

2.06 THE GREAT CATCH

LUKE 5:1-11

One day, Jesus was teaching a large number of people. Jesus liked to teach and people liked to listen to His lessons. On this day, they were all sitting by a lake and Jesus was standing in front of them. It was hard for this large number of people to hear everything Jesus was saying, so they were pushing and shoving while trying to get closer. What could Jesus do to solve this problem? He looked around and saw two boats next to the lake. The fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. Jesus then decided to get in one of those boats to speak. Maybe now the people could all hear Him better. What a good idea!

Jesus asked the fisherman named Simon if he could put his boat out in the lake a little, just a short way from the shore. With Jesus in Simon's fishing boat, everyone could now hear Him. He could see and speak to everyone. He sat down in the boat and taught the people.

When He was finished teaching, He turned to Simon the fisherman and said, "Launch your boat out into the deep water, and let down your nets to catch some fish."

Simon was really tired. He and his friends had fished all night but had caught nothing. But he wanted to please Jesus. Simon said to Him, "We have worked all night. We have caught nothing, but because You have asked me to, at your word, I will try again."

Simon and his friends did as Jesus said. They put their boats out into the deep water. They lowered their nets once more—and what a surprise! A great number of fish were caught in their net! They were pulling and pulling the net. They called to other fisherman nearby in their boats to please come and help them because their catch was so heavy. All the fishermen helping together were able to pull the fish into Simon's boat, as well as the other fisherman's boat. There were so many fish that each boat began to sink.

Simon fell down at Jesus feet and said, "Depart from me, O Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and his partners, James and John, were so amazed because of the large amount of fish that were caught.

Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on, you will catch men." Jesus didn't want Simon to be afraid of what was going on but to know there was a great plan for his life. After Simon and his partners had brought their boats to the land, they turned away from their old life as fishermen, and became followers of Jesus.

2.06 THE GREAT CATCH - TEACHER'S GUIDE

LUKE 5:1-11

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1) Jesus liked to tell stories. He liked to teach people with His stories. Just like today, I am teaching you. On this day, Jesus had such a large group of people who wanted to listen to Him that He needed a place to stand or sit where everyone could see and hear Him. Can all of you hear me? Can all of you see me? The story is more exciting if you can see and hear all that is going on.
- 2) Jesus needed to use a boat this day so everyone could see and hear Him.
- 3) The fishermen were very tired. They had fished all night. When we work hard at something, we can get very tired, right? When Jesus asked them to put their fishing nets out again, they only tried again because He asked them to.
- 4) Jesus knows things we don't know. It's good to obey Him. He always has the best ideas for us.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) Where had the people gathered to hear Jesus on this day?
- 2) What did Jesus do in order for everyone to hear Him?
- 3) What did Jesus tell the fishermen to do?
- 4) What happened when the fishermen put their fishing nets out once more at the words of Jesus?
- 5) What did Jesus tell Simon? What could this mean?

ANSWERS:

- 1) They were gathered by a lake.
- 2) Jesus got in a boat.
- 3) Jesus told the fishermen to put their fishing nets out.
- 4) There were so many fish caught that it took two boats to carry all the fish.
- 5) Jesus told Simon that he would now catch men instead of fish. Simon would now go with Jesus and be with Him as Jesus told more people about God.

When we obey what Jesus tells us to do like Peter, we will receive blessings in our life!