

FISHERS OF PEOPLE

Story:

How many of you have ever gone fishing? What did you use as bait? Did you catch any fish? Fishing can be fun, can't it?

Our story today is about some friends who were fishermen. They didn't just fish for fun. Fishing was their job. They fished just about every day and they were probably pretty good at it. They didn't use bait to catch their fish. They used a net and would scoop up lots of fish all at one time.

This one night, though, they weren't having much luck. All night long they sailed their boats from one side of the lake to the other trying to catch some fish. They threw their nets in the water and pulled them back out many times, but there just didn't seem to be any fish. They fished all night and all they got were some dirty nets.

As they were cleaning their nets the next morning Jesus came up to Simon Peter, who was one of the fishermen and told him to take his boat back out into the lake and throw out his net again.

Simon Peter and his friends were very tired and hungry but they did what Jesus said and went back out into lake again and threw out their nets just where Jesus told them to throw it. And when they pulled up their nets this time, they were so heavy with fish the nets started to rip. Simon Peter called to his friends in the other boat to come and help him. Soon they caught so many fish that their boats were beginning to sink. The fishermen were amazed. How did Jesus know where the fish were? They had looked all night long and couldn't find them. They thought that there had to be something very special about this man Jesus. They were really excited to meet him.

Then Jesus did something else really amazing. He told the fishermen that if they followed him, he would make them fishers of people. This sounded really exciting to the fishermen. They knew how to catch fish, but people? The fishermen left their boats and everything they had and followed Jesus. They became Jesus' disciples and learned from Jesus how to become "fishers of people".

Who can remember what we call these special friends of Jesus? (Hint if needed: there were 12)

When we follow Jesus we also learn how to be "fishers of people".

What does it mean to be a "fisher of people?" Instead of catching fish we catch people. We tell people about Jesus so that they too want to follow him.