



March 2023

“God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns.” - Philippians 1:6

God wants us to tell others about Jesus.

INTRO

Have you ever been camping? When you went out into the woods with your family, camping in a tent or in a camper, far away from civilization: How many of you drove all the way back to civilization at dinner time to get some McDonalds?

That just doesn't sound right, does it? Who would want to go camping, only to eat fast food for dinner? That kind of goes against the whole point of camping, doesn't it? Camping means getting away from the modern world. It means no TV, no Internet, no fast food. It means taking life slowly and enjoying nature.

Some people pack food for camping trips, like cold cuts and fruits and veggies. Nothing wrong with that, of course, but for other people, nothing says camping like catching and preparing your own food. One of the best ways to do that is by fishing. Have you ever fished for your dinner?

Fishing can be a feast or famine plan. If you don't catch anything, you'll go hungry. But when you do, there's nothing more rewarding than eating something you yourself caught and prepared from the wild.

One of the most famous passages in the Bible has a little to do with fishing. Jesus went to a group of fishermen and told them he wanted them to be fishers of men.



READ LUKE 5:1-11

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

5 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. **2** He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. **3** He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

5 Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. **7** So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" **9** For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, **10** and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." **11** So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

MAIN POINT

Peter, Andrew, James, and John were common, ordinary guys who went to work every day to catch fish. When they got up that morning, I doubt any one of them thought to themselves, I'm going to leave my job to go and follow some new guy around and be his disciple. Even when Jesus stepped into their boat and taught the crowd, I doubt if any of them knew what was about to happen.

When the fishermen saw their net full of fish, Peter fell to his knees and asked Jesus to go away. It wasn't because he was ungrateful. It was because he knew Jesus had come from God. Jesus then told Peter he was not going away. Instead, he was going to make Peter a fisher of men.

Jesus showed his love to Peter on that boat, and Peter followed Jesus from that day forward. In that simple action Jesus not only called Peter to be a fisher of men, He showed him how to do it – with love!

Any good fisherman knows it takes a quality lure to catch the big fish. Whether they use worms, insects, lures, or jigs, fishermen apply their knowledge of fish to select the right bait to catch the fish they want.



Churches are looking to draw people to them in the same way, and these days, churches and well-meaning Christians try a lot of things to bring people in. Parties, concerts, free food, games, prizes, music, all these things can be lures to attract someone to church. But if all we ever do is get them inside the doors, we have not done what Jesus wants.

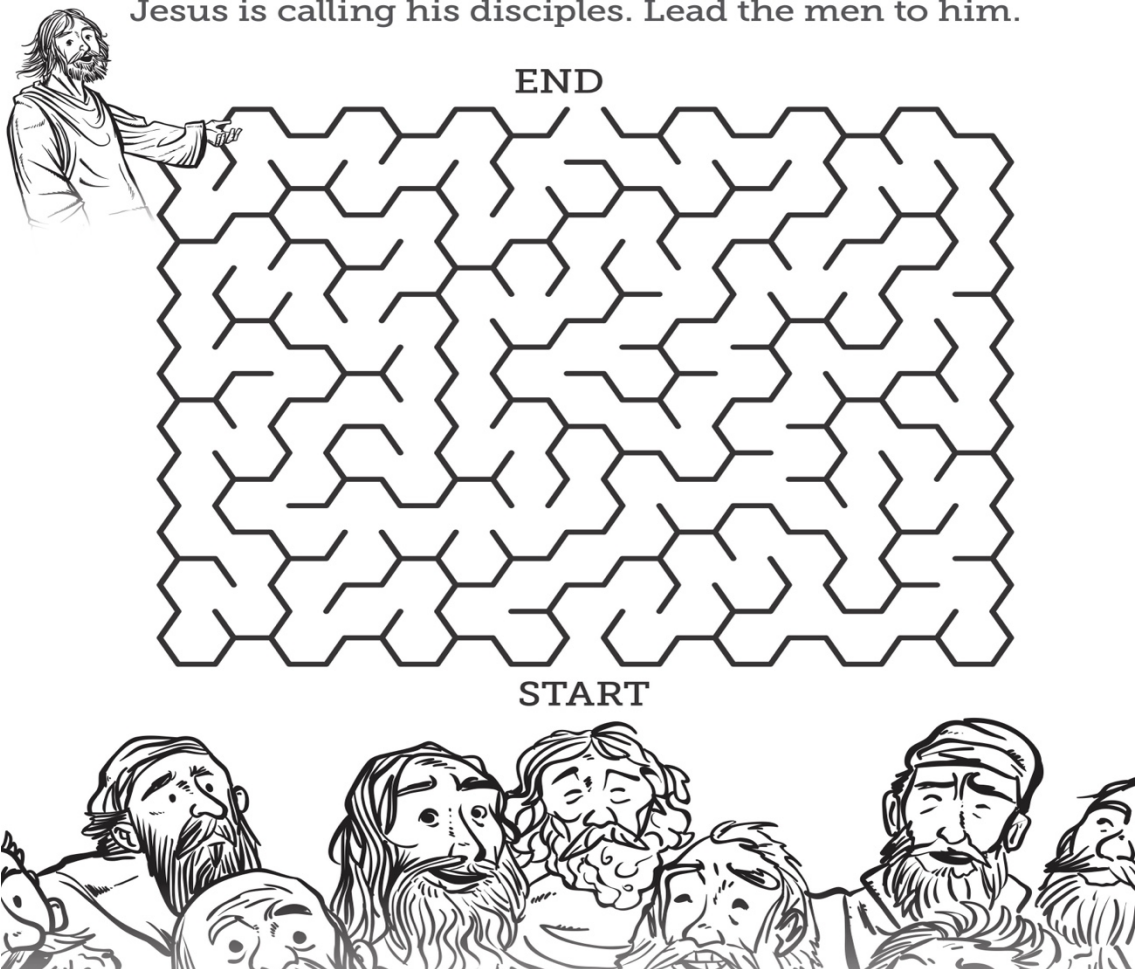
Jesus wants people to come to him so He can love them. Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the world, not so he could give everyone pizza. We can use all the cool gimmicks and fancy tricks we can think of to try and draw people in, but it doesn't mean anything if we aren't sharing Jesus' love.

Love can mean being a friend to the new kid in school. It can mean going the extra mile to help a kid in need. It can mean standing up for the weak or answering a bully with kindness. Love isn't always easy, as you can probably guess from these suggestions, but love is the key to winning people to Jesus.

Jesus was with the disciples in person during his life on Earth, but after Jesus died and rose again, he went back to Heaven. Now, Jesus is counting on his church, on us, to do the work he began through the disciples.

Will you be a fisher of men? Will you commit to loving the unlovely and bringing them to Jesus? He's waiting on you, and he's counting on you to say "YES!"

Jesus is calling his disciples. Lead the men to him.





**Answer the questions and mail to: SIMCamps | 14202 N 73rd Ave | Peoria, AZ 85381.
Please print legibly.**

Camper's Name:

Mailing Address:

Text #:

E-mail:

Read Luke 5:1-11

1. What miracle did Jesus do in the boat?
2. How did Peter respond to the miracle?
3. What did Jesus tell Peter?
4. What does it mean to fish for people?
5. Why is love the key to winning people to Jesus?