



1. Look at the icon. Can you find Jesus? The other two men are Simon and his brother Andrew.
2. Simon and Andrew were fishermen. Can you find a fishing pole?
3. They are holding a net. The net was lowered into the water to catch the fish.
4. Have you ever caught a fish?
5. Sometimes you wait for a very long time before you catch a fish. Simon and Andrew had fished all night and caught nothing.
6. After Jesus told them to put the nets back in the water, what happened?
7. Jesus told them they would be gathering men to follow Jesus, just as they had caught the fish.

Jesus was teaching the crowds from a boat in the lake. The boat was Simon's. After he finished, he told Simon to go farther from the land. He then told Simon to lower the net into the lake. Simon said, "We have fished all night and caught nothing, but I will do as you say." Soon, the nets were so full of fish, they were breaking. Simon called for help. By the time they finished, both boats were so full they were almost sinking. Simon Peter looked at the miracle and was amazed. He fell down before Jesus and said, "I am not worthy to be here with you." Jesus told him, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."



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At that time,

the crowd was pressing in on Jesus, listening to the word of God. Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennes'aret. And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, Jesus asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets."

And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats,



so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zeb'edee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

1. Who is pressing in on Jesus?
2. What did they want to hear?
3. Listen carefully to the words we say when we sing the second part of the second antiphon in the liturgy. It begins "only-begotten son and word of God." Who are we calling the Word of

- God in this song?
4. So, who were the crowds in this gospel trying to listen to? And what did they want to hear from him?
5. Where can you see the Word of God, Jesus Christ? Where can you hear the word of God, or

- God's message?
6. What can you do to imitate the crowds who were pressing in to hear the Word of God?

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1. What problem does Jesus have when he is standing by the lake of Gennesaret?
2. What does he see that could solve this problem?
3. Does he ask if he could use the boat before he gets into it?
4. How would you feel if someone came and sat in your family's car without asking and then asked your parents to drive him to the airport?
5. Who could do something like this without offending you? Your cousin? A person from three blocks away? A stranger? The president? A policeman?
6. What do the people who could do this have in common?
7. What is this gospel suggesting about Jesus by saying he could just get into someone's boat without asking?



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1. Why are the crowds pushing in of Jesus?
2. Listen to the part of the second antiphon during the divine liturgy that begins "only begotten son and Word of God." Who are we calling the Word of God in this song?
3. So, who were the crowds trying to listen to in this gospel? And what did they want to hear?
4. According to the antiphon, "only begotten son," why did the only-begotten son and word of God become incarnate and was crucified? So, what word or message does the Word of God bring?
5. What do you think this phrase "word of God" means?