

---

# “Fishers of Men”

Children’s Sermon Object Lesson on Matthew 4:12-23

---



## Children’s Message: Fishers of Men

Following Jesus and Encouraging Others to do Likewise

**Main Objective:** For young children, it might seem strange to hear Jesus promise His disciples that they will “fish for people.” This message explores that concept by explaining to students how God wants us to bring others to the knowledge of His salvation and family. We want to express to kids the importance of a life lived for and with Christ, and what a blessing it is to share with others!

**Law/Gospel Theme:** Jesus came to live among us and die for us to take away the guilty stain of our sins. He called His first disciples, who were willing to leave everything and follow Him. We should also be willing to do whatever it takes to follow Christ, and we should be eager to share the good news with others and “fish for people”!

**Object Lesson Props:** Fishing equipment, such as nets, rods, bait, tackle, etc; pictures of fishing boats or old fishing methods.

- Don’t forget you can watch our teaching example of this [children’s message](#) on [YouTube](#). Get new object lessons on our website every week.
- See the [Bible craft](#) and [Sunday School lesson](#) that accompany this children’s sermon.
- Compare the [“Fishing for People” children’s message](#) from Sermons4Kids

**Bible Passage:** Matthew 4:12-23

**Message:** Note: As with most messages, the details of how you choose to communicate this are adaptable and should cater to timing as well as to your audience and student needs. Use what best suits you and those you teach.

---



Copyright © [Ministry-To-Children.com](#) – Permission granted for any non-profit use. Written by [Kristin Schmidt](#) . Illustrations from [ChristianClipArts.com](#) Scripture quotes from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.®

---

# Children’s Sermon “Fishers of Men”

## from Matthew 4:12-23

---

*Greet the children, bringing up some fishing equipment.*

Hello, children of God! You know what? I think I would like to do some fishing. Have any of you ever been fishing before? What do you need to do when you fish? I have with me some equipment that people sometimes use when they go fishing. (*Hold up items as you discuss*)

So here is a fishing “rod”: you put some kind of “bait” on the end, and then you hold it until a fish comes along and bites at it. Then you turn this crank and try to reel it in! Here’s another kind of item you might use...it’s a net. This kind of tool might make it easy to scoop up fish if you had a lot of them in one spot. Sometimes people use really big nets to pull in fish. This was probably how people used to fish in the times of Jesus, in fact. They had huge nets that they would toss into the water to see what they could pull up. Here are some pictures of boats that might help people catch fish.

So why are we talking about fishing? Well, here’s another question: have you ever been fishing for *people*? Wait, how does that work?? Can you catch people in a net?? (*pretend to “catch” one of the students*) That seems strange...

But you know what, in today’s Gospel lesson, Jesus invited His disciples to be fishers of men. He met a man named Peter, who had a fishing boat. Jesus began to preach from the middle of the lake, right on this boat!

Then He told Peter to put his nets down to catch fish...Peter tried to explain that he hadn’t caught any fish all night, but he followed the directions of Jesus and put his net down again. When he did, he caught more fish than he could even carry! This made him realize that Jesus was something very special, was SomeONE very special. Peter bowed before Jesus. He was willing to do whatever it might take to follow this



teacher. Peter left his fishing boat and his old job in order to become a disciple. Jesus told Peter and his brother Andrew that they would become “fishers of men.” This meant that He was going to use the former fishers in a special way. They would be gathering more followers for Jesus, and would serve people and help people just like Jesus did.

Would you like to be a fisher for disciples? You can! Instead of sitting by a lake or scooping up fish in a pond, you can be a fisher by telling others about Jesus. You can share His love by loving others. Jesus wants us to tell everyone about Him and “make disciples” for Him. We can be fishers of friends! This is an amazing blessing and privilege that we have from God. We can still work at regular jobs, of course. But we can also spread the love of Jesus and “catch” other people to be part of God’s family! We need to be willing to follow Him, and encourage others to do the same. Why don’t we say a prayer about that now?

---

## Children’s Prayer Moment

---

(Have kids repeat each line)

Dear God,

Thank you for the love of Jesus

Help us to follow Him and know what that means.

Help us share His love with one another.

Thank you that we can be disciples, too.

Thank you for your love.

We love you, God!

In Jesus’s name, Amen!



---

# Matthew 4:12-23 (NIV)

---

## Jesus Begins to Preach

<sup>12</sup> When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— <sup>14</sup> to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

<sup>15</sup> “Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,  
the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan,  
Galilee of the Gentiles—

<sup>16</sup> the people living in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of the shadow of death  
a light has dawned.”<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>17</sup> From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

## Jesus Calls His First Disciples

<sup>18</sup> As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” <sup>20</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>21</sup> Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, <sup>22</sup> and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

## Jesus Heals the Sick

<sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

[Matthew 4:12-23 NIV](#)



We hope you enjoy this free resource. Everything from [Ministry-To-Children.com](http://Ministry-To-Children.com) is 100% free to copy & use in ministry. I'm Tony Kummer - I started this website in 2007, but God is using it beyond my imagination. The mission is simple.



---

## *Help you tell kids about Jesus!*

---

Our team is honored that you choose our material. Thank you for ... serving where God has placed you - telling children about Jesus – and allowing us to be a part of your mission.

We don't ask for money, but we do need your help. Please consider the following:

1. Comment on the website to encourage our authors.
2. Link to us from your blog or church website.
3. Share our posts on Pinterest or Facebook.
4. Tell a friend to google "[Ministry to Children](http://Ministry to Children)."
5. Add me (and our team) to your personal prayer list.

Our website now has over 4,000 free resources for your children's ministry. Each month we're adding even more! Here are a few popular sections:

Over 300 Printable [Bible Coloring Pages](http://ministry-to-children.com/bible-coloring-pages/) -- [ministry-to-children.com/bible-coloring-pages/](http://ministry-to-children.com/bible-coloring-pages/)

Over 700 [Bible Lessons](http://ministry-to-children.com/lessons/) and Complete [Sunday School Curriculum](http://ministry-to-children.com/sunday-school-lessons/)

[ministry-to-children.com/lessons/](http://ministry-to-children.com/lessons/) -- [ministry-to-children.com/sunday-school-lessons/](http://ministry-to-children.com/sunday-school-lessons/)

New [Children's Sermons Object Lessons](http://ministry-to-children.com/more-free-kids-sermons/) -- [ministry-to-children.com/more-free-kids-sermons/](http://ministry-to-children.com/more-free-kids-sermons/)

[Sunday School Games](http://ministry-to-children.com/music/), [Bible Crafts](http://ministry-to-children.com/music/), and [Worship Songs for Kids](http://ministry-to-children.com/music/)

[ministry-to-children.com/music/](http://ministry-to-children.com/music/) -- [ministry-to-children.com/kids-sunday-school-games/](http://ministry-to-children.com/kids-sunday-school-games/)

[ministry-to-children.com/sunday-school-crafts/](http://ministry-to-children.com/sunday-school-crafts/)

Don't miss our new sister site [Sunday School Works!](https://sundayschool.works/) -- <https://sundayschool.works/>



---

Copyright © [Ministry-To-Children.com](http://Ministry-To-Children.com) – Permission granted for any non-profit use. Written by [Kristin Schmidt](http://KristinSchmidt.com) . Illustrations from [ChristianClipArts.com](http://ChristianClipArts.com) Scripture quotes from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.®