



WEEK 4

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE

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THE BIG IDEA

Jesus wants us to follow him.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Calls Andrew and Peter:
Mark 1:14-20; Luke 5:1-11

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- MUSIC** | YouTube Praise
- ACTIVITY** | Who's the Leader?
- VIDEO** | Draw with Mo on YouTube

TEACHING TIME

- SCRIPTURE** | Mark 1:14-20; Luke 5:1-11
- THE BIG IDEA** | Jesus wants us to follow him.
- VIDEO** | Subscribe Now, Episode 4
- ACTIVITY** | Sink or Float?
- PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- SNACK** | Gone Fishing
- ACTIVITY** | Fishing for Followers
- ACTIVITY** | Like and Subscribe
- MEMORY VERSE** | John 14:6 (NIV)

PLAY TIME

- ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- ACTIVITY** | Fishing STEM
- ACTIVITY** | Followers Who Fish



WEEK 4

HACKS FOR TODDLERS

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BY TIFFANY THENOR

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR TODDLERS

In children's ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but toddlers tend to get overlooked. But you know your toddlers need more than just babysitting, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your toddlers more engaged.

ACTIVITY | Who's the Leader?

Play, "Follow the Leader," selecting one kid at a time to lead the other kids (lined up behind them) in a line around the room. The leader can hop or jump or skip, selecting simple motions that can be followed by the other kids.

ACTIVITY | YouTube Video Draw with Mo

For younger kids, instead of watching a Draw with Mo video, watch this [Baby Shark dance video](#).

SCRIPTURE | Mark 1:14-20; Luke 5:1-11

Use puppets or felt illustrations to tell this story to the younger kids. While the kids are listening to and watching the retelling of this story, skip the questions and stick to the script to tell the short story.

ACTIVITY | Fishing for Followers

Instead of having the kids retell the story, record them reciting the memory verse with motions and/or the Big Idea with hand motions.

ACTIVITY | Fishing STEM

Make some nets beforehand by attaching popsicle sticks to the bottom of Dixie cups with hot glue. Allow kids to decorate using stickers, foam shapes, and other supplies and let them take it home to remind them of today's story.



WEEK 4

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

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THE BIG IDEA

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THE BIBLE

Jesus Calls Andrew and Peter:
Mark 1:14-20; Luke 5:1-11

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | YouTube Praise

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play songs such as, "[I Will Follow](#)," by Summit Kids and invite the kids to sing and dance. You can find the motions tutorial [here](#).

ACTIVITY | Who's the Leader?

- Try and figure out who the leader is!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** One kid turns around while the others stand in a circle and choose a secret leader quietly. The leader will start with a repetitive motion that the others follow and the leader will slowly change the motion while the others follow without missing a beat. The kid will turn and face everyone else and try to figure out who the leader is. The kid will only get two or three chances to guess. If your kids are confused, you can show them this [video](#).
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Play follow the leader, selecting one kid at a time to lead the other kids (lined up behind them) in a line around the room. The leader can hop or jump or skip, selecting simple motions that can be followed by the other kids.

VIDEO | Draw with Mo on YouTube

- YouTube is an online video sharing platform that hosts five billion videos that people watch every day! That's a lot of videos!
- The best way for a YouTube channel to get popular is by having a lot of people who watch the videos. Those people are called followers or subscribers.

- People are getting really famous for hosting fun videos! Let's watch one of our well known children's book illustrators on YouTube and learn to draw by following the leader!
- **INSTRUCTION:** Play [the video](#) from 16:45 to 19:41. Pass out paper and something to draw with.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** For the younger kids, instead of watching a Draw with Mo video, watch this [Baby Shark dance video](#).
- Today, you will be drawing along with Mo! Listen to his instructions carefully and follow along.

TEACHING TIME

SCRIPTURE | Mark 1:14-20; Luke 5:1-11

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Invite two kids to come up and help you act out the story. One kid plays Simon Peter and the other plays Jesus. As you are telling the story, ask the kids to act out what you are saying. Use props for fun.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Use puppets or felt illustrations to tell this story to the younger kids. While the kids are listening to and watching the retelling of this story, skip the questions and stick to the script to tell the short story.
- When God told Simon Peter to "Follow me," Simon Peter's whole life changed!
- Simon Peter was a fisherman, and fishing was a good job because it gave him money and food. But that day, Simon Peter wasn't catching any fish.
- Jesus got onto Simon Peter's boat and told Simon Peter to head out to deeper water and put the nets in the water there.
- **How would you feel if someone came and asked you to try again when you knew it wouldn't work?**
- Simon Peter told Jesus he already tried that, but he would try again. And when he did, a miracle happened!
- The fishermen on Simon Peter's boat and Simon Peter caught so many fish that they had to ask for help from another boat. The nets got so heavy, they began to break, and both boats started to sink!
- Simon Peter knew this was impossible! Only someone who controls the seas can make something like this happen! **Who could that be?** That's right! God!
- **What would you do if you saw a miracle happen with your own eyes? Do you think you would drop everything and follow the person who performed the miracle?**
- That is exactly what Simon Peter did. He knew this was someone very special he had to follow. So, when Jesus said, "Come, follow me. I will make you fishers of men," Simon Peter dropped everything and followed Jesus. And guess what? Jesus wants *us* to follow, too!

THE BIG IDEA | Jesus wants us to follow him.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Each week, select a kid to come and push a giant button that says, "Subscribe now" on the stage or wall. Announce the Big Idea after the kid pushes the button. When sharing the Big Idea, use these hand motions: **Jesus** (Using both arms, form a cross) **wants** (Fold hands together tightly) **us** (Outstretch hands in a sweeping motion) **to follow** (Walk in place) **him** (Point upwards with index fingers).

- Thank you for subscribing to this week's Big Idea!
- **Jesus wants us to follow him.**

VIDEO | Subscribe Now, Episode 4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's preschool [teaching video](#).

ACTIVITY | Sink or Float?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare a clear bucket or bin filled with water and the following items: a coin, a stick, a plastic spoon, a marble, a can of Coke, a can of Diet Coke, and any other items you'd like. Ask the kids to sit down if they think the item will sink or stand up if they think it will float. Test it in the water to find out!
- Do you think these items will sink or float? If you think it will float, stand up. If you think it will sink, sit down.
- Now, let's test out each of the items to see which sinks or floats! **Why do you think some objects float while other objects sink?**
- **What do you think Simon Peter was thinking when his boat began to sink because the fish were too heavy?**
- Just think, Simon Peter was on a boat with Jesus when Jesus invited him to stop what he was doing and become "fishers of men." Floating on a boat with Jesus must have been pretty special! **Jesus wants us to follow**, too, just like Simon Peter did!

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you so much for asking us to follow you. Help us follow you even if it means we need to give up something we want or like to do to spend more time with You. We know that following you is worth it! Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Gone Fishing

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Using large pretzel rods and Twizzlers Pull 'n' Peel, make edible fishing rods. Next, wrap gummy worms on the other end of the Twizzlers (see this [image](#) for an example). Invite the kids to dip their gummy worm into melted chocolate and then try and "catch" Goldfish crackers laid on a separate plate.
- Jesus invited Simon Peter to become a fisher of men. **Jesus wants us to follow him** and become fishers of people, too. That means we can tell others about Jesus! Let's practice fishing right now!

ACTIVITY | Fishing for Followers

- Let's create our own YouTube video of today's story.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As one large group, invite the kids to retell today's story. Film a short video and

at the end of your time together, send it to your parent facebook group, group chat, or personal messages. Or, if you get parental consent, post it to your church's social media sites. Encourage the kids to act, use props, animate the story, or get super creative. If video equipment is not available, use printout storyboards to help them retell the story.

- ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Instead of having the kids retell the story, record them reciting the memory verse with motions and/or the Big Idea with hand motions.

ACTIVITY | Like and Subscribe

- **Do you know how you show you like a photo or a video online?** That's right, you give it a thumbs up!
- **What does a subscribe button do?** When you "subscribe" to a channel, you can always see the latest things that person has posted.
- Let's try making our own "like" and "subscribe" buttons.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Make a large poster that says, "JESUS" in large print across the top and two columns under it labeled, "like" and "subscribe." Give each kid a 'Like and Subscribe' printable and something to color with. Encourage them to color the "like" and "subscribe" buttons on the printable, and help them cut them out. Attach them to the poster to show all the likes and subscribes!
- Look at all these "likes" and "subscribes" Jesus has! Following Jesus means we get to keep learning more about God and about what God wants us to do. That's why **Jesus wants us to follow him!**

MEMORY VERSE | John 14:6 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print two copies of the memory verse printable. With the first, cut out the pieces, then put them in order on a table and tape it down using packing tape. Tape the fish from the second copy to the bottom of twelve rubber ducks (tape it well so the paper won't get wet). Prepare a large bin with water. Give the kids a [large net](#) and take turns scooping out one duck at a time. Once they get all the ducks out, have them line up the ducks on the table on the corresponding fish.

PLAY TIME

While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide this week's coloring page and some crayons or markers. Review today's Bible story and Big Idea as the kids color.

ACTIVITY | Fishing STEM

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Lay out all of the STEM materials (see your Shop & Prep List for more detail)

and an example of a fishing net. Using any of the materials provided, invite the kids to create a fishing net that can hold more than ten goldfish.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Make some nets beforehand by attaching popsicle sticks to the bottom of Dixie cups with hot glue. Allow kids to decorate using stickers, foam shapes, and other supplies and let them take it home to remind them of today's story.

ACTIVITY | Followers Who Fish

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create fishing rods made of popsicle sticks, string, and that have magnets taped to them. Cut out some fish shapes out of paper, and on each fish, write a word that represents something good that comes from following Jesus (e.g., love, peace, freedom, joy, family, forgiveness, purpose, etc.). Try to add drawings to some of these words (check out [these illustrations](#) for some inspiration). Then, add paper clips to each fish and ask the kids to try to "fish" for all of the good things!

Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.