



**KEY VERSE:** Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” (Luke 5:10b)

# “Follow Me”

**Lesson Scripture:** Luke 5:1-11

## God’s Word

**1** One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. **2** He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. **3** He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. **4** When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.” **5** Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.” **6** When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. **7** So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. **8** When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” **9** For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, **10** and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” **11** So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.



# Bible Story

## “Follow Me”

Luke 5:1-11

While preaching on the banks of Lake Gennesaret, Jesus saw two boats on the edge of the water. The owners of the boats were washing their nets. Jesus came near the two empty boats and asked, “Simon, will you pull the boat away from the shore?” Simon then pulled the boat out into the water, and, from the boat, Jesus started teaching the people who were on the shore.

After Jesus finished teaching the people, He said, “Simon, pull your boat out farther and drop your nets.” (Perhaps Simon looked at Jesus curiously and thought, “Been there, Jesus, and got the t-shirt—there are no fish!”) Out loud, however, Simon said, “We have cleaned our nets, for we caught nothing—but since You asked, we will go back out and drop the nets.” When they followed Jesus’ orders, they caught so much fish that their nets started to tear apart! Those in the boat struggled!

They then waved to their partners in the other boat to come and help catch the fish. Soon, both boats were so full of fish that they began to sink. When Simon witnessed this, he bowed at Jesus’ knees and said, “Don’t let me near you. You are special. You are the Lord and I am a sinful man.” All were shocked and astonished. Jesus responded, “Do not be afraid, for now you will fish for men.”

Simon and his partners pulled their boats back to shore, left everything behind, and went with Jesus to watch Him and learn from Him.

## Whom Should I Follow?

(Part 1)

“I like having an older sister, but she is boring,” Sheryl complained to her mother. “Cathy does nothing but read books and shoot basketballs. I like visiting with Lisa and Michelle.”

“You should pick up some of Cathy’s habits; you will be in middle school soon and haven’t developed an interest in any extracurricular activities. Cathy tutors elementary students and plays on the basketball team. I want you to get serious!” Sheryl’s mom explained.

Sheryl responded, “Mom, I *am* serious. I’m serious about seeing *The Lion King* and going shopping with my friends. So, may I?”

“Sure,” Mom began, “but, remember . . . life is more than movies and shopping.”

“Mom, I can be serious when I *want* to be,” Sheryl noted.

What can Sheryl do to show her parents that she can be serious?

## Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius



**Nicholas:** Hi, there! Nicholas and Cornelius are in the house! Do any of you like fishing?

**Cornelius:** I don’t . . . it’s a one-person sport!

**Nicholas:** I want to fish at Lake Gennesaret, where Jesus went fishing with Simon.

**Cornelius:** Is this some never-never-land lake?

**Nicholas:** It’s a true lake near the Sea of Galilee. It’s where Jesus called His disciples to follow Him.

**Cornelius:** Yes, He referred to making disciples as “fishing for men.”

**Nicholas:** So, who’s with me? Let’s go!



## Whom Should I Follow?

### (Part 2)

At dinner, Cathy shared, "Our basketball team has been invited to go to Kenya, in Africa, to play in a basketball tournament. May I go?"

Cathy's parents agreed that Cathy should take the trip. Sheryl had seen beautiful scenes of Africa in *The Lion King* movie and started complaining, expressing interest in visiting.

Sheryl's father said, "Stop complaining and follow Cathy's leadership. Ask Cathy to show you how to play basketball."

"And if you don't like it, choose something else—but start looking toward the future. You could be involved in those types of things if you applied yourself," her mother chimed in.

After daily practices with Cathy, Sheryl joined a neighborhood basketball team and started reading books about female basketball players. Sheryl became the highest scorer and most valuable player. Soon, in her banquet speech, she thanked Cathy for allowing her to follow after her.

## Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

**Nicholas:** Friends, we're at Lake Gennesaret, off the Sea of Galilee.

**Cornelius:** It's a freshwater lake that is three miles long.

**Nicholas:** It's the lowest freshwater lake and the second-lowest lake in the world!

**Cornelius:** Does it have fish?

**Nicholas:** It does have fish, and some of the best soil in the world.

**Cornelius:** Yes, I see all the different kinds of trees!

**Nicholas:** The walnut, palm, olive, and fig trees never grow together. They need different soil. Looks like Jesus called Lake Gennesaret for a special purpose too. Fishing for plants!



## Fishing at the Lakes

Jesus told Simon that he would become a fisherman of men. **Lake 1** is for fish that Simon may have caught for food while he was a regular fisherman. **Lake 2** is a lake to be filled with the type of fish that Simon was told he would catch after he followed Christ (as a fisherman of men or people). Draw a line from each fish to the correct lake.

An activity area with a light blue background. There are five fish-shaped icons, each split vertically into a red half and a green half. The fish are labeled: BASS (top left), LONELY PERSON (top middle), THIEF (bottom left), SINNER (bottom middle), and TROUT (top right). There are two blue oval shapes representing lakes. The one on the left is labeled "Lake 1 (Fish for Food)" and the one on the right is labeled "Lake 2 (Fish for People)".