

# JESUS CALLS FISHERMEN

One day, Jesus was near a lake. A lot of people wanted to hear Him talking. They got so close to Him that it was hard to talk! He saw some fishermen who were done fishing for the day. He asked Simon, one of them, to take him out in his boat. Simon did, so Jesus could talk to all the people. When He stopped talking, Jesus told Simon to go out in the deep. They did. Then Jesus told Simon to go fishing. Simon told Jesus that they had been fishing all night and did not catch any fish. He did not think they would catch any now. But he obeyed Jesus and put his net in the water.

Simon pulled the net to get it out of the water. He pulled and pulled and pulled. It could not come up! It was full of fish! Simon called his friends James and John to bring their boat and help. All the men pulled up the net and filled up both boats! The boats were so full that they started to sink. Simon was scared. He knew that Jesus was holy, because Jesus had done the miracle of making the fish come into the net. Simon told Jesus to go away from him because he was not holy.

Jesus told Simon that he should not be scared. He said that Simon should follow Him. He said Simon would help people follow God instead of catching fish. When the boats got back to the shore, the men left all of their stuff. Instead, they followed Jesus.

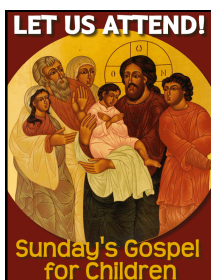
## CALL OF THE FIRST DISCIPLES:



Icon courtesy of Iconographics ([www.theologic.com](http://www.theologic.com))

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Look at the icon. Can you find Jesus? Can you find a fishing pole?
2. The fisherman used a net to fish! The net was lowered into the water to catch the fish.
3. Have you ever caught a fish?
4. Sometimes you wait for a very long time before you catch a fish. Simon had fished all night and caught nothing.
5. After Jesus told him to put the nets back in the water, what happened?
6. Jesus told him that he would be gathering men to follow Jesus, just as he had caught the fish.



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# JESUS AND HIS FIRST FOLLOWERS

## Materials:

- \* copy of song, "Fishers of Men"
- \* play dough or clay
- \* recipe for play dough or clay, if you choose to make your own
- \* ingredients for play dough or clay, if you make your own
- \* plastic straw
- \* yarn, any color
- \* plastic knife or other play dough tool
- \* wax paper

## Procedure:

1. After reading the gospel story to your child, take time to review the discussion questions following the story.
2. Remind your child that Jesus told Simon that he could become a "Fisher of men" if he would leave all of his belongings behind and follow Jesus. Discuss with your child what it means to become a "fisher of men". (To teach people about God and help them turn their lives to follow Him).
3. Sing the song, "Fishers of Men" with your child. Sing the song once for your child, then repeat the song, encouraging your child to sing along with you.
4. Give your child some play dough or clay to mold and shape.\* Ask your child to mold some of the play dough into the shape of a fish.  
\*Follow one of the recipes if you choose to make your own clay or play dough!
5. Practice making fish with your child. Use the best fish made for the fish necklace. The fish should be 3-4" in length. Your child may choose to etch a cross into the fish using the plastic knife.
6. Using the end of the straw, make a hole near the mouth of the fish. This hole will be for threading the yarn through and turning the fish shape into a necklace.
7. Allow the fish shape to dry on wax paper overnight.
8. Once the fish is dry, your child may choose to paint it if you used a plain color clay or dough.
9. Thread the yarn through the hole and tie together at the top to make a chain for the fish necklace.
10. By wearing the fish necklace, your child can be reminded that we, too can be "fishers of men" by being a follower of Christ and being a good example to others!

## Fishers of Men

(to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

I will make you fishers of men,  
Fishers of men, fishers of men,  
I will make you fishers of men, if  
you follow me  
If you follow me, if you follow me  
I will make you fishers of men if you  
follow me.

## Play dough

1 cup flour  
1 cup warm water  
2 teaspoons cream of tartar  
1 teaspoon oil  
1/4 cup salt  
food coloring

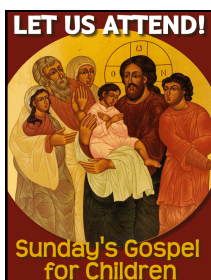
Mix all ingredients (add food coloring last). Stir over medium heat until smooth. Remove from pan, let cool slightly, and knead until blended and smooth. Store in a plastic bag or airtight container when cooled.

## Keep it Clay

*This mixture dries VERY hard*

1 (1-pound) box baking soda  
1 cup cornstarch  
1 1/4 cups cold water  
Food coloring (gel is best or leave it plain and paint later)

Mix baking soda and cornstarch together then add water. Cook and stir over low heat until consistency of mashed potatoes. Remove the dough from the heat and cover with damp towel until it is cool enough to handle. Use for play dough or jewelry shaping or roll it out and cut with cookie cutter to make decorations. Store in an airtight container.



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Simon pulled the net to get it out of the water. He pulled and pulled and pulled. It could not come up! It was full of fish! Simon called his friends James and John to bring their boat and help. All the men pulled up the net and filled up both boats! The boats were so full that they started to sink.

Simon was scared. He knew that Jesus was holy, because Jesus had done the miracle of making the fish come into the net. Simon told Jesus to go away from him because he was not holy.

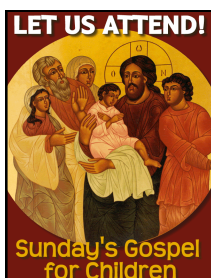
Jesus told Simon that he should not be scared. He said that Simon should follow Him. He said Simon would help people follow God instead of catching fish. When the boats got back to the shore, the men left all of their stuff. Instead, they followed Jesus.



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Simon was a fisherman. Did you ever go fishing?
2. They used a net. The net was lowered into the water to catch the fish. If you went fishing, how did you try to catch fish?
3. Sometimes you wait for a very long time before you catch a fish. Simon had fished all night and caught nothing. But after Jesus told him to put the nets back in the water, what happened?
4. Jesus told him that he would be gathering men to follow Jesus, just as he had gathered the fish, when he caught them.



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## JESUS CALLS

**At that time**, the crowd was pressing in on Jesus, listening to the word of God. Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennes' aret. And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, Jesus asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

And when Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned 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.

But 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 was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zeb' edee, who were partners with Simon.

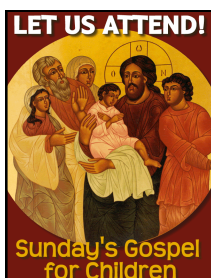
And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.



Image courtesy of sxc.hu

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Why was the crowd pressing in on Jesus?
2. What did Jesus do so they could all safely listen?
3. What did Jesus tell Simon to do after He finished speaking? What did Simon say about that?
4. What happened next? How did that change the men's lives?
5. What can you do to imitate the crowds who were pressing in to hear the Word of God?



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Characters: Narrator, Jesus, Simon Peter

**Narrator:** At that time, the crowd was pressing in on Jesus, listening to the word of God. Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennes' aret. And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, Jesus asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon,

**Jesus:** Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.

**Narrator:** And Simon answered,

**Simon:** Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.

**Narrator:** And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned 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. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying,

**Simon:** Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

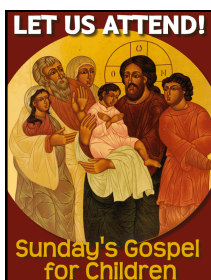
**Narrator:** For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also

were James and John, sons of Zeb' edee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon,

**Jesus:** Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men.



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# HAVE YOU BEEN CAUGHT?

**At that time,** the crowd was pressing in on Jesus, listening to the word of God. Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennes'aret. And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, Jesus asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

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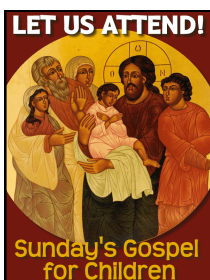
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catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zeb' edee, who were partners with Simon.

And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What problem does Jesus have when He is standing by the lake of Gennesaret?
2. What does He see that could solve this problem?
3. Does He ask if He could use the boat before He gets into it?
4. How would you feel if someone came and sat in your family's car without asking and then asked your parents to drive him to the airport?
5. Who could do something like this without offending you? Your cousin? A person from three blocks away? A stranger? The president? A policeman?
6. What do the people who could do this have in common?
7. What is this Gospel suggesting about Jesus by saying He could just get into someone's boat without asking?



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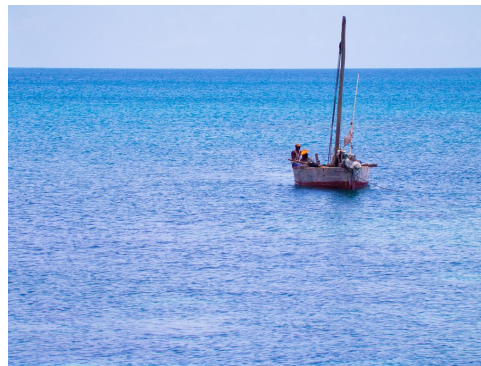
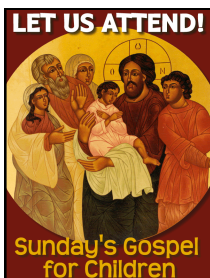


Image courtesy of sxc.hu

And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Why are the crowds pushing in of Jesus?
2. Listen to the part of the second antiphon during the divine liturgy that begins "only begotten son and Word of God." Who are we calling the Word of God in this song?
3. So, who were the crowds trying to listen to in this Gospel? And what did they want to hear?
4. According to the antiphon, "only begotten Son," why did the only-begotten Son and Word of God become incarnate and was crucified? So, what word or message does the Word of God bring?
5. What do you think this phrase "Word of God" means?



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