

Jesus Chose Four Fishermen;

Three Became His “Inner Circle”



New Testament 3
Part 1: The Apostles

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 3 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children’s names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Matthew 4:18-22; 17:1; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11; John 15:13-17; Proverbs 18:24; 17:17a

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: “[L]ove one another, just as I have loved you” (John 15:12b).

OLDER CHILDREN: “This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you” (John 15:12).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- [“I’m Glad I Have a Friend”](#)
- [“Row, Row with a Friend”](#)
- [“Will You Be a Friend of Mine?”](#)
- [“Choices”](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP’s Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [Apostles & N.T. Teams](#) Bible fact cards (provided under “N.T. 3 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)
- “Summary of the Bible” from [“Kids Prep”](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- Use visuals from previous lessons as appropriate.
- Tree to which you can attach fruit or leaf cutouts with characteristics of good friends (kind, honest, unselfish, trustworthy, good listener, etc.). Might want to use another tree to which you can attach characteristics of bad friends (dishonest, selfish, untrustworthy, etc.).

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: Good friends are special blessings from God.



OLDER CHILDREN: How I choose my friends is important because the people around me can help me make good or bad choices. Good friends are special blessings from God.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Last week, we studied about Andrew and how he brought his brother, Peter, to Jesus. Today, we are going to learn about how they, along with James and John, were fishermen. Peter, James, and John became close friends of Jesus. We should be thankful for our close friends!

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson.

Discuss friends that the students have. Are you closer to one or two of your friends than to the others? We should be careful whom we choose to be our close friends. These are the people with whom we spend a lot of time. We want to make sure they are people who care about God and will help us make good choices. Jesus became closer to three of the apostles, and they were good friends to Him. We should be thankful for our close friends!

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Of the original 12 apostles Jesus chose, four were fishermen: Simon Peter and his brother Andrew, James and his brother John. These four men, especially Peter, James, and John, would be closer to Jesus than any of the other apostles.
2. One day when Jesus was preaching to a large crowd near the Sea of Galilee, He saw Peter and Andrew casting a net into the water. Going a little farther, He saw James and John mending their nets. The people listening to Him were crowding Him so much that He climbed into Peter's boat and asked Peter to push away from the shore a little.
3. When He had finished His lesson, Jesus told Peter to take the boat into deeper water and let down his net. Peter and Andrew had worked hard all night and caught no fish, but they were willing to do as Jesus said. The nets became so full with fish that they were nearly breaking. Peter and Andrew asked their partners, James and John, for help. There were so many fish in the net that both boats quickly became full—so full that the boats were about to sink. The four fishermen were astonished! Jesus told them that from that point on they would be “catching” or “fishing” for men.
4. The four fishermen left their nets, their boats, and their livelihood to be with Jesus all the time, and to learn from Him. Compared to many people in Bible times, fishermen had good incomes. So these four fishermen were prepared to leave behind the relative security of an income for a life of poverty and dependence on the kindness of others. James and John also left behind their father, Zebedee, and their mother, Salome. [Salome was one of the women who watched the crucifixion (Matthew 27:55-56) and went to the tomb of Jesus after His resurrection (Mark 16:1).] All four may have left behind wives and children as well; we know for sure that Peter had a wife (Mark 1:30). The four were friends and partners who learned to work closely with one another as they lived with and learned from the Master Teacher.

OLDER CHILDREN:

5. Of all the 12 apostles, Peter, James, and John were Jesus' closest friends. At least three times they were with Jesus when the other nine were not: when Jesus raised Jairus' daughter from the dead (Mark 5:37; Luke 8:51); on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1; Mark 9:2); and in the Garden of Gethsemane before Jesus' arrest (Mark 14:33). He was not playing favorites; He was training these three in special ways because He knew they would play important roles in the Church.
6. Jesus spent a lot of time with His friends. What do you and your friends like to do together? Sometimes Jesus' friends disappointed Him. What do you think friends should do when they disagree or disappoint one another?
7. Good friends are loving, kind, loyal, trustworthy, and honest. They try to think the best about you and don't talk about you behind your back. They help you make good choices. They won't encourage you to disobey your parents, try to get you to go to places you shouldn't go, or to do things you shouldn't do. Good friends are special gifts from God.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article "[The Calling of the Apostles](#)" by Eric Lyons and "[Are There Modern-Day Apostles?](#)" by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for responses to the contention that the Gospels contradict one another with regard to the calling of Peter, Andrew, James and John and to the contention that apostles still exist today.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- "[Jesus Chose Four Fishermen Coloring Sheet](#)" (provided in activity sheets)
- Give each child a piece of paper and help him make his thumbprints. Then let all the children put their thumbprints on each other's papers. Talk to the kids about how unique and different their thumbprints are from one another. Everyone is different, yet we can still be friends.
- Give each child a paper plate or paper towel, mini-marshmallows, raisins, and several graham cracker sticks. Ask them to arrange the snack items into a human shape. Talk about how different the figures look, how friends look differently, how friends may not always like the same things, etc. No matter what our differences, everyone needs a friend.
- [Fishing Game](#): Change the questions from last week's lesson to questions from this week's lesson (fish cutouts provided in Lesson 3 activity sheets).
- Have each child look in a mirror and talk about what he looks like.
- Have each child draw a self-portrait.
- Have each child draw a picture of himself with a friend.

1st-2nd Graders:

- Activities from previous three lessons and/or Tic-Tac-Toe with clues from this lesson and previous lessons (Tic-Tac-Toe [instructions](#) and board provided in activity sheets).
- [Friends Matching Game](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- With tempera paint or ink, let each child put a handprint (or their fingerprints) on a long sheet of

butcher paper or bulletin board paper. Discuss how each of them is as unique as their fingerprints. Then draw a line between the hands (or sets of fingerprints) and talk about how each of them are connected, how we all need each other, etc.

- [“Not So Perfect Peter Crossword Puzzle”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [“Two Peas in a Pod Worksheet”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [“John 15:12 Word Puzzle”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Have each child look in a mirror and talk about what he looks like.
- Have each child draw a self-portrait.
- Have each child draw a picture of himself and a friend.

3rd-4th Graders:

- Activities from previous three lessons and/or Tic-Tac-Toe with clues from this lesson and previous lessons.
- [Friends Matching Game](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- With tempera paint or ink, let each child put a handprint (or their fingerprints) on a long sheet of butcher paper or bulletin board paper. Discuss how each of them is as unique as their fingerprints. Then draw a line between the hands (or sets of fingerprints) and talk about how each of them are connected, how we all need each other, etc.
- [“Not So Perfect Peter Crossword Puzzle”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [“Two Peas in a Pod Worksheet”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [“John 15:12 Word Puzzle”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read the following:
 - John chapter 15
 - *The Twelve Ordinary Men* Arch Book, Kelly Skipworth

POEM:

“I’M GLAD I HAVE A FRIEND”

(illustrate with animal stick puppets, magazine pictures, finger puppets, or felt animals)

“Croak, croak,” said a big brown toad one day.

“Croak, croak,” said a little green frog.

“Croak, croak,” said a big brown toad one day.

“I’m glad I have a friend!”

“Tweet, tweet,” said a little red bird one day.

“Tweet, tweet,” said his little blue friend.

“Tweet, tweet,” said a little red bird one day.

“I’m glad I have a friend.”

“Quack, quack,” said a big white duck one day.

“Cluck, cluck,” said a big red hen.

“Quack, quack,” said a big white duck one day.

“I’m glad I have a friend.”

SONGS:

“WILL YOU BE A FRIEND OF MINE?” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “Mary Had a Little Lamb”)

Will you be a friend of mine, friend of mine, friend of mine?

Will you be a friend of mine, and shake my hand today?

Yes, I’ll be a friend of yours, friend of yours, friend of yours.

Yes, I’ll be a friend of yours, and shake your hand today.

“ROW, ROW WITH A FRIEND” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”)

Row, row, with a friend,

Gently ‘round the bend.

Almost anything you do,

Is easier with a friend.

“CHOICES” ([Click to hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “Yankee Doodle”)

Every day in every way,

We all make our choices;

We say “yes” or we say “no,”

By using our own voices.

CHORUS:

Help us Lord, to choose what’s right,

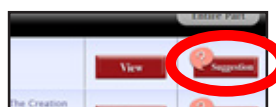
Every day and night.

Help us, Lord to choose what’s right,

We want to make good choices.

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

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WEDNESDAY EVENING

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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

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OLDER CHILDREN: How I choose my friends is important because the people around me can help me make good or bad choices. Good friends are special blessings from God.

INTRODUCTION:

[N.T. 3 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under “N.T. 3 Bible Facts” on curriculum web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Briefly review Sunday morning’s lesson (see [N.T. 3 Review Questions](#) for example questions)

YOUNGER CHILDREN:

2. Discuss with them what makes a good friend and why it’s important to choose good friends. Also discuss what happens when friends don’t get along and what to do when friends disagree. Possibly do some role playing with children “fighting” or disagreeing over a toy, what game to play, someone not following the rules, someone saying unkind things, etc.

OLDER CHILDREN:

3. We remember Peter as a great man, but we also know he often made mistakes. He was a man who was quick to speak without thinking. He was the one who said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” in Matthew 16:16. But then he was also the apostle who denied Jesus (Matthew 26:75). Even though he made mistakes, Jesus loved Peter and was a good example to him.
4. James and John apparently had hot tempers in the early years of their discipleship. They were called “Sons of Thunder” (“Boanerges”—Mark 3:17), possibly because they wanted to call down fire from heaven on people who refused to listen to Jesus (Luke 9:51-56). But Jesus’ love for them, and His perfect example, helped them change into great men. James became a leader in the Church; he was the first of the apostles to be killed for his faith. John was known as “the disciple (or apostle) whom Jesus loved.” Jesus trusted him so much that while Jesus was hanging on the cross, He asked John to take care of His mother.
5. Jesus was a great friend and a great example to others. If I want to be a good friend, I must be a good example, too. And I need to look for friends who will also be good examples for me.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

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