowl with water. Set aside.
- 2 Cut out the fish pattern on Student Page 267.
- 3 Tear off a square sheet of aluminum foil, at least 4" x 4". Fold it in half once, and then fold it in half again.
- 4 Help the student trace the fish pattern onto the folded aluminum foil and cut it out. She should have four fish.

- 5 Repeat steps 3 and 4 with another piece of aluminum foil. The student should now have eight fish.
- 6 Help the student fasten a paper clip to the “nose” of each fish. Drop the fish in the bowl of water.
- 7 Tie one end of the string to the end of the unsharpened pencil. Secure with tape.
- 8 Tie the other end of the string to the magnet. This is the student’s “fishing pole.”
- 9 Have the student try to catch all the fish in the bowl by attracting the paper clips with the magnet. Or to make it a competitive game for two players, make a second fishing pole and see who can catch the most fish in thirty seconds.

Art History Project

Duccio’s *The Calling of the Apostles Peter and Andrew*

Learn about Duccio’s *Maestà* altarpiece and the individual painting in it of Peter, Andrew, and Jesus. The project after this one involves making some egg tempera paint, Duccio’s paint of choice.

Materials

- *The Calling of the Apostles Peter and Andrew* (Student Page 269)
- Bible

Directions

Show the student the painting on Student Page 269 as you say the following. Encourage the student to answer the questions in complete sentences.

- 1 Duccio di Buoninsegna was an artist born in Siena, Italy, around 1255. Not much is known about his life; he left no journals or letters behind, but his painting was very influential. Although the city of Siena was known for the skill of its painters, Duccio is considered the finest of them all. Today, only a handful of his paintings remain. One of them, the *Maestà*, is considered his masterpiece. The *Maestà* is an altarpiece that was created for the cathedral of Siena. An altarpiece is in the front part of a church, where everybody can see it, so it needs to be very beautiful. The *Maestà* is enormous: 7 feet high and 14 feet long, painted on the front and the back. That means it is taller than your parents and longer than a van. The front shows Mary and the baby Jesus surrounded by the saints and angels. The back has 43 separate panels that tell of Mary’s life and Jesus’ life.
- 2 The altarpiece stayed where it was in Siena’s cathedral until 1711, when it was sawn apart to divide it between 2 altars. Some of the paintings were damaged when this was done; others were sold or lost altogether.
- 3 One of the panels on the back of the *Maestà* was a scene from the life of Jesus: *The Calling of the Apostles Peter and Andrew*. The panel, painted with egg tempera on wood, is now in a museum in the United States.
- 4 Now try to answer these questions. If you need hints, I will read you some of the Bible story from this week’s lesson.

- 5 Who is the man standing on the shore? (That is Jesus.) [If the student can't remember, read the first sentence of Matthew 4:18 aloud.]
- 6 Who are the two men in the boat? (They are Peter and Andrew.) [If the student can't remember, read the first sentence of Matthew 4:18 aloud.]
- 7 How were Peter and Andrew related to each other? (They were brothers.) [If the student can't remember, read the first sentence of Matthew 4:18 aloud.]
- 8 What was their job? (They were fishermen.) [If the student can't remember, read the second sentence of Matthew 4:18 aloud.]
- 9 What are they holding? (They are holding a net.)
- 10 Is the net full of fish or is it empty? (It is full of fish.)
- 11 Look at Jesus' hands. What does it look like he is doing with his raised hand? (He is calling them over to him; Gesturing "Come here.") [If the student can't remember, read Matthew 4:19 aloud.]
- 12 Look at Peter's hand. He has dropped the net from one hand and is raising it toward Jesus. What do you think he is doing? (Saying hello to Jesus; Reaching out to Jesus.)

Art Project

Paint with Egg Tempera

For the best egg tempera, use powder tempera (you can buy this at art supply stores, at Amazon.com, or at Sargentart.com). You can also use ground chalk. The bright colors work best. Crush the chalk into a powder with a mortar and pestle (or use a round rock in an old bowl).

Materials

- Pigment (powder tempera or ground chalk, see above note), in at least three colors
- Plastic or Styrofoam egg container
- 3 or more eggs (1 egg for each color you create)
- Paintbrush
- Water
- Small whisk or fork
- Tablespoon
- Liquid measuring cup
- OPTIONAL: Egg separator

Directions

- 1 Have the student crack an egg. Separate the yolk (this is where an egg separator comes in handy). Dump the yolk into the measuring cup and add 1 Tbsp. water. Whisk until light and frothy.
- 2 Pour a small amount of pigment (powder tempera or chalk dust) into a well in the egg container. Add a few drops of water and mix it into a paste. Try to work out any lumps.
- 3 Let the student pour the egg yolk into the pigment-well and mix with a fork until smooth.
- 4 Repeat steps 1–3 to make the remaining colors. You can even make new colors by combining the pigment powders.

- 5 Say to the student, “Now you are ready to paint! Try painting your own panel of *The Calling of the Apostles Peter and Andrew*. Use a pencil to draw a man with a net fishing in the sea. Then use the egg tempera to paint your drawing. Don’t try to put in too many little details, because the paint will cover them up.”

Craft Project

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Make a Cloth Fish

Make a fabric fish filled with Swedish fish gummy candy. If you prefer something less sugary, Goldfish snack crackers are popular with this age group.

Materials (for each student)

- String or ribbon (about 8" long)
- 5½" x 8" foam sheet
- Scissors
- Fabric glue (school glue also works)
- 8" x 8" fabric square, any color or pattern
- Generous handful of Swedish fish (or Goldfish crackers)
- White paper and a black marker OR two wiggle eyes

Directions

- 1 Spread out the fabric on the table (if you use printed fabric, the plain side should face up).
- 2 Have the student place the candy/crackers in the center of the fabric.
- 3 Gather up the corners of the fabric to make a pouch that holds the candy/crackers inside.
- 4 Help the student tie a string or ribbon around the neck of the pouch so the candy fish/crackers are secure.
- 5 Now lay the bag on its side. The top/opening of the bag is now the “tail” of a fish, and the wide part where most of the candy/crackers are located is the body/head of a fish. But this fish still needs a face. So . . .
- 6 Cut out a mouth, two fins, and two eyes from the foam sheet.
- 7 Glue the mouth in the front and a fin on each side of the fish’s “body.” Glue a wiggle eye to either side of the “head,” or if you prefer, make eyes using the white paper and black marker, and glue them on.
- 8 Let dry.

Game Activity

Fishers of Men

This game is best played outside.

Materials

- Two blankets
- Multiple action figures (or stuffed animals, or baby dolls, or anything heavy enough to toss that the students could pretend is a man)

Directions

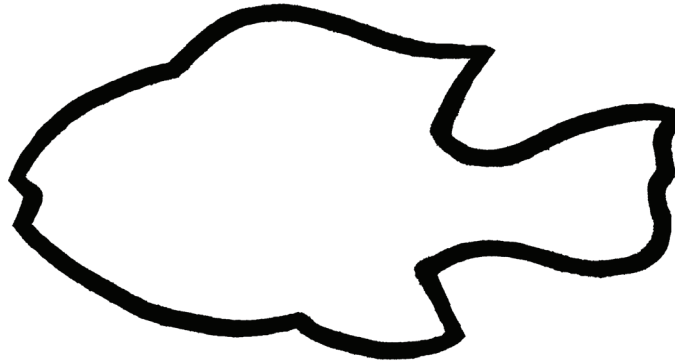
- 1 Make two teams (they can be teams of just one, but more than one person per team works much better).
- 2 Give each team an unfolded blanket, and have the team members work together to hold it stretched out.
- 3 Say, “Ready . . . set . . . go!” and throw two of the action figures as high as possible into the air, one from each hand. The students’ job is to catch the figures in the blanket. For every figure a team successfully catches in the blanket, give that team a point. The first one to lead by three points wins.
- 4 (Note: You can re-use the same action figures over and over, or you can use a bunch of different ones and make the students catch more while they already have some in their net, thus making the game more difficult.)

Coloring Page

Jesus Calls Two Fishermen to Be His Disciples

Simon (later called Simon Peter) and his brother Andrew were working as fishermen when Jesus told them to come learn from him instead.

Fish Pattern



The Calling of the Apostles Peter and Andrew by Duccio

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Matthew 4:18-22