

Unit 1 "God Wants Us to Say "Yes'" Lesson 5
The Disciples Say "Yes"

Objective: The students will be able to retell the story of the call of the disciples and learn that they helped bring people to God. The students will consider that they are called to follow Jesus and bring people to God.

For the Catechist

After his Baptism by John in the Jordan River, Jesus began to teach. His reputation spread throughout the region, and He taught in their synagogues (Luke 4:14-15). People recognized Jesus as a great teacher, a man sent from God, a prophet. Many people came to listen to Jesus' preaching. Never had they heard or seen so great a preacher. They began to wonder could He be the Christ, the longed-for Messiah and Savior of the Jewish people. In this unit the students will learn how Jesus called disciples and what He taught them about following. Although the events are historical, like all Bible stories, they have application today. Long ago Jesus called the disciples, and today Jesus calls us.

"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you . . ." (John 15:16). Each day we decide whether we follow Jesus.

Jesus called disciples. Jesus called all to follow, and He specifically called some. In this lesson is the call of Peter, Andrew, James, and John, fishermen who witnessed the miraculous catch of fish.

The important role of the catechist. "Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord, God the Lord has revealed Himself to us." This refrain is sung at every Divine Liturgy. He reveals Himself and calls us through His Son Jesus, and He calls us through others. In teaching the children, the catechist must remember that his/her actions, attitudes and example are of great importance. Each time he/she meets with the children, the catechist *calls them* to follow Christ.

Saying "Yes" to Jesus. While it is important to say

Lesson Plan Overview

Opening: Reading from Scripture at icon corner.

Introduction: Discussion of how we can help bring people to God. **Need:** In a brown bag, tools which you use each day—scissors, a fork, a knife, screwdriver, hammer, eyeglasses.

Read Text Aloud: Ask questions noted on the following pages as text is being read.

Activity Tracks:

Choose a basic, group, or craft activity to reinforce the lesson (detailed on the pages that follow).

- *Basic:* The Call of the Disciples
- *Group:* Re-enact The Call of the Disciples
- *Craft:* "Call of the Disciples" Craft

Closing: "It Is Truly Proper," and "To You, O Lord" [Need: Typed words from previous lesson.]

Come Bless the Lord Icon Packets:

Packet I:
Packet II: Miracle: Catch of Fish

Teaching Pic:

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"Yes" to Jesus, it is equally important to understand what the "Yes" means. As in the story of the Sower in which the fourth seed fell into good soil, grew and produced grain, we must provide open hearts when we listen to the Gospel. We must nurture the faith God has planted in us by our lives. Our "Yes" to Jesus is acceptance of His teachings.

We look to Jesus for instruction, for our understanding of life. Peter's words are our own: "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God" (John 6:68-69).

Background Reading

(Direct quotations from the sources noted.)

Disciples Commissioned

"Before Christ returned to His Father at the Ascension, He commissioned His apostles to '*go and make disciples of all nations . . . baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*' (Matthew 28:19-20). Along with this authorization came a promise that such an enormous task would not have to be done on their own, for He added: '*and know that I am with you always, until the end of the world*' (Matthew 28:20b). Just how is this presence of Christ manifested? Christ sent the Holy Spirit as He promised, to guide and direct the community (Church) which He gathered around Himself. This was His guarantee that all He taught would be preserved and handed on" (SLW 41).

The Lesson Plan

Opening

[Gather at icon corner. Have Bible marked at John 15:14-15.] *Two weeks ago we enthroned the Bible in our icon corner because it is precious to us. It contains the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Today we'll read another passage from the Bible.*

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John.
Glory to You, O Lord, glory be to You.*

The Lord said, "You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father" (John 15:14-15).

Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You.

Introduction

Our lesson today is called "The Disciples Say 'Yes'" and it tells us about those who helped Jesus bring people back to God. I brought a few items with me to help introduce the lesson. [Bring items out of your bag, one at a time. Ask students to identify each. After they do so, say the following:] this helps me to _____. It makes it easier to _____. Do any of you use this to help you _____?

What do you think these tools have to do with the disciples? [Allow responses.] The disciples were "helpers" for Jesus. They helped bring people back to God. Tools are helpers, and so are disciples. People are different than these tools, however.

How do you HELP in this classroom? What do you do here that makes it easier for me to teach? [Allow responses.] How do you help at home? [Allow responses.] Helpers make it easier for something to get done. Let's think about the disciples as helpers of Jesus. How would a person help bring another back to God? [Allow responses.]

Let's read our lesson and see if your answers are in the book.

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The Disciples Say "Yes"



When Mary said "Yes" to God, a wonderful thing happened. Jesus, the Son of God, came to live with us. Jesus came to lead us to God.

God wants all people to come to Him. Jesus knew He needed helpers for this work. Here is the story of how Jesus called His helpers.

18 First Book of the Bible

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Reading of Text

As the children read aloud, help them interact with the text using the comments or questions below which are keyed to the text phrases (in bold type).

Jesus came to lead us to God.

A few weeks ago we learned that Jesus came to lead us to God. He came to lead us out of darkness. What phrase do we use to describe Jesus who leads us out of darkness? (Jesus is the Light of the World.)

[Story is from Luke 5:1-11] Read the story pausing to ask the following:]

Jesus spoke about God to the people on shore.

What has happened so far in our story? (Jesus asked one of the fishermen if he could use his boat. Then He spoke about God to the people.)

Jesus said "From now on you will be catching men!"

What happened after Jesus preached to the people? (Jesus told the fisherman to go the deep water and put down his nets.)

Did the fisherman want to go to the deep water? (No, he told Jesus they had fished all day and caught nothing.)

What happened next? (He caught so many fish he couldn't raise his nets. He called for help.) What did Jesus say to the fisherman? (From now on you will be catching men.)

The disciples helped lead people to God.

What were the names of the four? (Peter, Andrew, James and John) What do you think Jesus meant when He said, "You will be catching men?" (The disciples would bring men to God.)



One day Jesus was walking along a lake. Many people were following Him. He saw a fisherman in his boat. Jesus asked, "Will you take me a little way from shore in your boat?"

Jesus spoke about God to the people on shore. Afterward, Jesus told the fishermen to go to the deep water. He told him to lower the net. The fisherman said, "I have fished all day and caught nothing, but I will do as you say."

The men caught so many fish he needed help to raise the net. "Andrew, come help me," he called to his brother.

Andrew came and brought James and John. They were so surprised at all the fish they caught! Jesus said, "From now on you will be catching men!"

The four left their boats and said "Yes" to Jesus. They followed Jesus and became His helpers or disciples. The disciples helped lead people to God (Luke 5:1-12).

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They helped lead people to God.

What were some of the lessons the disciples learned from Jesus? (To care for one another, to love, and to forgive) Could the disciples have said "No" to Jesus? What might have happened if they said "No"? [Allow responses.]

We, too, can help lead people to God.

If we follow Jesus' way of life, we can be disciples, too. What must we do to follow Jesus? (Love, forgive, care for one another) Imagine a friend who didn't know God. Would it be easier or harder to bring them to God if they knew you were a Christian and they saw you lying or cheating or hateful? (Harder) It would be easier if you were a good and loving person. Would you like to bring someone to God? How might you do that—through words or actions or both? [Allow responses.]

Let's review: The story we learned today is called "The Call of the Disciples." Who can retell it briefly for us? [Assist them in retelling story.] The disciples helped spread the faith around the world. Because they said "Yes" WE know Jesus Christ. We know that we can live forever united to God.

Activity Tracks

Basic: The Call of the Disciples

Today we learned the story of how the disciples said "Yes" when Jesus called them. What can you draw in the box to remind you of the story? [Allow responses.] Below the box is the story with some words missing. The words are listed at the bottom of the page. See if you can fill in the blanks. One of the words is used two times.



The disciples followed the way of life that Jesus taught. They learned to love and forgive. They learned to care for one another. They helped lead people to God.

In the Bible those who followed Jesus were called disciples. The disciples said "Yes" to God.

Jesus taught people to follow God's commandments. Jesus taught people to love and forgive. We follow the way of life that Jesus taught. Jesus said, "If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32).

We, too, are disciples of Jesus. We, too, can help lead people to God.

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A. Draw something to remind you of the story. Fill in the blanks below using the words in the shaded box.

The Call of the Disciples



Jesus turned to the Peter, a fisherman, "Will you take me a little way from shore in your b o a t?" A little while later Jesus told him to lower the n e t s. The fisherman had not caught any fish all night. Yet, he said, "I will do as you s a y." The man caught so many fish, he needed h e l p. His brother helped. Two friends of theirs, also brothers, helped.

Then Jesus said, "F o l l o w me." The four left their boats and followed Jesus. The first disciples were f i s h e r m e n. They said "y e s" to Jesus. Their names were Peter and his brother Andrew. The names of the other two were J a m e s and his brother J o h n.

James Follow John help say nets boat yes fishermen

Group: Re-enact Call of Disciples

We learned a story today that would be great to re-enact. We need a narrator, Jesus, Peter, Andrew, James and John. As the narrator reads the story, the actors will put movements to the words. We'll use the story as it is written in our book, and the front of the class will be our stage. I'll help the actors with their words and motions. Let's see if we can read it through once with the actors saying voice parts. [Have narrator read the story, and let actors rehearse their words. You may wish to discuss which movements would be give meaning to the words. After the reading, let the play begin.]

Craft: "Call of the Disciples" Craft

Materials: "Disciples and Jesus" worksheet, copied on to heavier paper, "Sea and Net" worksheet, markers, scissors, heavy masking tape OR duct tape OR mounting foam pieces.



[Have sample ready to show children. You may wish to have mounting pieces or "circled" tape ready ahead of time.] *The disciples left their nets and boats and followed Jesus. For our craft, we'll make a picture that looks like the disciples are anxious to follow Jesus. Here is a worksheet that gives you the net and the sea. Jesus and the disciples are on the second worksheet. You can color both worksheets. Then cut out Jesus and the disciples. I'll help you place Jesus and the disciples so they stand out from the paper. [Make tape "circles," or use mounting foam pieces so that the figures can be taped onto the "Sea and Net" worksheet standing out from it.]*

Closing: [Have prayer papers from last lesson ready. Gather at the icon corner.] *Today we will finish class with the prayers we learned last week. "It is truly proper" is a prayer to the Mother of God. It reminds us that she said "Yes" to God. Think about the disciples, too, and about your own response to God when you say "To You, O Lord." That is one way you say "Yes." Remember to put down your papers so you can place your hands in prayer position for the last phrase. [Pray "It is truly proper," and "To You, O Lord." Use the translation for your jurisdiction.]*



•CALL OF THE FIRST DISCIPLES•

