

## Bible Story 30: JESUS BEGINS SECOND YEAR OF MINISTRY

### SCRIPTURE:

**Calls Fishermen:**

**Heals Peter's Mother:**

**Heals Leprosy Man:**

**Heals Paralytic Man:**

**Calls Matthew:**

Matthew 4:12, 18-22; Luke 5:1-11

Mark 1:29-34

Mark 1:40-45

Luke 5:17-26; Mark 2:1-12

Luke 5:27-32

**MEMORY VERSE:** Matthew 4:19

### BIBLE STORY:

Herod put John the Baptist in prison. Around this time Jesus began his second year of ministry.

One day Jesus was walking along the northern shores of the Sea of Galilee near Capernaum. A crowd surrounded Jesus. When He saw two boats, He entered one and asked Simon Peter to take Him a little ways off shore. Sitting in the boat, Jesus taught the people. Then He told Simon Peter to take the boat out into deeper waters and throw out the nets to catch fish. Even though Simon Peter did not catch any fish during the night before, he obeyed Jesus. Simon Peter and Andrew went to deeper waters and threw out their nets. They caught so many fish that they called their partners, James and John, to come and help. When they arrived, they filled up the two boats with fish, and the weight of the fish almost sank the boats. They were amazed!

Jesus looked at the two fishermen, Simon Peter and his brother Andrew, and said, **"Come, follow me. I will make you fishers of men"** (Mt 4:19). They left their nets and followed Jesus.

A short distance away, Jesus called the fishermen brothers, James and John, and asked them to follow Him. Immediately they went with Jesus, leaving their father and hired help in the boat.

Once again Jesus was in Capernaum. After being in the synagogue on a sabbath, He went to Simon Peter's home. Peter's mother-in-law was very sick with a high fever and Jesus healed her. That evening Jesus healed many people. While it was still dark the next morning, Jesus went off alone to pray, as He did on many occasions.

While traveling through Galilee, a man who

had leprosy went and knelt before Jesus. He said, **"Jesus, if you are willing, you can heal me."** Jesus was willing and reached out and touched the man. Immediately he was healed.

A few days later, word spread that Jesus was in a home in Capernaum. People from nearby villages came and crowded into the home to hear Jesus teach. Four men carried a paralytic man on a mat to the home to see Jesus. But it was so crowded that they could not enter. So the men carried the paralytic man up some steps on the outside of the house to the roof. They took away some tiles to make an opening, and carefully lowered the paralytic man down. They placed him in front of Jesus. Looking up to the men on the roof, Jesus saw their faith. Then he looked at the paralytic man and said, **"Your sins are forgiven."** People said that only God could forgive sins. Jesus replied, **"Is it easier to forgive sins or to heal someone? So that you know that the Son of Man can forgive sins, watch."** Then Jesus told the paralytic man to get up, pick up his mat and go home. The man obeyed. He got up, took his mat and went home praising God. Everyone was amazed and praised God for the miracle that they had seen.

Once again Jesus went to the shore on the Sea of Galilee and taught the crowds. As He was walking on the shore, He saw a man sitting at a table collecting taxes. It was Matthew (Levi). Jesus called him to follow Him. Getting up and leaving everything, Matthew followed Jesus. Matthew gave a banquet, inviting his friends to come so that they could meet Jesus.

This was the beginning of Jesus' second year of ministry.

### LIFE LESSONS:

1. Jesus called Simon Peter and Andrew to be fishers of men. They left their nets and followed Jesus. "Fishers of men" means to tell others about Jesus. Follow Jesus. Share Jesus with your family, friends, colleagues, neighbors, etc.
2. Jesus felt compassion and healed Peter's mother-in-law, the man with leprosy and the paralytic man. Jesus has compassion for your concerns and needs.
3. Jesus went off to pray on many occasions. Pray and talk to the Lord. God listens, gives help, guidance and strength.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What happened to John the Baptist around the time Jesus began His second year of ministry?
2. What work did Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John do? How were they related?
3. What did Jesus ask Peter to do? What happened?
4. Jesus called Simon Peter and Andrew to be fishers of men. What does “fishers of men” mean?
5. How can we be fishers of men?
6. What happened when Jesus went to Simon Peter’s home?
7. Why do you think Jesus went off to pray? Should we take time to pray? Why?
8. Tell what happened to the man who had leprosy.
9. What happened when the four men took the paralytic man to the house where Jesus was teaching?
10. How can we help other people who are sick? Who are some other people that we can help? How?
11. Who was Matthew? What did tax collectors do? (*They collected taxes from the Jews for the ruling Roman government, often overcharging and keeping the extra money for themselves.*) Did their fellow Jews like them? Did Jesus love him? How should we treat people we do not like? Why?

**ACTIVITIES FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:**

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

**PRESENTATION:**

- Show a fish and talk about it. If it is a fish that has been caught, let each one touch its scales. If it is an aquarium, talk about how to feed and take care of the fish. Explain that today’s story is about some fishermen.
- Using appropriate expressions, tell the Bible story in your own words.
- If possible, talk about the Life Lessons and/or ask questions for discussion.

**OUTING:**

- Plan an activity to do together. Examples:
  - **Option 1:** Go fishing at a river or lake.
  - **Option 2:** Go to a fish market.
  - **Option 3:** Go to an aquarium.
- Suggestion:** While on the outing, tell or have someone retell this Bible story.

**VISITOR:**

- Invite a paralytic to come and talk about his situation and ways people can help paralytics.

**GAME: “FISHING”**

- Cut out fish figures out of construction paper or old newspaper and put a paper clip on each mouth. On each fish, write a Bible verse. Make a fishing pole, attach a string and put a magnet on the end of the line. Let each person catch a fish, and then read the Bible verse.

**Examples of Bible verses:**

- Psalm 55:22A
- Psalm 56:3
- Psalm 4:8
- Galatians 6:10A
- Matthew 4:19
- 1 John 4:7A
- Philippians 4:6
- Hebrews 13:6A

**MISSION ACTIVITY:**

- Do a mission activity for a single parent, an elderly couple or a disabled person. Examples:
  - **Option 1:** Bake cookies and attach a Bible verse to the package.
  - **Option 2:** Help clean up their yard, sweeping their porch, raking leaves, picking up fallen tree limbs, etc. Share how Jesus loves them.
  - **Option 3:** Invite them over for a meal. Afterwards sing Christian songs, tell a Bible story or share how Jesus loves them.
  - **Option 4:** Watch the single adult’s children so the parent can have a free afternoon or evening.
  - **Option 5:** Invite them to go to your church. Offer to pick them up.

**WATCH A MOVIE**

- Watch a movie about fishermen, fish (such as dolphins), etc. Then discuss the movie and ways we can help them.
- Study together about fish in your area.

**GET TOGETHER**

- Have a meal together, like a fish fry.

**DAILY BIBLE READING** - *Matthew 4:12,18-22; Mark 1:29-34,40-45; 2:1-12; Luke 5:1-11,17-32*

1 <sup>ST</sup>	2 <sup>ND</sup>	3 <sup>RD</sup>	4 <sup>TH</sup>	5 <sup>TH</sup>	6 <sup>TH</sup>	7 <sup>TH</sup>
Matthew 4:12,18-22	Luke 5:1-11	Mark 1:29-34	Mark 1:40-45	Luke 5:17-26	Mark 2:1-12	Luke 5:27-32