

Fishers of Men

Matthew 4:12-23

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he went to Galilee. 13 But instead of staying in Nazareth, Jesus moved to Capernaum. This town was beside Lake Galilee in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali. So God’s promise came true, just as the prophet Isaiah had said,

“Listen, lands of Zebulun
and Naphtali,
lands along the road
to the sea
and east
of the Jordan!
Listen Galilee,
land of the Gentiles!
Although your people
live in darkness,
they will see
a bright light.
Although they live
in the shadow of death,
a light will shine
on them.”

Then Jesus started preaching, “Turn back to God! The kingdom of heaven will soon be here.”

While Jesus was walking along the shore of Lake Galilee, he saw two brothers. One was Simon, also known as Peter, and the other was Andrew. They were fishermen, and they were casting their net into the lake. Jesus said to them, “Come with me! I will teach you how to bring in people instead of fish.” Right then the two brothers dropped their nets and went with him.

Jesus walked on until he saw James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in a boat with their father, mending their nets. Jesus asked them to come with him too. Right away they left the boat and their father and went with Jesus.

Jesus went all over Galilee, teaching in the Jewish meeting places and preaching the good news about God’s kingdom. He also healed every kind of disease and sickness.

Storyteller: Unroll the lakeshore underlay in front of you. Here is the shore of Lake Galilee. Put a stand for the Jesus doll down on the underlay a little to your right. Jesus came here to tell this good news: Hold the Jesus doll out for the children to see. “The time has come! God’s kingdom will soon be here. Turn back to God and believe the good news!”

Put the Jesus figure into its stand and bring out the Simon and Andrew figures, placing them right in front of you, standing in the blue “water”. They should have the net already looped around their hands. As Jesus walked along the shore, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew fishing with a net. Jesus said to them “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” *Move Simon and Andrew onto the shore. Disentangle them from the net and leave it behind, and put them on the shore behind Jesus.* Right away, Simon and Andrew left their nets and followed Jesus.

Bring out the James and John figures in their boat with a net in their hands. Put it half on the shore, half on the water, over to your left. Move Jesus, Simon and Andrew over a little way toward your left. When Jesus went a little further he saw James and his brother John mending the nets. He called them, too, and right away they left their father's boat and followed Jesus.

Story Materials

- Felt lakeshore underlay
- Jesus wire-armature doll
- Apostle wire-armature dolls:
 - Simon
 - Andrew
 - James
 - John
- fishing nets
- boat