

In This Rock,

I Will Build My Church



Preschool
Catechist Lesson Eight

Prepare

PREPARE YOUR HEART PREPARE YOUR CLASSROOM

Catechist's Prayer - Lord Jesus, as You once called the first disciples to make them fishers of men, let Your sweet invitation continue to resound: Come, follow Me!

- ◆ Give young men and women the grace to respond quickly to Your voice. I pray for our bishops, priests, and consecrated people in their holy labor.
- ◆ Grant perseverance to our seminarians and to all those who are carrying out the ideal of a life totally consecrated to Your service.
- ◆ Awaken in our parish community a missionary eagerness. Lord, send workers to Your harvest, and do not let humanity be lost for lack of pastors, missionaries, and people dedicated to the cause of the Gospel.
- ◆ Mary, Mother of the Church, the model of every vocation, help us to say "yes" to the Lord Who calls us to cooperate in the divine plan of salvation.

Jesus, please help me as I teach my class today, that I may be an inspiration to the students. Use me as a tool in Your master plan to bring the children to a better understanding of the Church and to a deeper love for You.

- adapted from Saint John Paul II's prayer for vocations

Read through your lesson carefully to become familiar with the lesson content.

Classroom preparation - Arrive 20-30 minutes early. Prepare your prayer center with a cloth in the color of the current liturgical season, candles, and a crucifix or picture of Jesus, along with any other items appropriate to this lesson and/or the current liturgical season. A picture of the current Pope would be a great addition for this lesson. Be ready to greet the students who arrive early.

MATERIALS NEEDED

PROVIDED

- ◆ supply box
- ◆ prayer center items
- ◆ felt board
- ◆ *Lesson 8 Felt Board Images*
- ◆ *Priest Paper Doll* (optional)
- ◆ *Bible Verse Coloring Sheet*
- ◆ *Fishers of Men* shapes
- ◆ net (or basket)
- ◆ *Cross Necklace Craft* materials:
 - ◇ Yarn
 - ◇ Tape
 - ◇ Crosses
 - ◇ Beads

FROM HOME

- ◆ classroom decorations
- ◆ Bible or storybook Bible
- ◆ additional prayer center items
- ◆ picture of the current Pope (optional)

Prepare

PREPARE FOR CRAFTS PREPARE YOUR ACTIVITIES



Jesus Calls the Apostles - Use a felt board and the images provided to tell the story of Jesus inviting the Apostles to follow Him.

Preparation:

- ◆ Felt board
- ◆ Color, cut, and laminate (optional) the *Lesson 8 Felt Board Images*.
- ◆ Attach felt pieces or Velcro to the back of the figures so they stick to the board.
- ◆ Become familiar with the story.



Be Fishers of Men - This active game will reinforce the lesson while giving your class an opportunity to get up and move.

Materials Needed:

- ◆ Net or basket
- ◆ *Fishers of Men* fish shapes
- ◆ Optional: blank fish (one per student)

Preparation:

- ◆ Cut out the *Fishers of Men* fish shapes and hide them in a room where the children can move freely to find them.
- ◆ You may also want to write each child's name on a blank fish to hide or to hand out to them during this activity.



Cross Necklace Craft - One of the ways people show they follow Jesus is by wearing a cross. This simple bead-stringing craft will help your students do the same.

Preparation:

- ◆ Make a sample to become familiar with the process and to show students a finished product.
- ◆ If you are cutting your own yarn or string, you will need a 28-inch length for each student.
- ◆ Prevent your string from fraying by tightly wrapping a small piece of masking tape around the ends.
- ◆ You may want to prepare beads by putting 20-30 of various colors into a small bowl for each student.



Saintly Visitor - Invite a volunteer to visit your class and tell a brief story about a saint. Scan the QR code for scripts and costume suggestions. Recommendations for this month: Saint Peter (Lesson Connection), or a saint with an upcoming feast day.



Lesson Basics

On This Rock, I Will Build My Church

“Simon Peter holds the first place in the college of the Twelve;²⁸³ Jesus entrusted a unique mission to him. Through a revelation from the Father, Peter had confessed: ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ Our Lord then declared to him: ‘You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.’²⁸⁴ Christ, the ‘living stone,’²⁸⁵ thus assures his Church, built on Peter, of victory over the powers of death. Because of the faith he confessed Peter will remain the unshakeable rock of the Church. His mission will be to keep this faith from every lapse and to strengthen his brothers in it.²⁸⁶

Jesus entrusted a specific authority to Peter: ‘I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.’²⁸⁷ The ‘power of the keys’ designates authority to govern the house of God, which is the Church. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, confirmed this mandate after his Resurrection: ‘Feed my sheep.’²⁸⁸ The power to ‘bind and loose’ connotes the authority to absolve sins, to pronounce doctrinal judgments, and to make disciplinary decisions in the Church. Jesus entrusted this authority to the Church through the ministry of the apostles²⁸⁹ and in particular through the ministry of Peter, the only one to whom he specifically entrusted the keys of the kingdom.” *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 552-553*

²⁸³ Cf. *Mk* 3:16; 9:2; *Lk* 24:34; 1 *Cor* 15:5.

²⁸⁴ *Mt* 16:18.

²⁸⁵ 1 *Pet* 2:4.

²⁸⁶ Cf. *Lk* 22:32.

²⁸⁷ *Mt* 16:19.

²⁸⁸ *Jn* 21:15-17; cf. 10:11.

²⁸⁹ Cf. *Mt* 18:18.

FOCUS:

Jesus called twelve men to follow Him and ordained them to lead His Church. Peter was chosen as the first Pope in a direct line of succession that leads to the present day.

GOAL:

Jesus invites us to follow the example of the apostles and follow Him. Students will become more familiar with practical ways to do so.

On This Rock, I Will Build My Church

Preschool Catechist Lesson Plan—Lesson 8, Cycle B/C

To Note for This Month:



BIBLE VERSE

This month, we recommend you present the verse at a specific point in the lesson, which is marked with this icon and image.



SAINTLY VISITOR

Which saint is visiting the classroom today? Follow the QR link in the “Prepare” section of this lesson for scripts and costume suggestions. Recommended this month: Saint Peter (Lesson Connection), or a saint with an upcoming feast day.



WELCOME

- ◆ Welcome students as they arrive.
- ◆ Give each a name tag.
- ◆ Take attendance.



PRAISE AND PRAYER

- ◆ Begin with an active song or two in praise of the Lord. Follow the QR code for topical suggestions.
- ◆ Continue with the Sign of the Cross. Go slowly, so students can follow your example.



Dear Father in heaven, You are so wise and so good. You have made the stars, the trees, the fish in the sea, and the birds in the sky. You have made all things perfect and wonderful. We thank You for sending Jesus to us, and we thank You for the Apostles who followed Jesus and spread the Good News all over the world. We ask Your blessing on this class today. We all love You! In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

Close with the Sign of the Cross.



LITURGICAL CYCLE REVIEW

Spend a few minutes talking about what we will see at Mass on Sunday.



What color will Father [name] be wearing?

(OPTIONAL: If provided by your parish, dress your *Priest Paper Doll* for the season. If *Priest Paper Dolls* were provided to the families in your parish program, encourage the students to dress their paper doll at home before they go to Sunday Mass each week.)



BIBLE VERSE

When we ponder verses from the Bible, we are learning about things that Jesus really said and did. Today, we are learning a verse from the book of Matthew.

Jesus said, “Come, follow me.” Matthew 4:19

Ask the children to repeat it after you. Look at the *Bible Verse Coloring Sheet*.



LESSON

Materials Needed:

- ◆ Lesson 8 Felt Board Images
- ◆ Felt board

Use the felt board and the figures to tell the following story of the Apostles.

Today, we are going to learn about some people who were very special friends of Jesus.



Do you have friends? Do you want to be a friend of Jesus? I do, too.

When Jesus grew up and began His ministry, He asked twelve very special men to follow Him.



Have you ever gone to a friend's house to play and spend time with him or her? What do you like to take with you? Some children like to take their favorite stuffed animal or toy, or maybe a pillow or blanket. Well, when you are done playing or spending time together, what do you do? You go back home, right? ... back to your Mom and Dad, or your brothers and sisters, your pets, and all of those things that are special to you.



When Jesus asked these men to follow Him, He was asking for more than just friendship. He was asking them to give up *everything* they had to follow Him. It would be hard to give up everything, wouldn't it? These men left their jobs, their families, and their friends to follow Jesus. They must have seen something very special in Jesus to want to be with Him that much. This is how it happened:

One day, Jesus was walking along the shores of the Sea of Galilee, and He saw a man named Simon and his brother, Andrew, fishing. That is what Simon and Andrew did for their jobs. Jesus said to them, “Come with me, and I will make you *fishers of men*.” Matthew 4:19 Immediately, they left their fishing nets and followed Him.



Jesus walked along further and saw James and his brother, John. They were in a boat, fixing their fishing nets. Jesus called to them and asked them to come with Him, so they left their father, who was still sitting in the boat, and followed Jesus.

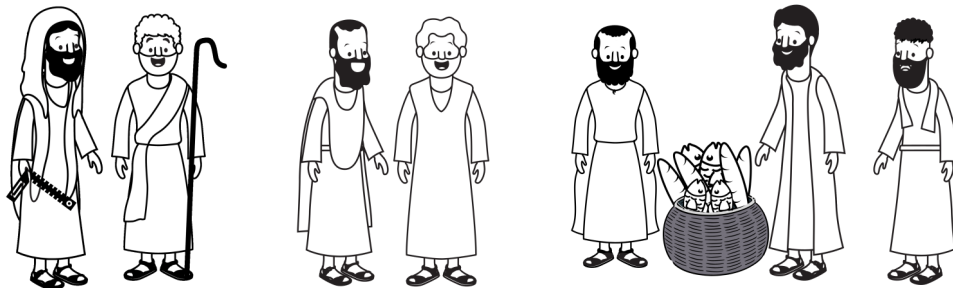


Wow! These men left everything behind to go and be with Jesus. They must have really trusted Him.

Jesus also called a man named Matthew to be His apostle. Matthew was a tax collector. That means that for his job, he collected money from people to pay taxes. He sometimes took more money than he should have, and people did not like him very much. Jesus must have seen something special in Matthew because He asked him to come with Him. You see, Jesus loves *everyone*. Well, Matthew left all his money behind and went to follow Jesus.



There were seven other men that were called by Jesus to follow Him. Their names were Thomas, Thaddeus, James, Bartholomew, Philip, Simon the Zealot, and Judas. We do not know a lot about their lives before they came to follow Jesus, but we know that they loved the Lord.



The Apostles spent almost three years with Jesus, and, during that time, they saw Him do many things. They watched Him pray and teach the people, and even do some amazing miracles!



GET UP AND MOVE

Follow Jesus, Our Leader

Play a short game of follow the leader, modeling these actions for the children to copy.

The Apostles followed Jesus and wanted to do everything He did. We also want to follow Jesus and do what He tells us. Let's play a game of Follow the Leader to practice some of the things Jesus wants us to do.

- ◆ Jesus says: pray every day. (hands folded in prayer)
- ◆ Jesus says: read your Bible. (hands holding an open book)
- ◆ Jesus says: save coins in your piggy bank to donate to someone in need. (pretend to put coins in slot)
- ◆ Jesus says: make the Sign of the Cross before you pray. (Sign of the Cross)
- ◆ Jesus says: open the door to go into Sunday Mass. (door opening gesture)
- ◆ Jesus says: genuflect before sitting in your pew. (genuflect)
- ◆ Jesus says: listen to the Bible readings at Mass. (hands cupped at ears)
- ◆ Jesus says: read about the saints of the Church. (fingers and thumbs from both hands making a circle/halo)
- ◆ Jesus says: praise God with your singing voice (hands near mouth acting out singing)



BIBLE STORY

This would be a good place to insert a short story of one of Jesus' miracles. Model reading Sacred Scripture by reading directly from a children's picture Bible. A good choice might be *The Great Catch of Fish* (New Catholic Picture Bible, Lovasik).



Have any of you ever gone fishing? Simon's job was to catch lots of fish and sell them at the market for people to buy for their dinner. Usually he was good at this job, but there was one time when he had been out fishing all night long and caught nothing. Not a single fish! When he was rowing in to shore Simon saw Jesus, who asked him to go out and try one more time. Simon did not think he would catch anything, but agreed to row out and try again.

All of a sudden, his nets were filled with fish! There were so many fish in his nets that they were breaking and he called his friends James and John to hurry over and help get them all into the boat. And before they were finished, both boats were so full of fish they almost sank.



GET UP AND MOVE

Be Fishers of Men

Reinforce lesson topics and extend an invitation to become one of Jesus' followers.

Materials Needed:

- ◆ Net (or basket)
- ◆ Paper fish that were previously hidden



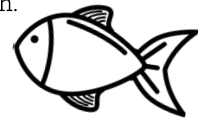
Who remembers what Jesus said to Simon (Peter) and Andrew when He first invited them to come follow Him and be His special helpers? (*"Come with me, and I will make you fishers of men."*)



Who remembers how many apostles Jesus had? (12)

Today we are going to play a little game where we pretend to help Jesus be fishers of men.

- ◆ Explain details about where you are going, and that you will be searching for twelve fish.
- ◆ As each fish is found, have a child place it in the net.



OPTIONAL: You could also prepare a fish for each child and continue with an invitation. Catechists can each put their fish into the net and invite children to do the same.

Jesus is also inviting each of us to follow Him. If you would like to be a friend of His, you can put your fish into the net.



BIBLE STORY

Another time, Jesus was teaching by a lake and the crowd got so big that He got into a boat and rowed out a bit so all the people could see Him. He had been teaching for the whole, long day and by evening He was tired, so His disciples got into the boat with Him to row across to the quieter side of the lake so Jesus could get some rest. Jesus was laying in the back of the boat on a comfortable cushion, and it was not long before He fell asleep. Suddenly, a strong wind came up, and the waves were so high that they began to spill over into the boat; so much that the boat was filling up with water! The disciples woke Jesus and said, "Don't you care that we are about to die?" Jesus simply stood up and commanded the wind, "Be quiet!" and He said to the waves, "Be still!" The wind died down, and there was a great calm. Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Why are you frightened? Do you still have no faith?" But they were terribly afraid and began to say to one another, "Who is this man? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!" (See Mark 4:35-41.)

The Apostles saw Jesus perform many miracles. They were with Him when He turned five loaves of bread and two fish into enough food to feed thousands of people. They were there when He healed many sick people. They were also with Him during the Last Supper.

The time that the Apostles spent with Jesus was their special training. These men learned many things from Jesus, and the things they learned helped them to go out and tell people about Jesus after He died.

NOTE: If your Sainly Visitor is Saint Peter, this would be a good place for him to come in and tell his own story to the children. If you do not have a Sainly Visitor, just continue with the story below.

One very special Apostle was named Simon. One day, Jesus came to Simon and said, "Simon, I will call you Peter." (See John 1:42.) I'll bet Simon was surprised to have his name changed.



How would you feel if your dad came up to you (point to one of the students and say their name) and said, "(Child's name), I will now call you Tommy," or (point to another student) "(Child's name), I will now call you Cindy." You would be surprised, wouldn't you?

Well, the name Peter means "rock." Why do you think Jesus would give a fisherman such an unusual name? The new name that Jesus gave to him meant that he had a job to do that was different from the jobs of the other men. Jesus said, "*You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church.*" *Matthew 16:18* Jesus wanted Peter to be in charge and to lead the other apostles and the people. Jesus wanted Peter to lead the *whole Church!*

That is how Peter became our first Pope. The Pope is the leader of our Catholic Church, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, he works to do what Jesus tells him to do to lead the Church. (Show a picture of our current Pope.)

A disciple is someone who is sent out to be a helper of Jesus. You can be a helper of Jesus too by learning about Him and by telling other people about how much He loves us. Close your eyes and think of one way you can be a helper to Jesus.



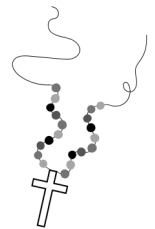
CRAFT

Cross Necklace

Materials Needed:

- ◆ Prepared yarn and crosses
- ◆ Beads for each child in bowls

One of the ways people show they follow Jesus is by wearing a cross. We can do that too.



Demonstration:

- ◆ Show your finished necklace.
- ◆ Demonstrate adding beads to both sides of the cross pendant.
- ◆ As each child finishes, a catechist or classroom aide should tie the ends together to make the necklace.



CLOSING PRAYER

God is So Good!

Gather your class together to sing your closing prayer:

God is so good, God is so good,
God is so good. He's so good to me.

Jesus says, "come," Jesus says, "come,"
Jesus says, "come." He's so good to me.

I love Him so, I love Him so,
I love Him so. He's so good to me.



MATERIALS TO SEND HOME

- ◆ Cross Necklace
- ◆ Each child's paper fish, if you choose to give them back
- ◆ *Bible Verse Coloring Sheet*

