

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 your 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.