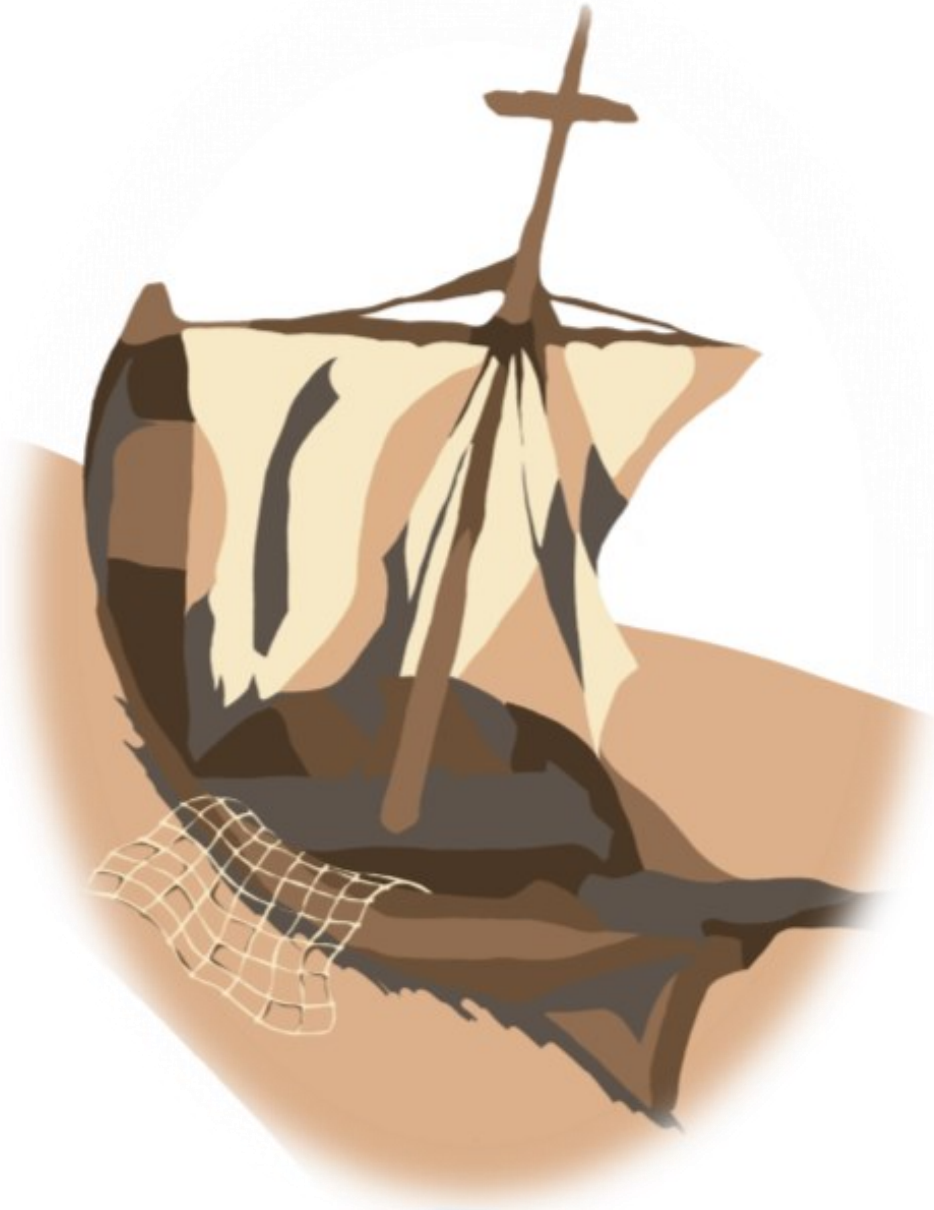


CALLED... OUT OF YOUR BOAT

"Anyone who serves me must follow me." John 12:26



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LARGE GROUP
LEADERS GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

This year's Summer Friendship Gathering (SFG) theme is "Called Out of Your Boat." We are not actually talking about getting out of your blow-up kayak or luxury yacht. We are going to study how we can eagerly jump out of our old way of doing things and what we want to do. Instead, Jesus is calling each of us to go and do the things He wants us to do. We join Jesus in His mission.

Our theme verse comes from John 12:26 (NIRV)

"Anyone who serves me must follow me. And where I am, my servant will also be. My Father will honor the one who serves me."

This week we will be studying Peter's journey to follow Jesus' calling on his life. We will be talking a lot about how we are also called to follow Jesus and love one another.

During all three of our lessons, we have a buzz word everyone is to shout out every time the lesson leader says the word "Call, Calls, Called, or Calling! The buzz word is "I'm Called." Let's practice. **(Leader says)** "Jesus **calls** each of us." **(Friends say)** ***"I'm Called!"*** Good job, I think you got it. Make sure to listen carefully.

**DAY 1 - CALLED TO FOLLOW: Jesus calls Peter to be a Fisher of Men.
John 1, Luke 5:11**

Day 1 Bible Verse:

"So, they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him."

Luke 5:11 (NIRV)

Peter hears God's Word taught from Jesus' own mouth from his boat. He witnessed a miracle that landed him a boat load of fish. He left everything to follow Jesus' call to become a fisher of men.

INTRODUCTION CONT.

DAY 2 - CALLED TO STEP OUT: Jesus calls Peter to Him on the water and calms the storm. **Matthew 14:22-32**

Day 2 Bible Verse

"But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

Matthew 14:7 (NIRV)

Jesus walks on water to His disciples in the middle of a storm. He invites Peter to walk to Him and Peter steps out of the boat and walks on the water. He begins to sink when he takes his eyes off of Jesus. Jesus is inviting us to step out of our comfort zones.

DAY 3 - CALLED TO JUMP OUT: Peter jumps out of his boat eager to get to Jesus. **John 21:1-17**

(This lesson is taught during the Day 3 worship service)

Day 3 Bible Verse

"Peter, do you love Me?" "Yes Lord, you know that I love You." Jesus said, "Take care of My sheep."

John 21:16 (NIRV)

Jesus again demonstrates His love for His disciple with another boatload of fish. With excitement, Peter jumps out of the boat and swims to Jesus. Jesus challenges Peter's love for Him and calls him to care for the people in His Church. Jesus wants us to have the same excitement to love and care for others.

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HELPFUL HINTS

BE PREPARED

To prepare for leading the large group lesson please read through this guide, watch the Large Group Leader videos by following this link <https://connection-ministries.org/summer-friendship-gathering-training/> and study these Biblical passages prior to the event:



DAY 1

CALLED TO FOLLOW

The call of Peter to follow Jesus (John 1, Luke 5:1-11)

DAY 2

CALLED TO STEP OUT

Jesus walks on water and calls Peter to Him (Matthew 14:22-32)

DAY 3

CALLED TO JUMP OUT

Jesus re-invites Peter to care for Jesus' church (John 21:1-17)

REVIEW EACH DAY'S OUTLINE

In each day's outline, you will find 4 sections: Daily Bible Verse, Lesson Objectives, Background Information, and Bible Lesson to help you lead the large group.

ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION

It is vital for the Bible lesson to actively engage the adult friends, as this encourages further learning. Here are some ideas to use in teaching the large group lesson:

Skits, Props, & Costumes: Engage the large group through the use of skits, costumes, and /or having a guest visitor (puppets or Bible character). It is important to use a friend who is able to read or volunteer to narrate the skits using a microphone. Friends with verbal challenges can act them out.

Songs: Worship and interactive songs related to the day's Bible lesson are a good ways of reinforcing the lesson.

Biblical Character: A volunteer can play a Bible character from the day's lesson.

Ask Lots of Questions: The Large Group Bible teacher should ask lots of questions throughout the lesson and engage the group for answers.

WAIT PATIENTLY FOR A RESPONSE

Those with disabilities sometimes need more time to process the question and formulate their answer. If he/she does not respond after a minute, ask the question again or rephrase it.

CONNECT THE BIBLE LESSON

By connecting the Bible lesson to real-life situations it helps our friends apply what they are learning to their everyday lives.

DAY 1 - CALLED TO FOLLOW

Jesus calls Peter to be a
Fisher of Men
(John 1 and Luke 5:1-11)

DAILY BIBLE VERSE

“So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed Him.”

Luke 5:11 (NIRV)

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- Jesus wants us to trust Him when He asks us to do something we don't understand.
- The presence of the Holy Spirit reveals our sinfulness and need for a Savior.
- What does Jesus want each of us to leave behind to follow Him?
- How can we also be fishers of men (or people)?

HELPFUL PROPS & TEACHING AIDS

- SFG DAY 1 PowerPoint slides
- Object Lessons (see video note pages)
- Props for skit - three chairs
- Three people to play in skit

DAY 1 LESSON INTRODUCTION

This week we will study three Gospel lessons about Peter. In these three stories we will see how Jesus called Peter out of his fishing boat to join Him in His mission. We will also look at ways Jesus is calling each of us to join Him in His mission.

Now, we aren't being called "out of our boat." Peter worked in a boat to take care of his family and himself. But like Peter, we are being called out of just living for ourselves to live our lives for Jesus.

DAY 1 LESSON
OBJECT LESSON:
FISHING FOR PEOPLE

Props: **Samples of artificial bait**
 Fishing pole with fishing line
 Paper clip for the hook
 Paper heart

Have any of you ever been fishing? It's a great way to spend some time outdoors! It's exciting to cast your line and feel that tug on the end of your pole.

It doesn't take much to get started. All you need is a pole, **(hold up the pole)** a line, **(hold up the line)** and one thing more. Do you know what that is? Yes! You need to put some bait on the hook.

Whether it's a worm, a smaller fish, or a specially made lure, you need something to catch the fish's eye and make him bite. **(Hold up different types of bait)**

Today we are going to go fishing. But we are not going fishing for fish but fishing for people! In our lesson we will learn how Jesus caught Peter with his love and then called him to be a fisher of men.

Jesus showed how much he loved Peter. He worked a miracle and Peter caught a boat load of fish. Peter had fished all night with nothing to show for it before Jesus came along.

When Peter saw this miracle catch of fish, he realized he was in the presence of God and that he was a sinner. Jesus didn't leave him but loved him. He gave Peter a special mission. Jesus said, ***"Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men instead of fish!" Luke 5:10.***

Just like Peter, Jesus also calls us to be fishers of men. Like any good fishermen, we need good bait when we go fishing. The best bait is God's love. **(Attach the paper heart onto the hook).**

When we love others the way Jesus loves us, we show people how much Jesus loves them. Nothing draws people to Jesus more than seeing His love in action through us.

DAY 1 LESSON
**OBJECT LESSON: FISHING
FOR PEOPLE CONT.**

The Bible says after they pulled their boats up on shore, they left everything to follow Jesus. Remember, fishing was how they made their money, how they supported their families. Because Jesus loved them, they committed their lives to him.

Our verse for this week says, ***“Anyone who serves me must follow me. And where I am, my servant will also be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.” John 12:26***

Just like Peter, Jesus calls all of us out of our boats, or our everyday lives to be part of His mission. We are all privileged to be called by Jesus! We get to be part of Jesus’ work in world.

So how do you think we can fish for people by using “love” as our bait? It could be inviting someone to Friendship Group, praying with someone, showing kindness, or telling them how much Jesus loves them too.

We can all be fishers of people by showing them God’s love.

DAY 1 LESSON

Have you ever been called out? Singled out to do a job? Or called on to help someone in need? We titled today’s lesson “Called to Follow,” because we are going to see how Jesus called Peter out of his boat to help with His mission. Remember to listen for our buzz word, “I’m Called.” **(make sure everyone is shouting out the buzz word).**

Our story begins in the gospel of John chapter 1. Andrew and another disciple were following John the Baptist. One day they heard John refer to Jesus as the “Lamb of God.” At that time, they started following Jesus.

Andrew immediately finds his brother Simon, who we know as Peter, and tells him, “We have found the Messiah, which means Christ.” And he brought Simon to Jesus.”

“...Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Peter.”

DAY 1 LESSON

CONTINUED

The story continues in Luke 5 where Jesus is preaching the word of God in the synagogues of Judea. Crowds of people were pressing around Him.

Andrew and Peter were fisherman in the area where Jesus was teaching. They had been fishing all night but caught nothing. They were cleaning their nets.

Jesus saw their boats near the shore and decided to get in one of the boats which belonged to Peter. He asked Peter to take the boat out a little from the shore so the people could hear him better. Jesus then taught the crowds the Word of God.

Why did Jesus chose to teach from Peter's boat?

The crowds were pressing in on Jesus and He wanted to teach from Peter's boat so He could be heard.

In the midst of Peter's frustrating night of fishing, Jesus got in his boat and began to teach the people. When he finished speaking, he turned to Peter and said, "Go out into deep water. Let down the nets so you can catch some fish."

Jesus is now calling them to put their nets back in the water after they wasted a full night not catching any fish. They are tired! They already cleaned their nets and now they will have to clean them again.

You can hear Peter's frustration when he answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

Have you ever had a bad day when nothing seemed to go right?

Who do we need in our lives when we are frustrated?

Jesus! Yes, the disciples needed Jesus too. They did what He told them.

To their surprise, as soon as they let down their nets, they caught a huge number of fish! So many that their nets were at the point of breaking. They had to signal their partners James and John who were in another boat to help them. They all worked together to pull in their boat load of fish.

DAY 1 LESSON

CONTINUED

This had to be the best catch of their fishing career! This was a miracle of God!

When Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees. "Go away from me, Lord!" he said. "I am a sinful man!"

What happened when Peter obeyed Jesus and let down his nets in the deep water?

To their surprise, as soon as they let down their nets, they caught a huge number of fish! So many that their nets were at the point of breaking.

Seeing this miracle and being in the presence of Jesus, Peter became aware of his sinful heart. Faced with his sin, he didn't think he could be close to Jesus. But Jesus was already close to him. He was sitting right there in his boat.

Like Peter, do you ever feel like you have a sinful heart and think you can't talk to God or be close to Him?

Does it keep you from praying, going to church or Friendship group?

The Bible says in Romans 3:23 Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God's glory. But if you have trusted Jesus, you have the Holy Spirit in your heart. Jesus lives in us through the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit, which is the Spirit of God, shows us our sin and helps us repent and turn away from our sin. And just like Jesus was in the boat with Peter, through His Holy Spirit, He is with us. Jesus promises He will never leave us.

Jesus loved Peter and He said to him **"Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men instead of fish!" Luke 5:10.**

Peter knew he was a sinner, but Jesus still called him out of his boat. Jesus wanted to be in relationship with Peter and he wanted Peter to join Him in His work in the world. We are all called to join Jesus in His mission. He called him from being a fisherman to become a fisher of men.

The Bible says after they pulled their boats up on shore, they left everything to follow Jesus.

DAY 1 LESSON

CONTINUED

Just like Peter, Jesus calls all of us out of our everyday lives to be part of His mission. We are all privileged to be called by Jesus! We get to be part of Jesus' work in world.

So, what does it mean to be part of Jesus' work in the world?

Some of us can teach or tell a friend about Jesus. We can stop and pray with a friend or anyone in need. We can encourage others when they're sad or struggling. We can give to people in need.

Can we do this on our own, or do we need help? Jesus equips and helps us with this work through His Holy Spirit.

Peter left his fishing boat behind to follow Jesus.

What are things we are willing to leave behind to follow Jesus?

Skip watching TV and go Friendship Group.

Give up a nap so you can help someone with a chore?

Maybe, leave behind our fear and ask God to give you courage to pray with someone?

The next two days we will learn more about Jesus' invitation to join Him in His mission.

DAY 1 SKIT

Scene: Will, Patrick, and Melody are sitting after Friendship group pretending to eat a snack.

Props: Three chairs

Will: I just love these little bags of fish crackers and gummy worms; it sure hits the spot! (Melody shakes her head in agreement) Hey what did you think about the lesson tonight?

Patrick: It was ok, but I am a little confused.

Melody: Oh? Why are you confused Patrick?

Patrick: Well, I don't understand how Jesus would call Peter to be a fisher of men. How can you fish for men? That doesn't even make sense.

Melody: I don't think Jesus wanted Peter to **actually** catch men in his fishing nets. It's a kind of word picture like the fish crackers and gummy worms.

Will: That's right. Jesus wanted Peter to be one of his disciples. He wanted to teach Peter how to get out of his boat and tell others the good news of how much Jesus loves them.

Melody: So instead of catching fish Jesus wanted Peter to catch people so they can follow Him too.

Patrick: Oh, you mean instead of throwing his net out in the sea to catch fish Jesus was calling Peter to tell others about Him?

Will: Yes, that's right.

Patrick: Telling others about Jesus sounds like it would take a lot of courage. It sounds like something only a pastor or a missionary would do.

Melody: Its also something He wants all of us to do. It does sound a little scary, but Jesus promises to be with us.

Will: Well, tomorrow we will learn how to get out of **our** boats and trust Jesus for those things that take courage.

Melody: I can't wait!

DAY 2 - CALLED TO STEP OUT

Peter steps out of his boat and
walks to Jesus on the water

(Matthew 14:22-32)

DAILY BIBLE VERSE:

“Lord, is it You?” Peter asked. “if it is, tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” Jesus said. Matthew 14:28-29

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- Jesus wants to build our faith so we will come to Him in any circumstance when He calls us.
- Peter wanted to be like Jesus and do the things Jesus did, even when it seemed impossible. Are we willing to do the hard things Jesus asks us to do?
- Jesus was Peter’s life preserver pulling him out of the water when he failed. Jesus promised to never leave us and He will be our life preserver too.
- We worship Jesus who is the source of everything that is good.

HELPFUL PROPS & TEACHING AIDS

- SFG DAY 2 PowerPoint slides
- Object Lessons (see video note pages)
- Props for skit - three chairs
- Three people to play in skit

DAY 2 LESSON

On day two Jesus walks to His disciples on the water in the middle of a storm. He invites Peter to walk to Him and Peter steps out of the boat. Jesus is inviting us to step out of our comfort zone and be willing to do the things He wants us to do. He calls us to trust Him even in the storms of our lives.

DAY 2 LESSON

Do you remember our buzz word from yesterday? That's right, "I'm Called!" When do we shout it out? When we hear the words, "Call, Calls, Called, or Calling." OK, let's test it out.

We are all called to follow Jesus! **"I'm Called!"** Ok, great! Let's get started.

Our title for today's story is "**Step Out**," and we will learn what happens when Jesus calls Peter to **step out** of the boat in the middle of a big storm. He invites Peter to come to Him walking on the water to build the faith of His disciples, and especially Peter's faith. There will be times when Jesus will call us to do something that is hard to do. When we do things that are hard, it builds our faith.

In Matthew 14, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat after a couple long days of teaching and healing people. He had them go on ahead of him to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Then, He went up on a mountainside by Himself to pray. He needed to be alone with His Father.

Prayer was important to Jesus. Why is prayer important to us?

It is a way for us to talk to God. It is important to follow Jesus' example and to find time when we can be alone with God without other distractions.

Later that night Jesus came down from the mountain after praying. The boat was already a long way from land when a great storm arose. The disciples were being pounded by the waves.

"Shortly before dawn, Jesus went out to the disciples. He walked on the water. They saw him and were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said. And they cried out in fear."

Note: *You will notice that Jesus did not come out immediately. He waited until shortly before dawn to come out. Do you think He wanted the disciples to know in their hearts that they needed Him?*

"Right away Jesus called out to them, "Be brave! It is I. Don't be afraid.'"

"Lord, is it you?" Peter asked. "If it is, call me to come to you on the water."

"Come," Jesus said. So, Peter stepped out of the boat. He walked on the water toward Jesus. But when Peter saw the wind, he was afraid. He began to sink. He cried out, "Lord! Save me!"

DAY 2 LESSON

CONTINUED

Did Jesus call Peter to come to Him on a warm sunny day or in the middle of a storm?

In the middle of a storm.

Has God ever called you to step out and do something that was hard?

God may call us to forgive someone who hurt us or ask someone to forgive us when we hurt them. He calls us to help our friends or housemates when they need help. He may call us to do chores that are someone else's responsibility. He calls us to love people who are hard to love. Or ask someone to come with us to Friendship Group.

“Right away Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “Your faith is so small!” he said. “Why did you doubt me?””

Peter saw Jesus walking on water and he was only able to step out of the boat because he trusted Jesus. He was putting his life in Jesus' Hands. Peter only began to sink when he took his eyes off Jesus and focused on the wind and the waves.

Jesus doesn't always call us to step out to love another person when everything is going well. Sometimes it's in the middle of turmoil or trouble. Jesus wants us to love others, even when we are angry.

If we are only thinking about how angry we are, we will not love them like Jesus wants us to love them. But if we keep thinking about Jesus, we can love them. Jesus is there to help us, just like He was there to lift Peter out of the water. We can trust Him with our lives, but we need to look at Jesus and not at our troubles.

What helps us keep our eyes on Jesus?

We can read what He tells us in his Word, the Bible. We can pray to him when we feel worried or fearful and ask the Holy Spirit to help us be brave. We can go to church and listen to what He says through our preachers and teachers.

What happens when we keep our eyes on Jesus?

When we keep our eyes on Jesus and trust Him, we can do anything

DAY 2 LESSON

CONTINUED

Jesus calls us to do, even love someone who made us angry. We can even do what seems impossible.

Jesus was Peter's life preserver. He pulled Peter out of the water. Jesus is also our life preserver. We can feel safe doing things for Jesus because He will always be with us

What things around us can take our eyes off Jesus?

Difficult people we work or live with, the worries of the world, the news we watch, or anxious thoughts. We have too much baggage like unforgiveness, anger, jealousy, or bad thoughts. Sometimes we are just too busy.

What happens when our eyes are off Jesus and on ourselves or our troubles?

We may not sink in the water but maybe our troubles sink us. We can become depressed, or angry, not loving others like Jesus wants us to love them. We can stop praying, stop going to church, or even stop following Jesus.

The Bible says, "Peter cried out, "“Lord! Save me!” Right away Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "Your faith is so small!" he said. "Why did you doubt me?"”

"When they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those in the boat worshiped Jesus. They said, "You really are the Son of God!"

Who do you cry out to when you need help? Is it Jesus or someone or something else?

How did the disciples respond when Jesus got in the boat and the wind and waves stopped?

They worshipped Jesus and proclaimed He was the Son of God. They recognized that only God has command over all of creation including the wind and waves.

God is present in all our troubles, always with us and guiding us. Like the disciples, our response should always be to worship God.

DAY 2 LESSON

CONTINUED

What are ways that you worship Jesus? How can you worship Jesus right now?

We can worship Jesus by singing to him, praying, reading our Bible or reading a Psalm of praise. We can say, "Holy, Holy, Holy are you Lord God Almighty." We can sing praises like the one in Psalm 93:3b,4 "...the seas have lifted up their pounding waves. Mightier than the thunder of the great waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea, the Lord on high is mighty!"

Jesus knows we are weak, but He still calls us to step out of our boat and into His mission. Like Peter, sometimes our troubles seem too big, but Jesus is the One who is able to calm us in the middle of our troubles. Jesus calls us to put our lives in His hands.

DAY 2 LESSON

OBJECT LESSON: FLOAT OR SINK

Props: A clear container of water at least 8" deep

An easy to peel orange

Life preserver

Today we are going to see what happens when we put our trust in Jesus instead of looking away from Jesus and allowing life's troubles to bring us down.

This tub of water represents the challenges, trials, and difficult situations we find ourselves in. We can call it "Troubled Waters". **(Have a clear container of water)**

(Hold up an un-peeled orange) This orange represents us when we step out of our comfort zone to do something hard that God calls us to do. Who should we keep our eyes on when God calls us to do something? That's right, Jesus! We need to stay close to Jesus.

Let's see what happens when I drop it in the water. Do you think it will

DAY 2 LESSON
**OBJECT LESSON: FLOAT
OR SINK? CONT.**

float or sink? **(Let the friends call out what they think will happen)**

(Drop the orange in the water) It floats! That is because it is covered by peel. Just like Peter when he kept his eyes on Jesus who covered him with his love and faithfulness, he could do the impossible! He could walk on water, and he didn't sink.

Remember in our story that Peter wanted to go to Jesus on the water during the storm. It wasn't during a calm day at sea, but a stormy night when the wind was howling. Have you ever tried to do something hard that Jesus called you to? Maybe you started out trusting God and things were going pretty well.

What happens if we take our eyes off Jesus? What if we stop praying, or stop going to Friendship group? What if we forget to talk to God and start thinking more about our problems, our "Troubled Waters?" **(Start to un-peel the orange)**

You start to think "Lord, I just can't do this anymore", instead of asking God to give you strength. You tell God, "This is just too hard for me, look at this difficult situation I am in!" **(Put the peeled orange in the water and watch it sink)**

Just like Peter found himself sinking in the middle of the storm, Sometimes we find ourselves sinking in our own troubled waters.

Jesus wants us to ask Him for wisdom on how to get through your difficulties. When we cry out for Jesus to save us like Peter did, He will immediately reach out His strong hand. Jesus is our life preserver **(hold up the life preserver)** He will help us float to safety through any storm we face. **(Throw the life preserver to a friend)**

DAY 2 SKIT

Scene: Will, Patrick, and Melody are hanging around after Friendship Group.

Will: Hi Patrick, Hi Melody. Wasn't that a great lesson tonight?

Patrick: Yes! Wouldn't it be exciting to walk on water like Peter in the middle of a storm?

Will: It would! Peter must have had lot of courage to step out of his boat to walk on the water when Jesus called him. I hope I have that kind of trust in Jesus when I have to do something hard.

Patrick: Hey Melody, why are you so quiet today? Is something wrong?

Melody: I feel like I am in the middle of a storm like the disciples. It's hard for me to trust Jesus right now.

Will: What do you mean? Why do you feel like you are in the middle of a storm?

Melody: Well, my mom is in the hospital and she is very sick. I am just so worried about her.

Patrick: That is a hard thing to go through. I am sorry.

Will: You know Melody, Jesus called Peter to come to Him in the middle of the storm. I think Jesus wants us to look to Him in the middle of our troubles too.

Melody: But how? How do I keep looking to Jesus when I'm so afraid?

Patrick: We can pray with you and ask the Holy Spirit to help you?

Will: That's a great idea Patrick.

Melody: I would like that very much.

Patrick: Father, thank you that you are with Melody in the middle of her hard time. Please help her to keep her eyes looking to Jesus as she trusts Him with her mom. Give her your comfort and peace during her mom's sickness.

Will: We also ask you to heal her mom and be close to her. In Jesus name we pray.

Patrick, Will: AMEN!

Melody: Thanks guys I feel so much better.

Will: Hey that's what friends are for.

DAY 3 - CALLED TO JUMP OUT

Peter jumps out of his boat to get to Jesus as fast as he can

(John 21:16)

DAILY BIBLE VERSE

“Peter, do you love Me?” “Yes Lord, you know that I love You.” Jesus said, “Take care of My sheep”

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- Jesus is with us always! He wants to be present with us in the good times, the bad times, special times, and in ordinary times every day.
- When we fail, Jesus is always near to remind us of our calling. He will re-invite us back to his mission.
- Peter was excited and jumped out of his boat. We need to jump at the privilege to follow Jesus.
- Jesus calls us to love and care of His people.

HELPFUL PROPS & TEACHING AIDS

- SFG DAY 3 PowerPoint slides
- Object Lessons (see video note pages)
- Props for skit - three chairs
- Three people to play in skit

DAY 3 LESSON INTRODUCTION

Does everyone remember our buzz word? Let's practice. Jesus sometime calls us to do things that are hard! Everyone shouts, **“I'm Called!”** Ok, great! Let's get started.

We have learned a lot about Peter this week.

On day 1 we learned how Jesus **called out** Peter from being an ordinary fisherman to a fisher of men. By faith Peter trusted Jesus and left everything

DAY 3 LESSON

INTRODUCTION CONT.

behind to follow Him.

On day 2 Jesus called Peter to **step out** of the boat and walked to Jesus on the water in the middle of a storm. We also learned when he took his eyes off Jesus and saw the wind and waves around him, he sank like a rock. It is important to keep looking to Jesus, in the good times and the hard times of life.

Today's lesson is titled "**Called to Jump Out**", and we will see Peter **jump out** of his boat and swim to Jesus! In this lesson, Jesus calls Peter back to His mission after he denied Jesus and went back to fishing for fish.

DAY 3 LESSON

Our story is from John 21:1-17. It takes place after Peter denied Jesus three times. Jesus already died on the cross, rose from the dead, and appeared to His disciples twice. The disciples had lost their leader and didn't know what else to do.

One day Peter and several of the disciples were together by the Sea of Galilee. Peter said to the others he was going fishing. They decided that was a good idea and followed him.

Peter went back to what he knew best, back to the same boat Jesus called him out of. Back to what he thought he was good at — fishing. It was comfortable!

But he didn't do very well fishing. He and the other disciples fished all night, but they caught nothing. This is a good lesson for all of us. Apart from Jesus, there is nothing of value that we can do.

““Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore. But the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, “Friends, don't you have any fish?” “No,” they answered. He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat. There you will find some fish.” When they did, they could not pull the net into the boat because there were so many fish.””

DAY 3 LESSON

CONTINUED

Does this story sound familiar? Do you remember another time Jesus surprised the disciples with a boat load of fish?

That's right in our story on Day One. After another bad night of fishing, Jesus told these same men to throw out their nets on the right side of the boat and they would find some. As soon as they did, they caught a huge number of fish!

Can you believe it! This same thing happened twice. And at first, they still didn't recognize it was Jesus. But one of the disciples realized who it was and said to Peter, "It is the Lord!".... As soon as Peter heard "It is The Lord", he **jumped out** of the boat and swam to Jesus while the other disciples followed in the boat."

Why did Peter jump out of the boat?

Peter's exuberant response from seeing his Lord compelled him to jump into the water and get to Jesus as fast as he could. The boat couldn't move quick enough for Peter. This was his Lord, His Teacher, The Son of God!

Like Peter, are you eager to spend time with Jesus?

Jesus had a fire on the shore with fish already cooking. He was making breakfast for them. Jesus told them to bring some of the fish they had caught.

Peter climbed back in the boat and helped the other disciples haul in the great catch of fish. They had caught 153 fish and again, their nets didn't break! The disciples dared not ask who He was because they knew "it is the Lord!"

In our story Jesus invited the disciples to join him for breakfast, an ordinary thing to do. Jesus also invites us into everyday fellowship with Him.

Do you know how much you are loved by Jesus? What are some ordinary times in your life where you knew Jesus was with you?

When Jesus and the disciples had finished eating, Jesus spoke to Peter. He asked, him, "Do you love me more than these others do?"

DAY 3 LESSON
CONTINUED

“Yes, Lord,” he answered. “You know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

Again, Jesus asked, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord. You know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

Jesus spoke to him a third time. He asked, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

Peter felt bad because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He answered, “Lord, you know all things. You know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.”

**Why do you think Jesus asked Peter three times “Do you love me?”
Why did it hurt Peter?**

Do you remember before Jesus was crucified Peter denied Jesus three times? Even after Peter denied knowing Jesus three times, Jesus is still re-inviting Peter back into His mission. God will always re-invite us back into His mission even when we fail.

Why did Jesus tell Peter to take care of his sheep?

He was not asking him to take care of sheep, but to take care of His people.

What is the mission Jesus is inviting you, or re-inviting you, to join Him in?

He may be calling you to love your roommate when they are unlovable. Maybe it's choosing to forgive a friend that has hurt you because Jesus has forgiven you. Or maybe He calls you to stop and pray with someone who is going through a difficult time. Maybe He wants you to invite someone to Friendship group.

DAY 3 LESSON

CONTINUED

In our story, Jesus didn't need the fish the disciples caught for the breakfast He prepared, but He still told Peter to bring some of the fish he would not have caught without Jesus. We are unable to do good on our own, so the Holy Spirit blessed us with spiritual gifts, or abilities, so we can use them to share God's love with others.

In 1 Corinthians 12 we learn that the Holy Spirit gives us "spiritual gifts, or abilities, that are intended for the good of all, not just us. In our story, Peter shared his fish, the fish he could not have caught without Jesus. Later, he would preach a sermon with the spiritual gifts God gave him and 3,000 people would come to believe in Jesus that day. We have also been given spiritual gifts, or abilities that are just as important as Peters. We can use them as part of Jesus' mission.

Maybe God has given you the gift of encouragement. You can show someone they are loved by giving them a hug, a smile, or an encouraging word.

You could have the gift of teaching and share what you learned at Friendship Group with a friend.

You can serve your parents or the staff in your home by helping out with chores. Show your friends that you care about them.

Pray with them when they are hurting. You can even pray for people you don't know after a storm, an earthquake, or victims from a war.

DAY 3 OBJECT LESSON:

A TOOL BOX OF GIFTS

Props: A toolbox with various tools, some similar and some different tools, hammer, screw driver, measuring tape, wire cutter, pliers, and others

Today we are going to see that God calls each of us, like He did Peter, to help take care of Jesus sheep. When we talk about “sheep,” we are really talking about the body of Christ, or the Church. We are talking everyone who trusts in Jesus, like you and me.

Just like Peter, by ourselves we are unable to do good or help others. For this reason, the Holy Spirit gives us tools or spiritual gifts, and abilities, so we can use them to help others. We all have a specific gift and purpose that God has given us to help take care of Jesus’ sheep.

It’s a little like this toolbox I have here. **(Put the toolbox on the table and open it up)** Take this hammer. What purpose does it have? **(Let the friends say different tasks a hammer can do)** Can I use a hammer to screw in a screw? No, what kind of tool would I need for that? Yes, a screwdriver.

How about a wrench and a tape measure? **(Again, let the friends engage in naming different tasks for each tool)** Now I have these two tools **(hold up a wire cutter and pliers)** They look a little similar, don’t they? But even they have a very different task. This one is a wire cutter. It cuts and strips wires. The pliers can open things or tighten things.

There is not one tool in this toolbox that is exactly like the other. Each tool has a specific purpose for the work it is to do. That’s just like you and me. God has called each of us for a specific purpose.

In 1 Corinthians 12 we learn that the Holy Spirit gives us “spiritual gifts, or abilities, that are intended for the good of all, not just for us to enjoy or benefit from.

When we use our gifts to help others God has a way of multiplying just like he did with Peter. He was called to take care of God’s people by leading the early

DAY 3 OBJECT LESSON: **A TOOL BOX OF GIFTS CONT.**

church and spreading the good news of Jesus.

On one occasion, Peter talked to a large crowd about Jesus. After he addressed the crowd, 3000 people gave their lives to Jesus that very day! Talk about multiplication!

So, what are some tools or spiritual gifts God has given you to benefit others and take care of his people? What are you good at and enjoy doing for others?

For some of you it may be the gift of encouragement. You can show someone they are loved by giving them a hug, a smile, or saying an encouraging word to them.

Maybe you have the gift of serving others. You can serve your parents or staff in your home by helping out with chores. Even helping your housemate with their chores.

How about the gift of compassion? Do you find yourself wanting to pray with others when they are hurting or going through a tough time?

So next time you want to help someone, encourage a friend, or pray for others think about this toolbox.

God wants to use you like he did Peter to help take care of His sheep. Peter loved Jesus and he was sure that Jesus loved him. He was eager to join Jesus in the mission He had for him.

Jesus wants you to go on mission with Him also. He wants us to leave behind our comfort zone and follow Him. When we follow Jesus, He will be right there beside us through the Holy Spirit. We can trust him to help us with whatever He has called us to do.

Just like we learned from **John 12:26**, "**Anyone who serves me must follow me. And where I am, my servant will also be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.**"

So, let's jump out of our boats to Jesus. We will see just how He will multiply our love for Him by serving others. Like Peter, we too can take care of His sheep by using the gifts He has given each one of us!

DAY 3 SKIT

Scene: Will is praying with a friend, then walks over to Will and Melody's table.

Will: Hi there! Wasn't today's lesson wonderful. Just think, we are all called, like Peter, to join Jesus in his mission.

Melody: Yes, and it looks like you were just doing that by praying with Tom.

Will: Yeah, he was feeling a little down about his roommate. I love to encourage others by praying with them.

Melody: Well, I sure appreciated when you both prayed with me for my mom. Tomorrow, she gets out of the hospital, and I get to help take care of her. I might even make her some homemade cookies.

Will: Sounds like the Holy Spirit gave you the gift of encouragement by helping your mom.

Melody: (shakes her head "Yes")

Patrick: Well, that's great for the two of you, but I really don't have any special gifts. I am not sure where I fit into Jesus' mission. It all sounds like a military strategy or a farmer who takes care of sheep. (Scratching his head)

Melody: (Laughing) No silly. It's just figuring out how you can serve others as the Holy Spirit leads you. The Holy Spirit gives each of us a special gift so we can help others.

Will: That's right, remember, Peter was just an ordinary fisherman when Jesus called him. But God transformed him into one of the leaders of the first church!

Melody: What do you enjoy doing Patrick? What are you good at?

Patrick: Well, I do enjoy my job, and people say that I am good at it. A lot of times they ask me how to do something and I show them. But that's nothing special.

DAY 3 SKIT
CONTINUED

Will: Oh yes, it is! Last week at work, when everyone was having trouble packing those small boxes, you showed me a simple way to get everything in the box. It's easy to see that you enjoy work and putting things together. And people aren't afraid to ask you for help.

Melody: Yes, you encourage others to enjoy their work because you do.

Patrick: I do? I never thought of it that way.

Will: We all have different gifts that we can do to take care of God's people. Look at Tom, he has the world's best smile, I always feel hugged when he flashes me one of his smiles.

Melody: What about Judy? During prayer time, she always asks to pray for our missionaries.

Patrick: Oh, I get it. Like Jamie who always tells me he's glad to see me at Friendship Group. He always makes me feel loved.

Will: Yes, the Holy Spirit has given each of us a special gift to share with others. No matter how small or insignificant **we** may think it is, God will multiply it to others over and over again.