Have you ever watched people fish? They usually sit very still and wait. Simon Peter had been sitting in his boat all night and had not caught a thing. When Jesus told him to try again, he caught many fish! This is how it may have happened.

A cool night breeze blew over the waters of Lake Gennesaret. Simon Peter was fishing with his partners, James and John. He tossed his big fishing net out over the water. He heard a swishing sound and then a splat as it fell. Slowly, slowly, it sank beneath the surface of the water. Simon Peter checked the position of the moon and stars to tell the time. Soon the sun would be rising. And still he had not caught a single fish. James and John, in their own boat, weren't catching anything either.

In a few minutes Simon Peter began to haul in the net hand over hand. He hoped to see the glimmer of fish in the moonlight. But there was nothing. He piled the dripping net into the back of the boat. Then he began to pull on the oars and head back to shore.
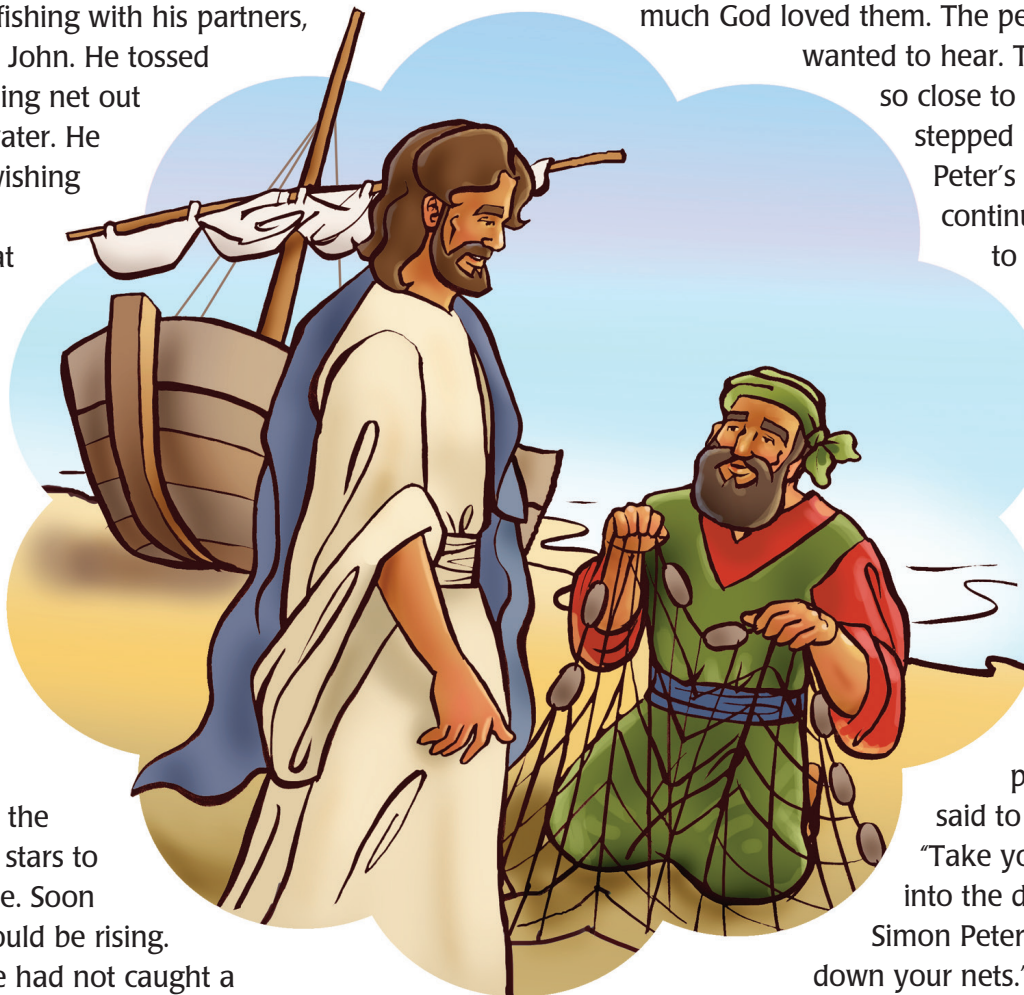
The sky began to change from black to pink. Simon Peter laid out his net and began to clean it. Jesus was standing on the shore surrounded by a crowd of people. He was telling them how much God loved them. The people really wanted to hear. They crowded so close to Jesus that He stepped into Simon Peter's boat and continued to talk to the people. Simon Peter, no doubt, was happy to share his boat with Jesus.

After Jesus finished speaking to the people, He said to Simon Peter, "Take your boat out into the deep water, Simon Peter, and let down your nets."

"Oh, Master," Simon Peter replied. "I've been on this lake all night long with James and John. And we didn't catch one fish!" He paused

The Message

I help others learn about Jesus when I follow His example.

and thought for a minute. "But if You say so, I will try again."

With a swishing sound the net flew up into the air. It landed with a splat on the water, then sank silently.

In a few minutes Simon Peter began to pull in the net. He could not believe it. The net was full of glimmering, writhing fish! It was so full that the net almost broke. Simon Peter called to James and John, "Bring your boat and help me!"

Soon the floors of both boats were covered with the silvery fish. Piles of fish reached up the sides of the boats and threatened to sink them!

When Simon Peter saw all the fish, he knelt before Jesus and said, "Leave me. I am a sinful man."

But Jesus said, "Don't be afraid. Follow Me, and you will be a fisher of men."

Simon Peter, James, and John dragged their loaded boats up onto the sand and left them there. They turned away from the biggest catch of their lives and left all behind to follow Jesus. They would serve Him as long as they lived. And

many people would learn of Jesus because of their work. They truly were fishers of men.

> Fishers were never invited to follow a rabbi and learn from him, so Jesus' invitation to Peter, James, and John was astonishing.

SABBATH

DO Together with your family, visit a place where you can see boats and people fishing. Discuss together what Peter's fishing boat may have looked like. How does it compare with the boats you see today?

PRAY Pray for fishers and those who work at sea.

MONDAY

READ Read and discuss Luke 5:1-11 during family worship. What does it mean to be a fisher of men? Sing "I Will Make You Fishers of Men" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 135) before prayer. Pray that you will be a good example to others.

DO When your mother calls you, see if you can go as quickly as Peter, Andrew, James, and John went when Jesus called them.

THINK What type of nets do fishers use today?

DO Remember to review your memory verse each day.

SUNDAY

READ For worship today, read and discuss Matthew 4:18–22. Find the Sea of Galilee on a Bible map. Compare its size to a body of water in your country. Where is the nearest fishing place?

MAKE Make a paper boat and write your memory verse on it. Use it to teach the verse to your family. Then put it where you will see it often.

PRAY Pray that God will help you listen to the right voices calling you.

TUESDAY

READ Read and discuss John 1:35–42 for family worship. What did Andrew do when he heard about Jesus? What can your family do to tell others about Jesus?

DO If you have a fish tank, look at the fish swim. Find out how they breathe. If you don't have a tank, visit an aquarium or pet shop to look at the fish.

MAKE Make five small boats from different household materials (aluminum foil, cork, paper, etc.). Which floats the best?

PRAY Thank God for all the wonderful creatures He has made.

WEDNESDAY

SHARE For family worship, read and discuss Mark 1:14–20. Ask an adult to tell about someone who is a role model for them.

DO Look in the newspaper and cut out pictures of leaders who are role models. As your family helps you make a collage, talk about how the leaders differ from Jesus. Pray for the leaders of your country.

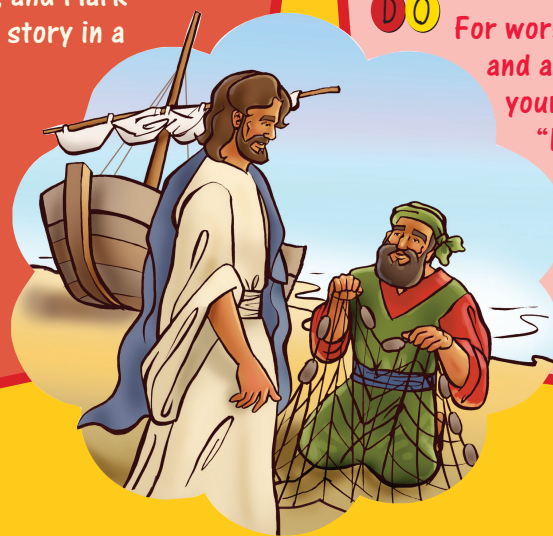**PRAY** Thank God for good role models. Ask Him to help you to be a good role model too.

READ With your family, read and compare Luke 5:1-11, Matthew 4:18-22, and Mark 1:14-20. They all tell the same story in a slightly different way. How are they alike? How are they different?

DO If possible, play Follow the Leader or Simon Says with some friends.

PRAY Thank God for your friends.

DO Without being prompted, help your family get ready for Sabbath.

DO For worship today, review Luke 5:1-11 and act it out with your family. Say your memory verse together. Sing "I Will Make You Fishers of Men" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 135) and other favorite songs. Then ask God to be with you on His holy Sabbath day.

Gone Fishing!

PUZZLE

Directions: Peter, James, and John went fishing, and their lives were changed forever. To find why their lives changed, darken the sections of the fishnet with dots in them.