

Church of God Sunday School

A GREAT CATCH OF FISH

Luke 5:1-11

Jesus had been teaching in the synagogues (*SIN-uh-gogs*) of Galilee. The people followed Him to learn more. Jesus walked to the lake of Gennesaret (*gih-NES-uh-ret*). There were so many people following Him that they "pressed upon him." They were eager to hear the Word of God. They had never heard such preaching.

As Jesus approached the lake, He saw two ships anchored at the shore. The fishermen were not in their ships. They had come ashore to wash their nets. When the nets became dirty, they were unable to catch many fish.

Many people could not see or hear Jesus speak. So He entered Peter's (Simon's) ship and asked him to row out a little from the shore. Jesus sat down and taught the people from the ship. When Jesus taught in the synagogue in His hometown of Nazareth, He also sat down. Sitting down to teach was the Jewish custom.

When Jesus finished teaching the people, He told Peter, "Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught." A *draught* is a load of fish caught by drawing up a net.

Peter told Jesus, "Master, we have toiled [worked] all the night, and have taken nothing." The fishermen had been working hard all night but had caught no fish. Why should they try to fish now when they hadn't caught anything all night? Also, night was the better time to catch fish, but now it was day. Yet Peter obeyed Jesus' command: "Nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net."

When Peter and Andrew let down their nets, a "great multitude of fishes" was caught. In fact, there were so many fish, their nets were breaking. They beckoned (motioned) for the other fishermen—James

and John—to come and help them. The four men worked together to pull up the net full of fish. There were so many fish! They filled both boats! Soon the boats were in danger of sinking from the heavy load. Think of how many fish it would take to cause two ships to begin sinking.

Peter, Andrew, James, and John all realized that Jesus had performed a miracle. Peter was astonished at the miraculous catch of fish. He fell at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord." Peter did not really want Jesus to leave him. He felt unworthy to be in the presence of Jesus.

Jesus did not leave Peter, just as He will not leave you or me. He said to Peter, "Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men." These four men had been catching fish: they were fishermen, but Jesus wanted them to fish for something else. He wanted them to be fishers of men. Jesus was calling these men to a greater work than the fishing business. This was the true reason for the miracle.

When Peter, Andrew, James, and John brought their ships to shore, they forsook, or left, everything—their boats, nets, and even the great catch of fish—to follow Jesus. Today, we must also forsake everything to follow Jesus.

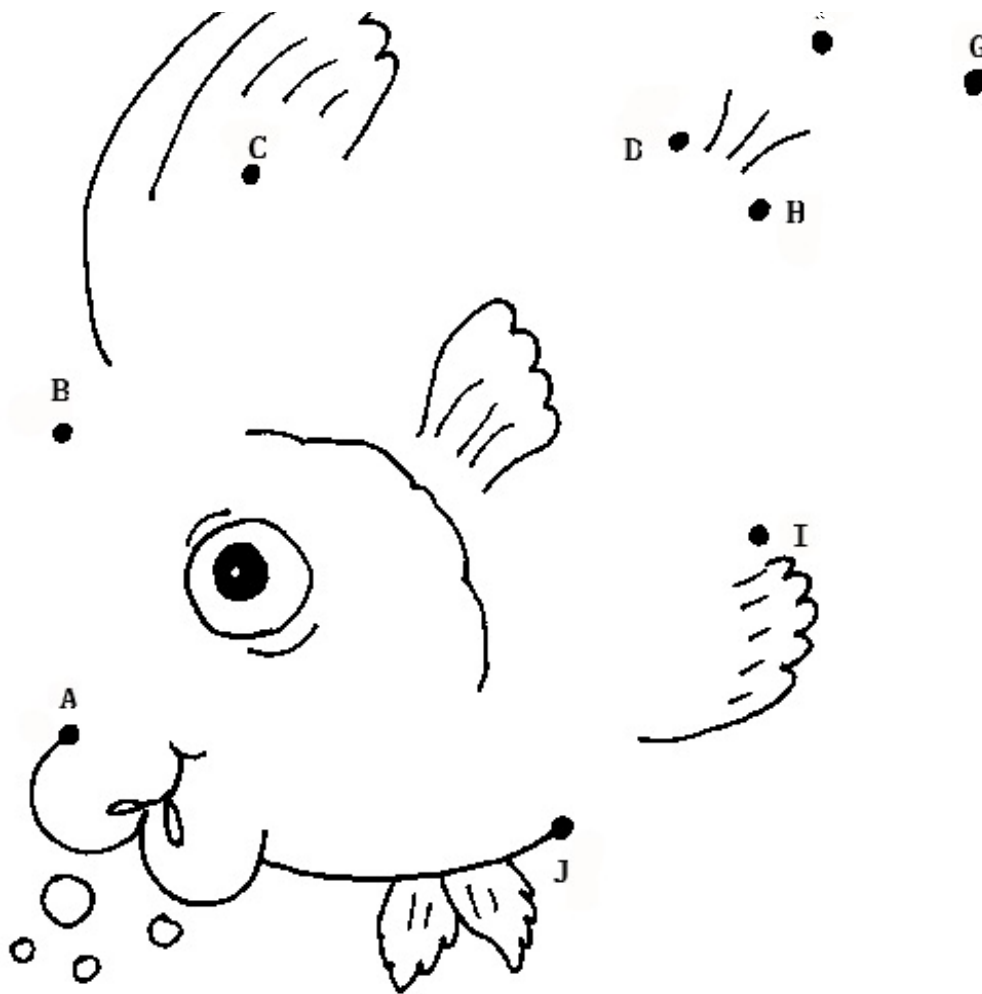


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**MEMORY VERSE:**

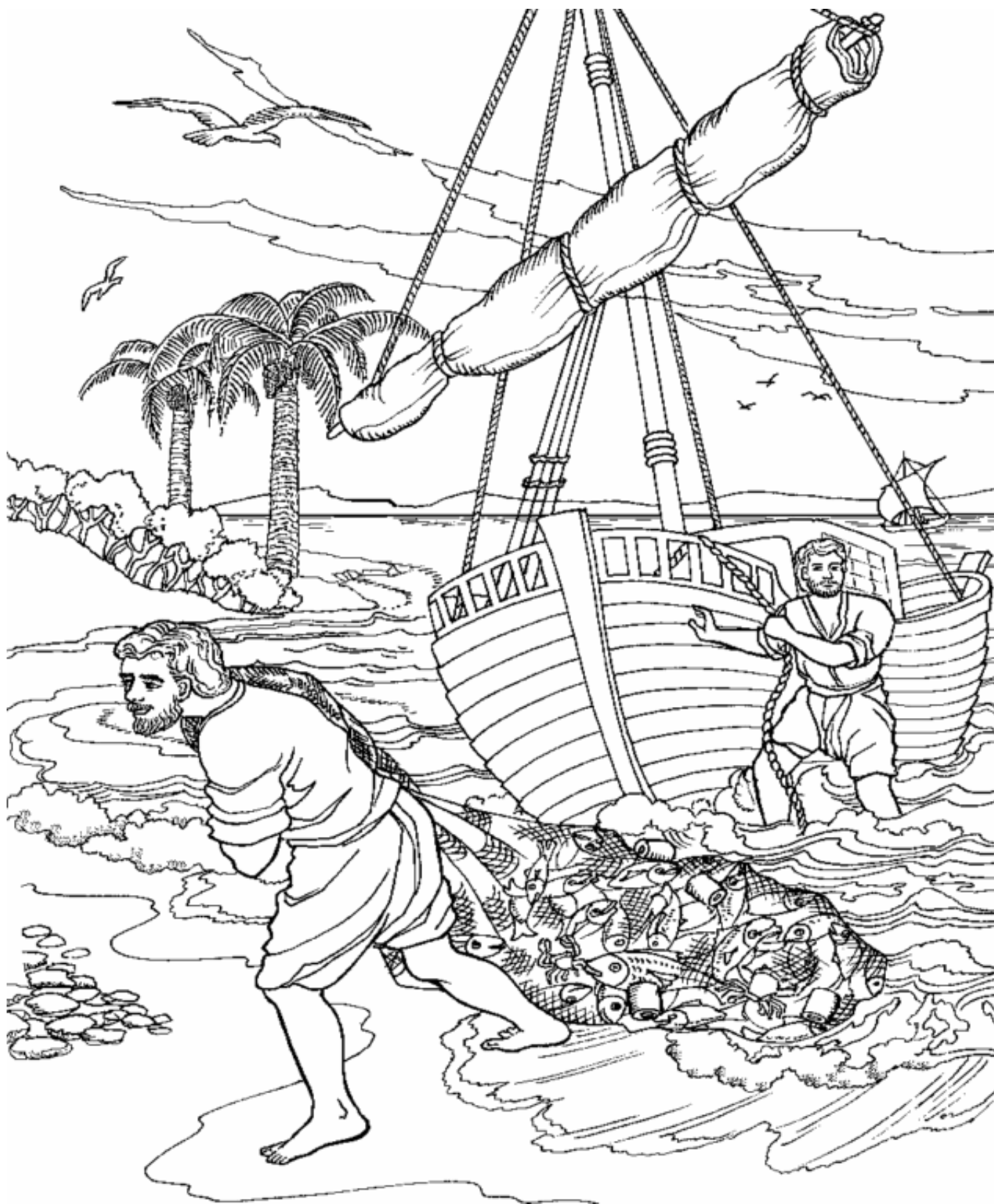
*"And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

—Matthew 4:19

# A Great Catch

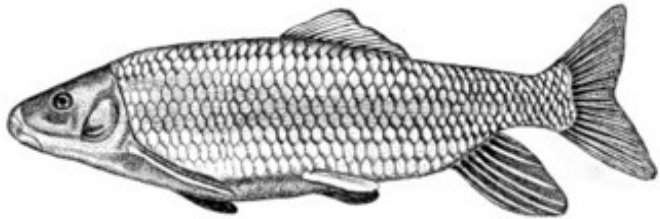


**Connect the Dots to See What Was Caught**



# A Great Catch of Fish

# Unscramble the Words From the Story



**H F S I** \_\_\_\_\_

The fishermen caught many, many of these



**T N E** \_\_\_\_\_

The fish were caught in this



**T O B A** \_\_\_\_\_

The fishermen were in this



**K E A L** \_\_\_\_\_

The fish were found in this