

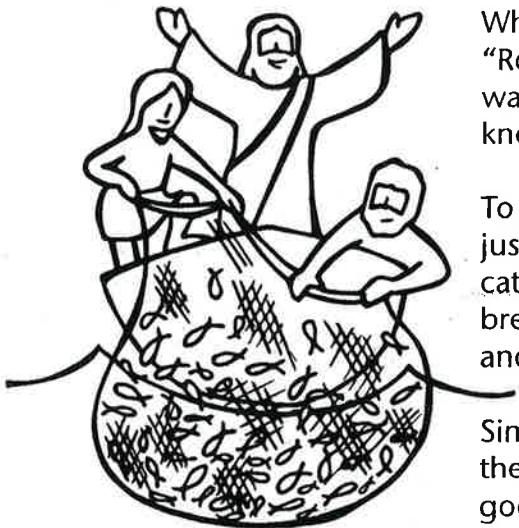
The Amazing Catch of Fish

Simon, James, and John were fishermen. They worked hard to catch fish to sell in the market. One night, they went out fishing and didn't catch a single fish.

The next morning, Simon sat on the shore cleaning his nets. He was so tired and discouraged. "I hope we catch some fish tonight," he thought.

Suddenly, Simon heard loud voices. He looked up and saw his friend Jesus walking toward him. A crowd of people followed him. "Simon," called Jesus. "Would you take me out a little ways from shore in your boat so I can talk to this crowd from your boat? That way, everyone will be able to hear me."

"Sure, I'll take you out!" exclaimed Simon. Jesus climbed into the boat and Simon rowed out. The crowd quieted down and listened to Jesus teach about God's love.



When Jesus finished speaking, he turned to Simon and said, "Row out into the deep water and let down your nets." Simon was puzzled. Jesus was an amazing teacher, but what did he know about fishing? Still, Simon did what Jesus said.

To Simon's amazement, the nets quickly filled with fish. Not just one or two fish, but loads of fish! It was an enormous catch of fish. There were so many fish that the nets started to break! Simon called out to his friends James and John to come and help him. Everyone who saw this was totally amazed.

Simon was worried. "Jesus must be very close to God to have the power to bring in all those fish," he thought. "I am not good enough to be his friend."

Jesus looked at Simon, "Don't be afraid," Jesus said gently. "Come and follow me. From now on you will bring in people instead of fish. You will help me tell them about God's love."

When they got back to shore, Simon, James, and John left their boats and followed Jesus. They wanted to help bring people to meet Jesus and spread the good news about God's love.

Should I Follow?

1

Mia notices that there is a moving truck across the street at a home that's been vacant for months.

After watching out her window for a few minutes, she sees a girl about her age. She's carrying a box and a guitar case just like Mia's! Even though she is naturally pretty shy, Mia wonders if Jesus is calling her to reach out to this new neighbor.

3

Sophie and her mom are headed out to spend her Christmas money on some new clothes she's been wanting. As they walk along, they see a little boy sitting on the edge of the sidewalk with his mom. There is a sign in front of them: "We are hungry. Can you help?" Sophie sees a fast food restaurant across the street, but she knows she won't have enough money for new clothes if she buys a fast food gift card to give them. Still, she feels Jesus calling.

2

"Take a look at this!" says Juan's pastor as she passes him a brochure for church camp. "I know you love the outdoors, and I think this would be a great opportunity for you! There is money in the church budget to help pay your fees, and I'm sure you could find a friend who'd like to go along!" Juan studies the picture of kids kayaking on a lake on the front of the brochure. The place looks great, but he's never been away from home for a whole week. He feels a stir of interest, as though Jesus is calling him to this adventure.

4

Marc's youth group is serving soup at the homeless shelter tonight. He has never served before, and he is given a job in the serving line, passing out bowls of soup. After a while, the coordinator asks him to go sit and eat with a homeless family who has a son about his age. He wonders what in the world he could talk about with them and doesn't really want to go. "C'mon," he says. "They're just people." In spite of his nervousness, Marc feels like Jesus might be calling him to go meet the boy.