



# *Know Your Bass*

## *Lesson 1*

*“What is more, I consider everything a loss...” Philippians 3:7a (NIV)*

### *Life Application*

A key step to becoming a successful angler requires knowing about the fish you are trying to catch. Knowing about the fish will help you consider the best baits and tactics. It also aids you in identifying obstacles and advantages that may hinder a successful experience.

Similarly, understanding your goals as well as the obstacles and advantages you may encounter is an important part of life.

*“Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.” — Winston Churchill*

Take a moment to consider your life’s dreams and goals. Write them down. Now consider this: have you taken the steps needed to identify the obstacles and advantages that could help or hinder you from achieving success in these areas?

### *Biblical Application*

Philippians 3:7-10

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.



You have to know your game, whatever it might be—deer, turkey, bass, or whatever. But in the Christian experience the one primary thing we have to know is our Lord Jesus Christ. The passage quoted above makes that clear. The author of the Scripture was Paul. And before he came to know Jesus, he was a very religious man and a very respected man in his community. But he states here that none of that is important in comparison with knowing Jesus. This is extremely important. Many people think that Christianity is just about going to church, or doing humanitarian things for other people in the name of God. Those things are certainly important, but nothing is more important than knowing Jesus experientially. One modern writer, J. I. Packer has a whole book called knowing God. Here is what he said: “We are cruel to ourselves if we try to live in this world without knowing about the God whose world it is and who runs it.” How do we know Jesus (or God)? First, by reading about his will and purpose in the Bible. Our own spiritual imagination is never enough. We learn about Jesus from his Word. Then, we must pray. Pray to God in the name of Jesus. Pray his own words back to him, and then pray your words. For some people religious life is like watching a parade. But that is never enough. You have to be in the parade. Down there, walking down the street, engaging the others in the parade. Know Jesus.

## *How To*

Bass fishing is a fun and exciting sport for people of all ages and backgrounds. In fact, bass fishing is considered to be the most popular freshwater sport in the United States! When most people think about bass fishing they are usually referring to the largemouth bass.

The largemouth bass is only one of three species of black bass. Each species features specific characteristics and qualities that make them unique.

**Largemouth** (*Micropterus salmoides*): It has a very large mouth and a large upper jaw that extends behind the eye; its color ranges from green to black. They prefer shallow warm water and are most at home in weeds and other thick cover such as brush and timber. If given the option, largemouth bass will opt for slower current. Largemouth bass prefer to spawn in shallow protected areas with hard dark bottoms near or next to wood. Their diet is primarily baitfish, although they will eat practically anything.



**Small Mouth Bass** (*Micropterus dolomieu*): It is more bronze or brown in color than the largemouth and its side markings look like vertical bars (tiger striped). It has a smaller mouth than the largemouth and its jaw does not extend beyond the eye. Unlike the largemouth, a smallmouth's eye has red in it. Smallmouth bass prefer deeper, clearer, cooler water with rocky structure. They are seldom found in stagnant ponds or murky lakes shallower than 25 feet. In addition to clear waters, smallmouth bass love to hold in a moderately swift current.

**Spotted Bass** (*Micropterus punctulatus*): Spotted (or Kentucky) bass do not grow as large as the largemouth, and unlike the smallmouth, do not have vertical bars on their sides. They have smaller mouths and jaws similar to the smallmouth, but are marked with rows of spots below the lateral line. They swim in schools more frequently than the other two black bass and can often be found around deep rocky structure. A trophy in most areas where they are found is five pounds.

## *Did You Get It?*

1. Why is it important to know your subject?

In bass fishing you have to learn about the habits of the fish, when they feed, what they feed on, how weather affects them. In the Christian life we have to have an experiential knowledge of the Lord—what one writer calls “Experiencing God.”

2. What color eye does a smallmouth bass have?

Smallmouth bass have red in their eyes.

3. What species are Largemouth, Smallmouth and Spotted Bass from?

Black Bass.

4. Why is it important to identify obstacles in our own life?

Samples: to know exactly what you need to overcome; to know what is needed to master it, etc....



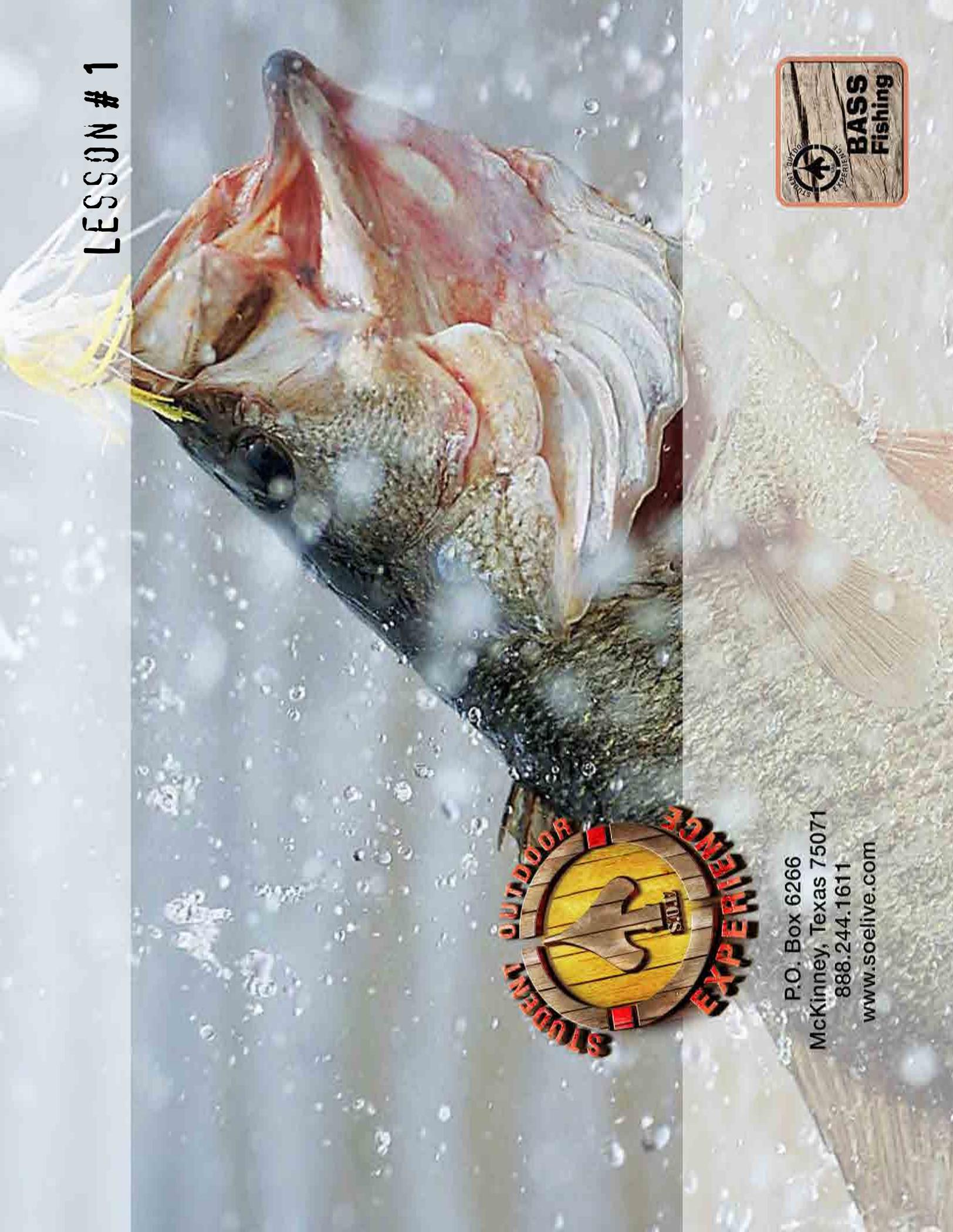
## *Sample How To's*

The How To section should be fun and exciting for each student. Make sure that you have all the necessary elements available to insure you are properly teaching this section. Make sure you reiterate SAFETY and the importance it has in our lives and in our sport. Having them participate will have a significant impact on their overall experience of your group:

### **Sample How To's:**

1. **Gold:** Help students identify the three different species of black bass through pictures.
2. **Platinum:** Bring in mounted examples of one or more of the black bass species. Discuss physical characteristics, habitat and techniques/ challenges associated with catching them.
3. **Titanium:** Bring in a knowledgeable expert (e.g. fish & wildlife specialist, veteran angler, taxidermist, etc.) to talk to the group about the different species of black bass, their characteristics and the techniques/ challenges associated with catching them.

# LESSON # 1



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# KNOW YOUR BASS

“What is more, I consider everything a loss...”

Philippians 3:7a (NIV)

## LIFE APPLICATION

A key step to becoming a successful angler requires knowing about the fish you are trying to catch. Knowing about the fish will help you consider the best baits and tactics. It also aids you in identifying obstacles and advantages that may hinder a successful experience. Similarly, understanding your goals as well as the obstacles and advantages you may encounter is an important part of life.

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# LESSON #1

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Largemouth



Smallmouth



Spotted

## DID YOU GET IT?

1. Why is it important to know our subject?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What color eye does a smallmouth bass have?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What species are Largemouth, Smallmouth and Spotted Bass from?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why is it important to identify obstacles in our own life?  
\_\_\_\_\_





# Location

## Lesson 2

*“He answered, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.’”  
Matthew 15:24 (NIV)*

### *Life Application*

Bass fishing is an exciting and fun sport that can be enjoyed by anybody; however, like all types of fishing, it's easy to become frustrated when the fish aren't biting. A key to overcoming this is learning where the fish like to hang out. A fish's environment influences many things including how it behaves and how it responds to the baits being presented. Much like bass fishing, we have to be aware and mindful of our own situations and environments.

*“We have permission to determine who influences our lives”  
– John Stamper*

Knowing our surroundings (location and people) and how these may influence our actions and life are an important part of decision making...decisions that can help create and shape our future!

### *Biblical Application*

Matthew 15:24

He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”

This statement is made by Jesus to a woman who was a Canaanite, that is, she was not a Jewish woman. She came asking Jesus to help her daughter, who was in a very bad condition. Jesus said, “I only came for the lost sheep of Israel,” that is, he came to reach his own people. Now at first that sounds crude (and we will see a little twist here in a minute), but he was saying something important. In the Old Testament God chose the Hebrew (or Jewish) people as



the group through which he wished to save the whole world. But they did not do a very good job, either of being saved themselves or (especially) of sharing that message with outsiders. All along God knew that they would fail and that one day he would send his own son (Jesus) to do what they failed to accomplish. To do that, Jesus had first to get the message to his own people, the Jews. He was born a Jew, he lived among Jews, he practiced their traditions, he knew their language. Only on a couple of occasions did he venture beyond purely Jewish lands, and then only briefly. God has similarly given you a context. You were raised by a specific family. You were born with a certain kind of ethnic heritage, white, black, Hispanic, or something else. You were raised in a certain kind of socio-economic culture. You identify with that. You have experienced all of these locations. At some time, you begin to reach beyond your community, but you know your people, and since you do, you find ways to reach beyond and be a blessing to others outside your community, your location. That is part of growing up. But it will take an effort to understand their “location” since it is not familiar to you. Oh, by the way, when the woman persisted in asking Jesus for help, he did heal her daughter. And, not long after Jesus went to heaven, his followers began to take this message intended first for Jews, and carried it to the rest of the world, which is why we are followers of Jesus, when most of us are not born into the Jewish world.

## *How To*

When it comes to bass fishing, one of the most important techniques is understanding the habitat. When talking about bass habitat, we are talking about two primary things: cover and structure. Having a clear understand of these will help you become a better fisherman. So, let’s take a look at cover and structure and what they can mean to you.

**Cover:** Cover is basically anything that a fish can and will hide in or around. Cover ranges from bushes to grass to sunken trees and even old tires! There are all types of cover that hold fish and many times these important spots will produce a keeper!

Keep in mind that fishing cover can be intimidating and tricky. When you fish cover it is very important to choose the right bait and tackle and employ the correct technique. These include using baits like weedless worms and jigs and using techniques such as flipping/ pitching verses casting (which we will cover at a later lesson).



We recommend that you invest in a good pair of polarized sunglasses which will help you see below the surface and aid you in identifying cover. Knowing how to spot cover is imperative to fishing it. It will allow you to come back and fish it again in the future.

**Structure:** The simple definition of structure is anything that will cause a change in the contour of the bottom of the lake, river, pond, etc. Many times this is referred to as the topographical view of the lake. Old channels, points, hills, humps, etc. are all great examples of structure.

One of the largest challenges we face when fishing structure is the ability to see it. This is where doing your homework ahead of time really comes in handy! Many times you can use maps, buoys and electronic devices to help you find structure. Fishing structure may be challenging, but is well worth the time and effort spent locating it.

## *Did You Get It?*

1. What is one of the most important keys to bass fishing?

Learning where the fish like to hang out.

2. Describe the difference between cover and structure?

Cover is basically anything a bass can hide in or around whereas structure refers to topological features that a bass might relate.

3. What is a great tool to have to locate cover?

A good pair of polarized sunglasses.

4. Whys is it important to figure out the nature of the location?

You were not born in the water (unless your mom was a mermaid). The world beneath the surface of the water is in many ways quite different from the beach or the shore. That is the bass's world, so you need to understand that world if you are going to catch many fish. Jesus once said that we should be fishers of men, which just means that we should tell them about Jesus. You have a pretty good understanding of your own location, but to be good fishers of men, you will have to learn some things about others, and their location.



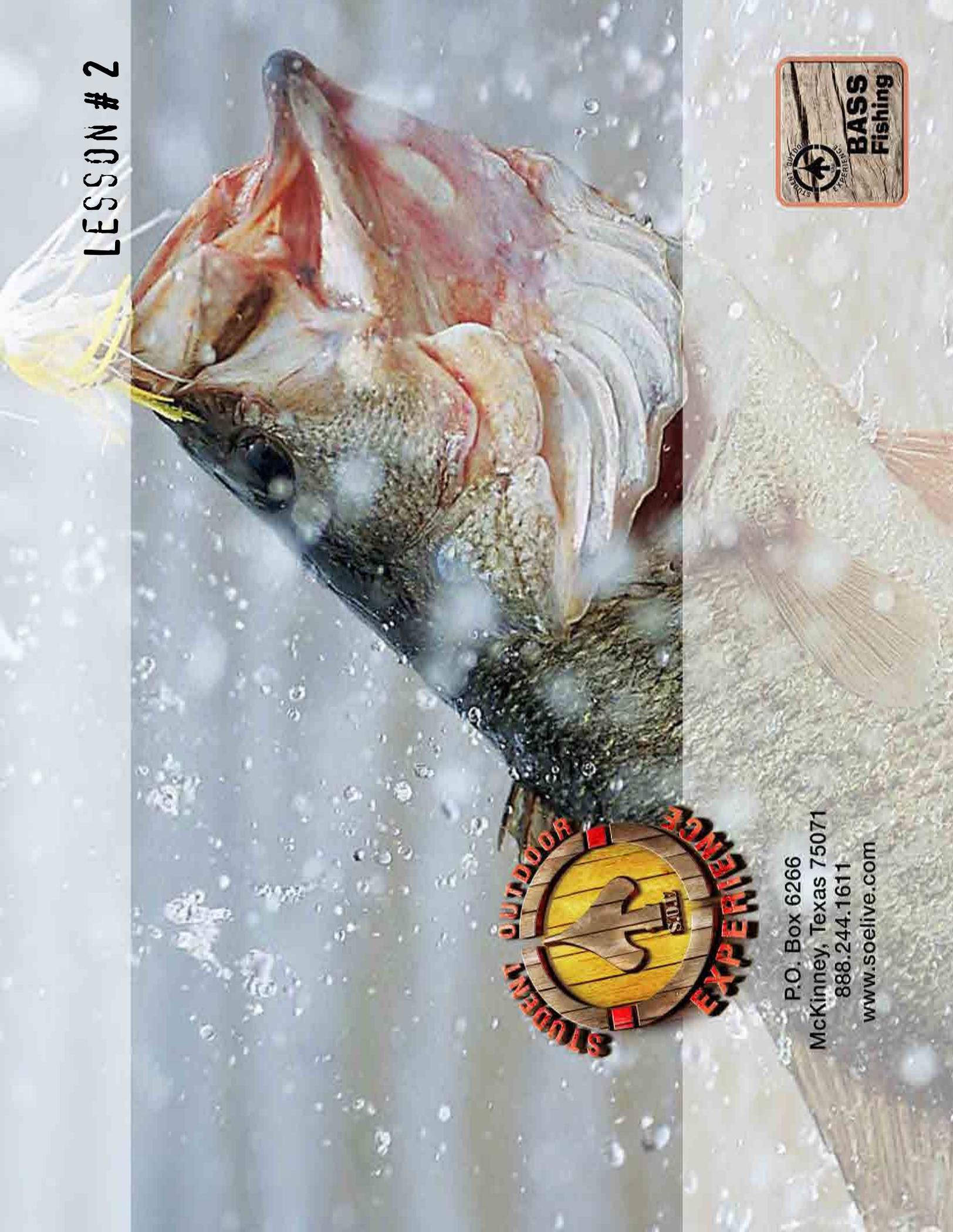
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### **Sample How To's:**

1. **Gold:** Help students identify examples of cover and structure through pictures
2. **Platinum:** Bring in a seasoned angler to talk about the importance of understanding cover and structure when bass fishing.
3. **Titanium:** With polarized sunglasses, have the students walk around a lake or pond noting any cover or structure they observe.

# LESSON # 2



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# LOCATION

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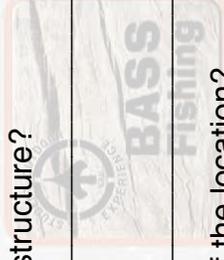
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## *Bait Selection*

### *Lesson 3*

*“And lead us not into temptation,” Matthew 6:13a (NIV)*

### *Life Application*

When it comes to fishing one thing we can all agree on, you typically cannot catch fish without using bait. However, simply having bait and a tackle box will not automatically make you a great angler. Knowing how and when to use the proper bait and tackle will allow you to be successful.

Did you know that in life, it is possible to be “baited?” While most of us will never be tempted into biting a plastic worm we can be “baited” into making poor decisions via arguments, peer pressure and even marketing influences. Many times these decisions can have immediate and far-reaching consequences in our life.

*“Choosing the wrong bait in life can lead to struggles, floundering, and loss of life” -  
John Stamper*

As leaders, we should be cautious when it comes to individuals tempting us with the “wrong bait.” It is critical that we surround ourselves with friends who are positive influences and will help lead us to making the right decisions in life.

### *Biblical Application*

Matthew 6:9-13

“This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.



This is probably the most famous prayer in the Bible. Often called the Lord’s Prayer, it is more correctly called the Disciples’ Prayer. The whole prayer makes a great study, but we are only going to look at the last verse today: “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” In bass fishing, using lures is one of the most effective ways to catch those wily fish. A lure is a trick. It tricks the fish into thinking it is actually a live critter (small fish or a bug or frog or something like that), then the fish takes the lure, and, hopefully, you have dinner! Now, there is nothing morally wrong with deceiving a fish or other game. But there is something morally wrong with lying to people. That is what temptation is—a lie. Jesus prays that God will not lure us into temptation, knowing that he never will. And then he prays that God will deliver us from the one—the devil—who will lie to us with temptation to sin. Every time a little voice in your head says, “I know that your pastor and your parents taught you not to do \_\_\_\_\_,” and then suggests some sin that you might like to do, and then goes on to say, “Just do it!” That is a lure, a lie from the devil. All sin will come back to haunt you. Even if you find a way to “get off the hook” this time, you will likely be even more prone to take the bait again later. And one of those times there will be no escape. You will be caught, and face the consequences.

## *How To!*

Selecting the right type of bait to use while bass fishing can be intimidating. There are many lures to choose from including crank baits, soft plastic worms, spinner baits, top-water lures, etc. And while selecting the right lure can be challenging, with a little knowledge we can stack the odds of landing a trophy in our favor. Knowing the **species** of the fish you are after, **location** (structure/cover) and **lure color** can help ensure you select the right bait.

Let’s take a quick look at these categories:

**#1. Species:** The Black Bass family are known to be opportunistic feeders meaning that they will typically choose the easiest and most abundant prey. For example, if you are fishing a pond with a lot of minnows, the best bait will be something that looks like a minnow.



**#2. Location:** Knowing the location of the fish you are after is very important when selecting the right bait. This information will assist you in determining if you need, for instance, a weedless worm to fish heavy vegetation, or a crank bait to bounce off a rocky bottom. Knowing where the fish are during any given season of the year is also very important. A good tip to remember is that bass typically go to shallow waters when it is warm and to deeper waters as it cools.

**#3. Color:** To select the right lure you must have an understanding of how watercolor effects fishing patterns. It is commonly known that in clearer waters, darker and less flashy lures work well. Meanwhile, murky, stained conditions may require that you use a brighter lure. We recommend that you have a variety of bait with you as conditions may change within any given area. This information will assist you in becoming a better angler and help you land that trophy.

## *Did You Get It?*

1. Why is knowing which bait to use so important?

So you can be successful at catching the type of fish you're after.

2. Describe what it means to be an "opportunistic" feeder?

Opportunistic feeders seize upon the moment to eat the easiest and/ or most abundant prey.

3. Where can you find most bass when the water is cold?

In deeper waters.

4. Why is using lures effective?

It is because, if they are good ones, they deceive the bass into thinking they are something that they are not. Using lures on bass is perfectly acceptable, since Scripture teaches us that all food is given to us as a gift from God. But being lured by the devil (or a friend) to sin will eventually mean that you will wind up on the devil's dinner table. You don't want that!



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### **Sample How To's:**

1. **Gold:** Help students identify examples of different types of baits through pictures.
2. **Platinum:** Bring in examples of different types of baits and discuss when you might use them.
3. **Titanium:** Invite an experienced angler to talk about the various types of bait he/ she uses, when are the appropriate times to use them and demonstrate the proper technique for each one.

# LESSON # 3



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# BAIT SELECTION

“And lead us not into temptation,” Matthew 6:13a (NIV)

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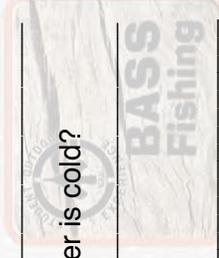
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## DID YOU GET IT?

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3. Where can you find most bass when the water is cold?
4. Why is using lures effective?





## *Tackle*

### *Lesson 4*

*“David fastened on his sword over the tunic...” 1 Samuel 17:39a (NIV)*

### *Life Application*

A great tip to remember when bass fishing is this: “equipment matters.” The largemouth bass is an incredible adversary. Even though these bass are opportunistic feeders, they are anything but easy to catch. In order to stack the odds in your favor it is important to use the right equipment. The same can be said about life. In order for us to stack the odds of success in our favor, we need to use the right “equipment” such as mentors, teachers, parents, and coaches.

*“A coach is someone who can give correction without causing resentment.” –  
John Wooden*

Using the people and resources that we have around us will ensure we have done everything possible to keep from getting tangled up in life.

### *Biblical Application*

1 Samuel 17:37-39

Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you.”

Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

“I cannot go in these,” he said to Saul, “because I am not used to them.” So he took them off. Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.



When you go out to face the challenges of life, and there are many, you have to be equipped. People who are not prepared for what is coming next will be often defeated. Have you ever watched professional tennis? If you watch, you will find that the best tennis players (the winners), after they make a shot, even a good one, they do not stand there and congratulate themselves. They quickly hurry to the place on the court where they think their opponent is going to hit the ball back to. They are prepared for the next challenge, the next shot. In this famous story from the Bible where David defeated the Philistine WWF champion, Goliath, the king (Saul) figured David needed heavy armor and big weapons. But David was a small guy—only a teenager—and there was no way he could stand up in the armor or carry the big sword of the king. So, he said (in so many words), “All I needs is the Lord, and what I know can enable me to win, because I have done this before.” Armed with two things—faith in the Lord and a sling—he went out and killed the big guy. Goliath thought it was a joke. David knew, however, that his artillery would defeat all of Goliath’s infantry if the Lord was with him. Go face your challenges. Use what you know will work for you and don’t just take other people’s advice. And above all things, trust in the Lord with all your heart.

## How To

Going bass fishing is simple; however, becoming a successful bass angler requires specific skills and equipment (tackle). There are many types of tackle that can be used and here are the top three:

1. **Rods:** Selecting the right fishing rod is very important to your success. Most rods can be classified in the following categories:
  - *Light* action rods are typically not used for bass fishing. They are best used with lighter lures and for bank fishing for smaller fish.
  - *Medium* action rods are commonly used to fish crank-baits, spinner-baits and plastic baits depending on the structure and cover.
  - *Heavy* action rods are normally used to fish thick cover (brush, reeds, timber, etc.). Their strong action is helpful for lifting heavy lunkers (big fish) out of thick cover.



2. **Reels:** These descriptions will help you pair the right reel with the right rod.
  - Baitcasting* reels are normally used with heavier line (10lb and above) and bigger lures. To cast, simply press your thumb on the string while releasing the trigger on the spool, then release the pressure on your thumb while casting.
  - Spinning* reels are used to cast very light lures. To cast, simply hold the line with your index finger while flipping the bill open with your opposite hand. When casting, release the tension on the line with your finger.
  - Spincast* reels (aka “push-button” reels) are some of the most commonly used reels on the planet. To use this reel, simply press the push-button and hold until ready to cast. While casting, release the push-button to send your line in the direction of your cast
3. **Tackle Box:** The box/container you use needs to fit the style of fishing you will be doing. They can be categorized into two areas:
  - Hard boxes* come in an array of styles. These boxes also have a large capacity for storage and are known for their durability.
  - Soft containers* are used by many experienced anglers, and they are not only convenient but they will allow you to intermingle multiple storage boxes depending on the species of fish you are trying to catch.

## Did You Get It?

1. What's another word for fishing equipment?  
Tackle. Having the right equipment with you is crucial in catching bass. I am sure back in the days of cane poles and a hook made out of bailing wire as the only equipment that some people caught fish, but if you want the big guys (like Goliath) you have to use the best you can afford. In the challenges you face, a simple solution may be found, but go trusting the Lord. There is a phrase in the books of Samuel used about David: “And the Lord was with him.” That is said more often about David than any other person in the Bible.
2. What action rod is NOT normally used for bass fishing?  
Light action rods.
3. What reel is normally used to cast light lures?  
Spin casting reels.
4. List three resources (equipment) that can help us in life?  
They will help us to make the right decisions in life.



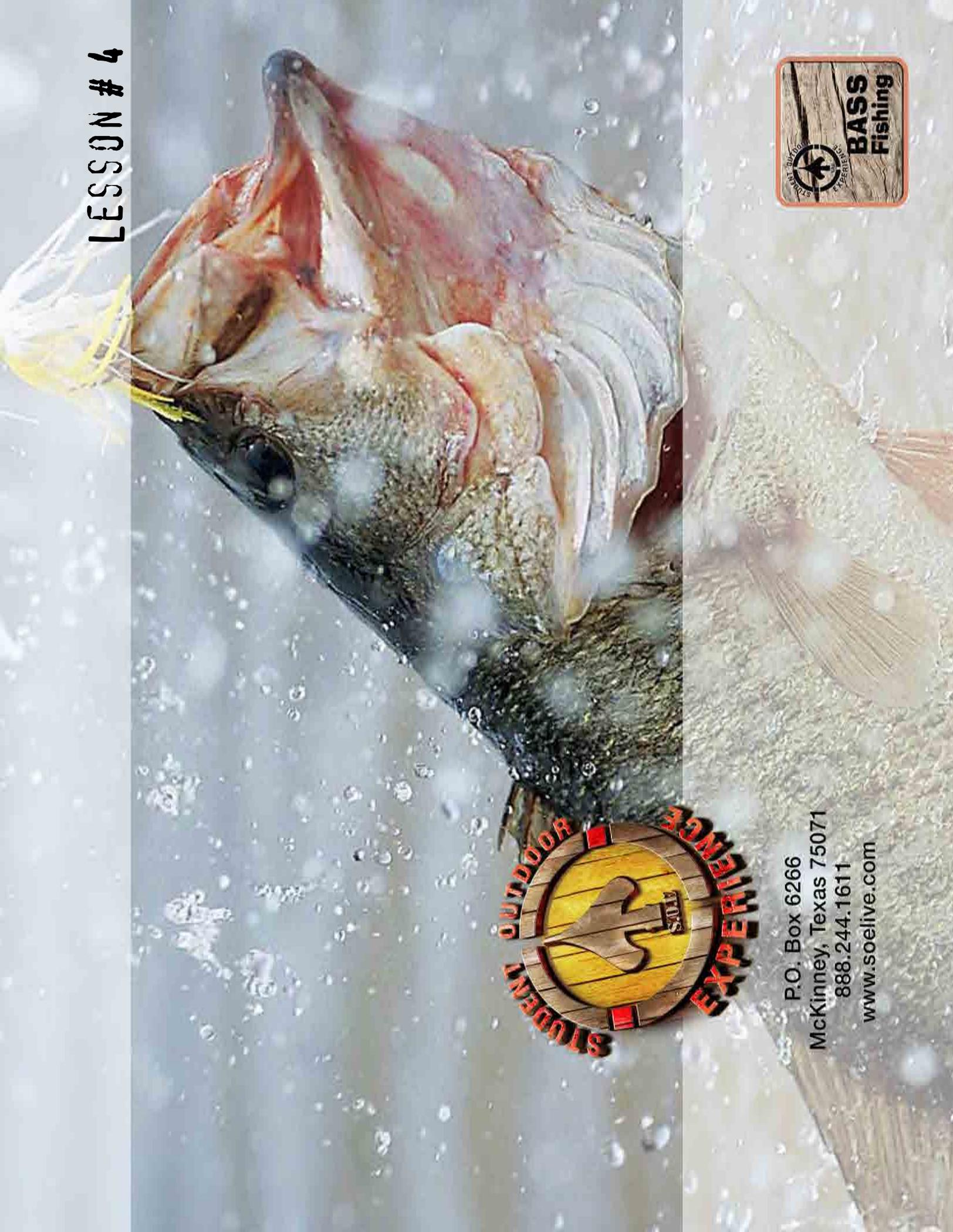
## *Sample How To's*

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### **Sample How To's:**

1. **Gold:** Help students identify examples of different types of tackle through pictures.
2. **Platinum:** Bring in examples of different types of tackle and discuss when and how you might use them.
3. **Titanium:** Take the group outside and have them take turns casting different rod/ reel combinations. Talk about when is the best setting for each one.

# LESSON # 4



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# TACKLE

# LESSON # 4

*“David fastened on his sword over the tunic...”  
1 Samuel 17:39a (NIV)*

## LIFE APPLICATION

A great tip to remember when bass fishing is this: “equipment matters.” The largemouth bass is an incredible adversary. Even though these bass are opportunistic feeders, they are anything but easy to catch. In order to stack the odds in your favor it is important to use the right equipment. The same can be said about life. In order for us to stack the odds of success in our favor, we need to use the right “equipment” such as mentors, teachers, parents, and coaches.

*“A coach is someone who can give correction without causing resentment.” - John Wooden*

Using the people and resources that we have around us will ensure we have done everything possible to keep from getting tangled up in life.

## LEARN IT

Going bass fishing is simple; however, becoming a successful bass angler requires specific skills and equipment (tackle). There are many types of tackle that can be used and here are the top three:

**1. Rods:** Selecting the right fishing rod is very important to your success. Most rods can be classified in the following categories:

- *Light* action rods are typically not used for bass fishing. They are best used with lighter lures and for bank fishing for smaller fish.
- *Medium* action rods are commonly used to fish crank-baits, spinner-baits and plastic baits depending on the structure and cover.
- *Heavy* action rods are normally used to fish thick cover (brush, reeds, timber, etc.). Their strong action is helpful for lifting heavy lunkers (big fish) out of thick cover.

- 2. Reels:** These descriptions will help you pair the right reel with the right rod.
- *Baitcasting* reels are normally used with heavier line (10lb and above) and bigger lures. To cast, simply press your thumb on the string while releasing the trigger on the spool, then release the pressure on your thumb while casting.
  - *Spinning* reels are used to cast very light lures. To cast, simply hold the line with your index finger while flipping the bill open with your opposite hand. When casting, release the tension on the line with your finger.
  - *Spincast* reels (aka “push-button” reels) are some of the most commonly used reels on the planet. To use this reel, simply press the push-button and hold until ready to cast. While casting, release the push-button to send your line in the direction of your cast.

- 3. Tackle Box:** The box/container you use needs to fit the style of fishing you will be doing. They can be categorized into two areas:
- *Hard boxes* come in an array of styles. These boxes also have a large capacity for storage and are known for their durability.
  - *Soft containers* are used by many experienced anglers, and they are not only convenient but they will allow you to intermingle multiple storage boxes depending on the species of fish you are trying to catch.



## DID YOU GET IT?

1. What's another word for fishing equipment?
2. What action rod is NOT normally used for bass fishing?
3. What reel is normally used to cast light lures?
4. List three resources (equipment) that can help us in life?



# *Casting*

## *Lesson 5*

*"They were casting a net into the lake..." Matthew 4:18a (NIV)*

### *Life Application*

Have you ever been fishing and found yourself getting angry because you weren't catching any fish? Sometimes, the fish just aren't biting. Many times, though, it is our casting technique that is the problem.

Let's face it, in life there are all kinds of reasons why we might get angry. Sometimes it's over things in our control...sometimes it's not. Remember, it's how we deal with our anger that is important. A great way to understand this is by realizing that anger is an emotion. Our emotions are not intended to lead us, instead they are there to guide us. It's like the indicator lights in a car. The indicator light might come on, but it doesn't drive the car. The indicators simply help guide and communicate to others the direction we are going.

Try this, the next time you become angry at a situation or a person: take a deep breath and get control of your emotion. Don't allow the emotion to lead you; let it simply help guide you toward a solution.

### *Biblical Application*

Matthew 4:18-20

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him.



This little story takes place at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Here is where he begins to call his followers, his disciples, to come and learn from him. Strolling along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he spots two brothers fishing. Now, they were not using Zebco reels and Shakespeare fishing rods. These were commercial fishermen, hoping to get enough of a haul so that they could sell it at the market and provide for their families. They were using nets. Jesus, genius teacher that he was, used the immediate context of the day and said, "Come with me and I will send you to fish for people." They followed him, and over the course of the rest of their lives that is just what they did.

They brought people into the gospel nets, people believed in Jesus, and were saved. One of the great examples of this is found in the Book of Acts, chapter 2, where Peter preached a powerful message and 3,000 people believed in Jesus and were baptized. Bass fishing ought to serve as a reminder to us that we are also fishing for people. And like the bass fisherman, we "cast" our lines. How do we do that? There are several important things to keep in mind. One way to cast your line is just by sharing your testimony with your friends about how Jesus saved you. Another way is by listening to your friends who do not know Jesus share the story of their lives, and then just ask them if you can pray for them. Sometimes being a friend, a "Christian friend" is the best thing you can do, as long as you are also finding ways to share your faith with others. You can ask your pastor or student pastor to give you advice on how to witness better.

## *How To*

In bass fishing, the ability to cast accurately is a must. While the idea of placing your bait exactly in the right place can be daunting, with a bit of practice you will have it mastered in no time.

Practicing how you cast when off the water will give you a tremendous advantage on the water. We have listed the top three techniques that are commonly used among anglers. (Keep in mind that your casting skills are in the wrist, not in your arm.)

### **Types of Casts:**

**Overhand Cast:** Imagine that you are standing in front of a clock (on your left side), and your target is toward the 3 o'clock position. Face the target squarely. Keep your elbow next to your ribs as you raise the rod straight up. Move it sharply back to the 10 o'clock position, and then use your wrist to whip it forward, releasing the lure at about 11 o'clock. Follow through, using rod movement to control the cast.



**Sidearm Cast:** Imagine that you are standing on a clock face and your target is toward the 3 o'clock position. Face the target squarely, holding the rod parallel to the water. If you're right-handed, move the rod at waist level sharply to the 7 o'clock position, then use your wrist to whip it forward, releasing the lure at about 6 o'clock. Follow through, using rod movement to control the cast.

**Underhand Cast:** Hold the rod at waist level, parallel to the water and at a 45-degree angle from the target. Lower the lure 6 to 8 inches from the rod tip. In one quick, smooth motion, "draw" a half-circle with the rod tip, releasing the lure as the rod reaches the bottom to the circle. Use only your wrist and keep the tip of your rod pointed down. Follow through, raising the rod tip to give extra distance and lure control.

## *Did You Get It?*

1. What type of practice should be used while learning how to cast?

Off water casting.

2. What part of your arm is most important while casting?

The wrist.

3. How do you get more distance and lure control while underhand casting?

By controlling your follow through.

4. Why is the cast so important?

Often with bass, the cast is the most crucial skill you can have, the difference between a puny fish and a nice big "keeper." Practicing is, therefore, crucial. As we fish for people, that is, as we share our faith so that the Lord can catch those who are his, we also need to "cast" in the right way. Be caring. Be sensitive. Be honest. Be direct. Share your faith with someone this week.



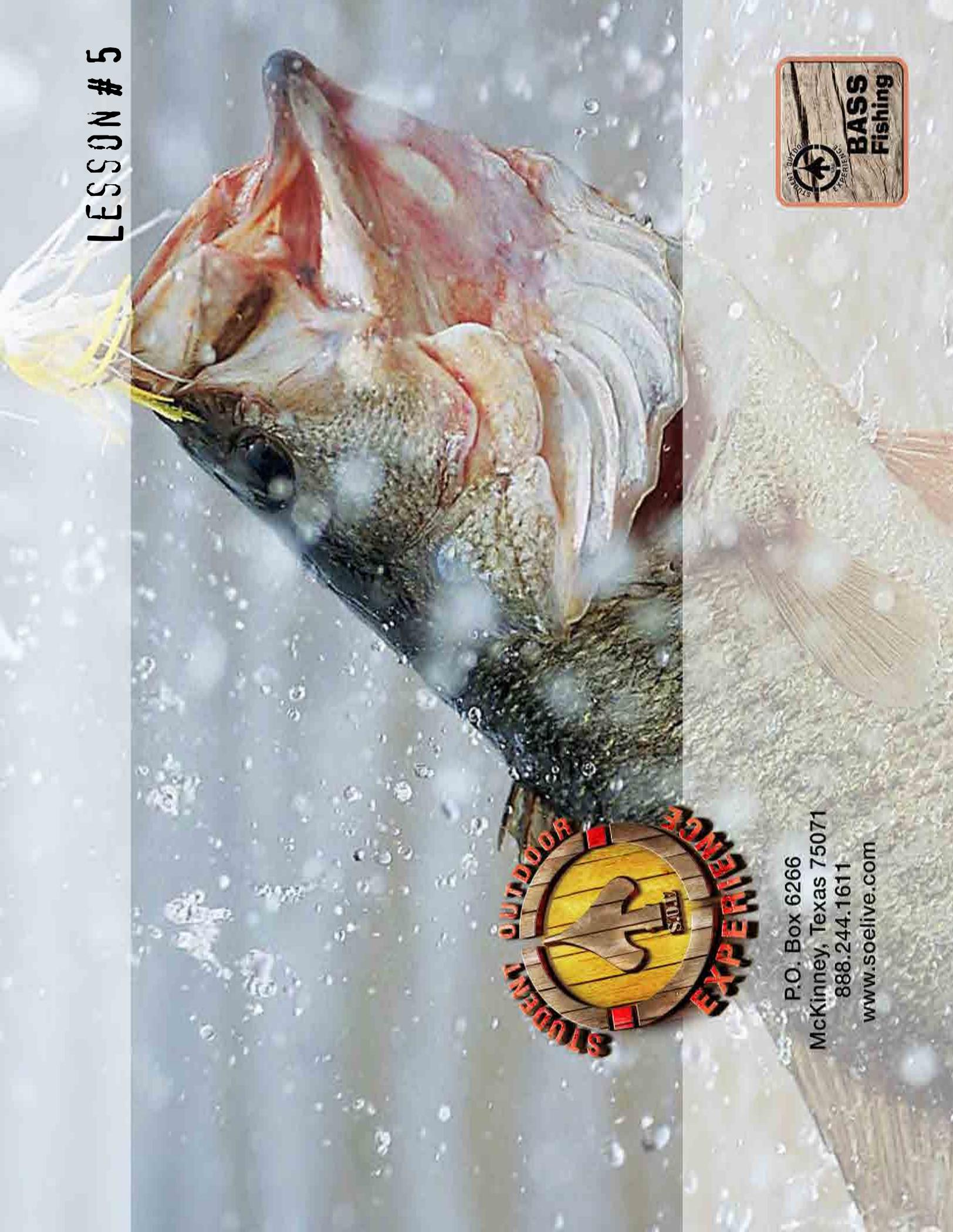
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### **Sample How To's:**

1. **Gold:** Help students identify examples of different types of casting through pictures and/or video
2. **Platinum:** Bring in examples of different rods and reels to demonstrate various casting techniques
3. **Titanium:** Take the group outside and have them take turns casting different rod/reel combinations using the techniques discussed above. Talk about the appropriate setting for each example.

# LESSON # 5



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# CASTING

# LESSON # 5

*“They were casting a net into the lake...”  
Matthew 4:18b (NIV)*

## LIFE APPLICATION

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Let's face it, in life there are all kinds of reasons why we might get angry. Sometimes it's over things in our control...sometimes it's not. Remember, it's how we deal with our anger that is important. A great way to understand this is by realizing that anger is an emotion. Our emotions are not intended to lead us, instead they are there to guide us. It's like the indicator lights in a car. The indicator light might come on, but it doesn't drive the car. The indicators simply help guide and communicate to others the direction we are going. Try this, the next time you become angry at a situation or a person; take a deep breath and get control of your emotion. Don't allow the emotion to lead you: let it simply help guide you toward a solution.

## LEARN IT!

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Practicing how you cast when off the water will give you a tremendous advantage on the water. We have listed the top three techniques that are commonly used among anglers. (Keep in mind that your casting skills are in the wrist, not in your arm.)

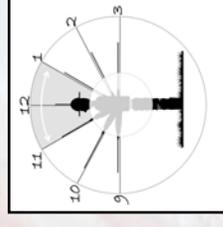
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## DID YOU GET IT?

1. What type of practice should be used while learning how to cast?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What part of your arm is most important while casting?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How do you get more distance and lure control while underhand casting?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why is the cast so important?  
\_\_\_\_\_





# Seasons

## Lesson 6

*“Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season;”  
2 Timothy 4:2a (NIV)*

### *Life Application*

Fishing is considered by many to be the greatest sport in America with over 60 million anglers in the U.S. alone! However, fishing isn't necessarily the same thing as catching, and it is much more common to hear about the “big one” that got away instead of the “big one” that got caught. But hey, there's always next season right?

*“I've got big shoes to fill. This is my chance to do something.  
I have to seize the moment.” - Andrew Jackson*

Knowing the season and how to take advantage of it not only applies to fishing, but to life as well. We have to be intentional about seizing every opportunity we have now and in the seasons to come!

### *Biblical Application*

2 Timothy 4:2

Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

Thomas More was an English nobleman who lived in the 1500's and was an advisor to King Henry VIII. He is probably best known for the fact that when King Henry broke the English church away from the Catholic Church, More opposed him publicly and was then executed in 1535. But really, he was a very accomplished man. Deeply spiritual, he considered becoming a monk when he was young, but changed his mind and became a very important politician. He also wrote a best-selling book, Utopia, which is still in print today. One of his friends wrote this about him in 1520: “More is a man of an angel's wit and singular learning. I know not his fellow. For where is the man of that gentleness,



lowliness and affability? And, as time requireth, a man of marvelous mirth and pastimes, and sometime of as sad gravity. A man for all seasons.” We ought to be like that as best as we can: A person for all seasons. If we are honest, most of us like some seasons better than others. Some (skiers) like winter. Fishermen often prefer the Spring, and so on. In our spiritual life, we ought to be consistent throughout the year and across the years. Paul wrote that preaching should be done “in season and out of season.” By that he meant when it is convenient and when it is inconvenient. Sometimes it seems inconvenient to serve the Lord because we have other priorities or because we are with people who are not Christians. Let’s be people for all seasons.

## *How To*

Knowledge of conditions and seasons can be a vital tool in your fishing toolbox. This information will not only aid you in knowing when to fish, but also where and how. Bass fishing seasons are typically broken down into four simple categories and they are listed below along with some practical techniques.

### **SEASONS:**

**Spring Season:** Spring bass fishing is typically related to spawning season. During this season you can catch big females on their nest. You may even have to finesse those bigger fish into biting, but it will be well worth it. A plastic salamander, spinnerbait, or red rattle trap should do the trick. Remember to release all bass back to their waters during this season so they can continue to spawn.

**Summer Season:** This season often frustrates a lot of anglers. Two tips to remember are to fish structure and to fish deep. Knowing your structure will require a little bit of homework but is sure to pay off. As a rule of thumb: fish deep and stay there! Crankbaits and jerkbaits are a winner here. On summer evenings, fishing with plastic frogs is hard to beat!

**Fall Season:** The fall season is often as successful as the spring season. During this season the water temps are cooling and signaling that winter months are ahead. Bass are known to school-up more during this season and become more willing to strike at about anything. Having a clear understanding of water temps, feeding patterns and structure will help tremendously during this season. Crankbaits and anything that resembles a minnow should work well in the fall.



**Winter Season:** This season definitely brings challenges and rewards. This is a season when most anglers are retreating to warmth and leaving open many opportunities to land a giant. During this season rely on your understanding of the species, the bait you should use, and how to present the bait. Bass tend to be lethargic during the winter months to save their energy. However, they still have to eat. Try jigging spoons or Carolina rigs. The key is doing your homework and showing patience.

## *Did You Get It?*

Bass fishing is usually best in the Spring and early Summer, but in some northern lakes, where it gets really cold in the Winter, people fish for bass even through the ice. Even as you can fish for bass any time of the year, so we ought to be disciples of Jesus in all seasons and in all places. Lincoln Chafee, governor of Rhode Island, once said, "Trust is built on consistency." He was right. If McDonald's makes your favorite burger differently every time you order it, you will stop trusting them.

1. Where is a key location to find bass in the spring?

Sandy shallows where females and males are spawning.

2. Describe the steps to summer bass fishing?

Fish structure and fish deep.

3. What type of baits would someone use during the winter season?

Jigging spoons and Carolina rigs work well in the winter.

4. How can one prepare for the season ahead in their life?

We need to do our best to be intentional and seize every opportunity we have.



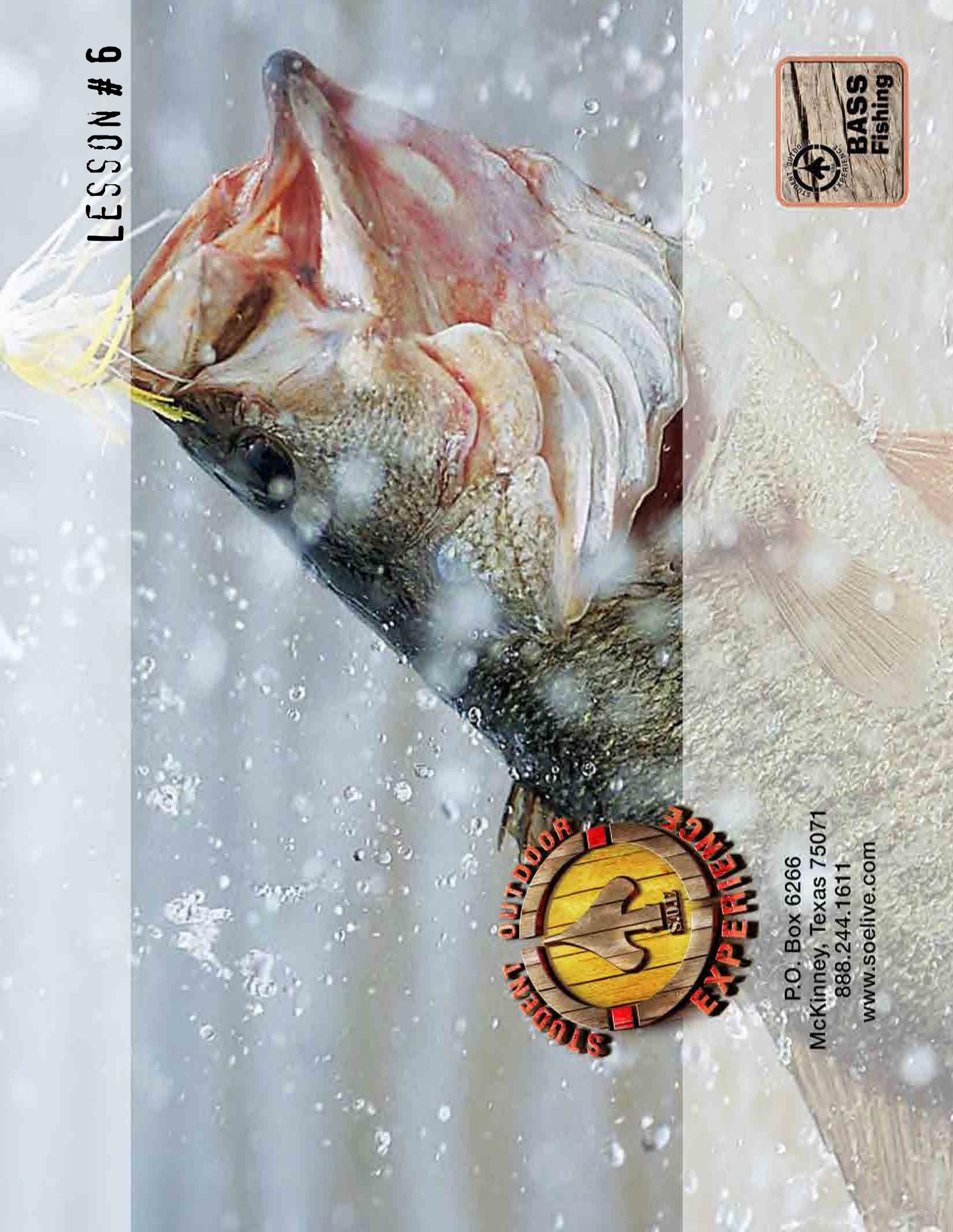
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### **Sample How To's:**

1. **Gold:** Help students identify examples of different seasonal techniques and tactics through pictures and/or video.
2. **Platinum:** Bring in examples of rod/reel setups for different seasonal situations (ex. jigging set up for winter fishing, finesse set up for spring fishing, etc.)
3. **Titanium:** Invite a seasoned angler to talk about seasonal fishing and the techniques/tactics he/she prefers for each season.

# LESSON # 6



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# SEASONS

# LESSON # 6

*“Preach the word: be prepared in season and out of season;” 2 Timothy 4:2a (NIV)*

## Life Application

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## LEARN IT!

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## DID YOU GET IT?

1. Where is a key location to find bass in the spring?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Describe the steps to summer bass fishing?  
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\_\_\_\_\_
4. How can one prepare for the season ahead in their life?  
\_\_\_\_\_





# Bank Fishing

## Lesson 7

*“The LORD is my rock,” Psalm 18:2a (NIV)*

### *Life Application*

Fishing from the bank can be some of the best and most enjoyable bass fishing you will ever experience. This style of fishing allows you to fish in ponds, rivers, lakes, etc. all from the safety and accessibility of the shore.

One of the most important things to remember when fishing from the bank is to make sure your feet are firmly planted. There is nothing worse than making a perfect cast from the bank, only to lose your footing and find yourself (and your gear) in the water!

*“Those who stand for nothing fall for anything.” - Alexander Hamilton*

The same can be said about life. To succeed in life, decisions and actions must be grounded, firmly planted on a strong foundation of values and positive influences. No matter where life leads, make sure to have proper footing to succeed!

### *Biblical Application*

Psalm 18:2

The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;  
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,

Reggae singer Peter Tosh has a song called “Stand Firm.” Here are the lyrics to the chorus:

Live clean, let your works be seen,  
Stand firm, or you gonna feed worm.  
Live clean, let your works be seen, my brothers,  
Stand firm, or you gonna feed worm.

Now, you just have to use your imagination to hear those words the way a Jamaican would be singing them! Standing your ground on what you believe and how you should live is not always easy. Somebody is going to try to shake you up, knock you down, or make you lose your balance in your spiritual life. There will be people among friends,



acquaintances, or even in your family that do not like what you stand for. They may not like Jesus, or your moral beliefs, or the fact that you are trying to make something good for your life. Cassie Bernall was a teenager at Columbine High School in Colorado who was asked by one of the killers who shot many students that day if she believed in God. She replied, "Yes," and she was killed. Few of us will have to face such a moment, but we would all pray that we would give the right answer if we were. We can stand because God is our Rock! There are many passages of Scripture that teach this, but this is one of the best. David likely wrote this Psalm when he was fleeing from King Saul, who was trying to kill him. You can imagine him sitting by the fireside in the wilderness one night, knowing that perhaps the very next day Saul would catch up to him, staring at a mountain in the distance. Perhaps he was praying to God for safety, and seeing the craggy rock before him, the Spirit inspired him to write this psalm of faith and hope. Hope in God!

## *How To*

Fishing from a boat is exciting; however, there are many obstacles that come into play when using a boat. The first is cost...not only the cost of the boat, but the cost of upkeep. It can be very difficult to get a boat into hard to reach areas. That's why understanding proper bank fishing techniques are important. There are a lot of tips to cover...here are the top three:

**Know Your Water:** As stated in previous lessons, it is crucial to understand the water being fished. Identify the structure and cover, and understand the species of fish you are after. We recommend that you walk the bank prior to fishing to help plan your attack and help you identify any obstacles that may become a safety hazard.

**Have the Right Equipment:** Having the right equipment will make your trip more enjoyable and assist you in landing more fish. For example, most lakes and ponds have a lot of cover. Making sure you have a strong rod, reel, and line will help to lift more fish out of these areas. Identify the season, water color and feeding pattern to ensure using the correct lure. This will go a long way in catching more fish.

**Travel Light:** When fishing from the bank, it is a good idea to travel light. Traveling light forces you to select the proper lures and equipment ahead of time. This allows you to become mobile and gives flexibility to move around the water more freely, thus providing greater opportunities to land fish.



## *Did You Get It?*

1. Where is some of the best fishing done?

From the bank. If you are fishing for bass from the bank, you must have a firm place to stand. This is because casting out your line involves several motions all at once that can cause you to lose your footing. You have to look behind, raise your rod behind you, and then spin around and cast it in front of you. Anyone who has fished for bass or any other fish has experienced slipping and even falling, all of which can have bad results. In the game of life we also must have firm footing, and fortunately God promises to be our firm foundation, our rock.

2. List at least two bank fishing tips:

Know the water, have the right equipment, travel light.

3. Why is it important to travel light?

Traveling light allows for greater mobility around the water.

4. Why is a solid foundation so important when it comes to life?

A solid foundation allows you to make great decisions based on grounded values.



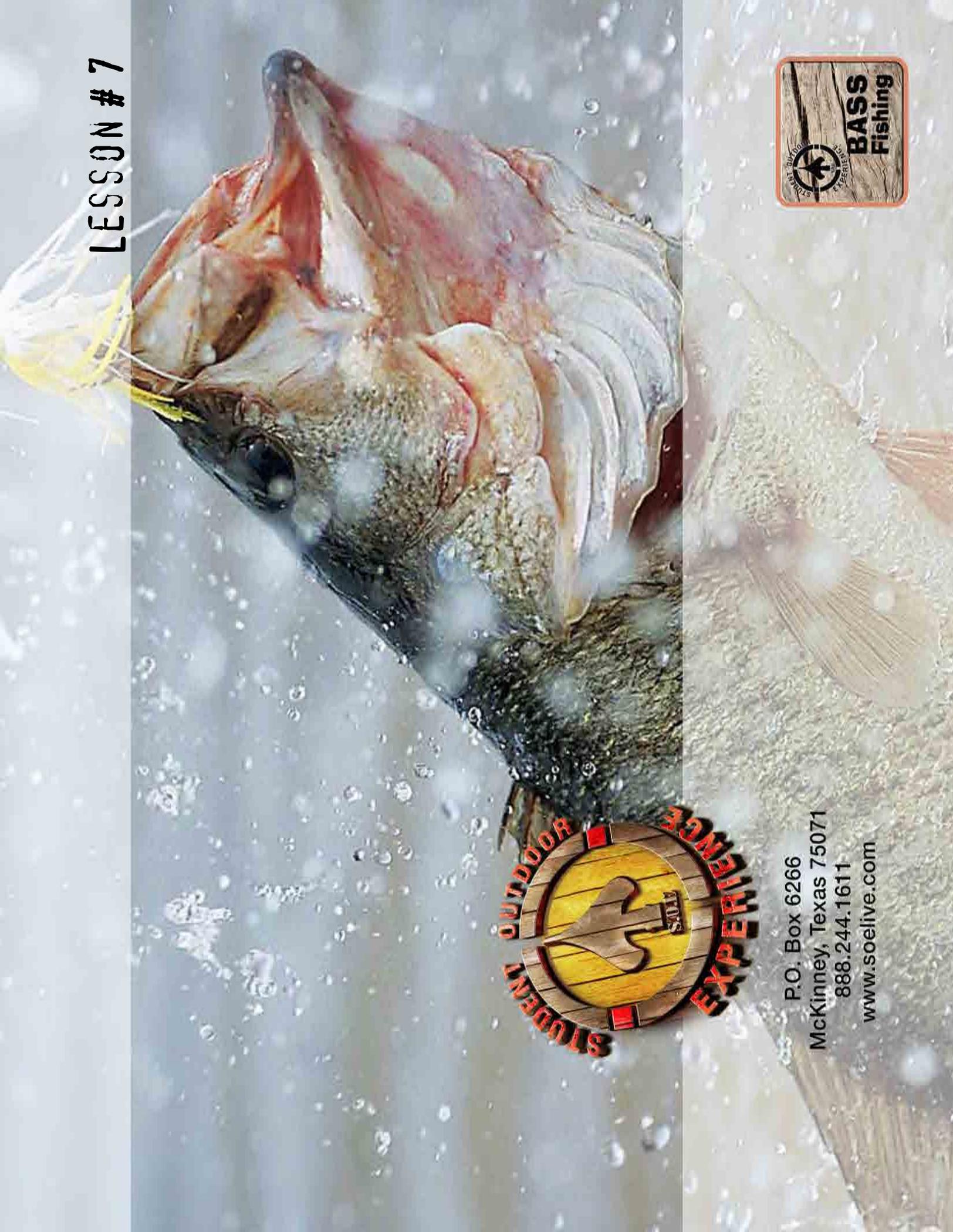
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### **Sample How To's:**

1. **Gold:** Bring in examples of what you might take out for a day of bank fishing. Talk about techniques and tactics you might employ.
2. **Platinum:** Do a pros/cons analysis of fishing from a boat vs. fishing from the bank. Write your answers on a white board.
3. **Titanium:** Take the group out for some bank fishing. Discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with fishing from the bank.

# LESSON # 7



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# BANK FISHING

“The Lord is my rock...” Psalm 18:2a (NIV)

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The same can be said about life. To succeed in life, decisions and actions must be grounded, firmly planted on a strong foundation of values and positive influences. No matter where life leads, make sure to have proper footing to succeed!

## LEARN IT!

Fishing from a boat is exciting; however, there are many obstacles that come into play when using a boat. The first is cost...not only the cost of the boat, but the cost of upkeep. It can be very difficult to get a boat into hard to reach areas. That's why understanding proper bank fishing techniques are important. There are a lot of tips to cover...here are the top three:

**Know Your Water:** As stated in previous lessons, it is crucial to understand the water being fished. Identify the structure and cover, and understand the species of fish you are after. We recommend that you walk the bank prior to fishing to help plan your attack and help you identify any obstacles that may become a safety hazard.

# LESSON # 7

**Have the Right Equipment:** Having the right equipment will make your trip more enjoyable and assist you in landing more fish. For example, most lakes and ponds have a lot of cover. Making sure you have a strong rod, reel, and line will help to lift more fish out of these areas.



Identify the season, water color and feeding pattern to ensure using the correct lure. This will go a long way in catching more fish.

**Travel Light:** When fishing from the bank, it is a good idea to travel light. Traveling light forces you to select the proper lures and equipment ahead of time. This allows you to become mobile and gives flexibility to move around the water more freely, thus providing greater opportunities to land fish.

## DID YOU GET IT?

1. Where is some of the best fishing done?
2. List at least two bank fishing tips.
3. Why is it important to travel light?
4. Why is a solid foundation so important when it comes to life?





# Boat Fishing

## Lesson 8

*“Jesus stood and said in a loud voice” John 7:37b (NIV)*

### *Life Application*

Fishing from a boat can be exhilarating. I love waking up early in the morning to head to the lake and board a high-speed bass boat...not only for the great fishing advantage, but for the high-speed drive across the lake! There is nothing like running 40mph across a lake at first light to wake you up in the morning!

*“Life is what happens while you’re busy planning” - John Lennon*

So many times I have found myself in such a hurry to get somewhere that I miss the beauty of what is around me. It is important that we take advantage of the opportunities we have around us and that we do not let life “speed” by us. Make sure you are enjoying the ride and soak up all the beauty around you every chance you get.

### *Biblical Application*

John 7:37-39

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

This lesson is about fishing for bass from a boat, which has certain advantages over bank fishing. Some people are born with certain advantages. Andre “The Giant” Rousimoff was a French professional wrestler and actor. He was a one-time WWF champion; his best-known acting role was as Fezzik in *The Princess Bride*. It became clear quickly that he was going to be a big man when, at age 12, he was already 6’3” tall and weighed 240 pounds. As a grown man he was 7’4” and weighed 500 pounds. That gives you an advantage if you are planning to be a professional wrestler! In John 7,



Jesus tells his audience that a time is coming when those who believe will receive the Holy Spirit. Then John adds the note that up to that time they had not received the Spirit because Jesus had not yet been glorified, that is, he had not yet died and risen from the grave. Later, in Acts 2, the Spirit was poured out on all of those who believed in Jesus as Savior. That applies to us as well. If you have trusted in Christ, God is not merely “up there,” that is, in heaven. God also lives in you, literally, through the Holy Spirit, who along with Jesus and the Father, is God. He brings to you peace in times of trouble, power for serving the Lord, encouragement when you are down. One scholar has called him “the go-between God,” since he communicates into our lives everything the Father planned for us and everything Jesus accomplished for us. The Lord himself lives in you through the Spirit, so that “rivers of water can flow” within you and from you to quench your spiritual thirst and the spiritual thirst of those around you.

## *How To*

Fishing from a boat can give a real advantage. Regardless of its size or how many gadgets it has, being on the water in a boat definitely gives you an edge when it comes to bass fishing. Many times there are spots and holes that cannot be accessed by the shore, all of which are within an easy cast from a boat. Of course, the proper use of the boat will allow you to have greater success and we’ve identified four key areas that will help you be a better fisherman:

**Safety First:** As with any sport, when it comes to boating, safety comes first. This applies to you and everyone that will be in the boat. The proper use of a certified emergency floatation device is key. You have one for every individual in the boat and they must understand the rules regarding use before you set out onto the water. Be aware of the rules pertaining to the area being fished as well as loading and unloading procedures. One final safety procedure is to always make sure someone knows where you are going and what time you plan to return.

**Unloading and Loading:** As stated in earlier lessons, make sure to have a game plan all worked out ahead of time. Know the planned location to fish and the loading area that will be used. Make sure all equipment is ready and placed securely in the boat prior to launch. Finally, all certified emergency safety devices should be placed properly in the boat and take a moment to ensure that the plug is secure. Carefully unload the boat being fully aware of the surroundings. After the boat is in the water, pull slowly out of the loading area and park your vehicle in a location that will not prohibit other anglers from launching.



**Equipment Use:** Understanding your equipment and its use is crucial when boat fishing. Make sure you have checked the motor, batteries, fish finder, etc. Take time to understand how to use each piece of equipment appropriately including the trolling motor and the fish finder. Take time before getting to the water to know how to use each piece correctly and that it is in good working order.

## *Did You Get It?*

1. What is the first step when it comes to boat fishing?

Ensuring that you are taking the proper safety precautions.

2. List one key device that should always be used while in a boat.

At least one certified floatation device per person.

3. Is understanding your equipment crucial? Why?

Yes, so you can maximize your safe usage of a boat when fishing. Fishing from a boat gives you advantages over bank fishing most of the time. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we have an advantage over Old Testament saints and over all people in this world who are members of religions that are not the Christian faith. We have God himself living in our very lives.

4. Why is it important to slow down in life?

You are able to enjoy the beauty and opportunities around you.



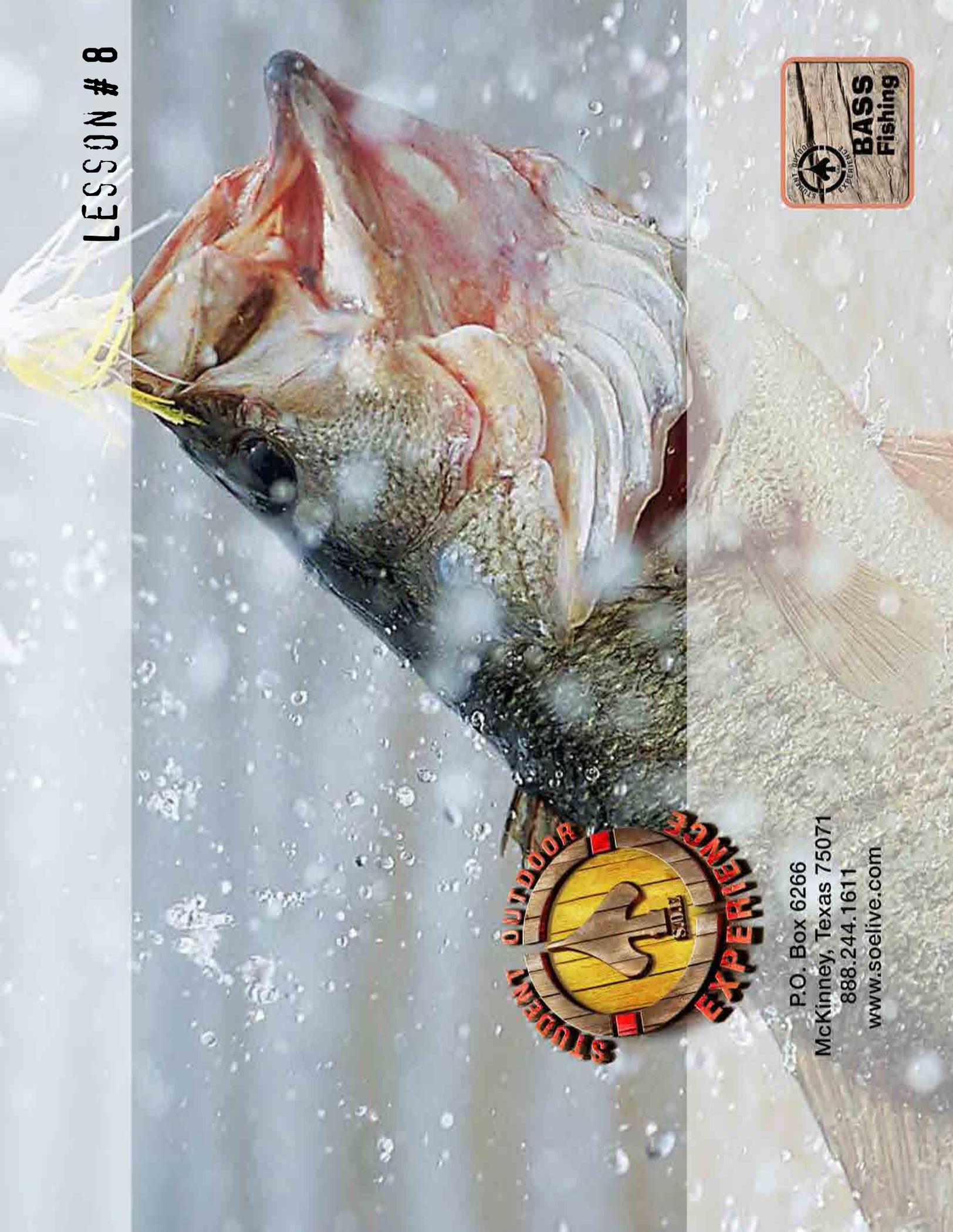
## *Sample How To's*

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### **Sample How To's:**

1. **Gold:** Discuss proper boat usage and equipment using pictures.
2. **Platinum:** Bring in examples of one or more of the following: life preserver (different types), fish finder, trolling motor, etc. Discuss usage.
3. **Titanium:** Take the group out on the water and demonstrate how the different pieces of boat equipment work.

# LESSON # 8



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# BOAT FISHING

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## LIFE APPLICATION

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# LESSON # 8

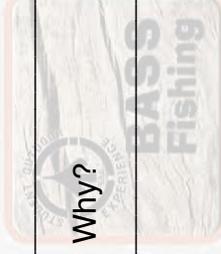
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## DID YOU GET IT?

1. What is the first step when it comes to boat fishing?
2. List one key device that should always be used while in a boat.
3. Is understanding your equipment crucial? Why?
4. Why is it important to slow down in life?





## *Preparing your catch*

### *Lesson 9*

*"I am afraid of the lord my king," Daniel 1:10a (NIV)*

### *Life Application*

One of the prizes for any angler is the opportunity to clean, prepare, and enjoy eating your catch. The reality is it takes a certain amount of touch to fillet a fish. By expending a little more effort at the cleaning stage you will have fewer bones to contend with while eating. Preparing a fish correctly is very important; it not only shows respect for your catch but also ensures you're able to enjoy your meal to the fullest.

*"Chance happens to the prepared mind"*  
– John Stammer

How would you rate your attitude when it comes to preparation? Many times we want to hurry to life's next big moment without giving thought to our preparation along the way. Make sure to take your education, training and mentorships seriously during this critical season of life. These seasons will set you up to experience great success now and in the future.

### *Biblical Application*

Daniel 1:8-16

But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you."

Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.



At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

Let's get right into this passage. Here is the scene: Daniel and many other Hebrew teenagers have been carried off to Babylon from their homeland in Israel. Israel lost a war with the Babylonians and this was part of the consequences. Hebrew (or Jewish) people had very specific food laws given to them by God as part of the way for them to preserve their faith in purity. But the Babylonian captors wanted them to eat Babylonian food. Most of the young men did what they were told, but Daniel and his three friends wished to remain true to their faith, so they refused. And, after a testing period, it proved that they were correct—they were as healthy and bright as all the other young men. Of course, Daniel had no way of knowing what the future held for him, but he wished to prepare for whatever it was by being faithful to his faith and to God. If you read the rest of the book, you will find that these men were able to do heroic things later in life, things they would not have been able to do if they had not prepared themselves for them by being faithful. Benjamin Franklin once said, "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail." In one sense we are always in preparation mode, because there is always something else around the corner that we have to prepare for. If that is true, the best time to start is now.

## *How To*

Cleaning and preparing fish can be intimidating if you do not know the proper tips and techniques. Safety and supervision is a key step. While there are many ways to prepare fish, listed below are the most common steps. We recommend that you try various ways of cooking fish to find that perfect recipe.

### **Step 1**

We recommend that you wear a cleaning glove, if available. Make sure to use the knife in a proper and safe way. The blade should be sharp and clean to avoid damaging or contaminating the meat.

### **Step 2**

Prep the area. It should be clean with a good cutting board along with some paper towels and a container to put the fish into once it has been cleaned.

### **Step 3**

Once the fish has been thoroughly rinsed, make the initial cut behind the gills, from one side to the other. All you are doing here is cutting down to the center bones, not all the way through.



#### **Step 4**

Hold the fish by the tail. With the knife blade pointing away from you and across the body of the fish, begin to cut toward the head. Use the backbone to guide your knife. To remove the skin, begin by holding the fillet by the tail ski- side-down.

#### **Step 5**

Hold the knife crosswise across the fillet and insert the knife between the skin and the flesh. (Don't worry if you don't get this perfect at first.) While holding the skin, cut in the direction of where the head used to be. To finish filleting your fish, simply repeat these steps for the other side of the fish. Prep them for cooking and serving.

### *Did You Get It?*

1. What key tip is imperative when using a knife to clean fish?

That the blade is sharp and clean.

2. Where should your initial cut begin?

Behind the gills. After you catch the bass, you have to prepare it for what is one of the best parts of fishing—eating the catch. It takes training and patience to prepare the catch correctly. No one here knows everything that lies ahead in your life. But it is best to prepare when you are young—right now. Prepare like Daniel and his friends, by being faithful to the Lord.

3. In which direction should you point your knife while filleting?

Always pointed away from you and across the body of the fish.

4. Why is it important to prepare for life's obstacles and opportunities?

It will set you up to experience great success now and in the future.



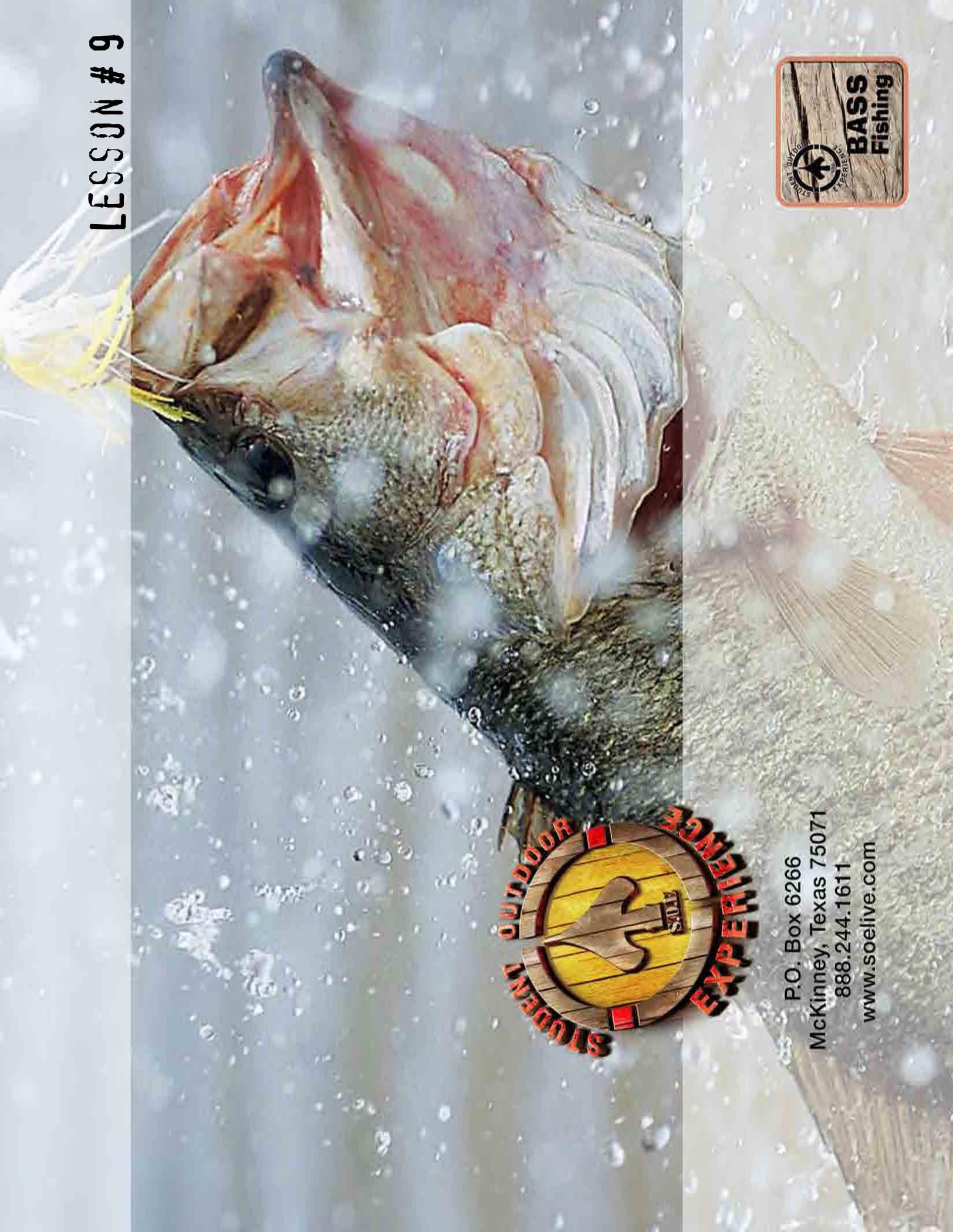
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### **Sample How To's:**

1. **Gold:** Discuss proper preparation of caught fish using pictures.
2. **Platinum:** Demonstrate how to properly fillet a fish for your group.
3. **Titanium:** Using proper safety precautions, bring in fish for your students to practice cleaning using the technique described above.

# LESSON # 9



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# PREPARING YOUR CATCH

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## LIFE APPLICATION

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# LESSON # 9



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## DID YOU GET IT?

1. What key tip is imperative when using a knife to clean fish?
2. Where should you initial cut begin at?
3. In which direction should you point your knife while filleting?
4. Why is it important to prepare for life's obstacles and opportunities?





# Conservation

## Lesson 10

*“I brought you into a fertile land...” Jeremiah 2:7a (NIV)*

### *Life Application*

There’s nothing like fishing. Whether it’s plopping a lure into a quiet pond or the surge of excitement that comes when a bass explodes on a top water lure, the experience of fishing is something that anglers, young and old, dream about. It is a dream that can be passed from generation to generation through conservation.

*“Dedication without preservation is simply a waste of time.”  
—John Stamper*

You can be a dedicated angler but if you are not focused on preservation you will find yourself at the bank simply getting your line wet. The same can be said about life. To be successful in life we must be dedicated to and maintain a sense of *preservation...*of working and preparing with the future in mind. Plan now to preserve your life and dedicate yourself to the things you love and enjoy.

### *Biblical Application*

Jeremiah 2:7

I brought you into a fertile land  
to eat its fruit and rich produce.  
But you came and defiled my land  
and made my inheritance detestable.

You hear a lot about conservation and the environment these days. Some of it is overplayed, and I don’t think that we are in danger of destroying God’s creation by driving SUV’s or using Styrofoam cups. Yet, it is still important to care for God’s world. He made it, and he told Adam in Genesis 2 to subdue the earth and to take care of it. Of course, at that time Adam had not yet sinned, so “subduing and caring” for the planet was not as difficult as it would later become. Adam, after all, had only a little plot. When Jeremiah came along as a prophet thousands of years later, the Israelites had



been in their homeland for over 700 years. Among other things he accused the sinful nation of taking this “fertile land” that God had given them and making it “detestable.” Now he did not mean quite the same thing that we mean when we talk about the environment. He was talking about their idolatry and sin, but there was plenty of the “not taking care of creation” involved in that as well. They exploited the land for their selfish purposes, and did not observe the Sabbath Year command, which was that every seven years they were not to plant crops, but to allow the land to “rest.” Without necessarily “going green,” it is up to us to do the same. One motto in any venture is: pack it in, pack it out. Take care of your own space and help others take care of theirs. Conserve what God has given you. Be a good steward of all those things the Lord has blessed you with. When God gave us this world, he gave us an amazing treasure filled with all the good things thousands of generations would ever require to provide for their earthly needs and wants. Let’s not take a “fertile land” and make it detestable,” even if that means something simple like cleaning our rooms and washing our cars.

## *How To*

The largemouth bass has a very large range. They have made their way throughout the U.S., up to Canada, and throughout the world. Even though they are plentiful, it is up to each angler to provide them with a vibrant habitat and secure future. This is what is referred to as “conservation.” There are some simple steps we can follow to ensure conserving the joy of long-term bass fishing. These include:

**Habitat:** In order to preserve the fish in your area, try creating environments that have great structure and cover. These include areas that have blow-over’s, channels, weed-edges and even rolling banks. All of these help create great habitat for bass to live.

**Reproduction:** It is one thing to have great habitat for adult fish, but fish must continue to reproduce to have a great fishery. This is accomplished by creating a healthy culture in which they can lay and hatch their eggs. This includes shallow nesting areas and protection from anglers while they are on the nest. The male will make the nest and allow the female to lay 2,000 to 20,000 eggs.

**Removal:** One should always avoid handling fish excessively. However, when holding them, make sure to hold them firmly by the lower jaw and gently remove the hook. We would recommend that every angler have a pair of needle nose pliers. If a fish has swallowed the hook, simply cut the line. This will prevent hurting or possibly killing the fish.



**Live Well:** The proper use of a live well is critical in any successful release program. Do not allow water to drain from the live well when moving the boat. Live wells should be aerated and have smooth inside walls. It is best to keep the water in the live well fresh and as close to the actual lake temperature as possible.

In closing, we recommend that you practice great ethical angling and release as many fish as possible. This will allow them to grow, and it will give others the chance to enjoy the majestic experience of landing a large mouth bass.

## *Did You Get It?*

1. Why is habitat important?

Providing safe and productive habitat is crucial for the long-term viability of bass fishing. Bass fishermen know that caring for the habitat and treating the fish with respect are part of the whole process of fishing. This is not a matter of taking what you want and leaving a mess for the next guy. The same thing is true in every part of life. God gives us the dual responsibility of “subduing and caring.” That applies to fish, to work, to recreation, to driving a vehicle.

2. What are some steps we can take to protect bass on the nest?

Not targeting bass while they are on the nest.

3. What does good conservation produce?

Viable and sustainable habitats that will be enjoyed for generations.

4. How does preservation and dedication impact our lives?

It prepares us for our future and to have the opportunity to do the things we love and enjoy.



## *Sample How To's*

The How To section should be fun and exciting for each student. Make sure that you have all the necessary elements available to insure you are properly teaching this section. Make sure you reiterate SAFETY and the importance it has in our lives and in our sport. Having them participate will have a significant impact on their overall experience of your group:

### **Sample How To's:**

1. **Gold:** Discuss proper preparation of conservation using pictures and/or video.
2. **Platinum:** Invite a member of a local conservation group (e.g. Fish & Wildlife agency, B.A.S.S., etc.) to come and talk about the importance of conservation to your students.
3. **Titanium:** Take on a conservation project as a group that will improve bass habitat for a local pond or lake.



## *The Big Love*

### *Salvation Lesson*

*<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life - John 3:16*

## *Life Application*

Sometimes something very small makes all the difference in the world for something very big. Think about the rudder of a ship or a boat. In comparison to the size of the ship, the rudder is tiny. Yet, without the rudder the ship would just go around in circles and never get you anywhere. So, think about the verse of Scripture that we just read. It is the most famous verse in the Bible. At NFL football games people sitting behind the goal posts raise up banners with “John 3:16” on them when a team tries for a field goal or extra point. Even people who have never gone to church know this verse, and they all think they understand it, and I am sure they do, in part. But really, the verse is attempting to tell us, with crystal clarity, one thing: that God’s love is BIG LOVE! You know how I know? Because of the smallest word in the verse. The key to really understanding this amazing statement is the little word “so.” “God so loved . . . that.” It is telling us that God’s love is Big Love, and it brings the truth of that out in three simple ways.

## *How To*

First, God’s love is so big that he loved “the world.” Now this does not mean that God loved the planet earth. If you read the Gospel of John you will find that John uses the word “world” to mean the world in darkness, the world in rebellion against God—people in rebellion against God. If you glance back at the first chapter of the Gospel, it says the Jesus was in the world, but the world did not know him because it was all in spiritual darkness. Do you know how big God’s love is? It is so big that he loves people who want nothing to do with him. He loves people who hate him, or who are indifferent toward him. That is amazing!

Second, God’s love is so big that he gave his only Son to die for that world. Fathers love their children and would do anything to protect them. God did not protect his Son,



but sent him to die for our sins, because that is the only way we can be saved. Jesus came and took our sins on himself and suffered cruel torture and death so that we could be saved and have our lives changed.

Third, God's love is so big that it saves us from the most terrible thing that could ever happen to us. That is what John means here when he says, "shall not perish." "Perishing," here means one major thing: so that we will not die one day and spend eternity separated from God. A famous Christian named Augustine wrote a book in 397 AD in which you will find this prayer: "Lord, you made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they rest in you." The Bible is clear that there are only two options after death: heaven or hell. God's love is so big that he wants everyone to be in heaven, and not hell. And remember, that includes the "world," people who do not like the God of the Bible. And it includes the fact that the only way to get them to heaven is through letting his only Son be killed for us.

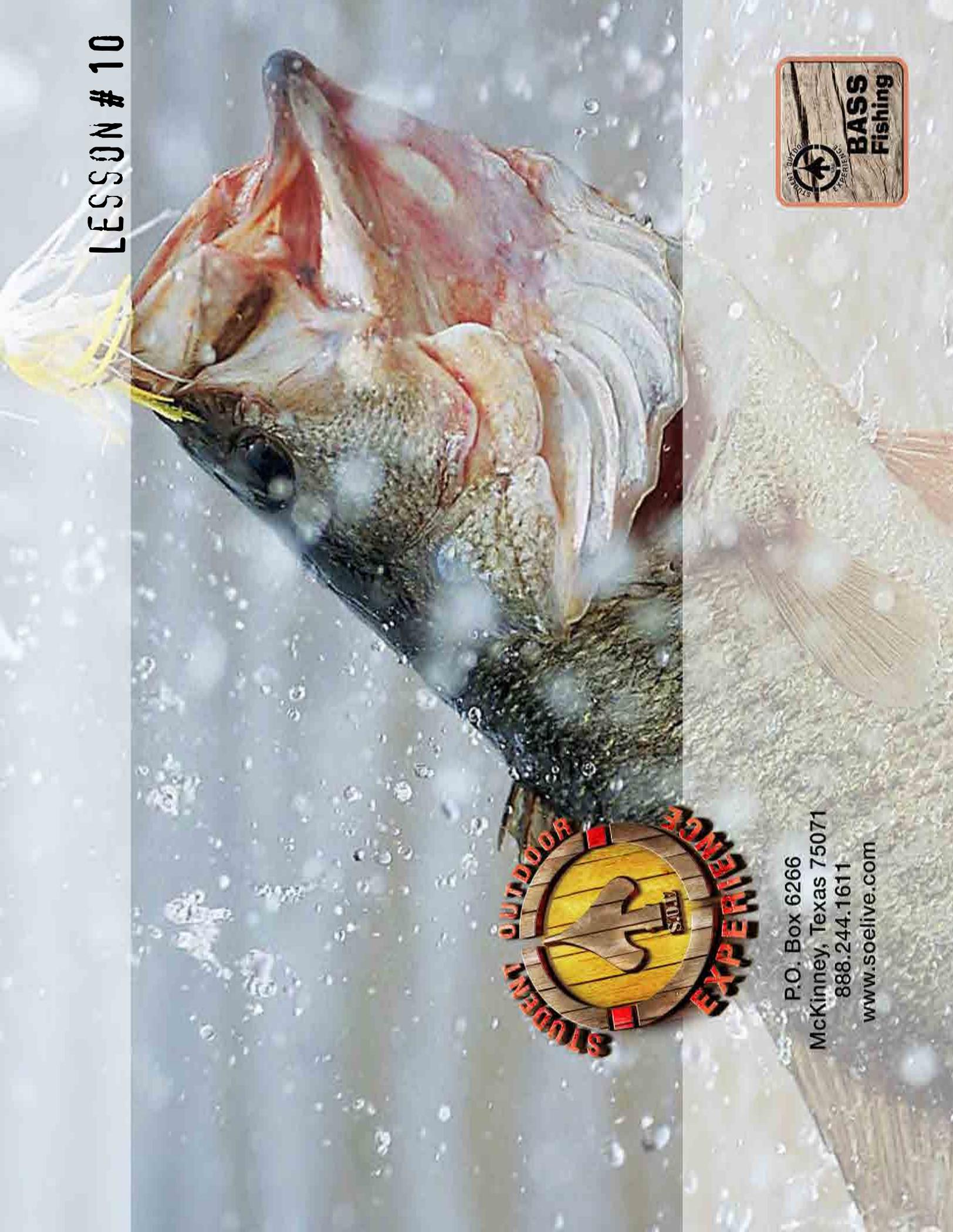
## *Did You Get It?*

1. How does God demonstrate His love toward us? God's love is so big that he gave his only Son to die for a corrupt and sinful world.
2. How can we experience God's love? Tucked away in this verse is the one truth that will get you connected to God's Big Love: Believe in Jesus! Trust in him to be your Savior. Then you can bask in the warm glow of God's love for life and eternity.
3. What now? You can simply pray and ask God to forgive you and become the Lord and Savior of your Life.

Close this session and get ready to hand out your Certificate of Achievement to the students.

**\*\*\*Please follow up with anyone that indicates that they accepted Christ and insure they understand the decision they have made and their next steps as a follower of Christ.**

# LESSON # 10



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# CONSERVATION

# LESSON # 10

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## LIFE APPLICATION

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The largemouth bass has a very large range. They have made their way throughout the U.S., up to Canada, and throughout the world. Even though they are plentiful, it is up to each angler to provide them with a vibrant habitat and secure future. This is what is referred to as “conservation.” There are some simple steps we can follow to ensure conserving the joy of long-term bass fishing. These include:

**Habitat:** In order to preserve the fish in your area, try creating environments that have great structure and cover. These include areas that have blow-over's, channels, weed-edges and even rolling banks. All of these help create great habitat for bass to live.

**Reproduction:** It is one thing to have great habitat for adult fish, but fish must continue to reproduce to have a great fishery. This is accomplished by creating a healthy culture in which they can lay and hatch their eggs. This includes shallow nesting areas and protection from anglers while they are on the nest. The male will make the nest and allow the female to lay 2,000 to 20,000 eggs.

**Removal:** One should always avoid handling fish excessively. However, when holding them, make sure to hold them firmly by the lower jaw and gently remove the hook. We would recommend that every angler have a pair of needle nose pliers. If a fish has swallowed the hook, simply cut the line. This will prevent hurting or possibly killing the fish.



**Live Well:** The proper use of a live well is critical in any successful release program. Do not allow water to drain from the live well when moving the boat. Live wells should be aerated and have smooth inside walls. It is best to keep the water in the live well fresh and as close to the actual lake temperature as possible.

In closing, we recommend that you practice great ethical angling and release as many fish as possible. This will allow them to grow, and it will give others the chance to enjoy the majestic experience of landing a large mouth bass.

## DID YOU GET IT?

1. Why is habitat important?
2. What are some steps we can take to protect bass on the nest?
3. What does good conservation produce?
4. How does preservation and dedication impact our lives?



# CERTIFICATE of ACHIEVEMENT



*This certifies that*



*This certificate has been awarded for the completion of all steps  
contained within the Student Outdoor Experience Bass Fishing  
requirements to include all safety and how-to sections.*

DATE

SOE LEADER