

STORY

Peter's Catch of Fish and Jesus' Call of Apostles - Luke 5:1-11 & 6:12-16
(Also see: Matthew 4:18-22; 10:1-10, Mark 3:13-14)

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus, you have called me to be your teacher of the students entrusted to me. Help me to faithfully carry out my calling and let nothing distract me from serving You. Enable me to lay aside any doubts about my abilities but rather to trust You to provide the "catch" as I follow your command to throw the net of Your Word into the waters. Bless Your Word carried through me that my students will hear of Your great power and grace in sending Jesus and also sending those who tell others of Jesus so that in the end You may gather in an abundance of souls into heaven with You for all eternity. In You, Lord Jesus, I trust as I pray, Amen.

VOCABULARY

Multitude - A large group of people. Many people came to hear and see Jesus at this point.

Lake of Gennesaret - also known as the Sea of Galilee, Sea of Tiberius (N.T.), or Sea of Chinnereth (O.T.). Located 60 miles NE of Jerusalem and 27 miles from the Mediterranean Sea. (see Rupprecht p 123) {see map}

Forsook - Left behind

Simon the Zealot - Zealots were a group of Jews who opposed the rule and authority of the Romans over the Jews. Sometimes they used violence for their cause. Jesus chose Simon, and delivered him from that bad company.

Apostles - people "sent out" - these were particular men whom Jesus would send out to preach the Gospel as eyewitnesses of Jesus' work and words. Their calling had a special authority needed in the early Church and their job was more specific than that of other believers who are called to spread the Word.

OUTER AIM

Jesus called some fishermen to preach the Gospel.

INNER AIM

Jesus enables those He calls to preach the Gospel.

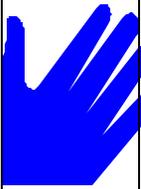
BACKGROUND

(*Rupprecht Bible History References Vol.2, pp. 122-130*)

This event happened after Jesus had been preaching for a year in Palestine (see Rupprecht p 122). Jesus had already called these men to faith (John 1:35-51, elsewhere), so they were believers. He then called them to apostleship - witnesses to the world of the crucified and risen Jesus. The emphasis is not on the miracle, or on these men and their faith. It is on Jesus and the power of His influence in their lives.

Luke 5:1

- ▶ Jesus had a large following of people by this time. They came to hear "the word of God."
- v. 2
- ▶ Most fishing was done in the early morning or late evening. This was the middle of the day so they were washing their nets between shifts of fishing.
- v. 3
- ▶ Jesus asked Simon (Peter) to take him out a little way from the land. This allowed Jesus a little space from the people and also made use of His location on the water to carry the sound farther to more people.



v. 4

- ▶ After Jesus had given the crowds enough to think about for a while, He commanded Peter to do a peculiar thing. Both the time of day and the location went against the usual rules of fishing. But Jesus said they would have a catch of fish.

v. 5

- ▶ Peter noted what also made the request peculiar, that after fishing the previous night, they had not caught anything. But Peter acted by faith at the command of Jesus.

v. 6

- ▶ The fishermen caught so many fish in their net that the net began breaking!
- ▶ This was a miracle because the catch was contrary to what anyone could have expected to happen.

v. 7

- ▶ The fishermen needed reinforcements, and even with two boats they had so many fish that the boats started to sink from the weight.
- ▶ This caused a strong message, preparing these men for what Jesus would ask of them next.

vs. 8-10a

- ▶ Peter, James, John, and those who saw the miracle recognized that only the power of God could have created such a huge catch of fish, despite.
- ▶ And in the presence of the holy God, all sinners (should) feel fear because of their sins and feel undeserving and thankful for even the smallest of blessings.
- ▶ Yet the sinner needs to turn to the Lord to receive forgiveness of sins through the Lord's grace in Jesus Christ.

v. 10b

- ▶ Jesus dispelled their fear with the command to "fear not," an echo of the angel's tidings to the shepherds.
- ▶ But Jesus continued with the promise to Peter, "from now on you will be fishers of men."
- ▶ Beyond the blessings of the catch of fish, God had a special calling for them. Jesus called them to be full-time apostles who would, by the power of the Word given to them, bring people into the kingdom of God, even as they had gathered the fish placed in the nets.
- ▶ They were not to fear that they did not have the power or abilities, for Jesus would gather in the souls of men as they faithfully followed His guidance.

v. 11

- ▶ With faith in what Jesus had said, these four men left behind the amazing catch of fish (which would have brought them great profit), their homes, and their trade and all else in order to take up the work to which Jesus had called them.
- ▶ Here is the powerful lesson of the miracle. By faith we are able to let go of all other blessings for the sake of Jesus and the particular callings He gives us. (Cf similar messages: Mark 8:34-38; Luke 9:57-62; 14:25-35)

Luke 6:12

- ▶ Jesus went to an isolated place and prayed. Especially before selecting the twelve particular men who were to serve as apostles, He knew He had to talk with his heavenly Father. And His prayer wasn't a quick, last minute prayer but He took the entire night to weigh the selection, even as He knew the shortcomings of those chosen.

v. 13

- ▶ Jesus had many disciples, people who believed in Him and followed Him to learn what He had to teach them. But from these many, He chose twelve whom He would send out with special authority as His chosen leaders to help carry the Gospel into the world.

vs. 14-16

- ▶ Scripture reveals more about some of these men, but we know that all of them were sinners in need of a Savior.
- ▶ They were called from a variety of common class trades, not highly educated, yet by God's grace enabled to serve in the special calling Jesus gave them.
- ▶ Although all of these men would show their sinful failings, it is only of Judas Iscariot, that we hear of a fatal sin.
- ▶ Jesus issued the call and gave the ability to serve in that calling, but the responsibility rested upon the person how faithfully he would carry out that work.

STUDENT PRAYER

Dear Jesus in Heaven, Thank you for calling people to special tasks within Your Church to regularly teach us Your Word. Help us to appreciate them as your servants given for our good. We know that you have given each of us a calling for our lives, to serve You. Bless the work that we do in Your name that many people may be gathered into Your family as believers in You for their salvation. When we fail to serve You faithfully, provide those who will bring Your Word to us, calling for repentance and assuring us of Your forgiveness through Your death in our place, that in the end, we and many others may be gathered into heaven with You, in Whom we trust when we pray, Amen.

PRESENTATION

Briefly review the previous story as time allows. Make links to the new story when possible.

Tell the story: Teachers, be encouraged to tell the story in your own words while remaining faithful to the scriptural account. When scripture records the story in more than one place, you may want to harmonize the accounts (including extra details found in each account.) Let the students know where they can find the additional details in the Bible. Point out details and commentary from teachers' notes. (i.e. Why Peter was so incredulous at Jesus' suggestion of fishing at that time and place.)

Discuss the story: While reviewing the major events of the story, discuss the possible applications to the students' lives. Ask questions that make them think about the story and show that they understand the story.

APPLICATIONS

1. Jesus called Peter and these other men to be preachers and teachers of God's Word. He wanted them to concentrate on bringing the saving Gospel to people so God could gather them into His kingdom. That would be their full-time calling for life. Throughout history, God has continued to call certain individuals (both men and women) to full time service to Him as pastors and teachers. God provides the call, the gifts, and the results of the work. What a joy and privilege it is for a person to serve in this way for an entire lifetime, telling others of Jesus, their Savior. Every believer should consider carefully whether God has called him or her to serve Him as a public teacher or preacher.
2. If you personally are not led to become a full-time worker in the Church of God, you still have been called to preach and teach His Word. Every believer, no matter what his other roles in life may be, can share with others the comfort and assurance of the message of salvation in Christ. God gives the gifts and will bless the work that you do for Him.

3. Following Jesus can be both a test and a reinforcement of faith. The Lord gave a command Peter obeyed even though it was not a very reasonable or logical thing for him to do. Faith trusts God and takes Him at His Word, no matter what the cost. Discuss why Peter and the others left behind that great catch of fish and all that they had.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Middle any of the above and...

Matthew 16:24-25 - Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

Philippians 1:6 - being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Upper any of the above and...

Ephesians 4:8, 11-12 - Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." ... And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

HYMN CHOICES

"Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word" (TLH 16 all)

"All Depends on Our Possessing" (TLH 425: 1-3, 5-6)

"Thou Who the Night in Prayer Didst Spend" (TLH 493:1-4)



STORY

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

Luke 5:1-11 & 6:12-16, Matthew 4:18-22; 10:1-10; Mark 3:13-14

REVIEW

Review from last week's story: (Wedding at Cana)

1. What were the followers of Jesus called? (disciples)
2. In our story last week, to what special event did Jesus and His disciples go? (a wedding)
3. What special miracle did Jesus do at the wedding? (He changed water into wine.)
4. Who remembers what a miracle is? (something that God can do but people cannot)
5. What did Jesus want to show His disciples about Himself? (Jesus is God. God has all power to do miracles.)

INTRODUCTION

Did you ever wish you could do something but you weren't big enough, or old enough, or strong enough to do it by yourself? (Name some possibilities, i.e.: cooking at the stove, climbing a tree, going to the store by yourself, etc.) Jesus has something special for you to do. Today we will learn how Jesus helps us do this special job.

PRESENTATION

To present this story you may want to draw it as you tell it. Start by drawing the lake and shoreline. Then draw a crowd of people. (Stick men are fine.)

Draw a boat and Jesus in the boat. Add Simon and Andrew in the boat. Tape the net in front of the boat. Drop many fish in the net. (These should be cut out in advance.) Draw a second boat in the background with James and John in it.

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

(Point to the appropriate parts of the picture.)

1. Why did these people come to the lake? (to hear Jesus preach)
2. Why did Jesus preach from the boat? (so everyone could see and hear Him)
3. What did Jesus want everyone to know about Him (He is God. He is our Savior from sin.)
4. After Jesus was finished preaching, what did He tell Simon to do? (Let down his net to catch fish)
5. Simon, Andrew, James, and John had fished all night. Had they caught anything? (No)
6. Why did they catch so many fish now? (Jesus is God and did a miracle.)
7. Jesus told the fishermen, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." What did He mean by this? (He wanted them to preach God's Word to people.)

OUTER AIM

Jesus called some fishermen to preach the Gospel.

APPLICATION

1. How did the disciples follow Jesus? (They went everywhere with Jesus. Jesus taught them everyday and they saw His miracles.)
2. How could the disciples fish for men? Did they use fishing rods to fish for men? (No, they used God's Word. By telling other people God's Word they were helping them come into God's Kingdom.)
3. Jesus' message, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men," is for us, too.
4. How can we follow Jesus? (Listen to God's Word and obey it. Pray to Jesus. Etc.)
5. Every person born is a sinner. What is sin? (breaking God's Law)
6. What do we deserve because of our sin? (death, hell)
7. There is only one person who can save us from sin. Who is that? (Jesus)
8. How did He save us? (by living a perfect life for us and by dying on the cross)
9. Every person needs to hear about their Savior, so they can believe in Him and go to heaven. Jesus wants us to tell other people about Him.
10. Jesus says He will make us fishers of men. What does that mean? (He will help us)

tell others God's Word.)

Let's take the fish out of the net. Put your name on one fish. Someone told you about Jesus so you could be part of God's Kingdom. Who told you about Jesus? Put your fish in the net.

Now think of some of your friends, neighbors, or relatives you could tell about Jesus. Let's write their names on these other fish. (As children suggest names, have the children say specific things they could say to their friends.) What could we say to Joe (or any name that the children suggest)? (Jesus died on the cross to take away your sins.

[Have the class practice saying this as Joe's friend drops his fish in the net.] What could we say to Sue? (Jesus came alive from the dead.) (Practice saying this as Sue's fish is dropped in the net.) Let's pretend Carl is sick. What could we say to Carl? Etc. (Think of many more things the kids can tell. If they know some passages from memory, such as John 3:16, have them say these, too, as they drop the fish into the net.)

1. What is the important job Jesus wants us to do? (Tell others about Jesus)
2. Could the disciples catch all those fish by themselves? (No) Who helped them? (Jesus)
3. Who helped the disciples tell other people about Jesus? (God)
4. Who helps us to tell others about Jesus? (God)

INNER AIM

Jesus enables those He calls to preach the Gospel.

Jesus told His disciples and also us, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

Discuss the meaning of this verse, especially the last part. Help children realize Jesus is always with us and helps us even when we tell other people about Jesus. We are never alone in our witnessing.

The children would enjoy making their own picture of the story. Draw a boat. Tape on the net. It can be a real net (the kind they sell fruit and onions in at the grocery store), or make a net "pocket" from paper. Cut out and name fish to go into the net.

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.

SCRIPTURE VERSES

Level 1 – Matthew 4:19 "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Level 2 – Matthew 4:19 and Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

TLH #507 "Spread, Oh, Spread, Thou Mighty Word"
"This Little Gospel Light of Mine"

Peter's Catch of Fish/Jesus' Call of the Disciples

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

The Story

Parents: Review this lesson with your child.

Jesus was preaching beside a big lake. People were crowding closer and closer, trying to see and hear Jesus.

Some of Jesus' disciples were fishermen. They 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. He has always wanted everyone to know that He is God's Son and their Savior.

When Jesus was finished 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 anything, but I will obey Your word and let down the net."

When Simon and Andrew put their nets into the water, they caught so many fish that their nets were breaking. They called to their friends in the other boat to help them. They filled both boats so full that their boats began to sink. Everyone was amazed to catch so many fish!

Simon Peter realized that Jesus helped them catch so many fish because He is God.

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.

Jesus had many followers, but only 12 would be chosen to be disciples. Jesus called all His disciples together: Simon, 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 would later betray Him.

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.

The disciples followed Jesus and told others about the Savior.

We are to follow the Savior and tell others about salvation in Christ Jesus.

Passage

"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."
Matthew 4:19

Hymn TLH 507 v. 1, 2

Spread, oh, spread thou mighty Word,
Spread the kingdom of the Lord,
Wheresoe'er His breath has giv'n
Life to beings meant for heav'n.

Tell them how the Father's will
Made the world and keeps it still,
How His only Son He gave
Man from sin and death to save.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, Thank You for making me Your child.
Help me to tell other people that You are their Savior. Help me to remember that You are always with me. Amen.

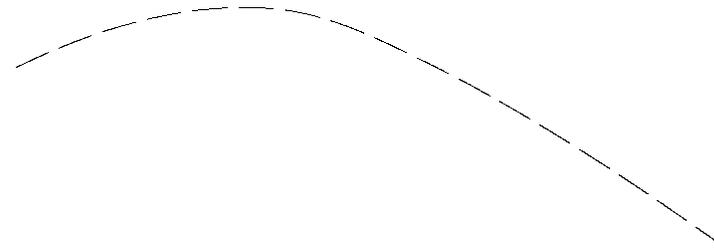


Classroom Activity - Read the GOOD NEWS message. Trace the dotted line from God's Word to the people that will hear the message..

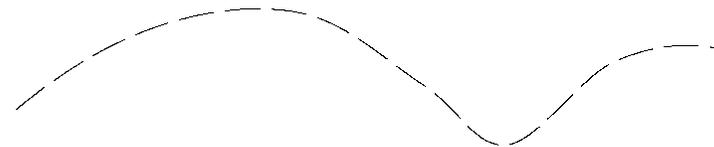
"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." Eph. 6:1



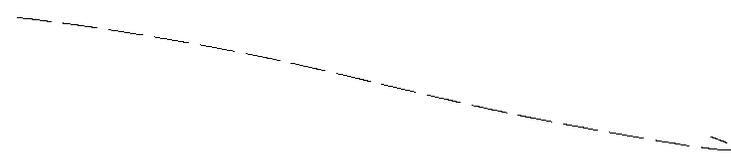
"The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." 1 Jn. 1:7



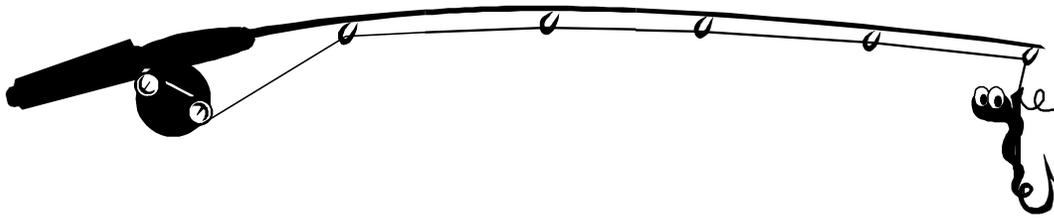
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart." Prov. 3:5



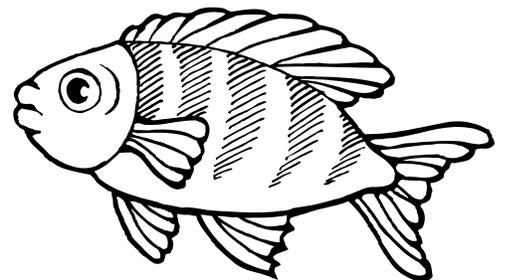
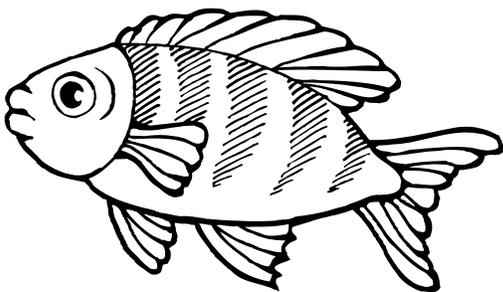
"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Ps. 119:105

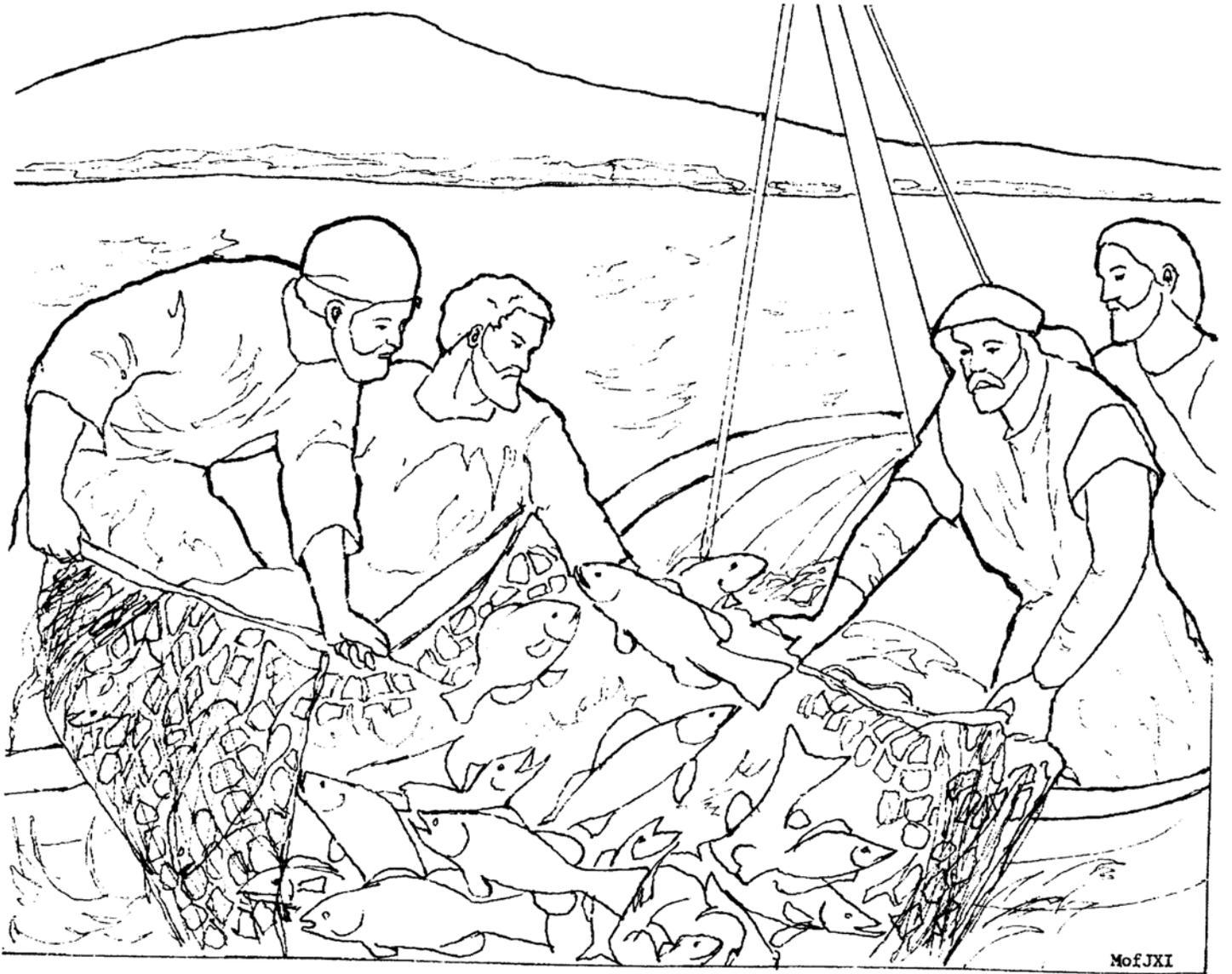


Classroom Art Activity - Color and cut out the fish and attach the fish to the end of the rod using string or yarn.



“FOLLOW ME,
AND I WILL
MAKE YOU
FISHERS OF MEN.”
MATTHEW 4:19





Peter's Catch of Fish/Jesus' Call of the Disciples

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. Jesus came to take away our sin.

Everywhere Jesus traveled, big crowds of people gathered to hear Him. 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. He has always wanted everyone to know that He is God's Son and their Savior.

When Jesus was finished 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 anything, but I will obey Your word and let down the net."

When Simon and Andrew put their nets into the water, they caught so many fish that their nets were breaking. They called to their friends in the other boat to help them. They filled both boats so full that their boats began to sink. Everyone was 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 12 disciples. Jesus had many followers, but only 12 would be chosen to be Disciples. Since this was such an important decision, He prayed all night to His Heavenly Father.

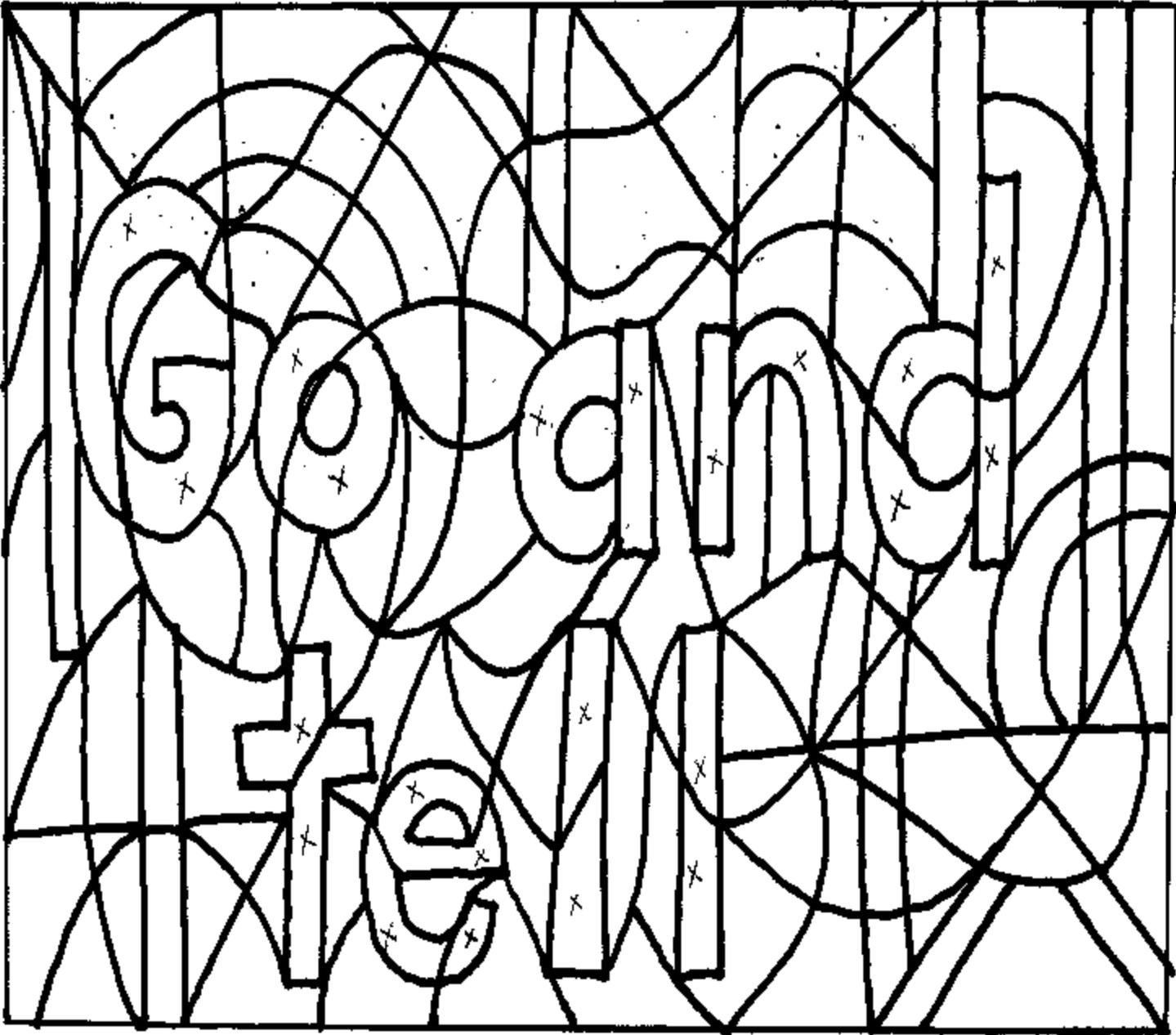
In the morning, Jesus called all His disciples together. From them, He chose to be His disciples: Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; Matthew and Thomas; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot; Judas, the son of James; and Judas Iscariot who would later betray Him.

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.

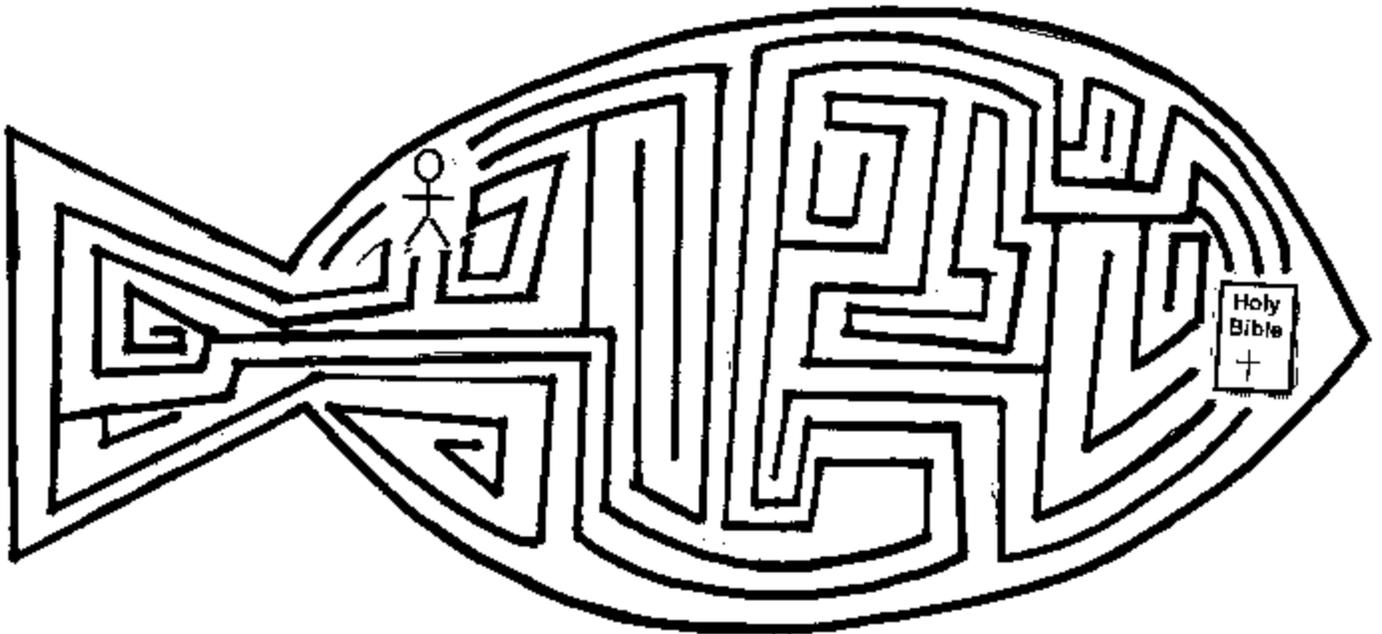
**"Follow Me, and I will
make you fishers of men."**

Matthew 4:19

Poster - Color only the spaces that have an X.



Puzzle - Help your friend find the message of God's Word.

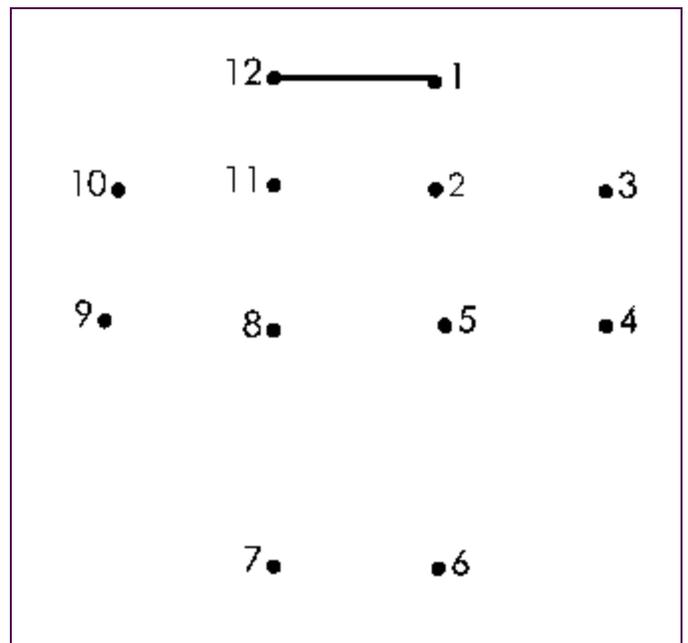


Activity - Connect the dots to see what completes the message below.

"Jesus died for our sins on the ...

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.



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

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



MofJXI



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.

" _____ ."

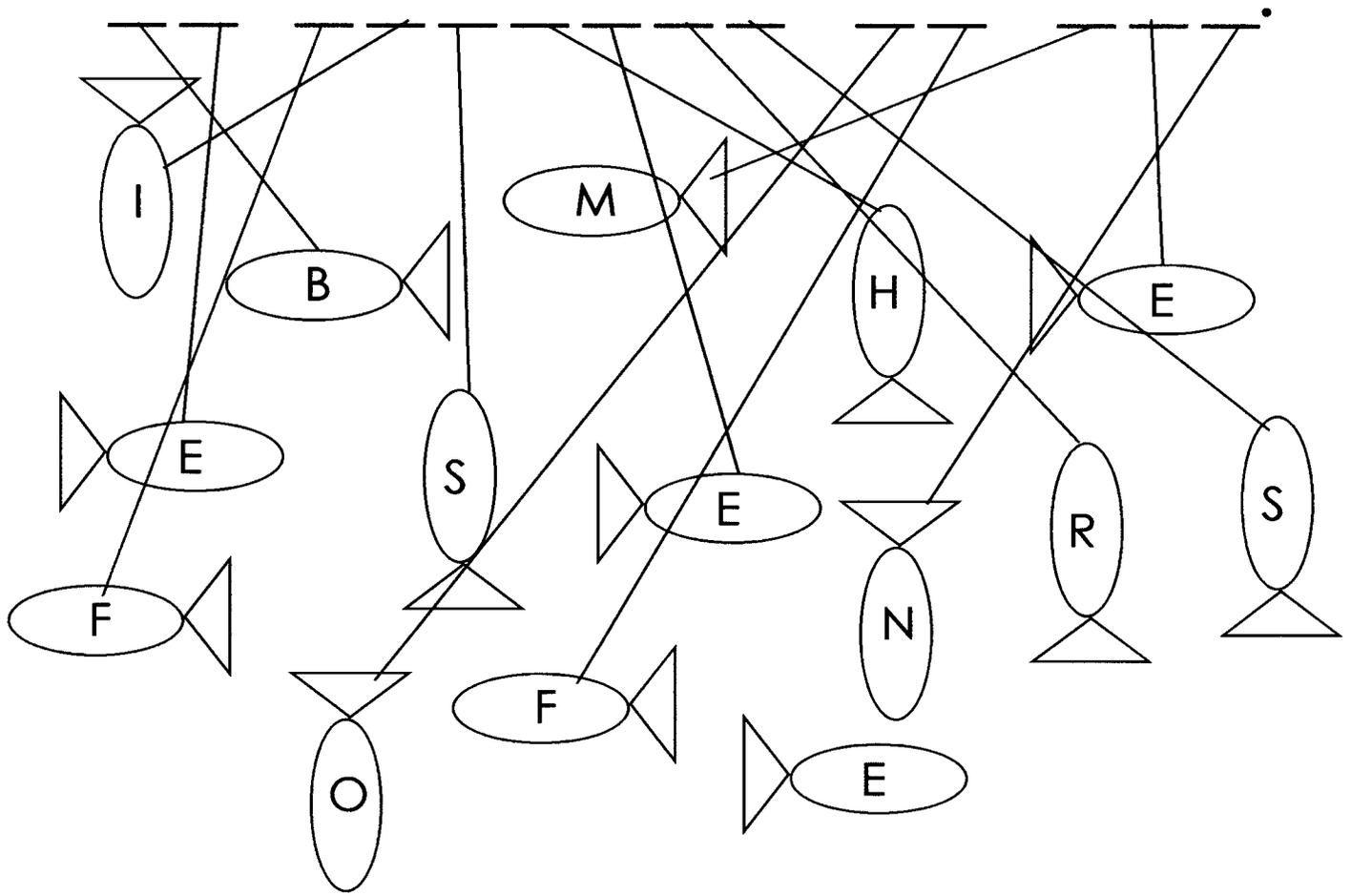
Puzzle One - Go across the rows and cross out all the Q's and Z's. Write the remaining letters in order in the blanks below. Check your message with Matthew 28:19.

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.

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

Luke 5:1-11, 6:12-16; Matthew 4: 18-22, 10: 1-10; Mark 3: 13-14

What are these children doing?

Who gives the children the ability to do schoolwork well?

Why might someone feel like he doesn't have the ability to do something?



Prayer

Dear Jesus in Heaven,

Thank You for calling people to serve You by teaching us Your Word. We know that You have given each of us a calling for our lives, to serve You. Help us to spread Your Word so that many will become believers in You and be saved. When we fail to serve You, send others to call us to repent and to bring us Your Word and forgiveness, which You won for us by Your redeeming death on the cross. In Your saving name we pray, Amen.

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

Now so it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets.

Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.

Now when He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch

out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their net was breaking.

So Simon and Andrew his brother signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled



both the boats, so that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

And Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all, including their boats, their nets, and their father, and followed Him.

Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

And when it was day, He called His disciples to Him, those whom He Himself wanted; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles. He appointed

them that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach.

Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alpheus; Thaddeus; Simon called the Zealot; and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.



What the Story Tells Us - For each statement mark (T) for true and (F) for false.

- _____ 1. The multitude pressed about Him to see His miracles.
- _____ 2. Jesus preached to the multitudes from John's boat.
- _____ 3. Jesus told Simon to go into deep water and let down their nets.
- _____ 4. Simon didn't do what Jesus said.
- _____ 5. They caught so many fish, that their nets broke and their boats almost sank.
- _____ 6. Simon and the others thought nothing of the great catch of fish.

- _____ 7. Jesus called them fishers of men.
- _____ 8. Jesus later chose twelve men to be apostles.

Outer Aim - Jesus called some fishermen to preach the Gospel.

What God tells Us

1. Why did Simon seem amazed when Jesus asked him to go out into deep water and fish?
2. What did Simon also say that showed his faith?
3. Who had allowed these men to catch all those fish?
4. What did Jesus mean when He said "I will make you fishers of men." ?
5. How did Jesus' miracle show the disciples that they could be fishers of men if they followed Jesus?
6. Name some types of people that God has especially called to be "fishers of men". Where do they get the ability to serve Him?

Passages - Explain how each of these passages fits the story.

Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Matthew 16:24-25 - Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

Philippians 1:6 - Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Inner Aim - Jesus gives those He calls the power to preach the Gospel.

Hymn - TLH 493

Thou who the night in prayer didst spend
And then didst Thine apostles send
And bidd'st us pray the harvest's Lord
To send forth sowers of Thy Word,
Hear and Thy chosen servants bless
With sev'nfold gifts of holiness.

Oh, may Thy pastors faithful be,
Not lab'ring for themselves, but Thee!
Give grace to feed with wholesome food
The sheep and lambs bought by Thy blood,
To tend Thy flock, and thus to prove
How dearly they the Shepherd love.

Oh, may Thy people faithful be
And in Thy pastors honor Thee
And with them work and for them pray
And gladly Thee in them obey,
Receive the prophet of the Lord
And gain the prophet's own reward!

So may we when our work is done
Together stand before Thy throne
And joyful hearts and voices raise
In one united song of praise,
With all the bright celestial host,
To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Look at hymn 493 v. 1 and explain what part of the story it is speaking of.
Then choose one of the other verses and write it in you own words.

Your Turn - Someday, the Lord might call you to be a pastor or a teacher, but if He does not, how can you still be "fishers of men"? Use ideas from the story, passages and hymn to answer the question.

Prayer - Use the main ideas from the lesson, especially the inner aim, to write a short prayer of your own.

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

Luke 5:1-11, 6:12-16; Matthew 4: 18-22, 10: 1-10; Mark 3: 13-14

What does this man do?

What might make a pastor feel like he isn't able to do his job?

Prayer

Dear Jesus in Heaven, thank you for calling people to serve You by teaching us Your Word. We know that You have given each of us a calling for our lives, to serve You. Help us to spread Your Word so that many will become believers in You and be saved. When we fail to serve You, send others to us to call us to repent and to bring us Your Word and forgiveness which You won for us by Your redeeming death on the cross. In Your saving name we pray, Amen.



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

Now so it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets.

Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.

Now when He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and

caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their net was breaking.

So Simon and Andrew his brother signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.



And Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all, including their boats, their nets, and their father, and followed Him.

Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to Him, those whom He Himself wanted; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles. He appointed them that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach.

Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother;



James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus; Thaddeus; Simon called the Zealot; and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.

Recalling Details

1. Where did this story take place?
2. Why did Jesus have to get into Simon's boat and preach from the lake?
3. What did Jesus tell Simon to do?
4. Why did Simon find this request unusual?
5. What were the results of their attempt?
6. What was Simon Peter's reaction when he saw this?
7. What did Jesus tell them after the miracle? What did this mean?
8. What did the men do in response to what Jesus said?
9. List the twelve apostles.

Outer Aim - Jesus called some fishermen to preach the Gospel.

Discussion

1. Imagine yourself as one of the fishermen. You had just witnessed this amazing miracle of Jesus, and now He tells you that you will be “fishers of men” if you follow Him. How would what you had just seen help strengthen your faith and help you believe that you would truly be able to do what He just asked you to do?
2. The Lord has chosen pastors and teachers to be special “fishers of men”. Explain how pastors and teachers are important to the work of the Lord.
3. How can all Christians, no matter what their calling, be comforted by this story?

Passages - Explain how each of these passages fits the story.

Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

**Matthew 16:24-25 - Then Jesus said to His disciples,
“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself,
and take up his cross, and follow Me.
For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life
for My sake will find it.”**

**Philippians 1:6 - Being confident of this very thing,
that He who has begun a good work in you
will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.**

**Ephesians 4:8, 11-12 - Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high,
He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.”
...And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets,
some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,
for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry,
for the edifying of the body of Christ.**

Inner Aim - Jesus gives those He calls the power to preach the Gospel.

Hymn

Look at hymn 16.

Explain how this hymn expresses the Inner Aim of this lesson.

Prayer

Use the main ideas of both the Outer and Inner Aims, write a short prayer that fits our story today.