



Fishers of Men  
*Matthew 4:18-22*

## *LESSON SUPPLY LIST*

- Bible w/ Marked Scripture
- Pencils
- Crayons/Markers
- Copies of Dot-to-Dot
- Copies of Coloring Page
- Fish Craft Supplies (see craft page for list)
- Copies of lesson overview for children to take home

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## Fishers of Men

*Matthew 4: 18-22*



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### Matthew 4:18-22

*18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.*

*19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you **fishers of men**.*

*20 And they straightway left [their] nets, and followed him.*

*21 And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James [the son] of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.*

*22 And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.*

### John 21:6

*"And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes."*

### Objective of Lesson:

The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. It (He) always succeeds. What grace, that He has given us a hand in the casting - not because He needs us. It is His net, His power, His success, His fish, and His glory.

### Lesson Instructions:

1. Read the scripture aloud - Matt. 4:18-22.
2. In this story the Lord Jesus Christ is walking by the sea called the Sea of Galilee. He comes to two brothers, one named Peter and the other Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea, because they were fishermen.
3. The Lord said to the two men, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Did they do what he said and followed Him? Yes they did! The two brothers immediately dropped their nets, completely abandoned them, and followed Him.
4. The Lord and the two men, Peter and Andrew, walked on a little further by the sea, and they saw two more men, also brothers. One brother was named James and the other was named John. They were fishermen also. They were in their father's boat where they were mending their fishing nets. Jesus called them to follow Him. What do you think they did? Do you think they followed Him too? Yes they did! The Bible tells us they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed Him. The Lord Jesus Christ has a powerful call!
5. Isn't it amazing?!!! The call of our Lord is so powerful that just by Him calling their name, they left everything (their jobs, their family, their friends - ALL of it) and followed Him. From that day on, these men were Christ's men. They were men chosen

- of God and appointed as Christ's fishermen. When Christ called them He told them they were no longer going to cast their nets for fish. He was going to make them fishers of men.
6. Only God has that kind of power. Can you do that? What if someone who you had never seen before walked up to you and they said, "Jackson, follow me?" Would you do it? You wouldn't if he was just a regular man; but this was not a regular man. This man was the Son of God! When the Son of God commands you to follow Him, do you think you can say "No"? You can't say "No," and you won't want to!
  7. How many of you have been fishing? What are some things you have to know in order to catch fish? You have to know where the fish are. You have to know how fish act. You have to have a net to catch them with. How you catch fish is a picture of how God draws His people to Himself.
  8. How many of you have seen a net before? (Hold up the net or the photo of a cast net provided). This is a fishing net, also called a **cast net**. It is in the shape of a circle or square, and it has small weights distributed around its edge.
  9. Casting a net is a skill that must be learned. Someone has to teach you to cast it correctly in order to catch fish. As you can see in this picture the net is cast or thrown by hand in such a manner that it spreads out flat on the water and sinks. Fish are caught as the net is hauled back in. This simple device has been in use for thousands of years. This is a small net but in these pictures you can see that nets can be really large and can be used to catch a LOT of fish.
  10. What happens after the net is thrown into the water? How does it catch fish? First you have to know where the fish are. You then cast the net over them and the fish swim into it, become tangled and cannot get out. The fisherman then pulls the net back into the shore or boat and the fish are caught.
  11. The Lord Jesus told these men He was going to make them fishers of men. What do you think this means? Does that mean He was going to have them go where men are and throw a net over them? No! This is just a story to demonstrate to us how the Lord uses men of His own choosing (HIS fishermen) to tell sinners how they are saved from their sins.
  12. This message of salvation is called the Gospel and it is Christ's net. This message is the net He uses to draw His people to Himself. The Lord Jesus Christ came to this earth, fulfilled all the laws of God, and shed his own blood for His people's sins. This message is the Gospel. The message is good news, and God commanded his preachers (His fishermen) to declare this message throughout all the world. At the Lord's command we cast the net of the gospel out into all the world and He fills it with His fish. Where ever God sends his pastors to preach the gospel, it is like a fisherman casting his net, and God fills the net with His people and He draws His people safely to Him. What a beautiful illustration of his grace and mercy!

#### Activities:

- Paper Bag Fish Craft
- Fish: Dot-to-Dot
- Fishers of Men Coloring Page

**Fishers of men  
Take Home Overview Sheet**



**Matthew 4:18-22**

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**Overview of Lesson:**

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# Fishers of Men Net Illustrations



# Fishers of Men

## Lunch Bag Fish Craft

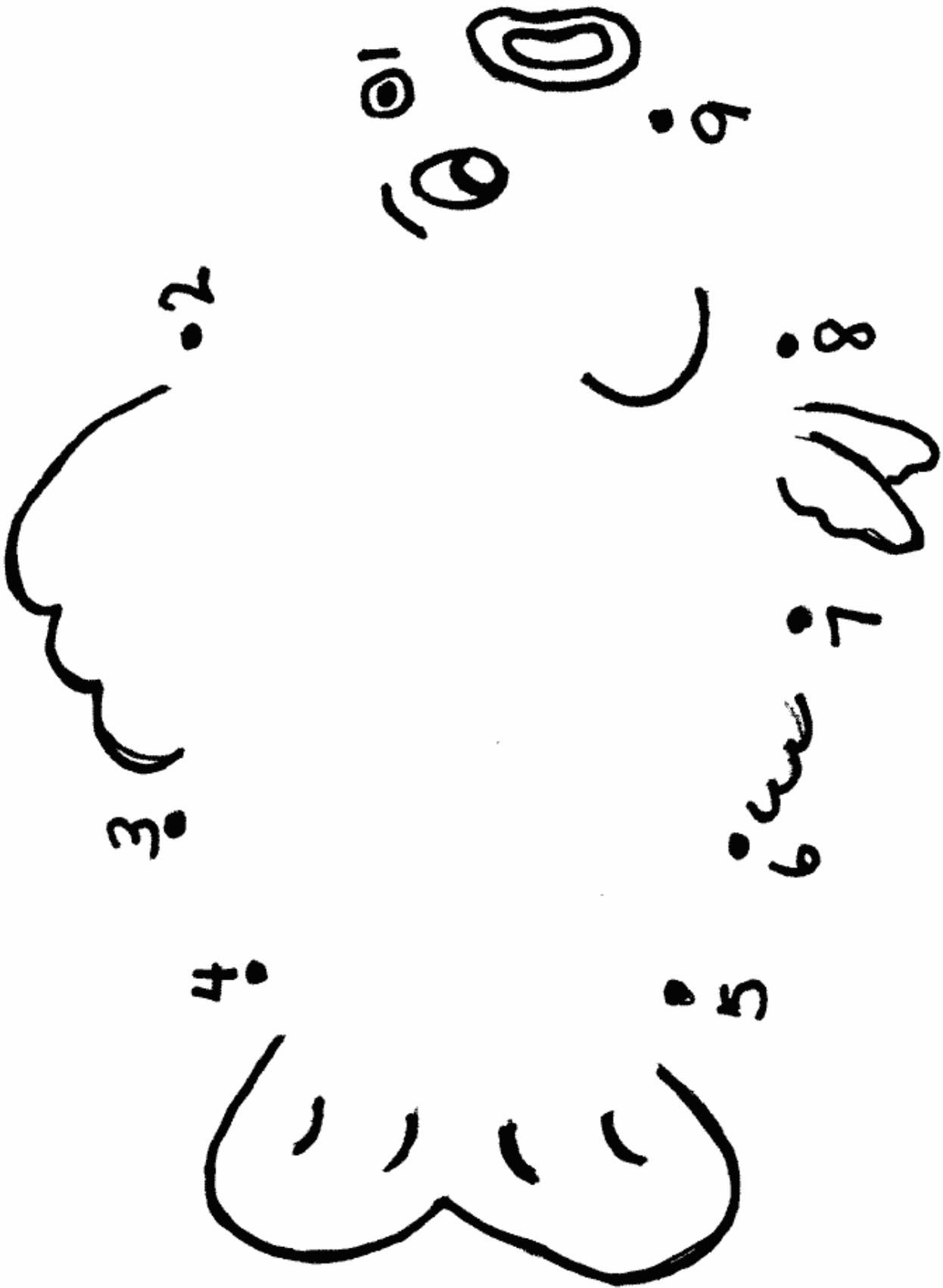


### Craft Supplies Needed:

Small paper lunch bag  
paint, crayons or markers  
wiggly eye(optional)  
twist tie or string  
old newspaper

Decorate the lunch bag with paint, crayons or markers. If using paint, let dry. The bottom part of the bag will be the fish's head. Stuff the bag half full with old newspaper. Gather the top half of the bag together and tie shut with a twist tie or string. Fan out the top part of the lunch bag a bit. This is the fish's tail. Glue on a wiggly eye or draw an eye on with a marker or crayon. Fun fish and ocean crafts for kids made with common household items!

Fishers of Men  
Dot to Dot



## Fishers of Men

Matthew 4:18-20

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