

Going Fishing

Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 244-251



Have you ever caught a fish? Or watched anyone fishing? A long time ago four men learned about a new way to fish.

The sun was rising over the hills east of Lake Gennesaret. Peter and his brother, Andrew, had fished all night without catching a thing. "Let's go," Peter said. They pulled up their nets and headed for the shore.

As they came to shore, they saw a large group of people gathered around Jesus. As the people crowded closer and closer, Jesus stepped into

they believed in Him.

When He finished speaking, Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Let's go out and catch some fish."

Andrew was puzzled. The sun was high overhead. Nobody fished in the heat of the day. Why? Because the fish were far below the surface in the cool, deep waters of the lake. "We've worked all night without catching a thing," Peter said. "But if You want us to fish, we'll fish."

Peter and Andrew threw their big net far from the boat. It had barely hit the water, when it was suddenly full of fish! The net was so heavy with fish that the boat began to tip over.

"Help us!" Peter cried to James and John in their nearby boat.

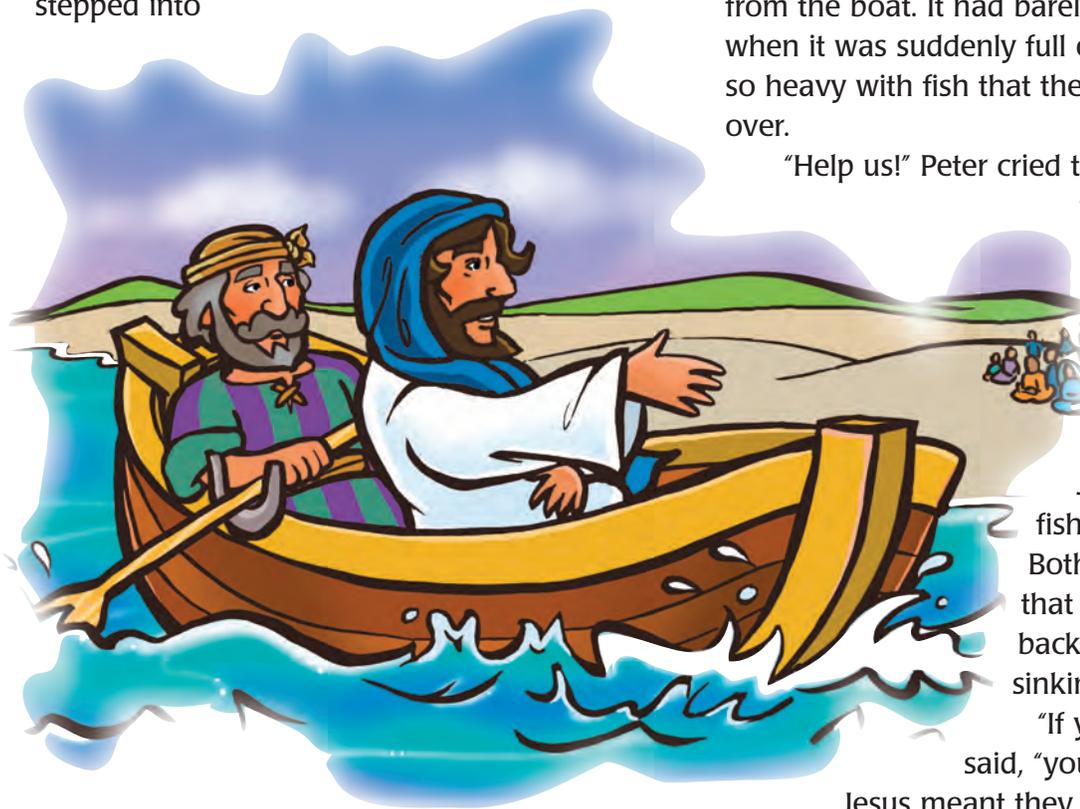
"We're sinking!"

James and John hurried to help them. Hauling that heavy net was hard work! James and John took part of the fish into their own boat. Both boats were so full that they barely made it back to shore without sinking.

"If you follow Me," Jesus said, "you will fish for men."

Jesus meant they would tell people about Him.

The four fishermen looked at their boats. They had never before caught so many fish at once. Truly this was a miracle. And the Man



Peter's boat and asked him to pull out into the water. He sat in the boat and continued to talk to the crowd of people on the shore. He told them that they could be in God's kingdom if

The Message

I follow Jesus and share Him with others.

Memory Verse

" 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of men' " (Matthew 4:19, NIV).

who had made it happen wanted them to follow Him!

Peter remembered the people who had followed Jesus to the lakeshore. He thought of his nets, so full that his boat had almost sunk. He decided to follow Jesus. So did Andrew, James, and John. They walked away from the biggest catch they had ever seen. They left everything behind and put Jesus first in their lives. As long as they lived, they told many people about Him.

We, too, follow Jesus when we put Him first

and tell others about Him. He will lead us to those who need to know about Him. And He will help us to be "fishers of men."



S A B B A T H

DO If possible, go with your family to a river, pond, or lake where there are fish and read your lesson together. Draw a heart and ask your family how you can show God's love to others.

READ Read Matthew 4:19 together; then sing "I Will Make You Fishers of Men" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 135). Pray that God will help you be a "fisher of men."

M O N D A Y

READ During family worship, read and discuss Luke 5:1-3. On a big piece of paper trace around your hands. Show your family and ask: How can we use our hands to serve others?

DO Practice your memory verse with your fish puzzle. Sing "I Will Make You Fishers of Men." Then ask Jesus to help you serve Him each day by telling others about Him.

W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE With your family read and discuss Mark 1:16-20. Trace around your foot and show it to your family. Ask: How can we serve others with our feet?

DO Have a family member help you find out how fish breathe in water. Find out two other interesting facts about fish.

DO Do your fish memory verse puzzle without help.

SING Sing "Seek Ye First" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 67) before prayer.

S U N D A Y

READ Read and discuss Matthew 4:18-22 for family worship. Tell this story in your own words.

DO Draw a big fish and write your memory verse on it. Cut the fish like a puzzle so each word is on a separate part of the fish. Put this fish puzzle together each day this week.

DO Today serve the person you chose in Sabbath School (the name you wrote on your fish) by sharing Jesus with them. Pray for them today and every day.

T U E S D A Y

READ With your family, read and discuss Luke 5:4-11. Ask your family to see who can think of the most people who serve others. Peter, Andrew, James, and John left everything to follow and serve Jesus. How can you and your family do that? Pray about it. Then sing a song about serving Jesus.

DO Do your fish memory verse puzzle.

Many fishermen fished on Lake Galilee, either from boats or from shore.



THURSDAY

READ During family worship read Luke 5:1. Draw a picture of an ear and show it to your family. Ask: How can we use our ears to serve others?

DO Play catch with a family member. Talk about whether or not you have done something this week to “catch” someone for Jesus.

DO Say your memory verse from memory before prayer. Ask Jesus to help you “catch” someone for Him.

FRIDAY

READ Read John 12:26 with your family. To serve Jesus means to f_____w Him.

DO Read Matthew 25:40. True or False? When we help others, we are serving Jesus.

TELL Tell your lesson story in your own words. Ask: What did the four men leave behind? Why?

DO Say your memory verse; then sing “I Will Make You Fishers of Men” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 135). Decide on a way to serve Jesus together tomorrow. Ask Jesus to guide you as you do so.

Going Fishing

PUZZLE

Directions: This lesson has a message for today. If we follow Jesus, what will we become? Put the letter matching the symbol on the line.

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