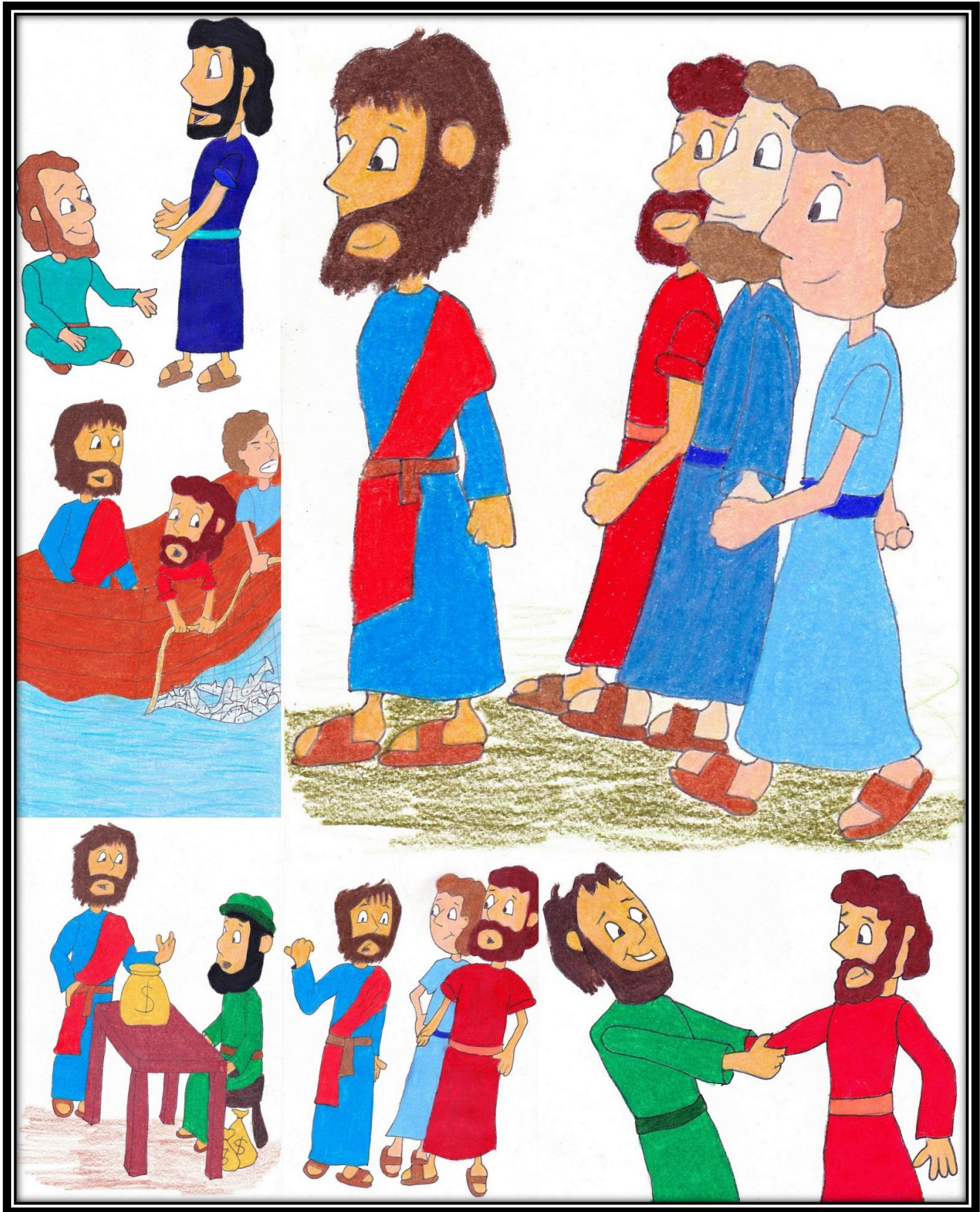


# Jesus Calls the Disciples

Matthew 4:18-22, 9:9-13; Mark 1:16-20, 2:13-17, 3:13-19; Luke 5:1-11 and 27-32, 6:12-16; and John 1:35-51





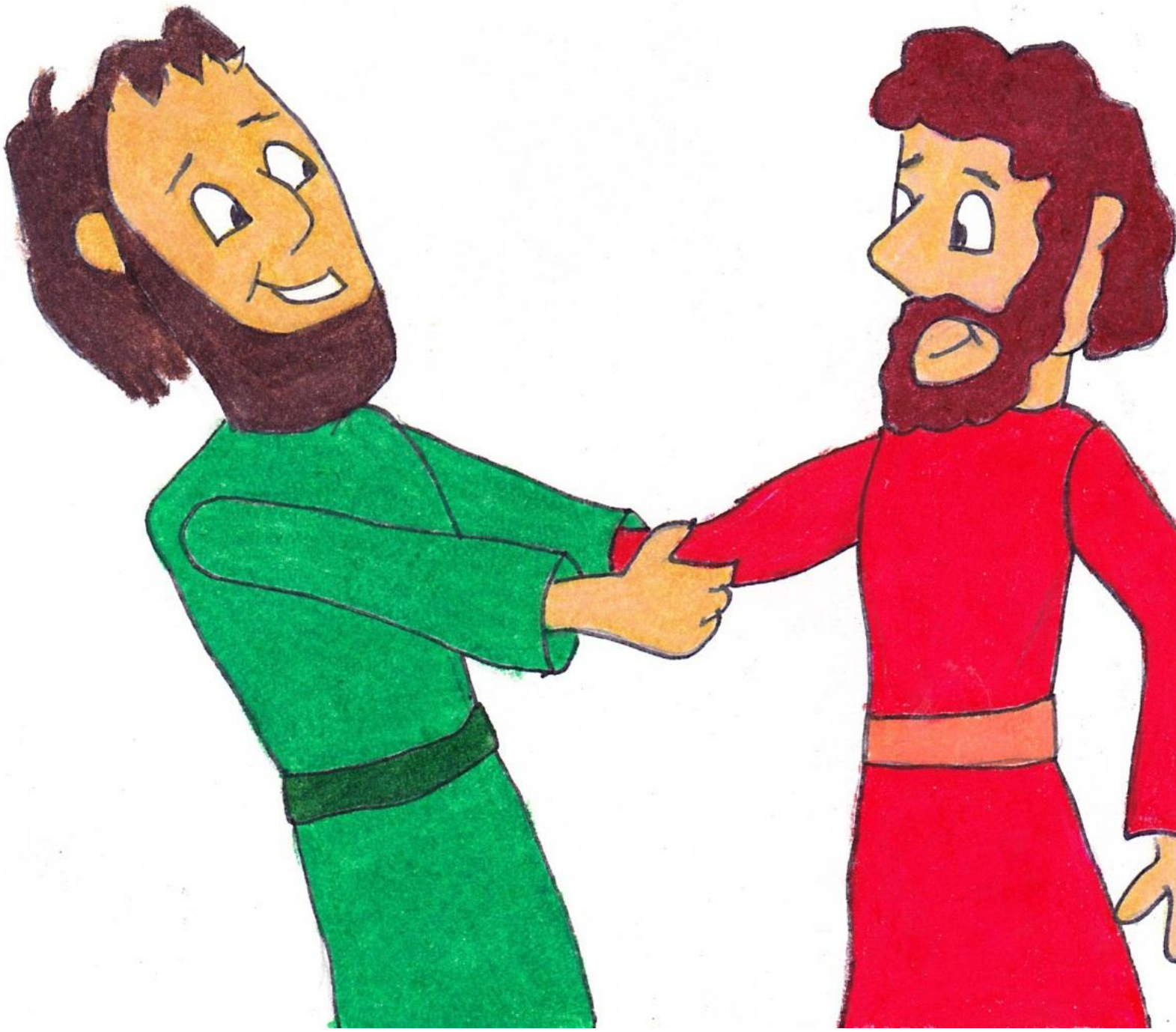
Jesus had many followers, but there were 12 who were especially close to him. This is the story of how Jesus chose those men, his 12 disciples.

The first two he met on the day John baptized him. John was walking down the road and saw Jesus again. He turned to his disciples and said “Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” Two of John’s disciples stepped forward and followed Jesus.

Jesus saw them following him and said, “What do you want?”

“Where are you going?” they asked.

“Come and see,” Jesus answered.



Now one of those disciples was named Andrew, and he had a brother named Simon.

Andrew immediately ran and found his brother and said, “We’ve found the Messiah, you have to come and see him!”

Simon stopped working on his fishing nets and looked up. He shrugged his shoulders and followed Andrew.

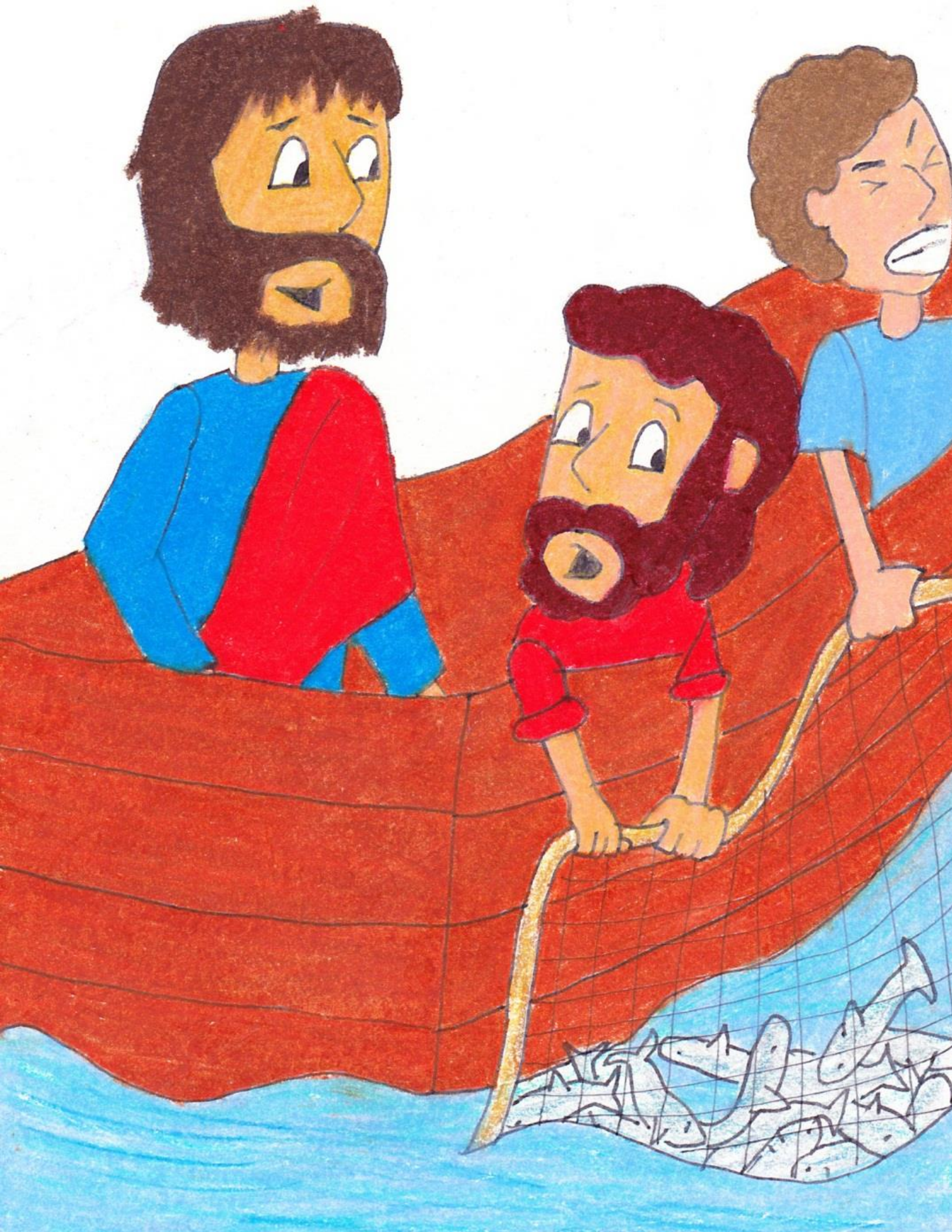
That is how the story goes in the book of John. Matthew and Luke tell it a bit differently.



One day Jesus was teaching by the Sea of Galilee, as he taught the crowd pressed closer and closer. Finally Jesus got into the boat of some nearby fisherman and started teaching from there.

All of the crowd could hear him and everyone was amazed at all he had to say. Finally he finished teaching and turned to the fishermen in the boat.

There were two brothers in the boat and they both helped their father fish and take care of the boat.





They had been fishing all night long and they'd caught nothing. Jesus asked them to go back out in their boats and they looked at him like he was crazy, then they remembered who he was and stopped.

“We've fished all night and we are tired,” Simon answered, “But, because you asked us to we will do it.”

They got all of their nets back out and unfolded them and threw the nets over the side. Nothing happened and then the nets strained and the boat lurched. “Get James and John over here,” Simon yelled, “It's going to capsize us!”

Simon, Andrew, James, and John all pulled as hard as they could to get the fish into the boat.



Simon looked at Jesus and bowed his head and kneeled at Jesus' feet, "Lord, leave me I am a sinful man."

Jesus pulled Simon up and said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." Simon looked Jesus in the eyes and nodded.

"You are called Simon," Jesus said, "But I now name you Peter, which means rock."

Then Peter and his brother Andrew left their boats and their nets and followed Jesus. As they walked off, Jesus saw James and John working on their father's boat.

"Follow me," Jesus said, and they did. They left their nets, their boats, and their families behind to follow Jesus.



As Jesus and his new disciples were walking along the beach they saw Matthew, a tax collector, working.

Again Jesus said, “Follow me,” and Matthew got up from his chair and followed him.

Matthew left behind his business, and all he knew to follow Jesus just like the others did, but before he left, Matthew threw a party.

“You have to come and see this man I met,” he said to all of his friends, “I’m throwing a party, come and meet him.”

Because Matthew was a tax collector he knew all sorts of people. They were all the people that the rest of the Jews considered sinners. Not the sorts of people a holy man would expect to be seen with..



As he sat there eating, the Pharisees whispered behind their hands, “Who does he think he’s eating with? Doesn’t he know they’re all horrible sinners? I think I saw that person stealing from the poor.”

Jesus looked at them and said, “Tell me who needs a doctor?”

“The sick,” they stammered realizing they’d been caught.

“That’s right. God did not send me to come to the saved. He sent me to save the lost. Learn this, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ God longs to show mercy.”

They all looked around and did not know what to say.



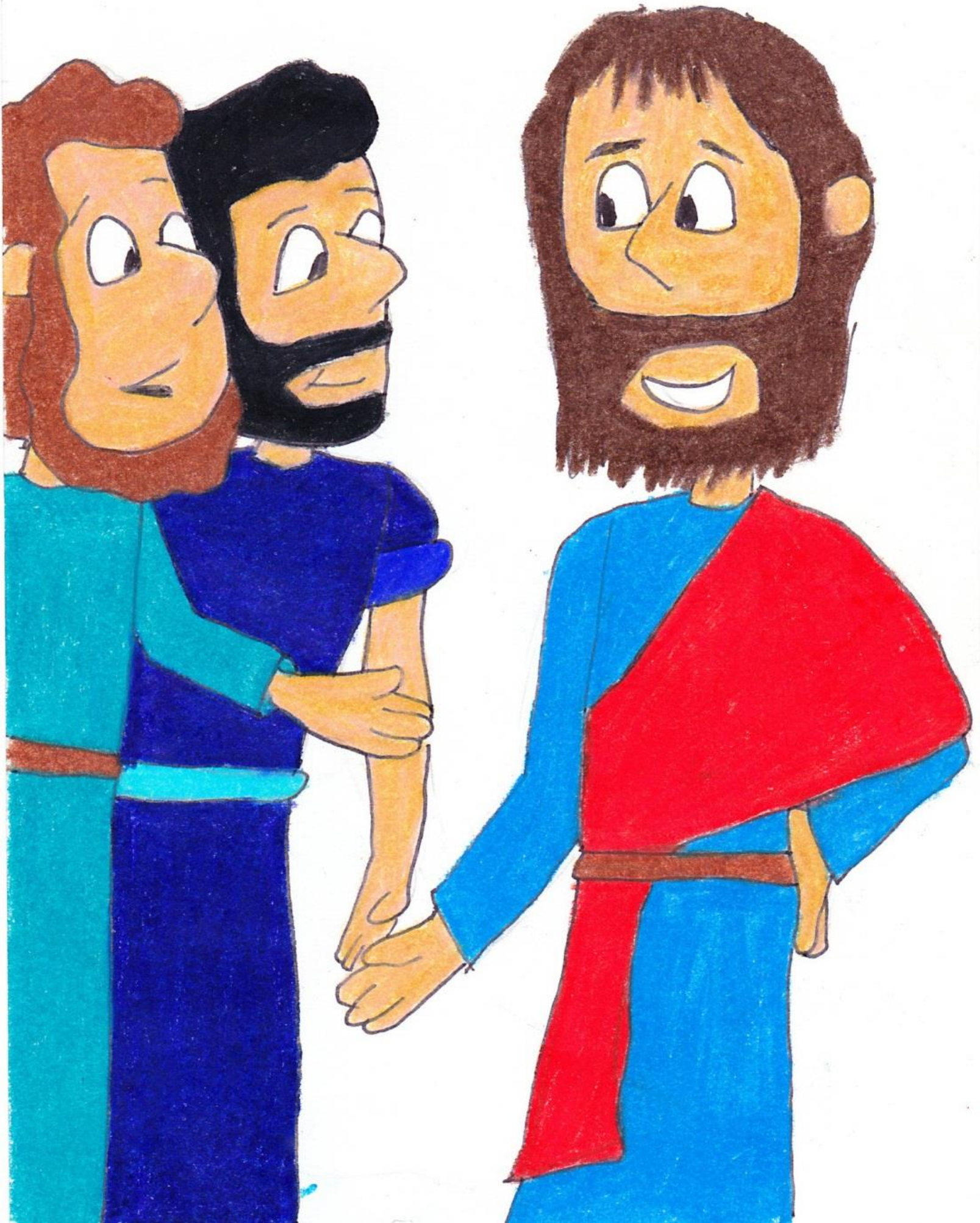


Sometime later Jesus was walking through town and saw Philip. “Follow me,” he said.

And Philip did. Then Philip went and found his friend Nathaniel and said, “I have found the Messiah who Moses talks about. His name is Jesus of Nazareth, he is the son of Joseph.”

Nathaniel scoffed as he listened, “What good has ever come from Nazareth? It’s a hick town.”

“Just come and see,” Philip answered. “You’ll understand then.”



So, Nathaniel followed Philip and walked over to Jesus. As they walked up Jesus cried out, “Here is a good Israelite in whom there are no lies.”

“And how do you know that?” Nathaniel asked.

“I saw you under the fig tree before Philip talked to you,” Jesus answered.

“You are God’s Son!” Nathaniel cried out.

“You believe because I showed you a simple parlor trick. Follow me and you will see more amazing things than this. You will see heaven opening and angels coming.”



At this point quite a few people followed Jesus, they went with him everywhere and learned from him, but God wanted more than a crowd for Jesus. God wanted Jesus to have imitators, disciples who could learn from him.

Jesus went away to pray for a night and came back and chose his twelve disciples: Peter, James and John, Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon the Zealot, Judas (son of James, also called Thaddaeus), and Judas Iscariot.

These twelve men followed Jesus everywhere he went and learned from Jesus during the three years of his ministry on earth.

# Questions

## Younger Kids

1. When John the Baptist saw Jesus, what did he do? Did he try to keep his disciples? What is your response when someone is better than you at something? Do you praise them?
2. What did Simon Peter do when Jesus told him to go fishing again? Have you ever been tempted to tell your parents no because you didn't understand why you were supposed to do it?
3. What did Matthew do right away when he met Jesus? Who do you know that you can tell about Jesus?

## Middle Kids

1. Read Matthew 4:18-20. What do Peter and Andrew do when Jesus calls them? Were they just idly sitting there when he came? How do you respond to adults who tell you what to do? Do you immediately do what you're told?
2. Read Matthew 9:11. What are the Pharisees doing wrong? What should you do if you have a problem with someone? Did the Pharisees do that? Why are the Pharisees there at the dinner?

3. Read Matthew 9:13, Hosea 6:6, and Lamentations 3:22. What is God looking for? Once He has found it, what is His response? Hint: look at the Lamentations passage.
4. Read John 1:45-46. After meeting Jesus what did Philip do? What is Nathaniel's response to Philip's invitation? Have you ever had someone give a bad response to your invitation to church?

### Older Guys

1. Read Matthew 1:16-20. Look at the actions of Peter and Andrew and James and John. Underline all of the action words and words indicating timing. What do you see them doing? Are they taking time to pray about it or getting opinions? Do you think God always wants you to react that way?
2. Read Mark 3:13-14. What did Jesus do before he chose his disciples? What should you do before you make your decisions? Are you always able to do that? Should you always stop to pray? Did Peter and Andrew pray before following Jesus?
3. Reread Mark 3:13-14. Was there more than 12 people following Jesus then? How do you think

the followers felt who were not chosen to be part of “The Twelve?” Can everyone be best friends with the leaders?

4. Read Mark 3:16-19. Who is listed first? Who is listed last? Why do you think that order is assigned? Did you notice any pairings in there?

### Activities

1. Eat goldfish and talk about being fishers of men, who will you fish for?
2. Make a magnetic fish set and practice fishing. Imagine fishing to earn your living and having to get up before daybreak to catch fish like Peter, Andrew, James, and John did.
3. Learn a little about each disciple and fill out the Notebooking page at the end.

### Online

1. Make a fishers of men bag-  
<http://bibleclasscreations.blogspot.com/2012/12/fish.html>
2. 12 disciples pictures to color-  
<http://losninosylabiblia.blogspot.com/2009/05/laminas-biblicas-para-colorear.html>



3. Make 12 disciples “dolls” out of pringles cans- <http://preachmanswife.blogspot.com/2011/04/jesus-called-them-one-by-one.html>
4. Fishing for men game- <http://thefantasticfive-hockmana.blogspot.com/2011/03/bible-alive-tuesday-fishing-for-men.html>

Disciple	Verses	What do you learn about the disciple
Peter	Mark 8:27-30	
James	Matthew 4:18-22	
John	Mark 1:16-20	
Andrew	John 1:40-42	
Philip	John 1:43-51	
Bartholomew		No real reference other than name
Matthew	Mark 2:13-17	
Thomas	John 11:6-16	
James		No real reference other than name
Simon Zealot		No real reference other than name
Judas		No real reference other than name
Judas Iscariot	Mark 14:10-11	