

Week 1



January 4th/5th

OVERVIEW CARD

Catching Fish

Key Question:
Bottom Line:
Memory Verse:

Is anything too hard for Jesus?
Jesus can do anything.
“With God, all things are possible.”
Matthew 19:26, NIV

Bible Story:

Jesus can do things we can't.
Catching Fish
Luke 5:1-11

Coloring Page:

Jesus says, “Follow me.”

Music:

Life with Jesus
Great Big God
Jesus Can Do Anything

Bible Lesson:

God's Story of Me Bible
Jesus Chooses Helpers
Pages 306 to 309

Story:

Somewhere in the Ocean
By Jennifer Ward and T.J. Marsh

Service Time:

63 minutes

January Memory Verse -
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Matthew 19:26, NIV

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ACTIVITY

Catching Fish

Let's Go Fishing

What You Need: Large plastic tub for every 3-4 children, water, fish bathtub toys, small nets with handles, and towels.

What You Do:

Before the activity: Fill each tub halfway with water. Place the tub on a towel and place the fish into each of the tubs.

During the activity: Assign a tub to 3-4 children. Give each child a net and allow children to catch the fish with the nets. *(Repeat as many times as desired.)*

At the end of the activity: Empty the water from the tubs immediately and soak up any water that may have splashed out with the towels. Never leave children unattended around water.

What You Say:

Before the activity: "Let's go fishing! There are fish swimming in our tubs. Can you see them? *(Pause.)* I have some nets that we can use to see who can catch the most fish! Are you ready?" *(Pause.)*

During the activity: "Use your nets to catch the fish. Great job! When you catch a fish, take it out of your net and place it back into the water so it can swim again. How many times do you think you can catch that fish? *(Pause.)* Maybe so! Let's get our nets ready so we can find out!" *(Repeat as many times as desired.)*

At the end of the activity: "You are all such great fisherman! Today we heard an AMAZING lesson about catching fish. Do you remember what happened?"

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ACTIVITY

Catching Fish

Goin' Fishin'

What You Need: Magnetic Fishing Set including fishing poles and fish

What You Do:

During the activity: Scatter your fish out on top of the table. Give the children a "fishing pole" to go fishing with and show them how to touch the end of their string, where the magnet is, to the mouth of the fish, where the magnet is. The two will stick together and they can catch a fish!

What You Say:

Before the activity: "How many of you have ever gone fishing? *(Pause.)* Fishing is fun! Today we're going to go fishing right here in our room! Let me show you how this works. Watch what happens when I put the end of my string right on that little clip at the fish's mouth. Ta-da! I caught a fish! Now you try!" *(Continue as long as there's interest.)*

At the end of the activity: "You caught a lot of fish today! You caught red ones and *(help the children can identify the colors)* blue ones and *(pause)* green ones and *(pause)* yellow ones ... *(keep going until you identify all the different colors of fish)*. Let's count and see how many we have. One, two, three ... *(count the fish out loud together)*. See? I told you, you caught A LOT of fish! Our Bible lesson today is about a fisherman named Peter. He didn't catch a lot of fish at first, but then Jesus showed up! Jesus helped Peter catch a WHOLE lot of fish!"

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ACTIVITY

Catching Fish

Catch the Fish!

What You Need: Plush toy fish, net and stopwatch

What You Do:

Before the activity: Spread out the netting in the center of the room.

Gather children around you. Count to five and then throw the fish out into the room. Set the stopwatch. Have the children collect all the fish and place them inside the net. Repeat several times. Make it fun by challenging them to collect the fish faster each time.

What You Say:

Before the activity: "Who can tell me what this is? (*Point to fish.*) Yes, sir! This is a fish. And what is this? (*Pause.*) Right again! It's a net. A net helps fishermen collect all their fish. I want you to count to five with me, and then I'll throw all the fish into the room. Then I want you all to go collect all the fish and put them in the net. Ready? One, two, three, four, five. Go! (*Start the stopwatch.*) Wow! You got all the fish into the net super quick! Let's do that again! One, two, three, four, five. Go! (*Start the stopwatch.*)"

At the end of the activity: "You did a great job catching our little fish. I know another person who does a SUPER FANTASTIC job at catching fish. Do you know who it is? (*Pause.*) Jesus! **Jesus can do anything!** Nothing is too hard for Him! Right? **Is anything too hard for Jesus?** (*Pause.*) NO WAY! **Jesus can do anything!**"

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ACTIVITY

Catching Fish

Nets Full of Fish

What You Need: “Nets of Fish” from the Activity Pages on the Website, white cardstock, crayons, and small foam fish stickers

What You Do:

Before the activity: Copy “Nets of Fish” from the Activity Pages onto the white cardstock for each child.

During the activity: Hand out Activity Pages and allow children to color the picture. When finished, help the children place the foam fish in the net on the picture.

What You Say:

Before the activity: “Today in our lesson Peter had empty nets when he went fishing. His nets looked just like the nets in our picture. *(Point to the empty net on the Activity Page.)* Then Jesus helped him, and he caught many, many fish! Let’s use these stickers to show how many fish Jesus helped Peter catch!”

During the activity: “First, let’s use our crayons and color the picture. *(Allow children to color.)* Nice job! *(Give each child the fish stickers or foam fish.)* Now use the stickers to fill up the nets on your picture, just like Jesus filled the fishermen’s nets.”

At the end of the activity: “Wow! Look at all of the fish! I bet Peter was surprised and super happy when he saw all of those fish! I bet he was really amazed! **Is anything too hard for Jesus?** *(Pause.)* No! **Jesus can do anything!**”

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ACTIVITY

Catching Fish

Full of Fish

What You Need: Parachute or blue bed sheet and plush toy fish.

What You Do: Gather the kids around the parachute and gently shake it up and down to resemble water. Review the Bible lesson and add the fish to shake up and down on the parachute.

What You Say:

Before the activity: "Come gather around and grab an edge of the parachute. We are going to make our parachute look like the lake water from our lesson today. Hold on to the edge, but don't move it yet."

During the activity: "Now nice and easy, let's shake it up and down. Doesn't that look like water? Now freeze, and hold the parachute super still. I wonder if the water was really still when Peter went out fishing by himself. Remember, he told Jesus that he had not caught any fish that night. But Jesus told Peter to try again and when he did, Peter's net filled with fish! *(Throw the fish onto the parachute and start shaking it.)* Shake the parachute with me. Those fish were probably jumping all over the place! Now slowly, holding the parachute, walk into the middle and we will gather up our fish like Peter did in his net. *(Pause.)* Great job, little fishermen!"

At the end of the activity: "Whoa! We caught a lot of fish, just like Peter did! Peter knew that the reason all the fish got into his net was because of Jesus. Peter knew that **Jesus can do anything!** Nothing was too hard for Jesus, not even catching fish! **Is anything too hard for Jesus?** *(Pause.)* No! **Jesus can do anything!**"

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CRAFT

Catching Fish

Tissue Paper Fish

What You Need: “Fish” from the Activity Pages on the Website, white cardstock, different colors of tissue paper, and glue sticks.

What You Do:

Before the activity: Copy “Fish” from the Activity Pages onto white cardstock for each child.

During the activity: Give each child an Activity Page and colored tissue paper squares. Instruct them to use the glue sticks to spread glue all over the fish. Once they’ve finished, allow them to place their tissue pieces any way they wish to design their own fish.

What You Say:

Before the activity: “God made many different kinds of fish in the sea. Let’s make our own fish! We can make a beautiful fish and take it home and tell our families about how Jesus helped a man catch LOTS of fish in our lesson!”

During the activity: “Here is your fish. (*Hand out the “Fish” Activity Page.*) We have different colors of paper that you can use to decorate your fish. You can use as many pieces as you would like in all different colors. When you are ready, use your glue stick to glue the tissue paper to your fish and make your fish look any way that you would like!”

At the end of the activity: “WOW! Look at all of the different kinds of fish that we have created! Nice job! You can take your fish home and tell your family about today’s Bible lesson. You can tell them that Jesus helped Peter catch many, many fish when he didn’t think that he could. **Is anything too hard for Jesus?** Nope! **Jesus can do anything!**”

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SMALL GROUP TIME

Catching Fish

Small Group Time

What you Need: Fish stickers, Bible Story and book, *Somewhere in the Ocean* by Jennifer Ward and T.J. Marsh

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "Wow! What a lesson! Can you imagine going fishing all day and not catching anything? I mean, not one little, itty, bitty fish! But then Jesus gets in the boat and you catch so many fish you can hardly pull your net in! THAT is amazing! And it really happened to Peter! True story! Peter couldn't catch the fish, but Jesus could. Jesus can do all kinds of things we can't. **Is anything too hard for Jesus?**"

CHILDREN and SGL: "No! **Jesus can do anything!**"

SGL: "Jesus can heal people when they are sick. I can't do that. Can you? (*Pause.*) He can make it rain or stop raining. I can't do that. Can you? (*Pause.*) Do you want to know what my favorite thing is that Jesus does? (*Pause.*) Jesus loves me no matter what. It's true! And He loves you, too! That's why He wants to be your friend forever. Yes, Jesus wants to be your friend forever. Say that with me."

CHILDREN and SGL: "Jesus wants to be my friend forever."

SGL: "Good job! Now who's ready to start learning our new Memory Verse? (*Pause.*) Listen while I say the verse and do the motions and then we can do it together. 'With (*hug yourself with your arms*) God (*point up*), all (*spread your arms out in a moving circle in front of your body*) things (*lay right hand in the palm of your left hand*) are possible' (*two thumbs up*), Matthew 19:26. (*Open hands like a book.*) Say that with me."

CHILDREN and SGL: "'With God all things are possible', Matthew 19:26." (*Repeat several times.*)

SGL: "We'll practice that verse every week and I'll have a sticker waiting for you when you practice it."

SGL: "Would anyone like to try and say it all by yourself?"

Give each child the opportunity to say the verse. Make this a special time for them and reward them with a sticker.

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