

Sunday school lesson – Upper Primary

BIG IDEA	Meeting Jesus
Bible Reading	Luke 5:1-11
Preparation	<p>Read Luke 5:1-11 Jesus is still staying the region of Galilee, following the healing of the official’s son. The incident in this passage takes place on the shores of the sea of Galilee. Jesus now has large crowds of people following him – possibly still waiting to see further miracles (John 4:44,48). The crowds are now so large, that he needs to get out on a boat in order to be heard. Meanwhile, a local fisherman has just returned from a night of unproductive fishing. He is cleaning his nets, probably feeling tired and frustrated, when Jesus approaches him. Simon has met Jesus before (he had healed his mother-in-law in the previous chapter) which may explain his willingness to agree to Jesus’ request to borrow his boat. The rest of the passage focuses on the encounter between Simon and Jesus. Do we still have the same response to meeting with God – awareness of our sin and need of mercy, thankfulness for God’s kindness in not casting us off, and commitment to whole-hearted service, including brave “fishing for people”?</p> <p>Take home message: Meeting Jesus changes your life. Has it changed yours?</p> <p>Prepare for “Getting Started”: Have pictures of famous people (that the children will know). Have a map showing Cana and the sea of Galilee for use during the lesson.</p>
Getting Started	Talk about what it would be like to meet famous people (show pictures). What about meeting Jesus – what would that be like? What would be different?
Finding Out 1. Obedience	<p>➤ Jesus was still in the region of Galilee, by the sea of Galilee (show on a map).</p> <p>Read Luke 5:1-3</p> <p>➤ By now Jesus was well known. Crowds of people were flocking to hear him. Many of them probably wanting to see more miracles (<i>describe the scene</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: Why did Jesus need to get into a boat? • Q: How do you think Simon felt about this? <p>➤ He was probably tired after fishing all night and in the middle of another job (washing nets), but he did as Jesus asked. Simon had already met Jesus (he had healed Simon’s mother-in-law), so knew something about him.</p> <p>Read Luke 5:4-5</p> <p>➤ Simon was an experienced fisherman and Jesus was not. But Jesus gave him some fishing advice! They had been fishing all night (which was usual) but had caught nothing. There was no reason to think the fish would suddenly appear.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: What did Simon do? <p>➤ He obeyed Jesus, even though he didn’t understand why.</p> <p>➤ Jesus doesn't always explain everything to us - but he expects us to trust him and obey anyway. And he promises to always act for our good</p> <p>Read Luke 5:6-7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: What was the result? <p>➤ Jesus showed he is someone worth trusting and obeying</p>

<p>2. Repentance</p> <p>3. Commitment to follow Jesus</p>	<p>Read Luke 5:8-10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: What was Simon's reaction to catching so many fish (v.8)? • Q: Why? What did he recognise about Jesus? ➤ Jesus is Lord! Even the fish obey him! • Q: What did Simon recognise about himself? ➤ He recognised that he was sinful. This is a common (and right) reaction when people realise they are in the presence of the holy God (Read Isaiah 6:5). We only see how sinful we are when we compare ourselves to God's holiness. ➤ Q: Imagine being face to face with Jesus? How would you react? <p>Read Luke 5:10-11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: What did Jesus say to Simon? • Q: How do you think Simon felt at these words? • Q: What did Simon do after this? ➤ This was a life-changing decision. He gave up everything he knew, his job, his family, his life - to follow Jesus. • Q: Why did he do this? ➤ He recognised this man was worth following! He is ruler over everything, he has great power, but he cares about Simon, enough to provide fish for him when he hadn't been able to catch any.... lots of fish! ➤ Imagine you knew someone with infinite power - who could do anything, and who loved you more than anyone has ever loved you before - so much so that he would even be willing to die to save your life... ➤ If you knew someone like that - wouldn't he be someone worth having as a friend, being close to, and living your life for?
<p>So What?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Simon was there with Jesus, face to face. He has told us what it is like to come face to face with Jesus. It changes your life. It's not just a little bit extra you add on, it completely changes what you live for. ➤ If you are not yet following Jesus – You too will come face to face with Jesus one day. Then you will fall you on face, just like Simon, because you too will see how sinful you are and want Jesus to go away. But he won't say "Don't be afraid" – because it will be too late then. Now is the time to ask Jesus to forgive you. ➤ If you are following Jesus – we are called to do the same thing that Simon was. Don't be afraid, and fish for people! Be brave in telling others about Jesus, because you know how great he is.
<p>Memory Verse</p>	<p>PHILIPPIANS 3:8 <i>I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.</i></p>

Sunday school lesson – Lower Primary

BIG IDEA	Meeting Jesus
Bible Reading	Luke 5:1-11
Preparation	<p>Read Luke 5:1-11 Jesus is still staying the region of Galilee, following the healing of the official's son. The incident in this passage takes place on the shores of the sea of Galilee. Jesus now has large crowds of people following him – possibly still waiting to see further miracles (John 4:44,48). The crowds are now so large, that he needs to get out on a boat in order to be heard. Meanwhile, a local fisherman has just returned from a night of unproductive fishing. He is cleaning his nets, probably feeling tired and frustrated, when Jesus approaches him. Simon has met Jesus before (he had healed his mother-in-law in the previous chapter) which may explain his willingness to agree to Jesus' request to borrow his boat. The rest of the passage focuses on the encounter between Simon and Jesus. Do we still have the same response to meeting with God – awareness of our sin and need of mercy, thankfulness for God's kindness in not casting us off, and commitment to whole-hearted service, including brave "fishing for people"?</p> <p>Take home message: Meeting Jesus changes your life. Has it changed yours?</p> <p>Prepare for "Getting Started": Have pictures of famous people/ characters that the children know. Also have costume props to tell the story as Simon (e.g. fish cut out from card, washing basket tied to rope as a "net", a beard, a sailor hat).</p>
Getting Started	Talk about what it would be like to meet famous people (show pictures). What about meeting Jesus – what would that be like? What would be different?
Finding Out 1. Obedience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Today we are going to hear about someone else that Jesus met. His name is Simon. I am going to pretend to be Simon to tell the story (<i>put on costume props</i>) ➤ Hello – my name is Simon. • <i>Q: Can you guess what my job is? (hold up fish and net)</i> ➤ I'm a fisherman. I'm going to tell you about the day that changed my life. ➤ It was early in the morning. I had just got back from fishing all night long. It can be a bit tricky to see at night, but it's also a good time to fish. Only this time, I hadn't caught any fish – not a single one! (<i>Hold up the empty "net"</i>) ➤ I had been working hard and hadn't slept all night. • <i>Q: How do you think I was feeling? (sad, tired, frustrated, hungry!)</i> ➤ As I was washing out my net (<i>act out</i>), I saw a big crowd of people gathered on the shore of the lake. They were listening to someone speak. I went a bit closer to find out what was happening. Then I recognised the person speaking • <i>Q: Can you guess who it was?</i> ➤ It was Jesus! I had met Jesus before. He had made my mother-in-law better once when she wasn't very well. ➤ I was just about to go back to my nets, when Jesus called me over. He said, "Please can I get in your boat? I think everyone will be able to hear me better from there". I was a bit surprised, but I said, "Ok". We both got in the boat and a I rowed it a little way out into the lake.

<p>2. Repentance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jesus kept speaking to the people for a while. When he had finished, he turned to me and said, “Take the boat out into deep water, then let down your net to catch some fish”. ➤ I had just been fishing all night long and hadn’t caught any fish. So, I said to Jesus, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything.” But then I said, “But because you say so, I will let down the nets”. ➤ I wasn’t sure why Jesus was asking me to go fishing where there were no fish! But I did what he said anyway. (<i>Act out letting the net into the water</i>) ➤ You’ll never believe what happened next! I put my net down into the water that didn’t have any fish, and guess what! A fish swam into the net! And then another... and another... another. Soon, there were so many fish in the net that it was getting too heavy for me to drag out of the water (<i>act out</i>) ➤ I had to call out to my friends to come and help (<i>you could get children from the class to help you “pull the net out of the water”</i>). The boat nearly sank because the net was so heavy with so many fish. ➤ Then I realised that Jesus was no ordinary man! He could even make the fish obey him! I fell on my knees at Jesus feet (<i>act out</i>), and I said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” ➤ I realised that I didn’t deserve to be with Jesus. He was good, and I was not!
<p>3. Commitment to follow Jesus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This is what Jesus said to me <p>Read Luke 5:10b</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ He told me not to be afraid. Even though I didn’t deserve to be friends with Jesus, he was willing to be friends with me! • <i>Q: How do you think I felt when Jesus told me this?</i> ➤ Then Jesus gave me a job to do. • <i>Q: Do you remember what Jesus told me to do? (Read v.10b again)</i> ➤ He told me that instead of being a fisher of fish, I was going to be a fisher of men! • <i>Q: What do you think it means to be a “fisher of men”?</i> ➤ It doesn’t mean going around putting people in a net! It meant going around telling people all about Jesus. That way, they wouldn’t go into an actual net, but they would be able to go into God’s kingdom – which is a nice safe place to be! ➤ So that’s exactly what I did – I stopped fishing for fish, and instead followed Jesus and started telling people all about how great Jesus is.
<p>So What?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Simon got meet Jesus. Now what do you think it would be like to meet Jesus? • <i>Q: How do we get to find out about Jesus now?</i> • <i>Q: Have you experienced reading the bible and then realising you do things that are not right? That is good! God is speaking to you through his word</i> ➤ When we meet with Jesus through reading the bible, he changes us. Pray that the children would experience this for themselves.
<p>Memory Verse</p>	<p>PHILIPPIANS 3:8 <i>I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.</i></p>

Sunday school lesson – Pre-School

BIG IDEA	Meeting Jesus
Bible Reading	Luke 5:1-11
Preparation	<p>Read Luke 5:1-11 Jesus is still staying the region of Galilee, following the healing of the official’s son. The incident in this passage takes place on the shores of the sea of Galilee. Jesus now has large crowds of people following him – possibly still waiting to see further miracles (John 4:44,48). The crowds are now so large, that he needs to get out on a boat in order to be heard. Meanwhile, a local fisherman has just returned from a night of unproductive fishing. He is cleaning his nets, probably feeling tired and frustrated, when Jesus approaches him. Simon has met Jesus before (he had healed his mother-in-law in the previous chapter) which may explain his willingness to agree to Jesus’ request to borrow his boat. The rest of the passage focuses on the encounter between Simon and Jesus. Do we still have the same response to meeting with God – awareness of our sin and need of mercy, thankfulness for God’s kindness in not casting us off, and commitment to whole-hearted service, including brave “fishing for people”?</p> <p>Take home message: Meeting Jesus changes your life. Has it changed yours?</p> <p>Prepare for “Getting Started”: Have pictures of famous people/ characters that the children know. Also have costume props to tell the story as Simon (e.g. fish cut out from card, washing basket tied to rope as a “net”, a beard, a sailor hat).</p>
Getting Started	Talk about what it would be like to meet famous people (show pictures). What about meeting Jesus – what would that be like?
Finding Out 1. Obedience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Today we are going to hear about someone else that Jesus met. His name is Simon. I am going to pretend to be Simon to tell the story (<i>put on costume props</i>) ➤ Hello – my name is Simon. • <i>Q: Can you guess what my job is? (hold up fish)</i> ➤ I’m a fisherman. I’m going to tell you about the day that changed my life. ➤ It was early in the morning. I had just got back from fishing all night long. It can be a bit tricky to see at night, but its also a good time to fish. Only this time, I hadn’t caught any fish – not a single one! (<i>Hold up empty “net”</i>) ➤ I had been working hard and hadn’t slept all night. • <i>Q: How do you think I was feeling? (sad, tired, frustrated, hungry!)</i> ➤ As I was washing out my net (<i>act out</i>), I saw a big crowd of people gathered on the shore of the lake. They were listening to someone speak. I went a bit closer to find out what was happening. Then I recognised the person speaking • <i>Q: Can you guess who it was?</i> ➤ It was Jesus! I had met Jesus before. He had made my mother-in-law better once when she wasn’t very well. ➤ I was just about to go back to my nets, when Jesus called me over. He said, “Please can I get in your boat? I think everyone will be able to hear me better

<p>2. Repentance</p> <p>3. Commitment to follow Jesus</p>	<p>from there". I was a bit surprised, but I said, "Ok". We both got in the boat and a I rowed it a little way out into the lake.</p> <p>➤ Jesus kept speaking to the people for a while. When he had finished, he turned to me and said, "Take the boat out into deep water, then let down your net to catch some fish".</p> <p>➤ I had just been fishing all night long and hadn't caught any fish. So, I said to Jesus, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything." But then I said, "But because you say so, I will let down the nets".</p> <p>➤ I wasn't sure why Jesus was asking me to go fishing where there were no fish! But I did what he said anyway. (<i>Act out letting the net into the water</i>)</p> <p>➤ You'll never believe what happened next! I put my net down into the water that didn't have any fish, and guess what! A fish swam into the net! And then another... and another... another. Soon, there were so many fish in the net that it was getting too heavy for me to drag out of the water (<i>act out</i>)</p> <p>➤ I had to call out to my friends to come and help (<i>you could get children from the class to help you "pull the net out of the water"</i>). The boat nearly sank because the net was so heavy with so many fish.</p> <p>➤ Then I realised that Jesus was no ordinary man! He could even make the fish obey him! I fell on my knees at Jesus feet (<i>act out</i>), and I said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"</p> <p>➤ I realised that I didn't deserve to be with Jesus. He was good, and I was not!</p> <p>➤ This is what Jesus said to me Read Luke 5:10b</p> <p>➤ He told me not to be afraid. Even though I didn't deserve to be friends with Jesus, he was willing to be friends with me!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: <i>How do you think I felt when Jesus told me this?</i> <p>➤ Then Jesus gave me a job to do.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q: <i>Do you remember what Jesus told me to do? (Read v.10b again)</i> <p>➤ He told me that instead of being a fisher of fish, I was going to be a fisher of men!</p> <p>➤ That doesn't mean going around putting people in a net! It meant going around telling people all about Jesus. That way, they wouldn't go into an actual net, but they would be able to go into God's kingdom – which is a nice safe place to be!</p> <p>➤ So that's exactly what I did – I stopped fishing for fish, and instead followed Jesus and started telling people all about how great Jesus is.</p>
<p>So What?</p>	<p>➤ Simon got meet Jesus. Now what do you think it would be like to meet Jesus?</p> <p>➤ Even though we can't see Jesus, we can get to know him through reading the bible. When we get to know him, it makes everything different.</p> <p>➤ Pray that the children would get to know Jesus, and that would change their lives</p>
<p>Memory Verse</p>	<p>PHILIPPIANS 3:8 <i>I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.</i></p>