



Splash!

THEME: Water

BIBLE STORY: The Miraculous Catch of Fish (*Luke 5:1-11*)

MATERIALS NEEDED

OPENING GAME

- Goldfish crackers, 15 pieces per family
- Drinking straws, one per person
- Small disposable cups (3oz), two per family

GAMES

- 5-gallon bucket
- Small disposable cups (3-oz.), one per person
- Small buckets, two (more for larger groups)
- Balloons, one per family
- Squirt guns, one per family

CRAFT: FISH MAGNETS

- [10mm magnets](#), one or two per person
- [Large scallop shells](#), one per person
- [Small scallop shells](#), two or three per person
- [10mm googly eyes](#), one per person
- [Bottles of tacky glue](#), one per family
- [Small paint brushes](#), one per person
- [Paint palettes](#), one per family
- Acrylic paints (3-5 pastel colors), one bottle of each color
- Tables for the families to sit at (covered with newspaper or plastic because the families will be painting)
- (Optional) Hair dryers to help dry the paint and glue faster

90-MINUTE SESSION OUTLINE

- [Introduction and Opening Game](#) (10 minutes)
- [Craft Activity](#) (30 minutes)
- [Games](#) (20 minutes)
- [Devotional Thought](#) (10 minutes)
- [Family Discussion](#) (15 minutes)
- [Closing Prayer and Dismissal](#) (5 minutes)

Introduction and Opening Game

(10 MINUTES)

Introduction

Welcome to family fun night! We are so glad you're here. Our goals are to help your family have fun together and to learn about God's love and his word.

Tonight, our theme is "Splash!" because we are looking at a Bible story that takes place on the water. Some of you might even find the story a little "fishy," but it's a true story that is written in the Bible in the Book of Luke. Let's read it now.

Read Luke 5:1-11.

That's an amazing story, and we'll have a chance to come back to it later, but right now let's get things rolling with a little family competition!

Opening Game: Something's Fishy Relay

Object: To be the first family to transfer all the goldfish from one cup to the other.

Setup: Give each family two cups. One cup will have 15 goldfish crackers in it, and the other will be empty. Give each person a drinking straw.

Instructions: On your GO signal, one family member will use the straw to suck a goldfish from the cup. They will need to pass it to the next family member (straw to straw) until it



has been passed to each person. The last person will put the cracker into the empty cup. The first family to transfer all their fish is the winning family.

Craft Activity

(30 MINUTES)

Fish Magnets

Preparation:

(Optional, but suggested) Glue the magnets to the back of the shells with the tacky glue a day before the event so they are firmly affixed. This prevents them from being a choking hazard and also makes it easier to assemble the rest of the project.

Cover tables with newspaper, butcher paper or another covering to protect the surface from glue and paint.



Instructions:

1. Paint the large shell one solid color. If the shell has a flat part at the tip, paint it a second (complementary) color. (See picture for details.)
2. Choose a second (complementary) color, and paint two or three small shells.

NOTE: Use the optional hair dryer to dry the paint quickly before the next step, or play one or two of the games in the next section before returning to the craft.

3. When the paint has dried, use the tacky glue to attach the shells as seen in the photo to create fins.
4. Use the tacky glue to attach a googly eye.
5. Use the optional hot glue gun to attach one or more magnets to the back. You may also apply the magnets with tacky glue, but you must wait until the glue on the shells is set. The optional hair dryer can be used to help the glue dry more quickly. Also, the suggested magnets can stack two or three together in order that the magnetic surface is flush with the edge of the shell.



If time and materials permit, each person may make more than one fish.

Games

(20 MINUTES)

Pass the Water

Object: To be the first team to fill your bucket with water

Setup: Place a 5-gallon bucket filled with water at one end of your playing area.

Divide the participants into two or more teams, and give each player a 3-ounce disposable cup.

Organize the teams into lines (each team forms a line) extending from the 5-gallon bucket to a smaller bucket placed on the opposite side of the playing area from the 5-gallon bucket.

Instructions: On your GO signal, the person closest to the 5-gallon bucket will use their cup to scoop out some water. They will pass the water to the next person in line and so on down the line.

The last person in line will pour the water into the smaller bucket. The team that fills their bucket first wins.

The Great Spray Up

Object: To guide a balloon through the air and into a bucket using a squirt gun.

Setup: Place a 5-gallon bucket (or empty trash can) at one end of the playing area.

Each family will choose a contestant to go first, and this person will receive a filled squirt gun and an inflated balloon.

Each contestant will stand behind a line a reasonable distance from the bucket (50-100 feet or so).

Instructions: On your GO signal, each contestant will put the balloon into the air and seek to keep it in the air using only the water from the squirt gun. (No hands or other objects may be used.) Contestants will seek to move the balloon down the area of play and get it into the bucket at the opposite end. The person who gets their balloon in the bucket first wins a point for their family.



Devotional Thought

(10 MINUTES)

Summer is a great time to be near water! Some of us like to go to the beach or the pool. Some people might go on boats to sail. Other people water ski or canoe. What do you like to do with water in the summer? Turn and talk about this with your family.

Allow each family to talk amongst themselves.

One thing a lot of people like to do in the summer is to fish. Did you know that people have fished for thousands of years. In fact, in the Bible there are a few stories about fishing. Earlier we read one of those stories, but let's hear the story again in a different way.

This interactive story-song is to the tune of "[Baby Shark](#)." A spoken line by the leader precedes each singing verse.

Have any of you ever heard the song about a baby shark . . . ? Well this song should be easy for you to follow along with me then because it has the same tune. I will show you the motions, and you can sing along. The song tells a story from the Bible about Jesus' friends who said YES to following him.

Before Simon Peter became one of Jesus' friends and followers, he had a job. . . . 🎵 Catching fish do do do do do do do do (fishing rod motions) (x 3) Catching fish! 🎵

One day, Simon and some fishermen saw Jesus teaching by the shore and said, 🎵 Look it's Jesus do do do do do do do do (point and wave hand) (x 3) Look it's Jesus! 🎵

They had fished all night long and hadn't caught anything. . . 🎵 Got no fish do do do do do do do do (shrug shoulders and wave hands to indicate no fish) (x 3) Got no fish! 🎵

After finishing his teaching, Jesus tells Simon to take his boat out into deeper waters and. . . 🎵 Throw down the nets do do do do do do do do (motion like you are hauling a large net and tossing it) (x 3) Throw down the nets! 🎵

The fishermen weren't sure that this would help, if they could really . . . 🎵 Catch some fish do do do do do do do do (make fish motion with hands together) (x 3) Catch some fish! 🎵

But Simon decides to listen and says to Jesus . . . 🎵 If you say so do do do do do do do do (nod your



head) (x 3) **If you say so!** 🎵

Suddenly, to everyone's surprise . . . 🎵 **Nets are breaking do do do do do do do do** (freaking out motions) (x 3) **Nets are breaking!** 🎵

Amazed at the sight, Simon Peter falls down to his knees and says to Jesus "I'm a sinful man . . ." 🎵 **You must leave me do do do do do do do do** (fall to your knees and cover your head with both arms) (x 3) **You must leave me!** 🎵

Instead, Jesus invites Simon to follow him and fish for people, so Simon . . . 🎵 **Leaves his boat do do do do do do do do** (swimming motion) (x 3) **Leaves his boat!** 🎵

Jesus tells Simon that he will become a new kind of fisherman – fishing for people to join God's family. "Simon . . ." 🎵 **We'll fish for people do do do do do do do do** (motion like you are calling your friends all over to you) (x 3) **Fish for people!** 🎵

Read Luke 5:1-11. Invite families to interject with the singing verse that connects to each part of the story. Use dramatic pauses as you read to indicate when the families can respond with a singing verse.

There are several characters in this story, but the main characters are Jesus and Simon (also known as Peter). Simon was a fisherman. Back in those days, the people fished with nets. They fished at night because then the fish couldn't see their nets and they would have a better chance of catching some fish. But here it is in the daytime after a long night of fishing and not catching anything, and Jesus tells Simon to go fishing. Simon listens to Jesus, and miraculously he catches so many fish that the boat almost sinks! Now, I want to ask you:

What are some things you notice about Jesus in this story?

Give the families some time to discuss, and then take their answers.

What are some things you notice about Simon in this story?

Give the families some time to discuss, and then take their answers.

Jesus is powerful—very powerful. Jesus is the Son of God. We know this because, among other reasons, here and in other parts of the Bible he shows he has control over nature. Who could make a net fill up with fish in the middle of the day except for God?



I also noticed three big things about Simon Peter.

- 1. He was willing to listen to Jesus. Even though Jesus was not a fisherman, and even though it wasn't the right time to fish, Simon listened to Jesus. He pushed the boat out and let down his nets.**
- 2. Simon was humble. When he saw what happened, he didn't say, "Wow! Look what a great fisherman I am!" No, he bowed down, called Jesus "Lord," (or "Master") and recognized that he was unworthy to be with Jesus.**
- 3. Simon was committed. When Jesus told him he would be working with him from now on, Simon immediately left everything and followed Jesus. Later on in the Bible, God used Simon Peter to do amazing miracles and to transform many lives.**

Here's what I'd like us to remember from this story. Jesus is the Son of God. When we listen to him and follow him, we will always get better results than if we try to do things on our own.

Let's pray. Lord Jesus, we recognize that you are God, and your ways are so good. You have all power, and you can do anything you want. Help us to be humble and to be willing to do things your way. Let us follow and obey you. Amen.

Family Discussion

(15 MINUTES)

Distribute the family discussion guide and give the families time to discuss the questions there together.

Closing Prayer and Dismissal

(5 MINUTES)

Thank everyone for coming. Make any announcements about future family fun nights or other events at your church. Let the families know you love them and want to serve them. If anyone needs prayer, offer to pray for them.

Close the evening in prayer.



FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE

If you have been fishing before, what is your favorite fishing memory?

Read the story together again, and then answer the questions together. Be sure everyone has a chance to speak.

One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish."

"Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again." And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.

When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, "Oh, Lord, please leave me—I'm such a sinful man." For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed.

Jesus replied to Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!" And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.

To Discuss

- Retell the story in your own words.
- What are the three things you found most interesting about this story?
- On a scale of 1-to-10, how easy or hard do you think it was for Simon to listen to Jesus? How easy or hard is it for you to listen to Jesus?
- Why do you think Simon asked Jesus to leave? Why do you think Jesus invited him to follow him instead?
- What can we learn from Simon about how we should respond to Jesus?
- Is there a specific way you could follow Jesus this week?