

# Fishing with Jesus

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This skit goes over the stories Jesus does a Miracle at the Sea (John 21:19), the Holy Spirit Comes (Acts 2:1-13, 38-41), and mentions Jesus calling the first disciples and the first miracle of fish (Luke 5:1-11).

**Cast:** Peter, Nathanael, Thomas, John, James, Matthew (and another disciples), Jesus, Stagehand(s) with signs, and Person 1, 2, 3, and 4 in a crowd or audience. 8 boys (disciples & Jesus) 5 either girls or boys

**Props:** stick, boat, 2 nets, fish, campfire, tongues of fire on sticks for each disciple, signs that say “time passed”

**Setting:**

- Lake shore: boat off shore with nets & beach with fire. The boat is set so that the left side is toward the audience. The boat blocks the view of the right side where a net is already laid out full of fish.
- Steps: stage stairs. May be the stairs of a home or a hillside. It is a place the disciples gather and talk.
- Upper room: Just a room that people pray in. It could have pillows to sit on and a carpet

## Scene 1 – I’m bored!

*Disciples are sitting on front steps (of stage with the beach and lake in the background)*

**John:** *(bored & sad)* He’s not here.

**Thomas:** *(bored, but hopeful)* But He is alive! I believe that now, for sure!

**James:** *(bored & a bit frustrated)* True, but what are we supposed *(breaks stick)* to do?

**Nathanael:** *(bored)* I’m bored!

**Peter:** *(with resolve)* I’m going fishing!

**John:** Good idea, Peter! Let’s go!

**Nathanael:** I guess I don’t have anything better to do. Are you coming Thomas?

**Thomas:** *(doubtful)* Are you sure we shouldn’t be doing something ... else?

**Nathanael:** It’s better than doing nothing! *(nods to 2 other disciples)* Are you coming?

## Scene 2 – Let's go fishing!

*Disciples all go to the boat, get in, row 'out' and let down the net. Time passes as they wait. -- stagehand walks across the stage with sign that says "time passes" --*

**Peter:** Pull it in boys! *(Disciples closest to net pull it into boat, showing no fish)*

**Nathanael:** Well, there's nothing here!

**James:** Let's row over to that cove. We always catch fish there!

*Disciples row 'out to cove' and throw net out and wait for fish -- stagehand walks across the stage with sign that says "time passes" --then bring the net in.*

**Peter:** No fish!

**Thomas:** We're never going to catch any fish! I'm tired! I'm laying down. *(lays down & can't be seen)*

**Nathanael:** Last time someone laid down in the boat, a humongous storm came up!

**James:** Yeah, I remember --- Jesus slept .... and He calmed the storm.

**John:** Last time we didn't catch fish, Jesus told us to go into deeper water. Let's row to deeper water.

*Disciples row 'to deeper water' and let down net, wait, -- stagehand walks across the stage with sign that says "time passes" -- and then bring net in.*

**Peter:** Let's try near the shore again. We have time for only one more cast. The horizon is beginning to lighten.

*Disciples row 'to shore' and let down net, wait, -- stagehand walks across the stage with sign that says "time passes" -- and then the disciples bring net in.*

**Nathanael:** Where are the fish? Maybe you guys lost your touch.

**Peter:** *(dejected and a bit angry)* This is crazy!

**Jesus:** *(on shore, calls to disciples)* Friends, don't you have any fish?

**James, John, & Nathanael:** No

**Jesus:** Throw your net on the right side of the boat. There you will find some fish!

**James:** What does he see that we don't see?

**Nathanael:** It won't hurt to try. That's what we've been doing all night long!

*Disciples throw net over right side of the boat*

**James:** Incredible! The net is already full of fish!

*Disciples begin to pull full net into the boat. The empty net will be on top, but that is OK.*

**Peter:** Who is that? This net is so full of fish it's about to break!

**John:** It's the Lord! It's got to be Him!

*Peter jumps over the boat and swims and runs to shore.*

**James & Nathanael:** It is Jesus!

**Thomas:** *(gets up, stretches & yawns)* What's all the excitement about? Did you finally catch some fish?

**John:** Yes we did, with Jesus' help! Look at all the fish!

**Thomas:** (excited) Jesus is here?! WOW!

**James:** Row to shore!

*Disciples quickly row to shore.*

**Jesus:** Come have some breakfast!

*Disciples quickly come to fire, greet Jesus, thank & praise Him. Jesus breaks the bread and offers it and fish to the disciples. The disciples begin to eat the fish and bread offered.*

**Jesus:** "Do not leave Jerusalem. Wait for the gift my Father promised. You have heard me talk about it. John baptized with water. But in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

**Jesus:** Peter, come walk with me.

*Peter and Jesus begin walking down beach. Matthew is seen by boat counting fish throughout Peter and Jesus' walk.*

**Jesus:** "Do you really love me more than these others do?"

**Peter:** "Yes Lord, you know that I love you."

**Jesus:** "Feed my lambs."

**Jesus:** *(pauses, takes a few steps and then says...)* "Simon, son of John, do you really love me?"

**Peter:** Yes, Lord. You know that I love you.

**Jesus:** Take care of my sheep.

**Jesus:** *(stops and turns to Peter, who also stops)* "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

**Peter:** *(feeling bad, puzzled)* “Lord you know all things. You know that I love you.”

**Jesus:** “Feed my sheep.”

*Peter and Jesus turn around and continue to talk, but we can't hear them.*

**Matthew:** *(excited and awed)* 153 fish! 153 large fish!

*The other disciples meet them and they all leave the stage. The disciples come back onto stage and sit on the steps as before.*

### Scene 3 -- Reflection

**James:** So I'm beginning to understand what we are supposed to do.

**Peter:** Jesus said I'm supposed to feed the lambs and sheep. So I need to care for the people following Jesus. What are you supposed to do?

**James:** Remember what Jesus said just before he ascended to heaven, “You must go and make disciples of all nations....”

**Matthew:** “Baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and of the Holy Spirit....”

**Nathanael:** “Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

**John:** and He promised, “I will be with you always, even to the end of the earth.”

**James:** So, in order to make disciples.....

**John:** First we are supposed to wait for the Holy Spirit. Without God's power, our efforts are meaningless. Yet, with God's power the result is amazing!

**Nathanael:** ... case in point – catching fish.

**James:** So first we pray.

**John:** Yes

**Peter:** Let's go to the upper room.

*Disciples agree and leave stage and move to room setting.*

### Scene 4 – Power from on high

*Disciples and others are in 'upper room' kneeling in prayer.*

**John:** Jesus you promised the Holy Spirit. Heavenly Father, we ask for this very special gift. Without you all our efforts are meaningless. We need your power and presence in our lives. Please send your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

*The sound of a loud wind is heard (off stage put the microphone in front of a fan or blow into a microphone). Disciples have a flame made from orange tissue paper on a stick that they hold up so that it looks like a flame is above each of their heads. Then the disciples begin speaking in other languages. The translation is 'Jesus loves you.' {Note – google how to say Jesus loves you for a sound recording of each. Other extras (actors/Pathfinders) come up beside the upper room while the disciples are speaking.*

**Nathanael:** Jesús te ama (Spanish)

**James:** Jésus vous aime (French)

**Thomas:** Yēsū ài nǐ (Chinese)

**Matthew:** Iisus lyubit tebya (Иисус любит тебя) (Russian)

**Peter:** Gesù vi ama (Italian)

**John:** O Iḡsoús sas agapá (Ο Ιησούς σας αγαπά) (Greek)

*The following people are part of a crowd outside the house or are scattered among the audience.*

**Person 1:** How can this be? These people are all from Galilee and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages!

**Person 2:** What can this mean?

**Person 3:** God has done wonderful things!

**Person 4:** I believe it is true that He loves me! I will follow Him!

**Matthew:** 3,000 people here in Jerusalem who have come from all over the world now believe in Jesus!

**John:** Jesus is an amazing fisherman!