
FISH



> *Matthew 13:47* <

Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish.

A lot of times when we read the Bible we can understand the stories that are being told without much translating. Other times we have to think about it a little more. The stories in the Bible about fishing are ones that we have to give a little more thought to. We have to think about these a little deeper because most of us, if we've fished, have done so in a much different way than the disciples.

When we fish, we try to catch a certain kind of fish. Certain lures are made for certain fish, like a plastic worm for bass, or like chicken livers for catfish. (I know, I know . . . super gross.) Jesus' understanding of fishing is much different than that. In His time and place, He and His friends used nets that were weaved together and thrown over the side of the boat. They didn't work for just one kind of fish. They weren't made to bring in certain ones and keep out certain others.

Jesus tells that the Kingdom of God is like this. God's love seeks out people of every kind, every race, language, social status, nationality, income level, gender, and orientation. God loves and wants to catch us ALL up in His love. When you show God in your world, what kind of fishing are you doing? Are you fishing with a lure for certain kinds of people? Or are you casting out a wide net, sharing God's good news with everyone through your life, words, and actions?

Go and Do

Get out your journal or a sheet of paper and begin to write down all of the different groups of people in your school that you interact with. These might be friends, acquaintances, or even enemies. Write down each of these groups and the people you can think about who are in them. Now take a different group each day and pray for them. Ask God how you can show your love and God's love to them.
