

JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES

Lesson 1: Fishing

This includes:

1. Leader Preparation
2. Lesson Guide

1. LEADER PREPARATION

LESSON OVERVIEW

Jesus knew the importance of relationships, and he provides specific examples of how we can be in relationship with him and others. Jesus coached his disciples on how to live and how to serve others, and sometimes his ideas seemed downright strange. But Jesus was and is always right. This lesson explores how Jesus helped his disciples and how he wants to help your students.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. WHAT: Jesus coached his disciples to try something different, and it worked.
2. WHY: Jesus is always right and wants to be our life coach—the first person we go to for direction and advice.
3. HOW: Students will learn to trust Jesus and his ways of doing things.

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE

John 21:1-14

SECONDARY SCRIPTURE

Galatians 1:10

TEACHING PREP

The short overview below is designed to help you prepare for your lesson. While you may not want to convey this information word-for-word with your teenagers, you'll definitely want to refer to it as you lead.

Read John 21:1-14.

After Jesus' death and resurrection, he appeared to the disciples. John's account includes this passage where he coached the disciples as they fished. The disciples weren't catching fish and were discouraged. Jesus instructed them to simply cast their nets on the other side of the boat. That one change worked, and the disciples caught so



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many fish that it was difficult to pull the nets to shore. Jesus then had breakfast with the disciples. He wanted to spend time with them, share life with them, and coach them.

In John's account, Jesus had already appeared to his disciples two other times: to give them peace and to provide physical proof of his resurrection to doubting Thomas. Jesus wanted to assure them and further equip them to carry on his ministry.

Jesus wants to help you and your students in your everyday life. There's no problem too little or too big for Jesus. His ways might seem a bit strange or illogical or countercultural, but we can trust him. He is always right.

THE BEFORE & AFTER [OPTIONAL]

Text Message Questions

We've provided a couple of different text message questions to send out to your students prior to your meeting. Feel free to use one or both of the questions below. As with the rest of the curriculum, edit these questions to fit the needs of your ministry

- What is the strangest advice you've received? Can't wait to hear your answers when the group meets!
- Who do you go to when you need advice? We'll hear a bunch of ideas from the group tonight!

Parent Email

We've provided you with an email below that you can send to your parents following the lesson. Our hope is to encourage parents to continue the conversation at home. Feel free to edit and customize the email to fit your ministry needs.

Dear parents,

We've begun a new three-lesson study focusing on Jesus and his disciples. We're diving into some real-life and practical ways we can be in relationship with Jesus and with others.

In the first lesson, we looked at how Jesus gave his disciples some strange advice in John 21:1-14. We discussed how Jesus' advice is sometimes strange and illogical,



but he is always right. We explored how Jesus meets us where we are, challenges us to do things differently, and is always right.

Around the dinner table or in the car, check in with your son or daughter about this lesson. Connect and help your child wrestle with these questions:

- What things in your life are going well? In what areas are you struggling and need advice?
- Where do you go for advice? What's been the best advice you've received?

Have a blessed week!



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2. LESSON GUIDE

GETTING THINGS STARTED [OPTIONAL]

Welcome your students and invite them into your meeting area. Open in prayer, and then lead them in this activity:

Ask students to press their hand down onto a table or desk, palm-side down. Make sure they're pressing their hand down onto the table. Ask them to lift each finger individually—especially the ring finger. You'll find they cannot lift the ring finger individually while pressing down. Encourage students to talk to one another for advice on finding a way to do this. Then give the instruction to try the same thing while only resting their hand on the table (without pressing down). Though not as strong as the other fingers, they are able to lift the ring finger by itself.

ASK:

- How frustrated were you when you couldn't lift your ring finger in the beginning?
- What advice did your friends give you? Did they have an idea of what would work to lift your ring finger?
- Did you think anything would change with the instructions to just rest your hand on the table? Why or why?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *This was an odd activity. Though I doubt many of you are often asked to lift fingers off a table, this leads right into our discussion on advice. Where do we get advice that works? Jesus gave his disciples some pretty odd advice. We don't know if they questioned it, but we do know they tried it. And it worked! We'll look at how Jesus wants to give us advice for what we do each day—the big stuff and the small stuff. We'll also learn how we can always trust him.*

TEACHING GUIDE

The goal of the Teaching Points is to help students capture the essence of each lesson with more discussion and less lecture-style teaching. The main points we have chosen are (1) Jesus meets us where we are, (2) Jesus says to do things differently, and (3) Jesus' way is always right.



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Remember: All throughout these lessons, it's up to you to choose (1) how many questions you use, and (2) the wording of the main points—keep ours, or change the wording to make it clearer for your audience.

Read John 21:1-14 together as a group. Consider dividing verses among your students so everyone has a chance to read.

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Every one of us has received advice—some good and some bad. Let's explore this passage and discover what it says about Jesus' advice.*

1. Jesus meets us where we are

ASK:

- *Where do you usually get advice?*
- *Why didn't the disciples have to search for advice?*
- *Describe a time when you were surprised by great advice—advice that worked.*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Jesus meets us where we are with his advice for what to do each day. He is so creative—he uses the Bible and different people like our parents, teachers, and sometimes friends to help us find out what to do and what will work.*

2. Jesus says to do things differently

ASK:

- *Just like our opening activity, sometimes we need to try something different. When have you tried to do something differently? What was that like?*
- *How is Jesus' advice in our lives different from the advice we receive from friends?*
- *How does it feel to try something different? Do you like trying new things? Why or why not?*
- *Why would Jesus' advice sometimes sound very different from what our culture might say to do?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Jesus wants what's best for us. Sometimes trying to do things differently is hard, or we can be scared to try something new. But Jesus is with*



us each step of the way. And even when Jesus' advice doesn't line up with what our culture says to do, we can trust Jesus and know that it'll work out well when we try it his way.

3. Jesus' way is always right

ASK:

- *The Bible says the disciples were overwhelmed by all the fish they caught. When have you been surprised by following the good advice you received from friends? from your parents? from God?*
- *Describe a time you chose to do something Jesus' way. How did it go?*
- *How can we know what is Jesus' way? Where do we go for advice?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Jesus knows what we're going through in life—the good stuff and the bad stuff. He wants to help us. We don't have to go looking for Jesus when things get bad and when we're discouraged. He meets us where we are, he asks us to do things differently, and he's always right.*

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION [OPTIONAL]

Ask students to form groups of two or three for these questions.

ASK:

- *Read Galatians 1:10. This verse explores the difference of pleasing God and pleasing people. What are some examples of pleasing God? What are some examples of pleasing people?*
- *Do you find it easier to please God or to please other people? Why?*
- *Why is it important to care more about pleasing God than pleasing other people?*

Bring everyone back together, and ask for volunteers to share answers to the previous questions, as time permits.



APPLICATION

ASK:

- *Describe a time you took Jesus' advice and tried something different. Was it hard? How did it go? How can that experience help you when thinking about the next time you need advice?*
- *How can we encourage one another to listen to Jesus' advice and to follow it? How can we encourage one another to please God?*
- *Think about school, home, and your friends. What areas would you like to be better? Take time to ask Jesus for his advice—his way of doing things.*

SUMMARY

End your lesson here. Provide your teenagers with a quick summary or take-home challenge based on (1) the content of this lesson, (2) the dialogue that took place during the lesson, (3) your understanding of the issues and struggles your teenagers are facing, and (4) the big picture of your youth ministry and what your leadership team wants accomplished with the teaching and discussion time.



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FOR KEEPS [MEMORY VERSE]

Encourage and/or challenge your teenagers to memorize the verse below.

Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant (Galatians 1:10).



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