

SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

BIG IDEA: The Bible is personal.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

John 20:30-31

Matthew 28:18-20

The call of the four:

Matthew 4:18-22, Mark 1:16-20, Luke 5:1-11

The call of Matthew:

Matthew 9:9-13, Mark 2:13-17, Luke 5:27-32

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read all of the scriptures on
the call of the four and the call of Matthew.

What is similar about these stories?
What is different about these stories?
Why didn't Jesus call everyone the same way?
What differences do you notice in the way the gospel
writers recorded the stories?
Why aren't the versions of the stories identical?
Why did Jesus call so few people to follow Him?
What principles from these stories could you apply to
sharing the gospel with people you encounter?
When would it be appropriate to say, "Come and see.",
and when would it be appropriate to say, "Follow me."

PRAYER FOCUS:

Praise God for His knowledge of you.
Confess that you don't really know Him.
Thank God for speaking to you in the Bible.
Ask God to help you follow Him.

ACTION:

Daily read through Psalm 119 until you find a scripture that is
meaningful to you. Copy that scripture and put it in a place
where you will see and read it several times throughout your
day.

FAMILY RESOURCES

BIG IDEA: The Bible is personal.

READ LUKE 5:1

How close did people get to Jesus?
Why did they want to get close to Him?

READ LUKE 5:2-3

What were the fishermen doing?
Why did Jesus get into the boat?
How do you think Peter felt
when Jesus climbed into his boat?

READ LUKE 5:4-5

Why did Peter call Jesus "master"?
Why did Peter do what Jesus said?

READ LUKE 5:6-7

What happened when Peter did what Jesus said?

READ LUKE 5:8-11

Why did Peter ask Jesus to go away?
How did Jesus feel about Peter?
What did Jesus invite Peter and his friends to do?

How do you invite your friends to meet Jesus?

MEMORY VERSE:

"_____ and _____

will _____,

but my _____ will _____ pass away."

Luke 21:33

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE/STORY:

The Bible tells us about God's Son, Jesus

The Gospels (John 20:30-31)

During the OLD TESTAMENT times, there were many prophets whom God spoke to. They wrote down what God said. God said some things about Jesus in the Old Testament, but people didn't get to actually meet Jesus until He was born. The story of Jesus' life has been written for us in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These Bible books are called "The Gospels". The Gospels are the story of how God became a man so we could understand and love Him. (Use the illustration of an ant (pet or fish). How do you talk to it? show love? understand it?) What Jesus did while He was here was written down so we could understand God better. What are some of the stories you know about Jesus? Aren't you glad that they were written down?

(Luke 6:13-16) Jesus spent a lot of time with his close friends. The disciples not only taught others about Jesus, they wrote down what they had seen and heard so that we also could be fishers of men.

KEY PHRASES:

The Bible is personal. God answers our questions. Jesus came to be like us, to be with us. Jesus invites us to "follow" Him too.

BIBLE DRILLS:

What word/s are found in all these verses?

Genesis 24:5	Judges 8:5	1 Kings 20:10
2 Kings 6:19	Psalms 23:6	Matthew 4:19
Mark 8:34	Luke 18:22	John 21:22
Acts 12:8		

OBJECT LESSON:

Read an active and interesting real short story to the kids, but don't show them the pictures. Can they see it happening? Those who spent time with Jesus wrote down what they saw and heard and made it into books about Jesus. Read a story about (not one He told) Jesus from the Bi-

ble. Can they see it happening? Can they act it out? Aren't we glad that the people who were with Jesus wrote down what He did?

OR use the pet illustration from the story time.

MEMORY VERSE OPTIONS:

Have a special prize for anyone who can name/say/sing the names of the 12 disciples.

Use Memory verse relays - (Say words aloud as they are placed on the floor/table.)

Memory verse puzzles – Set out groups of memory verses that are cut in a unique way (not word by word) and let people put them back together. Be sure the puzzles are read out loud when completed.

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." Luke 21:33

"As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him." Mark 1:16-18

"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

"Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." Deuteronomy 8:3

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Have everyone help writing a letter to grandpa & grandma, or another family member or friends that tells about what you did today. This is what Jesus' friends did, and why we can read about Jesus in the Bible.

Go through a family scrapbook, looking at pictures and telling family stories. What do you need to write down so that, in the future, others will know the real sto-

ries? Have each family member write down one of their stories and then read them to each other.
Read a story about Jesus from the Bible. Together, act it out.

Play "fishers of men". Cut out fish. On each fish write the name of a friend or family member. Put a paper clip on each fish and put them in a pile/lake. Make fishing poles out of a stick, a string, and a magnet. Have each person go fishing. When you catch a fish, be sure to invite that "fish" to come and see Jesus.

GAMES:

Duck, Duck, Goose (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, ACTS! ...or any part/section of the books in their order)

Make/play a fishing game with sticks, string, and magnets for poles and paper fish with paper clips on them.

BIBLE BINGO - With names of Books of NT & OT on them.

Chart of Bible Books (one for each group) - make chart of Bible books, cutting them into the organized sections of history, poetry, prophecy, etc. for both NT and OT. Take turns putting them in order and being timed. (As sessions progress, cut apart the sets and see who can put them in order.) Challenge everyone to learn or help teach the book order of both OT and NT books.

Hot Potato toss/pass ball (or potato) to each other. Each person who catches must say the next book of the Bible before tossing/passing the ball on. (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

Can you spell it? Not all of the books are easy to spell! Draw the name of a book and ask someone to write it on a board. If they get it right, they get to draw the next book to spell.

Memory Verse Word Puzzles—use as relays

Tic-Tac-Toe - Let the kids put an X or O on the board if they can tell if a book is in the OT or NT.

SONG OPTIONS:

Jesus Loves Me (traditional version)

Jesus Loves Me (newer version)

The 12 Disciples song
I Heard Your Word
I Will Obey God's Word
God's Holy Book
God's Word Is For Me

CRAFTS:

Each person begins on #1 and progresses through the crafts as each is finished.

#1 - Bible Book Cover (These need to be designed to go over the Bibles that will be given to each person. Put their new Bible in them for display and for pick up at the end of the sessions or as completed.)

#2 - Book Ends/stand (Made of wood bottoms with 4 holes and with bent wire in the holes and shaped to hold their new Bible in either an open or closed position- personally painted/finished wood?)

#3 - Bible Soap (God sent Jesus so that we could be clean!)

#4 - Make "old parchment" for use as a scroll, writing an appropriate verse on it

#5 - Make a Bible Book mark

OTHER OPTIONS - Memory verse plaque

COMMUNION OPTIONS:

(Matthew 16:21-25) What was Peter's motivation when he rebuked Jesus? Was Peter really concerned for Jesus, or as a follower of Jesus is he concerned for himself? Perhaps it was a bit of both. I think that Peter does really love Jesus and he doesn't understand that the death of Jesus is necessary for his salvation. I think that Peter also has a very different idea about how to bring God's kingdom to earth and which may involve fighting, but not dying.

This story is the Bible at its most personal. Peter has a relationship with Jesus that is close enough that he thinks he has permission to correct Jesus. Jesus loves Peter enough to quickly correct him and then use this as a teaching moment for all the disciples. The invitation to follow Jesus is personal and individual. It is my life that I choose to lose. It is my cross that I take up daily. We celebrate com-

munion to remind us that Jesus was willing to be an example, to do what He asks us to do. That is why Jesus invites us over and over by saying, "Follow me."

OFFERING OPTIONS:

(Luke 18:22) How does our time of giving affect our personal relationship with Jesus? In the case of the rich ruler many possessions kept him from accepting Jesus' invitation. One of the many purposes of giving an offering is breaking the hold that our stuff has on us. What makes you hesitate when Jesus says, "follow me"? If Jesus was speaking to you today, what would He say is keeping you from a deeper relationship with Him? Perhaps your gift of money may be the most important gift you make this morning, perhaps not. Is there something else you need to surrender so that you can follow Jesus? What would it look like to surrender that and give it away?

MORE RESOURCES:

<https://archive.org/details/harmonyofgospels00stevuoft> -

This link is to a downloadable version of A Harmony of the Gospels by Stevens and Burton. This book provides the map to reading through the gospels in chronological order.