

Peter's Catch of Fish and Jesus' Call of the Apostles

Luke 5:1-11 and 6:12-16



The Story

Jesus often traveled from town to town, telling people God's Word. He knew how important it was for people to know that He was their Savior whom God the Father had sent. He had come to take away their sin.

Everywhere Jesus went, big crowds of people gathered to hear Jesus. In today's story Jesus was preaching beside a big lake. People were crowding closer and closer, trying to see and hear Jesus. It must have been hard to hear Jesus' with so many people crowding around Him.

Some of Jesus' disciples were fishermen. Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John had their boats at the edge of the lake and were cleaning their nets. Jesus got into one boat and asked Simon to row Him a short way out into the lake. Now everyone could sit down on the shore and see and hear Jesus easily. Jesus preached to them from the boat. Jesus wanted everyone to know that He is God's Son and their Savior.

When Jesus was done preaching, He said to Simon, "Row out into the deep water and put your net into the water to catch fish."

Simon said, "Master, we have fished all night and haven't caught any, but I will obey Your word and let down the net."

When Simon and Andrew put their nets in the water, they caught so many fish that their nets were breaking. They called to their friends in the other boat. "Help us!" Together, they filled both boats so that

they began to sink. They were all amazed to catch so many fish.

Simon Peter realized that Jesus helped them catch so many fish because He is God. Simon also knew that he was a sinner and God doesn't like sin. He said, "Go away from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

Jesus wanted Simon and the other disciples to know that He forgives our sin. He said, "Do not be afraid. Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

So Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John left their boats and everything they had and followed Jesus.

On another day Jesus knew it was time to choose all twelve disciples. Jesus had many followers, but only twelve would be chosen to be apostles. Since this was such an important decision, He prayed all night to His Heavenly Father.

In the morning Jesus called all His disciples together. From them He chose to be His apostles, Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot; Judas, the son of James; and Judas Iscariot who also betrayed Him. Since these men followed Jesus for several years, they heard His message and saw His miracles. They saw Jesus die on the cross and rise again. Jesus wanted them to go and tell others all about Jesus, the world's Savior.

Review - Use the words on the right to complete the sentences. Place only the letter of the answer on the blank.

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1. ____ Many ____ came to see Jesus. | T. fish |
| 2. ____ The people ____ around Jesus. | G. people |
| 3. ____ Jesus sat in a ____ so everyone could see and hear Him. | L. Jesus |
| 4. ____ Jesus preached to them God's ____. | E. Simon |
| 5. ____ Jesus told the disciples to cast their ____ into the water. | L. men |
| 6. ____ The disciples caught many ____. | D. nets |
| 7. ____ ____ Peter confessed he was a sinful man. | O. crowded |
| 8. ____ ____ said, "Do not be afraid." | N. Word |
| 9. ____ "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of ____. | A. boat |

The letters in the blanks on the left spell a message.

" _____ ."

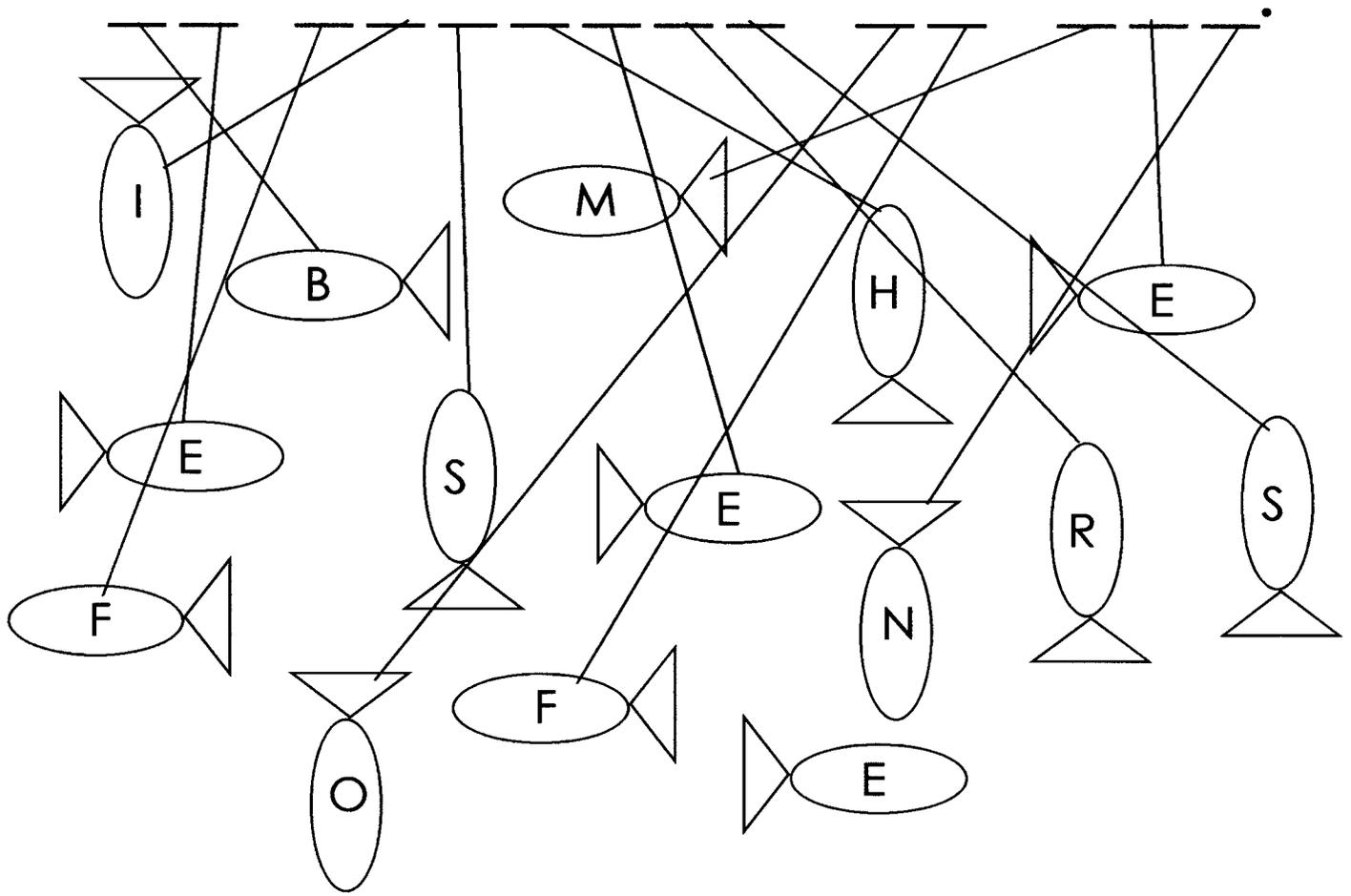
Puzzle One - Go across the rows and cross out all the Q's and Z's. Write the remaining letters in order in the blanks below. Check your message with Matthew 28:19.

Q	G	O	Q	T	Z	Q	H	Z	E	R	E	Z	F	O	Q	Q	R	E	Z	A	Q	Z	N	Q	D
M	A	Z	Q	K	E	Z	D	Q	I	S	C	Z	I	P	Q	Q	L	Z	E	S	Q	O	Z	F	Q
A	L	Z	L	Q	Z	T	Q	H	E	Z	Q	N	Q	A	T	Q	I	Z	O	Q	N	Z	Z	S	Q

" _____ ."

_____ ."

Puzzle Two - Follow each fishing line to the correct fish and write its letter in the blank.



Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You so much for directing someone to tell me about You so I can know You as my Savior. Help me to tell other people about You. Help me to remember that You are always with me, helping me to tell others the good news about You. Amen.