

# PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

## LESSON TEXT

Philippians 1:3-6; Acts 18:1-3, 18-28; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Romans 16:3-5

## LESSON OBJECTIVES

- The students will identify Priscilla and Aquila as a couple who worked closely with Paul to spread the gospel.
- The students will learn how they can help each other share their faith.
- The students will each invite two friends to church.

## MATERIALS NEEDED

*For each student:*

- pen or pencil
- 2 paper clips

*For the teacher:*

- 1 copy of "Good News from the Kingdom"
- globe or map of the world
- 1 large stalk of fresh broccoli
- cutting board
- kitchen knife
- 5 sheets of notebook paper
- extra Bibles
- 3-4 long poles, such as broomsticks, dowels or sticks
- 12-15 yards of yarn, string or fishing line
- magnets
- scissors
- markers and crayons
- masking tape

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page A, 1 copy for every 2 students
- Page B, 1 copy for the teacher
- Page C, 1 copy for each student
- Page D, 1 copy for each student

## LESSON PLAN

### Getting Ready

Faithful Instruction  
Teacher Focus  
Teacher Tips  
Preclass Activity: Partner Puzzle  
Starting Up  
Welcome and Singing  
Opening Prayer  
Victories  
Good News from the Kingdom

### Getting into God's Word

Story: Bob Broccoli  
Scripture Study  
Activity: Fishing for People's Hearts

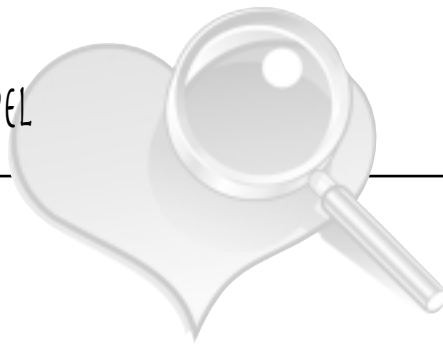
### Getting It to Others

Scripture Memory: Mark 1:17  
Weekly Challenge and Snack Time  
Conclusion

## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

Mark 1:17



## FAITHFUL INSTRUCTION

### TEACHER FOCUS

Pray before you prepare this lesson. Study the accounts of Priscilla and Aquila in Acts 18:1-3 and 18-28, 1 Corinthians 16:19 and Romans 16:3-5. The purpose of this lesson is to help the students see the power of teamwork in evangelism. Preteens really enjoy doing things together with their friends. Imagine what will happen in the kingdom when the energy and joy of preteen friendships is directed toward seeking and saving the lost! Use this class to get your preteens excited about bringing their friends to church.

### TEACHER TIPS

Reflect on a time when you and another disciple worked together to help someone become a Christian. What were the blessings and benefits you saw in the situation when you worked with a “partner in the gospel”? Be prepared to share the practical aspects of that experience during the Scripture Study part of the lesson.

## PRECLASS ACTIVITY

### PARTNER PUZZLE

The students will work as partners to complete a puzzle that tests their knowledge and creativity.

#### MATERIALS USED

*For each student:*

- pen or pencil

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page A, 1 copy for every 2 students
- extra Bibles

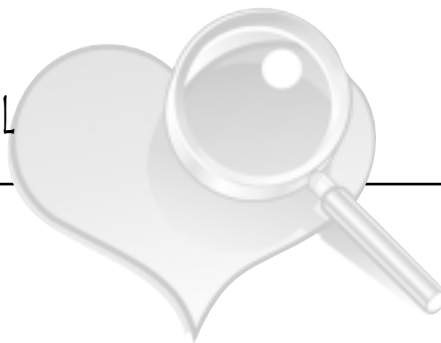
#### PREPARATION

Familiarize yourself with the puzzle the students will be working on. They may have difficulty coming up with names in some of the categories. Think ahead of time of possible answers to help them with.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. As students arrive, have them pair up with a partner. If possible, try to match students who do not generally spend time together.
2. Give each pair of students two pencils or pens and one copy of Reproducible Page A (Partner Puzzle).
3. Make sure the students understand the instructions on the worksheet:

Work together with your partner to complete the squares in the puzzle. Each word chosen must fit the category (animal, city, etc.) and begin with the letter on its line. A few squares are already done as examples. The category of Biblical Character will be challenging. Use your Bible to find the names of people.



## STARTING UP

### WELCOME AND SINGING

Call the students together in a circle. Welcome everyone by name, being sure to recognize anyone who is visiting. Let them know how glad you are to see them, and how much you looked forward to being with them. Sing a few great songs.

### OPENING PRAYER

*Who would like to say a prayer to start today's time together?* Let a few students lead the prayer. Encourage the students to mention missing students, special church activities, illnesses and to be especially thankful for the chance to be together.

### VICTORIES

Take time to have the students share about the challenges they were given at the end of last week's class. *Did everyone complete their challenge? How did it go? What fears did you face as you met the challenge to put the lesson into practice? How did everyone do with having consistent quiet times? Would anyone like to share something they learned?*

Praise and encourage all the students' efforts, especially noting any area of significant growth. Offer help and suggestions so they can have even more victories in the coming week.

### GOOD NEWS FROM THE KINGDOM

#### MATERIALS USED

*For the teacher:*

- 1 copy of "Good News from the Kingdom"
- globe or map of the world

#### INSTRUCTIONS

*Now let's take a few minutes to share "Good News from the Kingdom."* Be excited as you read about what is happening around the world. Have a globe or map ready, pointing out the location as you share. Remind your students that the gospel is worldwide, and that the victories of our brothers and sisters in other countries can inspire us and spur us on.





## STORY

### BOB BROCCOLI

The students will be introduced to the concept of Biblical growth by using a visual example.

#### MATERIALS USED

*For the teacher:*

- 1 large stalk of fresh broccoli
- cutting board
- kitchen knife

NOTE: This activity can also be done with a tree branch that has many offshoot stems and leaves. In this case, the branch does not need to be sliced in half, as the "tree" will be obvious.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Show the class the stalk of broccoli. Then cut the stalk in half lengthwise so that the "tree" can be clearly seen by the students.
2. Explain: *A disciple is like this broccoli. The large stalk represents someone who understands that his purpose is to help other people become Christians. Let's call this disciple "Bob." See how the large stalk, that is, "Bob," has a branch coming off of it. This is someone Bob studied the Bible with who decided to follow Jesus. Now follow that large branch to a smaller branch. Here are two more people who have decided to follow Jesus because Bob's friend shared his faith with them just like Bob shared his faith with him. Now there are four disciples instead of just one.*

*Look at the top of the broccoli where there are many tiny buds, tightly packed together and plentiful. This represents the resulting church, filled with hundreds of disciples tightly knit together in love, all because of one person's life.*

3. Ask the students: *What does this mean for us in this class? What can you as an individual do to be more like Bob Broccoli?*

## SCRIPTURE STUDY

#### MATERIALS USED

*For the teacher:*

- 5 sheets of notebook paper
- 5 pens or pencils
- extra Bibles

#### PREPARATION

Write one of the following scripture references at the top of each sheet of notebook paper: Acts 18:1-3, Acts 18:18-20, Acts 18:24-28, 1 Corinthians 16:19 and Romans 16:3-5.

Begin the lesson by having the students turn to the book of Philippians. Read Philippians 1:3-6 aloud to the class. Ask:

- *What does the word "gospel" mean? ("good news")*
- *What does it mean to have a partnership in the gospel? (to work together to spread the good news about Jesus)*
- *Why did that situation give Paul so much joy? (He worked with others to share his faith, and saw great results because of it.)*

Share a time when you were partners in the gospel with another disciple. Emphasize the ways in which working together to help someone become a Christian were more effective than if you had tried to do it alone. Ask another teacher to also share.

*Today we are going to look at the lives of two people in the Bible who were truly partners in the gospel. They were a married couple who worked together to build up God's kingdom. In the Bible, these two people are always mentioned together as partners, never separately: Priscilla and Aquila. They understood how powerful teamwork is in effective evangelism.*

Follow the instructions in the box below.

- Divide the class into five teams.
- Give each team one of the scripture reference papers you have prepared, plus a pen or a pencil.
- Make sure each team member has a Bible or can share with someone else.
- Explain that the team must work together to read its scripture reference and to write down on its paper what those verses tell the team about Priscilla and Aquila.
- Have each team choose a spokesperson who will report the team's findings to the rest of the class.
- When the teams are done, have them take turns sharing their research.
- After each report, discuss the practicals of how that passage applies today. Be sure the information on the following page is covered.



Scripture	Information About Priscilla and Aquila	Application
Acts 18:1-3	banished from Rome because Aquila was Jewish met by Paul in Corinth Priscilla, Aquila and Paul had a tentmaking business together	<i>Partners share their daily lives with each other, not just evangelism.</i> NOTE: You can also address the fact that God took the seemingly bad situation of Priscilla and Aquila being banished from Rome and turned it into a good situation by having them be in the same place that Paul was as the time (Romans 8:28, Acts 17:26). Point: Be grateful for and trust God in your circumstances.
Acts 18:18-20	accompanied Paul on his missionary travels	<i>Be willing to go anywhere and do anything for God. Also, be willing to follow, not always having to be the leader (v19).</i>
Acts 18:24-28	as a pair, reached out to Apollos and taught him about God	<i>Working with a partner can help you overcome your fear of sharing with sharp people; it helps to have a partner when you study the Bible with someone.</i>
1 Corinthians 16:19	sent warm greetings to other disciples the church met in their home (were hospitable, were unselfish)	<i>Be encouraging to other people; use your home and possessions to help build up the kingdom.</i>
Romans 16:3-5	Paul considered them "fellow workers in Christ" "risked their lives" for Paul all the Gentile churches were "grateful to them" were still using their home for church meetings	<i>Learn to be effective and work well with the entire preteen class, not just your best friends. Be "fellow workers" with your preteen leaders. Sacrifice to help people. Be consistent in your outreach and keep sharing, giving and using your possessions to build up the kingdom.</i>

## ACTIVITY

### FISHING FOR PEOPLE'S HEARTS

This activity will help your students gain a conviction about reaching out to their friends.

#### MATERIALS USED

For each student:

- 2 large paper clips

For the teacher:

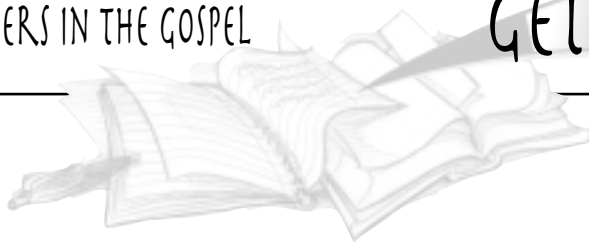
- 3-4 long poles, such as broomsticks, dowels or sticks
- 12-15 yards of yarn, string or fishing line

- magnets
- scissors
- markers
- crayons
- masking tape

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for each student

(The entirety of the instructions for this activity are found on Reproducible Page B.)



## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

Mark 1:17

### MATERIALS USED

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page D, 1 copy for each student

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Give each student a "Fishing License" (Reproducible Page D—Scripture Memory) and have each student write in his or her name and the current date on the license.
2. Have the students open their Bibles to Mark 1:17, and ask for a volunteer to read the verse aloud.
3. Briefly discuss what the verse means.
4. Have the students say the verse aloud together as a group several times.

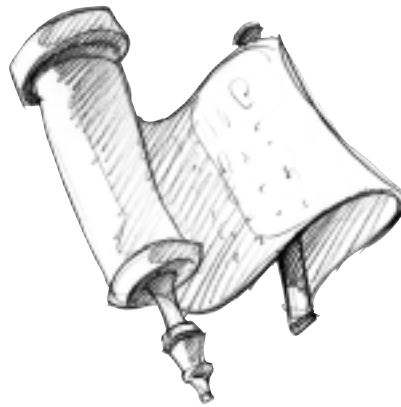
## WEEKLY CHALLENGE AND SNACK TIME

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat while you explain to them the challenge for the week.

The students are to invite to church the two friends whose names they wrote down during the fishing game. Have each student pick a partner who will help him do this. The partners can pray for each other's friends, call each other on the phone to follow up and/or go out together to share their faith.

## CONCLUSION

End the class with a prayer.



## WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Invite to church the two friends whose names you wrote down during the fishing game. Work with a partner in the gospel for encouragement and effectiveness.

# PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

## LESSON TEXT

Luke 10:1-20

## LESSON OBJECTIVES

- The students will explain why Jesus sent the disciples out by twos to preach the Word.
- The students will explain three practical applications of scripture that will help them to share their faith.
- The students will each invite two friends to church.

## MATERIALS NEEDED

*For the teacher:*

- 1 pair scissors for every 2 students
- 2 sheets of construction paper for every 2 students
- 1 glue stick for every 2 students
- 1 magazine for every 2 students
- 1 large towel or small blanket for every 2 students
- extra Bibles
- markers
- beach ball or medium-sized play ball
- cassette or CD player
- several music cassettes or CDs

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page E, 1 copy for every 21 students

## LESSON PLAN

### *Getting Ready*

- Faithful Instruction
  - Teacher Focus
  - Teacher Tips
- Preclass Activity: Memory Verse Word Hunt
- Starting Up
  - Welcome and Singing
  - Opening Prayer and Review
  - Great News Sharing

### *Getting into God's Word*

- Scripture Study
- Activity: Towel Toss

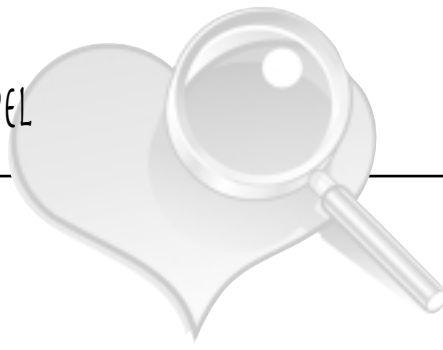
### *Getting It to Others*

- Scripture Memory: Mark 1:17
- Weekly Challenge and Snack Time
- Conclusion

## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

Mark 1:17



## FAITHFUL INSTRUCTION

### TEACHER FOCUS

Pray before preparing this lesson. Spend time studying Luke 10:1-20. Think about the reasons why Jesus sent the disciples out in twos. What were the results of their efforts? The purpose of this lesson is to help the students see the power of teamwork in evangelism. Preteens really enjoy doing things together with their friends. Imagine what will happen in the kingdom when the energy and joy of preteen friendships is directed toward seeking and saving the lost! Use this class to get your preteens excited about bringing their friends to church.

### TEACHER TIPS

- Reflect on your own conversion experience. Who were the people who worked with you to help you become a Christian? Think about the love they showed to you as you studied the Bible and began a relationship with God. What type of relationship do you have with those people now? Be prepared to share your story during the Scripture Study part of the lesson. Ask one or two other teachers to share their experiences as well.
- As was mentioned in last week's Teacher Tips, you will need a supply of magazines that can be cut up (one for every two students) for the Preclass Activity. Hopefully you have been gathering these throughout the week.

## PRECLASS ACTIVITY

### MEMORY VERSE WORD HUNT

The students will learn teamwork by sharing resources to help each other complete a project.

#### MATERIALS USED

*For the teacher:*

- 1 pair scissors for every 2 students
- 2 sheets of construction paper for every 2 students
- 1 glue stick for every 2 students
- 1 magazine for every 2 students
- extra Bibles
- markers

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page E, 1 copy for every 21 students

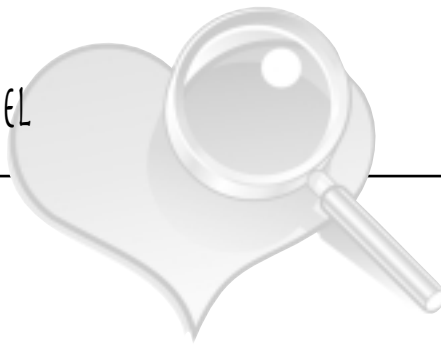
#### PREPARATION

Cut apart copies of Reproducible Page E ("Jesus") so you will have as many "Jesus" word labels as you have students.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. As students arrive, divide them into pairs.
2. Give each pair of students a pair of scissors, two sheets of construction paper, a glue stick and a magazine.
3. Have the students open their Bibles to Mark 1:17.
4. Instruct the students to share their resources to find the individual words of the memory verse in the magazine, cutting out and gluing the words in the correct order onto the construction paper. If the students cannot find a word, they may create it by cutting up individual letters. (They may need only one sheet of their paper.)
5. Give each pair of students two "Jesus" word labels to get them started.
6. If time permits, have the students also find the word and numbers for "Mark 1:17." If time is short, they may handwrite the reference on their papers.





## STARTING UP

### WELCOME AND SINGING

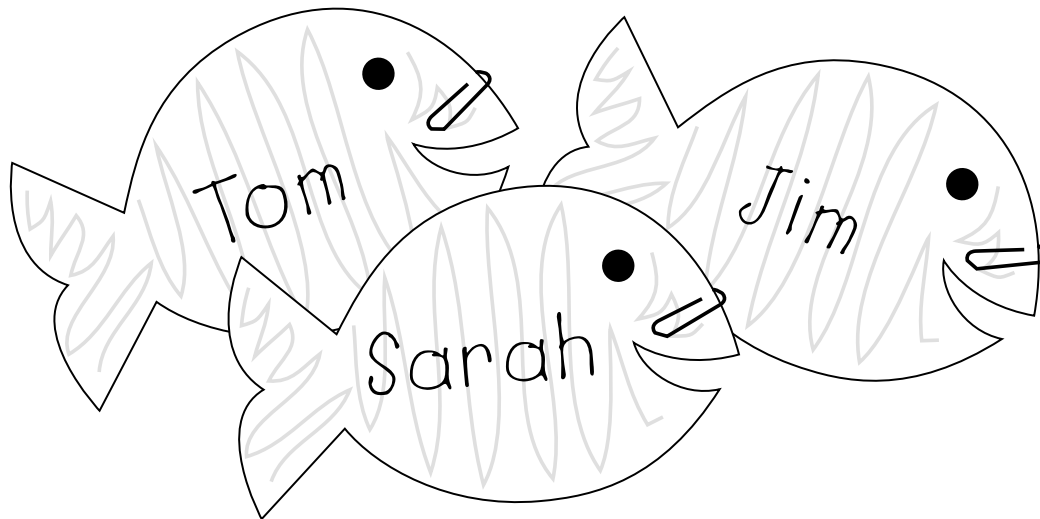
Call the students together in a circle. Welcome everyone by name, being sure to recognize anyone who is visiting. Let them know how glad you are to see them and how much you looked forward to being with them. Sing a few great songs.

### OPENING PRAYER AND REVIEW

- Open with one of the students praying for each student to be sharing their faith and working with others to be partners in the gospel.
- Have one student recite the memory verse for this lesson: Mark 1:17.
- Have a student briefly review the previous lesson (Core Lesson). Ask them what they learned from the fishing game (they "fished" for the fish with names of their friends written on them).

### GREAT NEWS SHARING

Allow several minutes for the students to share great news about their lives. This could be about a family member who became a disciple, someone healed from an illness, someone studying the Bible, great grades, etc. Remind the students to be brief so that as many as possible can share.



Fishing for People's Hearts



## SCRIPTURE STUDY

Begin the lesson by sharing a brief account of your conversion. Have one or two other teachers share their experiences as well. The students should see how you were each met in different ways and how several people helped in your studies. Be sure to keep the sharing short and appropriate.

Have the students turn to Luke 10. Read verses 1-2.

- *Why do you think Jesus sent his disciples out in pairs instead of by themselves?*
- *What does it mean that "the harvest is plentiful"?*
- *What does it mean that "the workers are few"?*
- *Why does God want more workers to be sent out into the harvest field?*



Explain that verses 3-20 describe practical aspects of sharing your faith. Go through the following scriptures, having different students read each one and having the group discuss how the scriptures apply today:

<b>Verse(s)</b>	<b>Application</b>
Luke 10:3	The Bible says Satan is like "a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8); be alert to his schemes to keep you from sharing your faith (insecurity, intimidation, challenging circumstances).
Luke 10:4	Depend on God to meet your needs and to help you share your faith. Focus on your purpose; don't let yourself be distracted from sharing with people.
Luke 10:5-7	Be positive in meeting people; share God's love as well as his word. Build friendships with people; share meals and fun times—not just the Bible.
Luke 10:8-9	Meet the needs of people you are reaching out to (help them with their homework, send them a card when they are sick, bring a favorite candy bar to share).
Luke 10:10-12	Do not be discouraged by people who are not open or who mistreat you. Keep sharing your faith and move on to someone else. Remember: the harvest is plentiful!

<b>Verse(s)</b>	<b>Application</b>
Luke 10:13-15	Don't retaliate or fight back with people who reject the truth and your message; it is God's job to judge them one day. Do remember how terrible it will be for those who don't make it to heaven; let that knowledge motivate you to overcome your fear of sharing your faith.
Luke 10:16	Don't take rejection personally; people are rejecting God, not you.
Luke 10:17-20	Sharing your faith will give you great joy! Sharing your faith will enable God to work through you in amazing ways! (Today we don't have the power to "trample on snakes and scorpions" that Jesus gave to the apostles, but we do have the power to overcome fear, to defeat Satan, to help other people change their lives and to make a big impact on the world (a modern-day miracle). It's exciting to do great things for God, but the best part about being a disciple is just being close to God...now and for all eternity.



## ACTIVITY

### TOWEL TOSS

The students will practice working together as partners while they achieve a class goal.

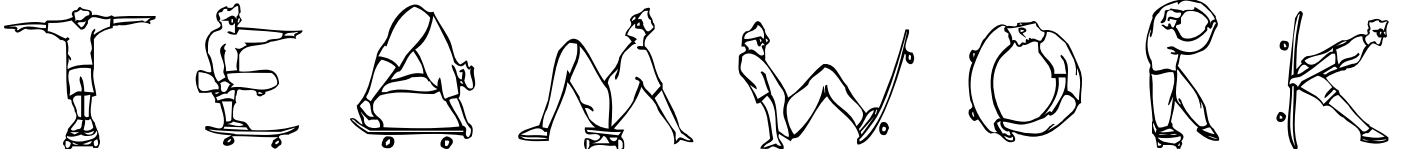
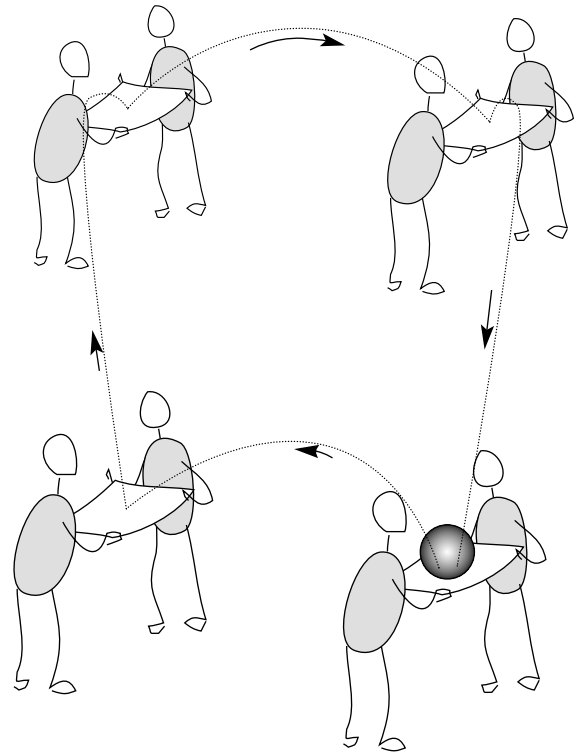
#### MATERIALS USED

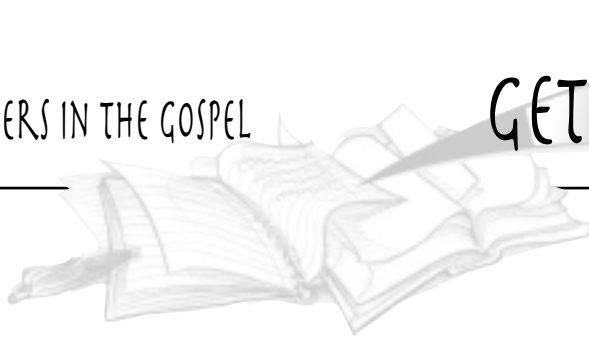
*For the teacher:*

- 1 large towel or small blanket for every 2 students
- beach ball or medium-sized play ball
- cassette or CD player
- several music cassettes or CDs

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Have the students divide into pairs. Give each pair a large towel or small blanket.
2. Have the pairs scatter around the classroom.
3. Instruct each pair to hold the ends of their towel and to pull it taut.
4. Explain: *When the music starts, I will toss the ball into the air to one set of partners. That pair is to catch the ball on their towel and toss it to the next pair. You must keep the towel taut to do this correctly. The goal is to get the ball around the room, with each pair tossing the ball only once.*
5. Keep the music playing while the ball is being tossed around the room. Remind the students that they cannot use their hands, only the towel, to catch and toss the ball.





## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

Mark 1:17

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Review the scripture memory verse that was given during the previous lesson.
2. Practice the verse together as a group, encouraging the students to have the verse completely memorized by the next class.
3. OPTION: Use the ball from the Towel Toss activity and have the student pass it (gently) to each other. Each person who catches the ball must give the next word of the memory verse. Repeat until the verse is quoted. If someone doesn't know the next word, he or she simply passes the ball to someone else to answer.

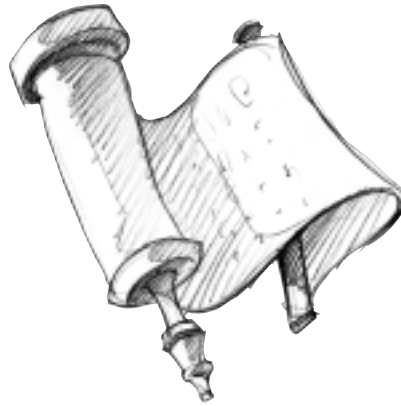
## WEEKLY CHALLENGE AND SNACK TIME

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat while you remind them of the challenge for the week.

The students are to invite to church the two friends whose names they wrote down during the fishing game in their previous class. Each student chose a partner to help him do this. The partners should be praying for each other's friends, calling each other on the phone to follow up and/or going out together to share their faith.

## CONCLUSION

End the class with a prayer.



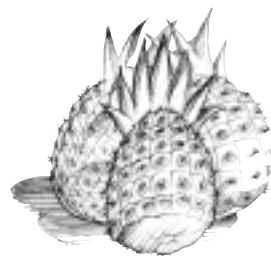
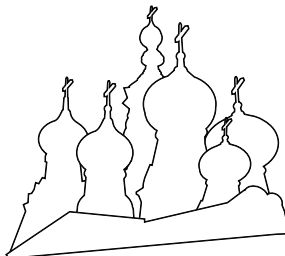
## WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Invite to church the two friends whose names you wrote down during the fishing game. Work with a partner in the gospel for encouragement and effectiveness.

PARTNER PUZZLE

Work together with your partner to complete the squares in the puzzle. Each word chosen must fit the category (animal, city, etc.) and begin with the letter on its line. A few squares are already done as examples. The category of Biblical Character will be challenging. Use your Bible to find the names of people.

	Animal	City	Food	Biblical Character
P			popcorn	
A				
R				Rebecca
T		Tallahassee		
N				
E	elephant			
R				



## FISHING FOR PEOPLE'S HEARTS

### MATERIALS USED

For each student:

- 2 paper clips

For the teacher:

- 3-4 long poles, such as broomsticks, dowels or sticks
- 12-15 yards of yarn, string or fishing line
- magnets
- scissors
- markers and crayons
- masking tape

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each student

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Divide the class into teams of four to five students each.
2. Give each team a pole, a three-foot length of yarn, string or fishing line and a magnet.
3. Instruct each team to make a fishing pole by tying one end of the string to the magnet and the other end of the string to one end of the pole.
4. Give each student a copy of Reproducible Page B (Fishing for Men's Hearts), two large paper clips and access to the crayons, markers and scissors.
5. Instruct each student to write the names of two friends he wants to bring to church, one on each of the fish. The students should write the names on both sides of each fish. The fish can also be colored and decorated so as to represent the person (colors of favorite sports team, favorite color, drawing of favorite food, etc.). See Figure A.

6. Have each student cut out the two fish, and place a paper clip on the "head" of each fish. See Figure B.
7. Form a fishing "bank" by sticking a long strip of masking tape across the floor of the classroom. See Figure C.
8. Have the members of each team line up single file behind the "bank." The first person in each line holds the fishing pole. See Figure C.
9. Take the fish of each team and scatter them on the floor in front of their corresponding team. Make sure the names on the fish can be clearly seen. See Figure C.
10. Allow ample space between the two lines so that each team has plenty of room to cast its fishing line. See Figure C.
11. On "Go!" have the first person in each team catch one of the fish by using the magnet on the fishing pole to attract the paper clip on the fish. The students do not need to catch their own fish. This will reinforce the idea that as partners in the gospel, we help each other bring people to Christ.
12. When each team member "catches" a fish, have him hand the pole to the student in line behind him, and then move to the end of the line (keeping his fish). Have the next student try to catch a fish, and so on down the line. If anyone catches more than one fish at a time, tell him to keep only one and "throw back" the other.
13. When all the team members have retrieved one fish, begin the rotation again with the original first students in each line catching a second fish.
14. The first team to catch all its fish is the winner.
15. If time is limited, have each student catch only one fish.

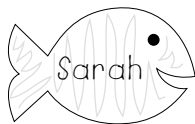


Figure A

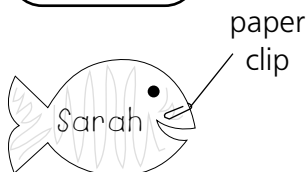
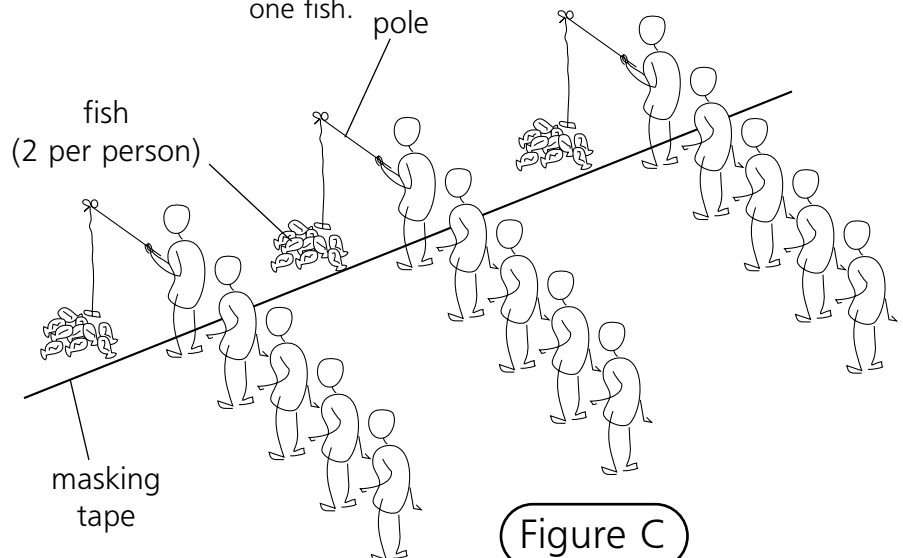
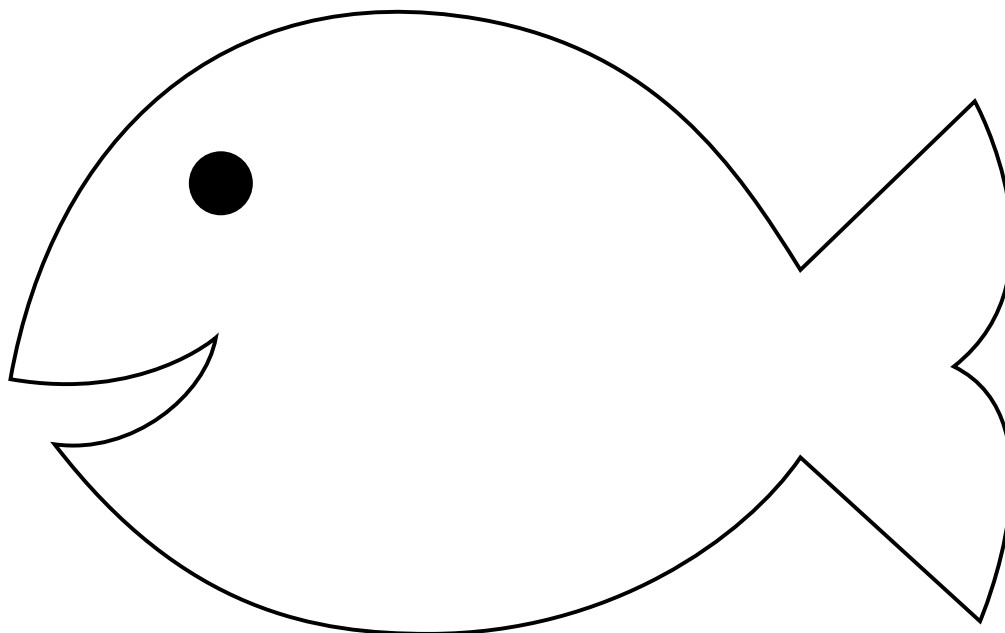
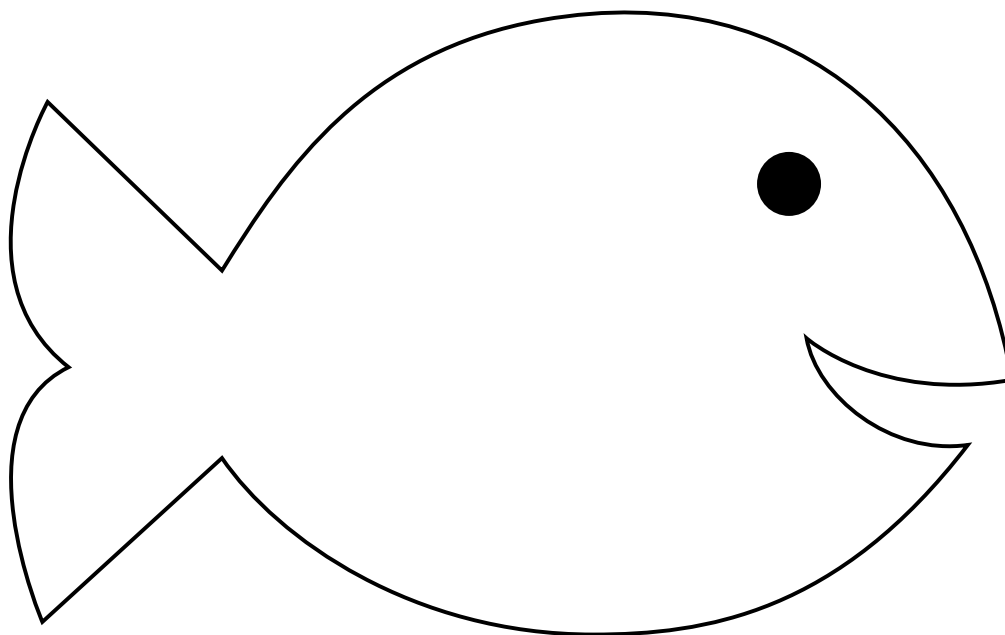


Figure B



FISHING FOR PEOPLE'S HEARTS



SCRIPTURE MEMORY

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

MARK 1:17

assigned to \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Invite to church the two friends whose names you wrote down during the fishing game. Work with a partner in the gospel for encouragement and effectiveness.



Jesus

Jesus

Jesus

Jesus

Jesus

Jesus

Jesus

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