

THE FIRST DISCIPLES

From Matthew 4, Mark 1 & Luke 5

One day, Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee. He saw two brothers who were fishermen, casting a net into the sea. One was called Simon and the other was Andrew. Jesus climbed aboard Simon's boat and asked him to sail a little distance from the shore. Then Jesus sat down and began to teach those who had gathered on the shore's edge from the boat.

When Jesus finished teaching, he said to Simon, 'Sail out into deep waters and drop your nets to catch some fish.'

'Master, we have worked hard all night long and we didn't catch anything,' Simon told him. 'Nevertheless, I will do what you say. I will drop the nets into the sea.'

The men caught so many fish that the nets started to break. They asked their fishing partners in another boat to come and help them. They filled both boats so full of fish that they began to sink!

When Simon saw this, he fell down before Jesus and begged him, 'Leave me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.' Simon and the other fishermen were amazed at the size of the catch.

'Don't be afraid,' Jesus assured Simon. 'Follow me. And from now on, instead of catching fish, you will catch people.'

The fishermen brought their boats to shore. Immediately, Simon and Andrew left their nets and followed Jesus.

Travelling on a bit further, Jesus saw two brothers, James and John, who were also fishermen. They were in the boat with their father, Zebedee, mending their fishing nets. Jesus called the brothers to follow him. Straightaway they left Zebedee in the boat and followed Jesus.

WHAT'S THE POINT:

Jesus called his first **disciples** to follow him. They did not hesitate, nor make up excuses to do something else. They obeyed Jesus immediately. They left their fishing jobs and families behind to follow Jesus. The big catch of fish shows us that Jesus has authority over creation. The immediate response of the fishermen to his call shows us that Jesus has authority over people too. Jesus calls everyone to follow him now.

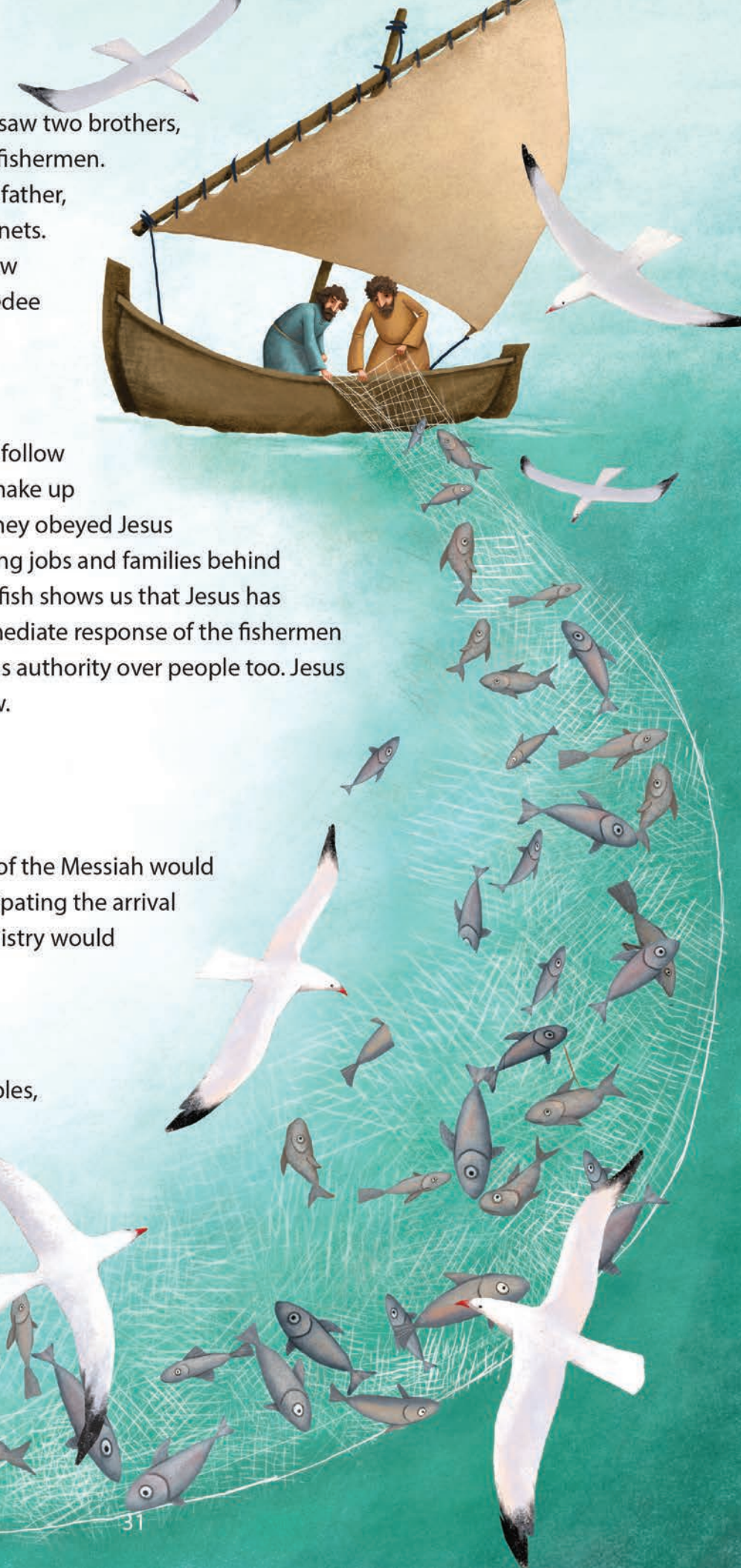
LOOK BACK:

Read Isaiah 9:1-2 and 42:7-8

Isaiah prophesied that the light of the Messiah would shine in Galilee. Isaiah was anticipating the arrival of Jesus the Messiah, whose ministry would flourish in the region of Galilee.

THINK:

When Jesus called the first disciples, they responded immediately and followed him. Jesus is calling you to be his disciple. What will you do?





THE WEDDING

From John 2

A wedding took place at Cana in the region of Galilee. Jesus and his mother, Mary, were invited to the wedding, along with his disciples. It was a wonderful celebration, but eventually there was no wine left.

'They have run out of wine,' Mary said softly to Jesus.

Jesus replied, 'This has nothing to do with me. It is not the time to reveal who I am.'

Mary ignored him. She turned to the servants and told them, 'Do whatever he says.'

There were six stone water jars nearby and each jar could hold between twenty to thirty gallons of water.

'Fill the water jars,' Jesus said to the servants. They filled them with water right up to the top. 'Now take some out and give it to the master of the banquet.' They did what Jesus told them to do.

The master of the banquet tasted the water that had been miraculously turned into wine. He did not know where it came from, although the servants who had drawn the water from the water jars knew it came from Jesus.

The master of the banquet called to the bridegroom and said, 'People usually provide the good wine at the beginning of the banquet, and when everyone has had plenty to drink, only then do they serve the average wine. However, you have waited until now to bring out the best wine.'

This was the first miracle that Jesus did in Cana. His disciples believed in him.

WHAT'S THE POINT:

Jesus was taking part in the celebrations of a joyful wedding occasion. By turning water into wine, Jesus revealed how majestic he is, and his disciples put their trust in him. Jesus is God the Son. As God the Son, Jesus has authority over creation, and he lavishly provides for his people. Jesus wants everyone to respond to him in the same way that his first disciples did.

LOOK BACK:

Read Joel 3:18 and Amos 9:13

The Old Testament promised that a day would come when God would restore and save his people. An abundance of wine was one image that was used to describe the never-ending joy that day would bring.

CHECK THIS OUT:

Read John 3:29-30, Ephesians 5:31-32 and Revelation 19:6-9

John the Baptist described Jesus as the bridegroom. Who is his bride? The bride is the Church, made up of people who have trusted in him. Jesus restored the broken relationship between God and humanity by his death on the cross. Through the cross, Jesus' bride is made clean and ready to be united to him for ever.

THINK:

How did the disciples respond to Jesus when they saw the miracle he did at the wedding in Cana? What's your response to Jesus?

