

## Hearing God's Word:



Today in church we explore the Gospel lesson where the fishnets overflow with fish and Jesus calls us to be fishers of people. Other scriptures we will be thinking about at church this week include 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 and Isaiah 6:1-9.

## Worship @ 11 am Sunday Mornings at

<https://zionreformed.church/worshiplive>



## Sunday School @ 9:45 am Sunday Mornings

(via Zoom)

To participate virtually, join us at <https://zoom.us/join> or by calling 301.715.8592, and when prompted, enter Meeting ID: **865 7471 1577** and Passcode: **YouthSS**. For more information: Contact Kim Ridenour at [miskim@myactv.net](mailto:miskim@myactv.net) or the Church Office at 301.739.7244, or visit <https://zionreformed.church/children>.

## *Fishers of People*



One day Jesus was standing beside Lake Galilee. Many people were pressing all around him. They wanted to hear the word of God. <sup>2</sup> Jesus saw two boats at the shore of the lake. The fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> Jesus got into one of the boats, the one which belonged to Simon. Jesus asked Simon to push off a little from the land. Then Jesus sat down in the boat and continued to teach the people on the shore. <sup>4</sup> When Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Take the boat into deep water. If you will put your nets in the water, you will catch some fish." <sup>5</sup> Simon answered, "Master, we worked hard all night trying to catch fish, but we caught nothing. But you say to put the nets in the water; so I will." <sup>6</sup> The fishermen did as Jesus told them. And they caught so many fish that the nets began to break. <sup>7</sup> They called to their friends in the other boat to come and help them. The friends came, and both boats were filled so full that they were almost sinking. <sup>8-9</sup> The fishermen were all amazed at the many fish they caught. When Simon Peter saw what had happened, he bowed down before Jesus and said, "Go away from me, Lord. I am a sinful man!" <sup>10</sup> James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were amazed too. (James and John were Simon's partners.) Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid. From now on you will be fishermen for men." <sup>11</sup> When the men brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

**Children's Moment:**

Have you ever wondered why so many people like to go fishing? You may even know someone who likes to fish. There are many reasons why people go fishing. Some people like to eat fish, and catching fish might be less expensive than buying it at the grocery store. For others, fishing is a fun hobby. It gives them a chance to rest and relax. Some people say they don't even care if they catch any fish; they just enjoy going fishing. Do you like to go fishing? If you've ever caught a fish, how did it make you feel?



The Bible has a lot to say about fishing. The first disciples Jesus became friends with were fishermen. They didn't fish for fun and relaxation and it wasn't a hobby so they cared a lot if they caught fish or not. Our Gospel lesson today is about one of the disciples' fishing trips. The story begins with Jesus preaching on the shore beside the Sea of Galilee. There was a huge crowd of people gathered around Him and they kept pressing closer so that they could hear Him better. Jesus noticed two empty boats at the water's edge where the fishermen were washing their nets. Jesus stepped into one of the boats and asked Simon, the boat's owner, to move it out a little further from the shore. Then Jesus sat down in the boat and preached to the people from there. When Jesus had finished teaching, He said to Simon, "Move on out into the deep water and let down your nets to catch some fish." Simon answered Him, "Master, we have fished all night without catching a thing, but if You say so, I will let down my nets again." This time the nets came out of the water so full of fish that they began to break. They called for help and their fishing partners brought in another boat, and soon both boats were so full of fish that they were about to sink! When Simon saw what Jesus did, he was filled with awe and perhaps with fear to be in the presence of someone with so much power. He fell on his knees before Jesus. Jesus said to him, "There is nothing to fear. From now on you'll be fishing for people." When they reached the shore, they pulled their boats up on the beach, left them, nets and all, and followed Jesus.

What did Jesus mean when He told them they would be fishing for men and women? He didn't mean that they would go out and throw a net over them. What He meant was that just as they had been bringing the fish into their boats, they would now be bringing people into the Kingdom of God. Jesus wants you and me to be fishers of people, too. That means that we will tell the people we meet about Jesus so that they can know Him and become His followers, too.

**Activity Pages Answer Key (Ages 7+)**

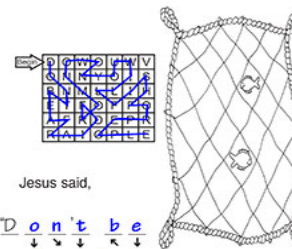
**Calling the First Disciples**

Jesus taught the people. Where was He?

Connect the dots to find out.



Follow the arrows from letter to letter.

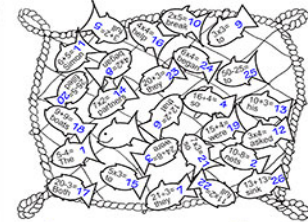


Jesus said,

D o n ' t b e  
 ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓  
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 w i l l f i s h f o r  
 ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓  
 p e o p l e .  
 ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

When Jesus finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon said that they had worked hard all night and hadn't caught anything, but he would do it for Jesus. What happened?

Find the answer to each problem. Write the words from the fish in order from 1 to 26.



The nets were so full that they began to break. Simon asked his partners to help. Both boats were filled so full they began to sink!



What did the fishermen do?

Write the letter of the alphabet that follows the one given.

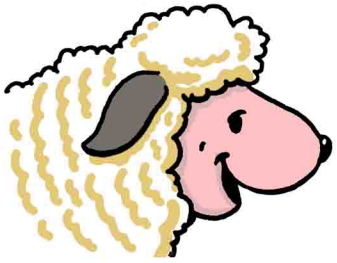
T H E Y L E F T  
 S G D X K D E S  
 E V E R Y T H I N G  
 D U D O Q X S G H M F

A N D  
 M C

F O L L O W E D  
 E N K K N V D C

H I M .  
 G H L





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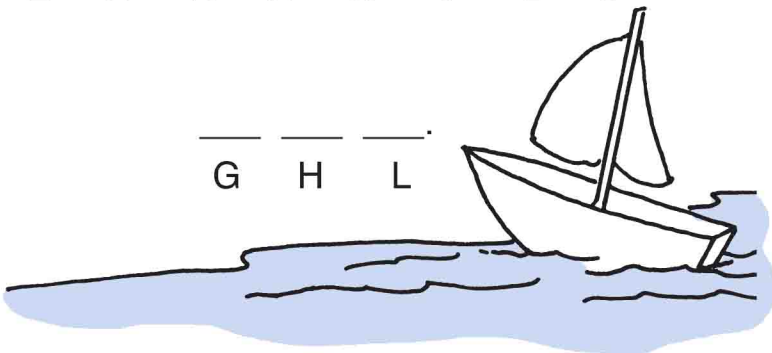
S G D X K D E S

D U D Q X S G H M F

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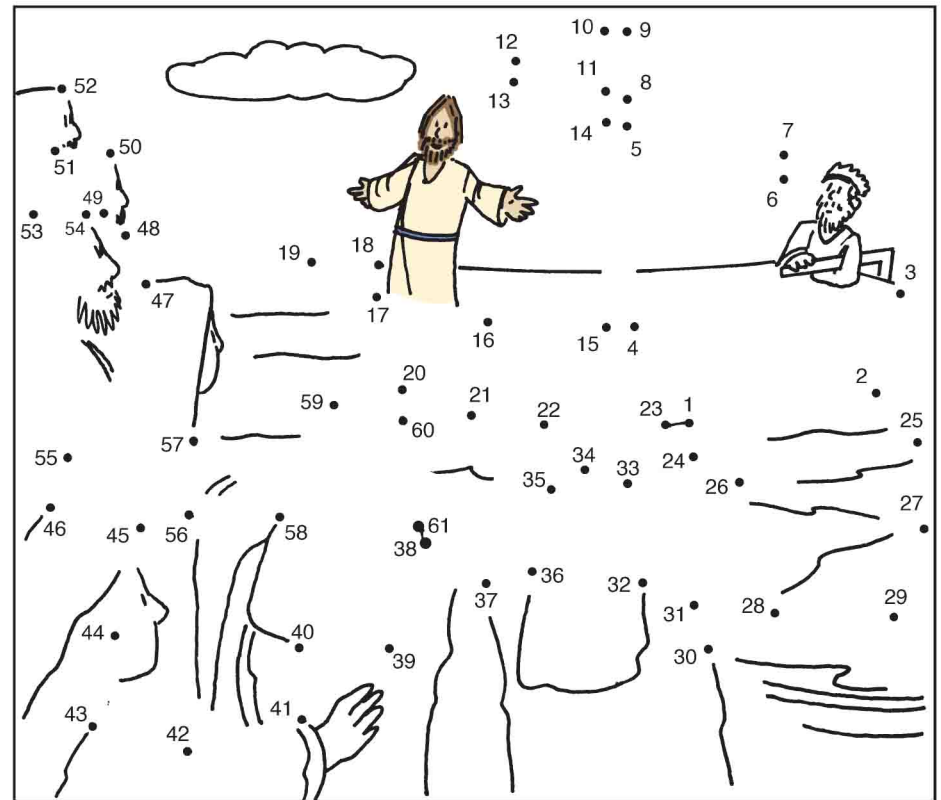
G H L



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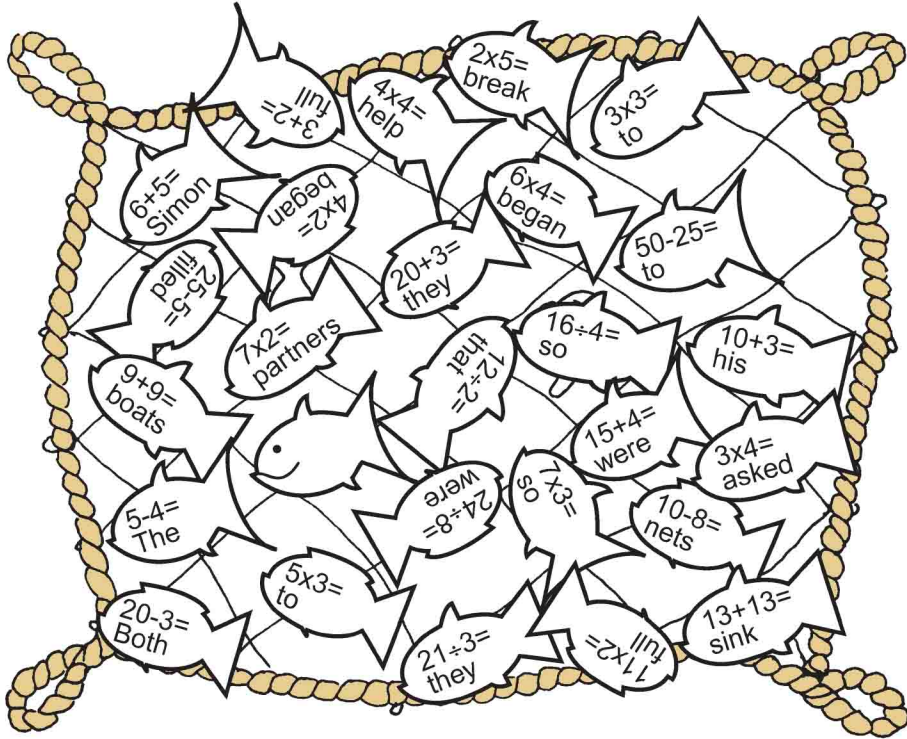


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**HG1133**

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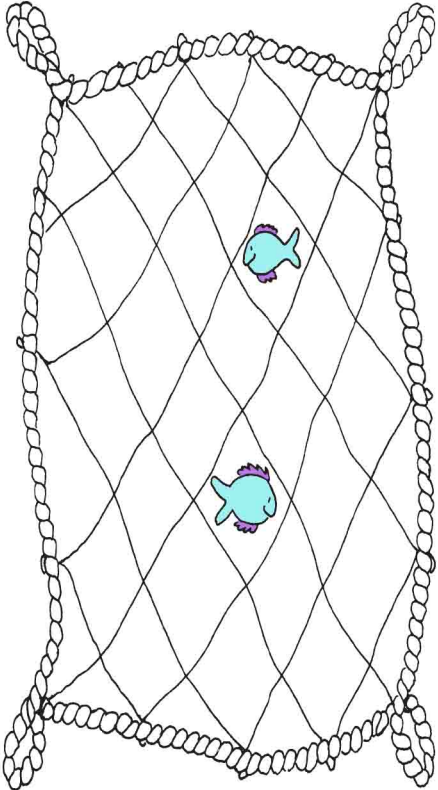
Find the answer to each problem.  
Write the words from the fish in order from 1 to 26.



- |    |    |    |    |    |   |
|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6 |
| 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |   |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |   |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |   |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |   |

Follow the arrows from letter to letter.

Begin →	D	O	W	O	U	W	V
	O	N	N	Y	O	I	S
	B	N	M	L	L	I	H
	E	T	F	O	F	F	O
	A	F	R	D	E	P	R
	R	A	I	O	P	L	E



Jesus said,

