
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 2, Bible Truth 3

The Case of the Fishermen Who Followed Matthew 4:18-22; 27-28; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11; John 20:30-31;21:24-25

(Numbers correspond to Bible story picture pages in Detective Dan's Big Question Box)

1. Peter, Andrew, James and John were fishermen. Most every night, they went fishing on the Sea of Galilee. "Whoosh," they threw out their nets, then, "grrrrrunt," they pulled them in filled with fish. Catch fish at night. Sell fish by day. That's what fishermen did.

2. But one night, the nets went out empty and came BACK empty... every single time! Sad Peter, Andrew, James, and John rowed their empty boat back to shore. No fish meant no money. They would just clean their nets and go to bed. Ugh! This was the worst night ever!

3. But then, someone came who turned that worst NIGHT ever into the best DAY ever for those men. It was Jesus! He led a crowd of people near to where Peter, Andrew, James, and John worked. Jesus had come to teach God's Word, and He wanted these fishermen to hear.

4. As Jesus taught, God's Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of Peter, Andrew, James, and John. This was just as Jesus had planned. These men would become His disciples. He would teach them God's Word and prepare them to tell the whole world the good news of salvation.

5. When Jesus finished teaching, He said, "Get into your boat and row out onto the lake. Throw out your nets again." This was silly. Everyone knew fish only come out at night. But Peter grumpily obeyed, "We caught nothing all night, but because you say so, we will go back out."

6. It was a good thing those fishermen DID obey Jesus, as they soon found out! They threw out the nets, then pulled them back so full of fish that they couldn't lift them into the boat.

7. Once more, the Holy Spirit worked in those fishermen's hearts. Jesus had done something only God could do. "Leave your fishing nets and come follow Me," Jesus told them. "I'm making you fishers of men. You will bring God's Word to people, so they can learn about Me, the Savior, and be saved from their sins."

8. And that's what Peter, Andrew, James, and John did for three years. They listened to Jesus preach God's Word. They watched Him do many amazing things by God's power. Yes, Jesus WAS the Messiah, the Special One sent by God.

9. But what Jesus did at the end of those three years, was most amazing thing of all. Jesus choose to suffer and die on the cross. He gave up His life to pay for the sins of God's people. Peter, Andrew, James, and John were sad and confused. Was the Messiah supposed to die?

10. Jesus was buried in a cave-grave that day, but He didn't stay there. On the third day, Jesus rose up from the dead in victory! How happy Peter, Andrew, James, John, and the others were! Yes! Jesus really was God's Son, the Savior! He had beaten sin and death for God's people!

11. For forty, wonderful days, Jesus taught His disciples from God's Word. Then, He gave them work to do: "Go into the whole world and teach everyone about Me!" The disciples were happy to obey. They watched many people trust in Jesus as their Savior.

12. God used these men not only preach His Word, but also to write it down. It was Fisherman Peter who wrote the words to our Bible verse. God has used the words they wrote down to help many people believe in Jesus and be saved. He can even use them to save you. Ask Him!