

Materials I Need:

Key for symbols:

This symbol represents ideas that can be used for two-year-olds through kindergarten. Please remember to slow way down for two-year-olds and keep the pace moving for five-year-olds.

② This symbol represents ideas that can be used for two- and three-year-olds.

④ This symbol represents ideas that are best used for four-year-olds through kindergarten.

Memory Verse:

Matthew 6:33: But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness.

Hook:

Teachers' Tips for Matthew Lesson Two: Here are several tips to help with the transition from the opening activity to the Bible Adventure. Turn off the lights, then turn them back on and say, "It is time to clean up our work areas so we can make our Bible Adventure story circle." Other clean up ideas are:

(tune: "Muffin Man")

Do you know what time it is, what time it is, what time it is?

Do you know what time it is? It's clean up time!

(tune: London Bridge)

It's time to put our toys away, toys away, toys away.

It's time to put our toys away; I'm a helper here!

Baptism Demonstration: Twist and tape some blue crepe paper streamers between two chairs to represent the River Jordan. Have a leader pretend to be John the Baptist. He stands on one side of the crepe paper and invites individuals into the river. The leader asks the child if he is sorry for his sin. When he says "yes," have him plug his nose, hold his breath, and then dip him under the level of the crepe paper streamers that were stretched between two chairs. "In today's Bible Adventure, Jesus has grown up and gets baptized to show that He wants to obey His Father in heaven. Jesus goes to the Jordan River where He walks into the river, and someone lowers Him all the way under the water and back up again. This is to show that a person's heart is changed and wants to stop sinning and to obey God. Jesus never sinned, but He got baptized to show other people what they should do."

Puzzle Center: Provide several age-appropriate puzzles for the children to work on. "To get into the kingdom of heaven, our hearts need to be right with God. To have right hearts, we need to ask for forgiveness of our sins. Jesus will then forgive our sins and we can be right with God. Our puzzle pieces only fit one 'right' way into the puzzle. When all the pieces are in the 'right' position, the puzzle is completed. It is the same way with our hearts. When we talk to God and ask for forgiveness for our sins, our hearts can then be right with God and we can enter the kingdom of heaven. This is called seeking God's righteousness."

Where's Waldo? Book Center: "Last week we learned we should seek the kingdom of heaven. Seek means to look or search for something. Look in the books provided today for the character named Waldo. Just as we are looking for Waldo, we should also be seeking or looking for the kingdom of heaven."

- Carpenter Center:** Provide styrofoam blocks, golf tees, and wooden hammers for the children. Other toy tools may also be provided. "In today's Bible Adventure, Jesus grows up living with his family. His father was a carpenter, and Jesus learned to build things, too. What kinds of things does a carpenter build? What are you making?"
- Who Were Jesus' Disciples?** Using the JN01ECGF6 picture, show the children which of the four disciples to color. Point out Peter, Andrew, James, and John. In today's Bible Adventure, we'll learn that these are the first four people Jesus asked to follow him to learn about the kingdom of heaven.
- Jesus Grew Up: (MAT02ECGF1)** Give the children different sizes of craft stick pieces to glue on the wood pieces on the page. Talk about where Jesus grew up as a boy and how He never sinned, not even one time. That is why He could die for our sins.



Book:

Presentation Ideas -

- Color and show the **MAT02ECGF1, MAT02ECGF2, MAT02ECGF3, MAT02ECGF4,** and **MAT02ECGF5** pictures as you tell the Bible Adventure.
- Matthew Review:** Review the picture posted on the "Seeking God's Kingdom" board from last week's lesson. (This will be the start of the Bible Adventure.) The second picture (**see last week's MAT01ECGF17**) can be added with the intention that the children will look for it in the story.
- John the Baptist's Clothes and Food:** Bring in some real or plastic grasshoppers, honey, and camel hair (or facsimile). Show these items before the story and have the children listen carefully for who uses them.
- Bible Adventure Introduction:** Repeat a couple of times with the children and let those who would like to, say it by themselves with the hand motions.

Holy Bible,	<i>(Put hands in front and together.)</i>
Book divine,	<i>(Open hands to form a Bible.)</i>
Precious treasure,	<i>(Bring hands to your heart.)</i>
You are mine!	<i>(Point to self.)</i>

Bible Adventure for 2's & 3's-

(Show the MAT02ECGF1 picture.) Jesus grew up in the city of Nazareth with His parents, Joseph and Mary. Joseph was a carpenter, and Jesus learned to work with His stepfather. Jesus was a perfect child. He never did anything wrong! Jesus always obeyed His parents and did the right things. Jesus had no sin because He was God's Son who came to save other people from their sins. When Jesus became thirty years old, it was time for Him to leave His family and begin preaching and teaching about the kingdom of heaven.

(Show the MAT02ECGF2 picture. Point to John the Baptist.) John the Baptist lived in the desert. He ate whatever was close by--grasshoppers and wild honey. (Ohhhh!) He wore clothes made of scratchy camel hair. But these things did not matter to John the Baptist. There was only one thing important to him and that was to get people ready for the kingdom of heaven.

(Raise your voice.) "The King is coming! The King is coming! Get ready for the King!" People were coming from all over Israel to hear John preach. His talks were always the same, "Repent! Get rid of your sins so you will be ready for the kingdom of heaven." Repent means to stop doing wrong things and to start obeying God. Many people were sorry for their sins and were baptized in the Jordan River to show that they wanted to be ready for the kingdom of heaven.

(Show the MAT02ECGF4 picture.) While John was baptizing at the Jordan River, Jesus came to him. Jesus wanted to be baptized to show other people what they should be doing. John lowered Jesus into the water, and when Jesus came out of the water, God, His Father, spoke from heaven. God said, "This is My Son. He is the true King from heaven." To show that Jesus was the true Savior King, the Holy Spirit came to Him, looking like a dove, and lit on Him.

After Jesus' baptism, He began preaching about His heavenly kingdom. Jesus walked from town to town, talking to people. He said, "Repent! Follow Me!" Some people said they were sorry for their sins and followed Jesus.

Before anyone can get into the kingdom of heaven, he must repent from his sins. Each person must tell God he is sorry for selfish sin. Then, Jesus can forgive those sins. That is what it means to seek God's kingdom and His righteousness.

Prayer: Dear God, I believe that Jesus is the King of heaven. Thank You for sending Him to save me from my sins. In Jesus' name, amen.

Bible Adventure for 4's, 5's & K-

(Show the review MAT01ECGF6 picture.) Last week we learned that the magi, who were also called wise men, left their homes to seek the new King who had been born in Bethlehem. The magi worshiped King Jesus by giving him precious gifts—the best gifts they had.

(Show the MAT02ECGF1 picture.) Jesus grew up with his family in a town called Nazareth. Jesus' stepfather was a carpenter, and Jesus learned to work with him. Jesus was a good boy; He never did anything wrong—not even one time. Jesus always obeyed His parents and did the right things. Jesus had no sin because He was God's Son who came to save other people from their sins. When Jesus became thirty years old, it was time for Him to begin preaching and teaching about the kingdom of heaven.

(Show the MAT02ECGF2 picture.) God chose to send Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist, into the desert by the Jordan River to tell people about the kingdom of heaven. John lived in the Judean desert all alone. He didn't spend time worrying about what kind of clothes he would wear or what kinds of foods he would eat. He ate whatever was close by—grasshoppers and wild honey. (Ooohh!) He wore clothes made of scratchy camel hair. Food and clothes were not important to him. There was only one thing that was important to John, and he spent all of his time at it. What was important to John the Baptist was that people get ready for the kingdom of heaven.

"The King is coming! The King is coming! Get ready for the King!" People were coming from all over Israel to hear John preach. His sermons were always the same, "Repent! Get rid of your sins so you will be ready for the kingdom of heaven." Repent means to stop doing wrong things and start following God. Many people believed John's message. They were sorry for their sins and were baptized in the Jordan River to show that they wanted to be ready for the kingdom of heaven.

(Show the MAT02ECGF3 picture.) Some Israelites called Pharisees and Sadducees also walked out to the desert to hear John. These men would not admit that they had any sins. They thought they were good enough to get into heaven without repenting. John said to the Pharisees and Sadducees, "You have sinful thoughts, but you won't admit it. You think you are good, but God doesn't think you are. You must say you're sorry and be baptized to be ready for the kingdom of heaven." The Pharisees and Sadducees were angry with John for telling them they had sin in their hearts. These men never repented, so the door to the kingdom of heaven was closed to them.

(Show the MAT02ECGF4 picture.) While John was baptizing at the Jordan River, Jesus came to him. Jesus asked John to baptize him in the water. John knew that Jesus had no sin and did not need to repent. He said, "You should be baptizing me. I should not be baptizing You."

Jesus insisted that He be baptized to show other people what they should do. John lowered Jesus into the water, and when Jesus came out of the water, God, His Father, spoke from heaven. God said, "This is My Son, and I am pleased with Him. He is the true King from heaven." To show that Jesus was the true Savior King, the Holy Spirit came to Him, looking like a dove, and lit on Him.

After Jesus' baptism, He began preaching about His heavenly kingdom. Jesus walked from town to town, talking to people. He said, "Repent! Follow Me! I will be like a good shepherd to you." People followed Jesus because He made sick people well. People saw that Jesus was from God because only God could make sick people well so quickly.

(Show the MAT02ECGF5 picture.) Jesus wanted helpers to share the good news about the kingdom of heaven. He found two brothers named Peter and Andrew down by the Sea of Galilee, fishing in the lake. Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men!" Peter and Andrew wanted to know more, so they followed Jesus.

Jesus walked along the seashore and saw two more brothers named James and John. Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." James and John were happy to follow Jesus and help people get ready for the kingdom of heaven. They left their fishing nets with their father, and followed Jesus. Eight other men—twelve altogether—became Jesus' disciples and followed Him from town to town. They all said, "Repent! Get ready for the kingdom of heaven."

Before anyone can get into the kingdom of heaven, he must repent from his sins. You and I must not be like the Pharisees and Sadducees who thought they were good because their parents believed in God. Each person must tell God he is sorry for selfish sin. Then, Jesus can forgive those sins. That is what it means to seek God's kingdom and His righteousness.

Prayer: Dear God, I believe that Jesus is the King of heaven. Thank You for sending Him to save me from my sins. I want to repent and learn from Him. I want to tell others about how to get into the kingdom of heaven. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

Aim Questions

Aim Questions for 2's & 3's:

(You can show the GF4 picture while asking the following questions.)

1. **Who was baptized by John the Baptist and started telling people to repent and to follow Him?** *(Jesus.)*
2. **Who was pleased with Jesus and sent the Holy Spirit like a dove to rest on Jesus when He was baptized?** *(God the Father.)*

Aim Questions for 4's, 5's & K:

1. **What did John the Baptist do for those who repented from their sins?** *(He baptized them in the Jordan River.)*
2. **Did Jesus need to repent from sins to be baptized?** *(No. Jesus had no sin, but He was baptized to show us what we should do.)*
3. **What did Jesus preach from town to town?** *(“Repent and follow Me.”)*
4. **Who left their fishing nets and followed Jesus?** *(Peter, Andrew, James, and John became Jesus' disciples. Eight other disciples soon joined them.)*



Look:

- Aim Questions:** Show the appropriate pictures from today's Bible Adventure while asking the questions.
- Snack:** Drizzle honey on crackers and talk about John the Baptist, what he was like, what he ate and what he did for God. Serve goldfish crackers and talk about Jesus asking the disciples to follow Him and be fishers of men.
- Marbles, Boxes, Paint, and Fish:** Cut blue construction paper to fit in the bottom of boxes or box lids. Cut fish shapes out of colored construction paper and glue on the blue paper. Place paper in bottom of box. Roll a marble in a bowl of white tempera paint. Drop the marble on the blue paper in the box and roll it around. This white paint makes the net for the fish! Talk about the what Jesus said when he talked to people and what he wanted James, John and the others to tell people.
- Jesus Called Disciples: (MAT02ECGF5)** Let the children tape netting on the disciples' boat and fish crackers on the net. Talk about what Jesus told people to do to get into His kingdom of heaven—repent and follow Him. Sing “I Will Make You Fishers of Men” as the children work.
I will make you fishers of men, fishers of men, fishers of men.
I will make you fishers of men, if you follow Me.
If you follow Me; if you follow Me.
I will make you fishers of men, if you follow Me.

Hear Christ calling, “Come unto Me, come unto Me, come unto Me.”

Hear Christ calling, “Come unto Me; I will give you rest.

I will give you rest; I will give you rest.”

Hear Christ calling, “Come unto Me; I will give you rest.”

- “Follow Me” Finger Play:**

Once when Christ was walking, *(Walk feet in place.)*

By the shining sea, *(Make waves in the air with hands.)*

He called out to fishermen, *(Cup hands around mouth.)*

“Come and follow me.”

So they left their fishing nets, *(Make a dropping motion.)*

And followed one by one. *(Hold up one index finger and then other.)*

They followed after Jesus, *(Walk feet in place.)*

Because He is God's Son.

- Jordan River Activity:** Take the children to an open area outside. Have plenty of blue crepe paper that can be torn into long streamers. Two leaders hold one long streamer between them. A third helper has two children race toward the streamer to see who can break it first with their chest by

running through it. Repeat until everyone has had a turn. This will be an eager group to jump into the Jordan for baptism!

- “Joseph Worked with One Hammer” Large Muscle Activity:** Sit on the floor and sing the words and tune of “Johnny Works with One Hammer,” substituting Joseph and then for Jesus instead of Johnny. Jesus grew up helping Joseph with his carpentry work.
- Feeling Center:** In a bag, place several items that are mentioned in the Bible Adventure. Let children feel and guess what they are. Ask them to listen for these items later when we talk about the Bible. Include a piece of fur, plastic grasshoppers, a smooth piece of wood, a hammer, a large nail, a river rock, a bag of sand, a jar of water, sandals, plastic fish, a boat, and a fish net.
- Boat Center:** Provide a dishpan half full of water that is placed on a towel on a plastic tablecloth on a table. Bring toy boats to play in the water. Different objects that float and sink would be fun to experiment with, also. Talk about things we do in the water. Be sure to include fishing. People can be baptized in the river after they repent and tell Jesus they are sorry for their sins.
- Sandals Center: (MAT02ECGF6)** Have GF6 feet shapes cut out of heavy paper or cardboard and hole punched before the children arrive. Give each child a memory verse to glue on them. Give the children yarn to lace through the holes. Talk about Jesus wearing sandals and walking everywhere with the message of repentance. Sing the memory verse song as the children “walk” their sandals around the room.
- “Repent and Follow Jesus” March:** To “The Ants Go Marching” while marching in place:
Repent and follow Je-esus, the King, the King. *(Fold hands, then point up.)*
Repent and follow Je-esus, the King, the King. *(Fold hands, then point up.)*
Repent and sa-ay, “I’m sorry for, the sins that Jesus would die-e for.” *(Fold hands.)*
And then you will get to go, to the King, to the King of heaven. *(Arms swinging at sides.)*
Change this song by adding instruments, slapping sides of legs, clapping hands, raising and lowering arms.
- Seeking Hidden Faces:** Hide small happy and sad faces all around the room. These could be stickers and the children could put them on their clothing. After a few minutes call them together in a circle on the floor. Count the faces on each child, the happy and the sad. Review the sad parts of the Bible Adventure and the happy, good parts. Jesus worked with His stepfather. Jesus never did anything wrong. Jesus never sinned. Jesus came to save people from their sins.
- Fish for the Verse:** Write one word of the memory verse on several fish cut from colored construction paper. Place a paper clip on each fish. Attach a magnet to a string from a stick and let children take turns fishing. Together place the fish in order so the verse reads right.
- Review Cartons:** Use the egg cartons from last week to review the Bible Adventure and verse.
- Getting to Know Each Other Activity Song:** Continue this activity from last week. Children hold hands in a circle as they walk, round and round.
Round in a circle, round in a game, round and round and tell me your name!
Sing to the tune of “Did You Ever See a Lassie?”
I’m so glad we’re all together, together, together.
I’m so glad we’re all together at Bible School today with (children’s names).
I’m so glad we’re all together at Bible School today.

Songs:

- Bible Themes Song** *(tune: “Bible Songs for Preschool Children—Matthew” tape)*
(Chorus)
We like to sing about the Bible themes.
We like to sing about the Bible themes.
We like to sing about the Bible themes.
It helps us understand (God’s Wo-ord).

Matthew—Jesus, the king;
Mark—Jesus, the servant;
Luke—Jesus, the perfect man;
And John—He’s the Son of God.

(Repeat chorus.)

Matthew 6:33, Memory Verse Song (tune: "Do Lord")

But seek first His kingdom
And His righteousness.
But seek first His kingdom
And His righteousness.
But seek first His kingdom
And His righteousness.
Matthew six, thirty three. (Repeat.)

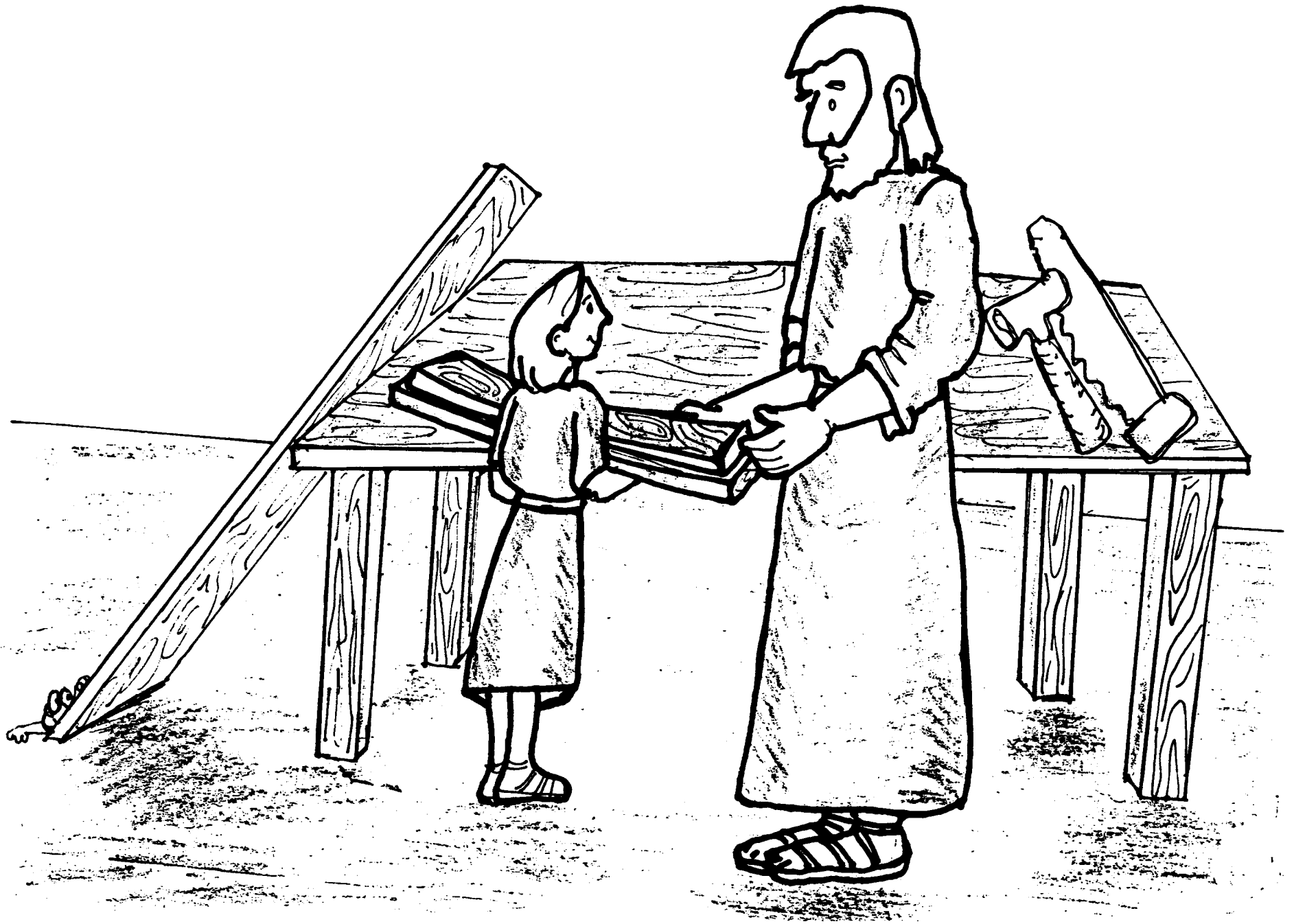


Took:

Fishermen Boats: Materials needed: Paper plate, 12" x 6" net, stapler, 2-8" twine ropes, dark colored markers, goldfish crackers, words Jesus said, "Come, follow Me." With the front side up, fold the paper plate in half. Have the children put lines (to represent boards) on both sides of their plate. Give each child a section of net and two twine pieces. Let them hold the net while the teacher ties each end. Staple both ends of the net to one side of the plate. Tape or glue the words on the opposite side of the plate from the net. Allow the children to count out a certain number of fish to add to their net. Show the children how to rock their boats. No one is in the boat because Peter and Andrew left their boats and nets to follow Jesus.

Magnifying Glass Necklace: Print the glass on cardstock paper. Cut out. Color the glass adding yarn around the edge, if desired. Lace yarn through a hole in the handle. Repeat the memory verse together and review the fact that if we are seeking God' kingdom and His righteousness, we must repent of our sins. Place a praying hands sticker on the back of the magnifying glass for a reminder.

Preschool Page for Parents: (MAT02ECPPP) Send a page home with each child, encouraging parents to reinforce the Bible truths at home. Spend a few minutes before the children go home creatively reviewing the song and memory verse.



Jesus never sinned even once as He grew up with His family in Nazareth.



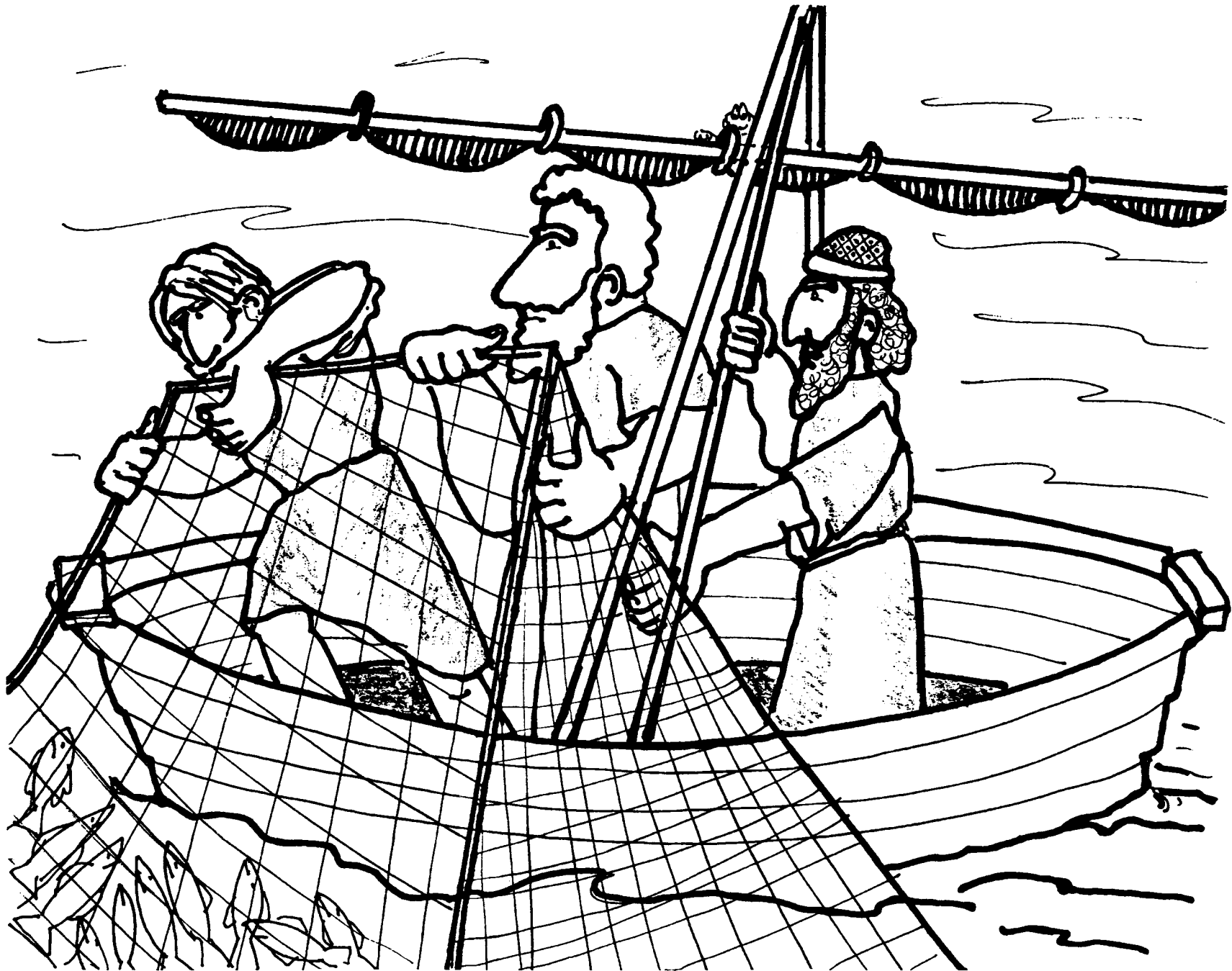
John baptized people in the Jordan River who were sorry for their sin.



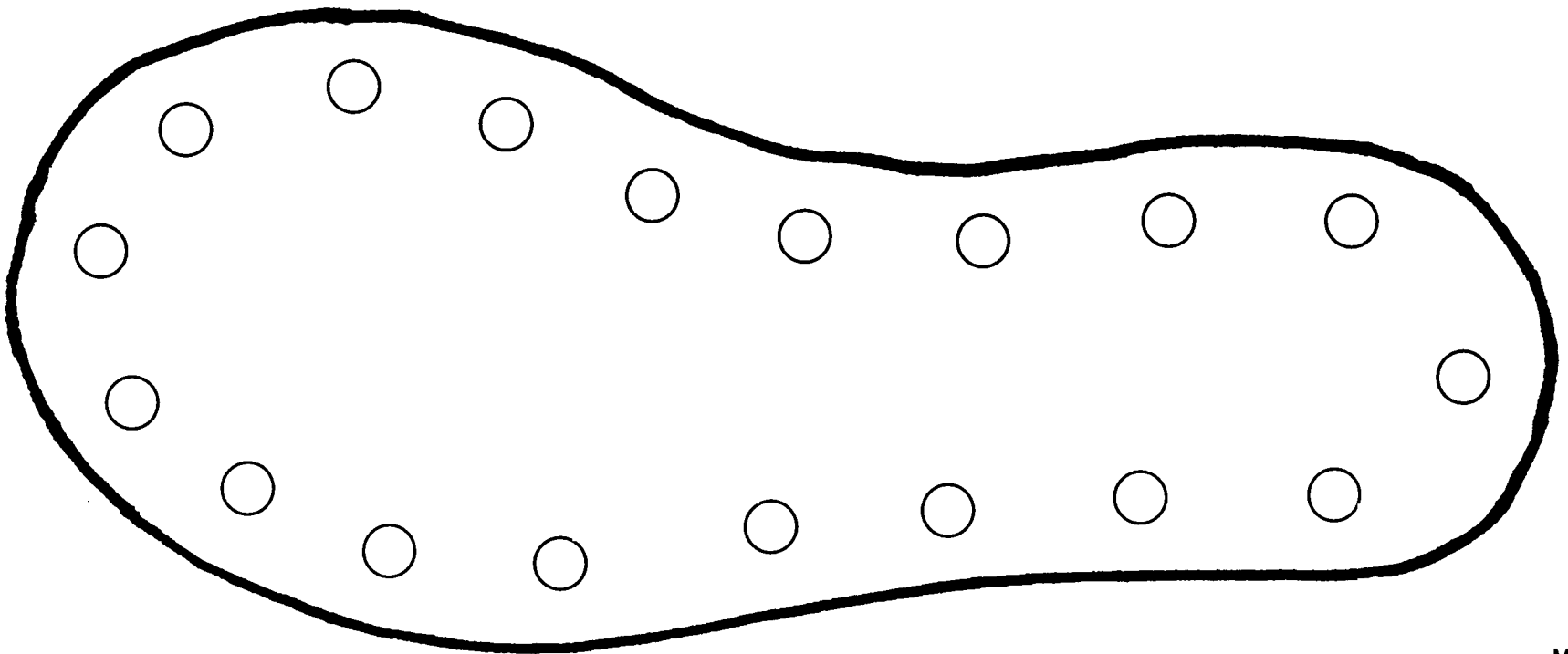
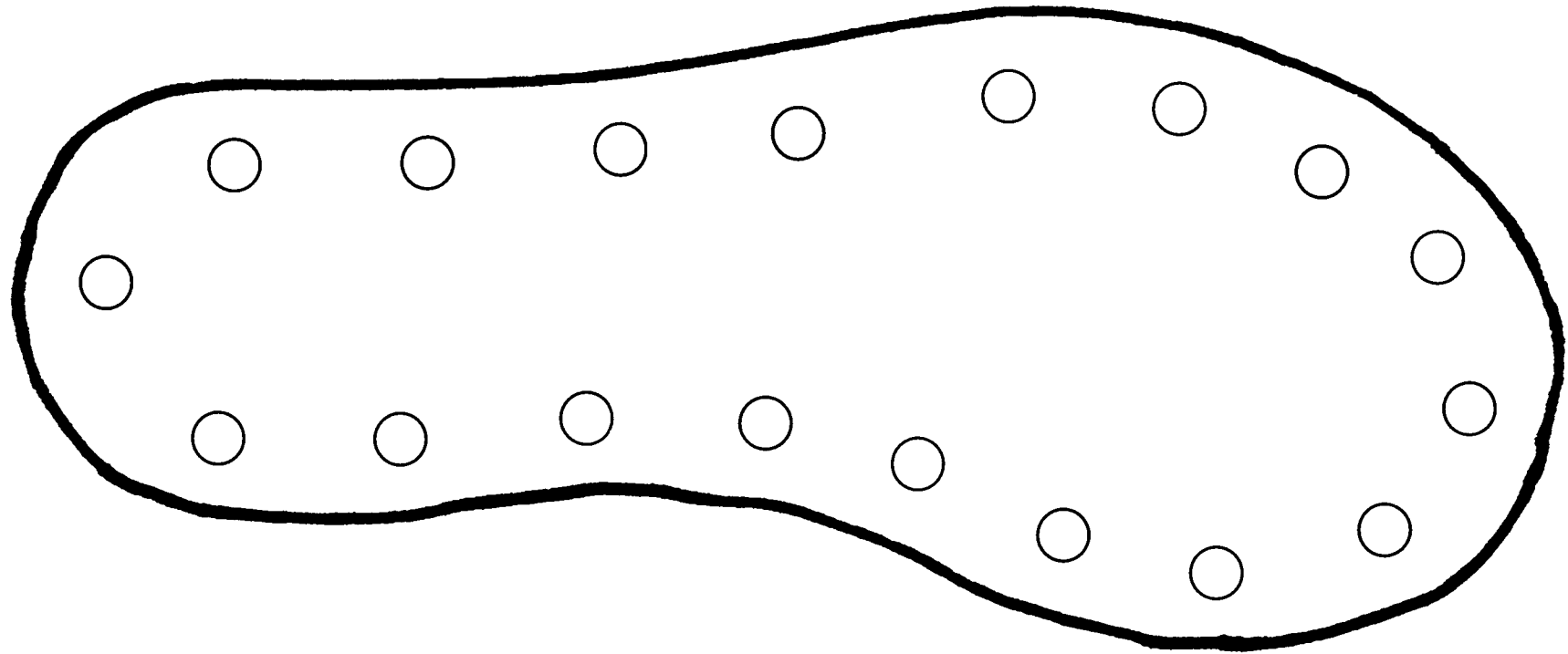
The Pharisees and Sadducees thought they were too good to be baptized.



Jesus showed us how to be baptized even though He had no sin.



Jesus called disciples to repent and follow Him.





This is what I learned today!

Jesus grew up with His family in Nazareth, and when He was thirty years old, it was time for Him to begin telling others of the kingdom of heaven. God chose John the Baptist to baptize Jesus. Jesus didn't need to repent and be baptized because He had no sin. He was perfect. Jesus was baptized so the people could see what they should do. When Jesus came out of the water, the Holy Spirit came to Him, looking like a dove, and lit on Him. God spoke from heaven telling the people that Jesus was the King of heaven. After He was baptized, Jesus began preaching about His heavenly kingdom. He made sick people well. He found twelve men, called disciples, to be His helpers in sharing the good news of the kingdom of heaven.

Today's Memory Verse

Matthew 6:33:
But seek first His kingdom
and His righteousness.

Repent and Follow Jesus



Sing the following "Repent and Follow Jesus" song to the tune of "The Ants Go Marching" while marching in place, around the room, or outside. Change the song by adding instruments (any kitchen utensils), slapping the sides of your legs, clapping your hands, and raising and lowering your arms.

Repent and follow Je-esus, the King, the King.
Repent and follow Je-esus, the King, the King.
Repent and sa-ay, "I'm sorry for
The sins that Jesus would die-e for."
And then you will get to go
To the King, to the King of heaven.

Bible Themes Song

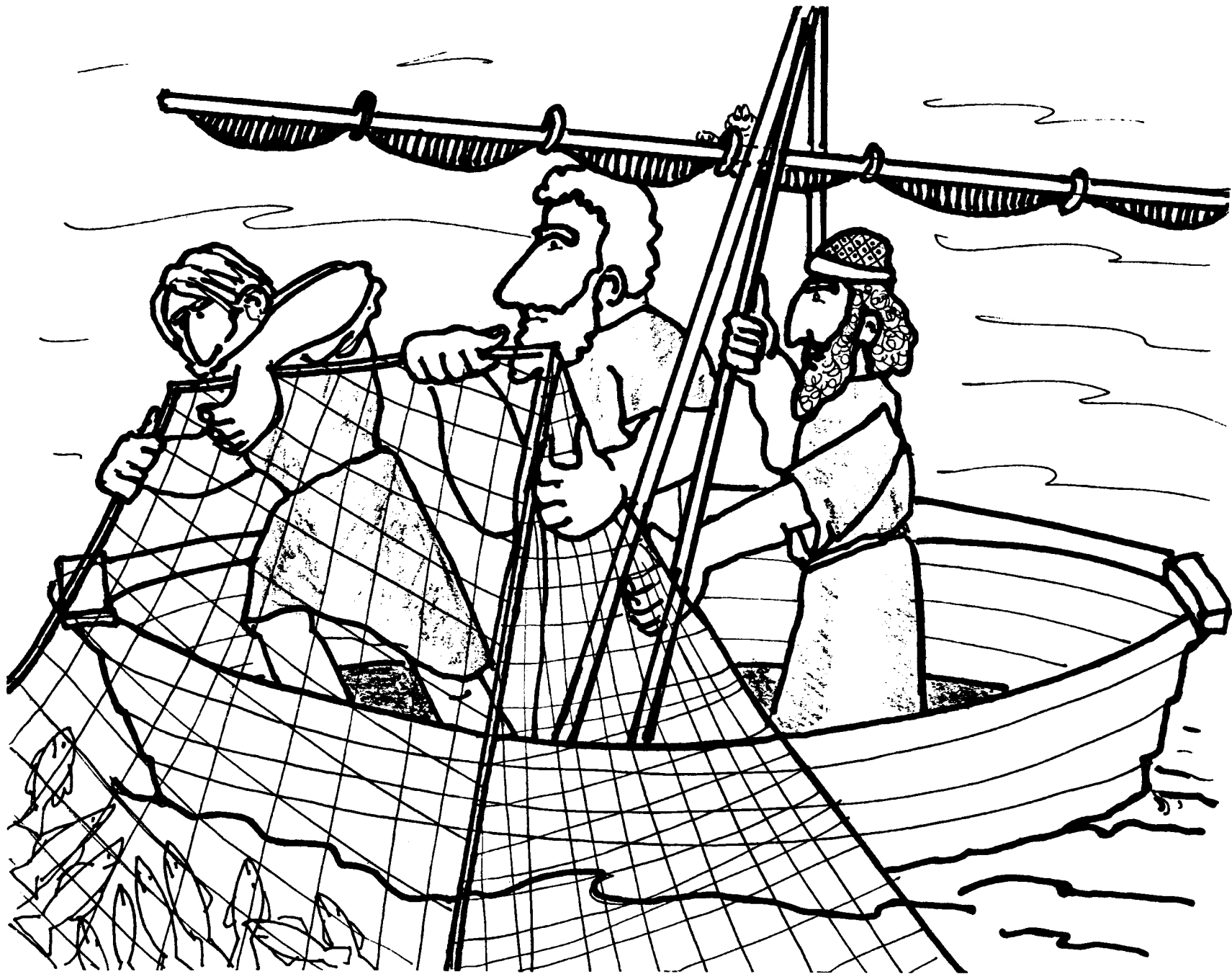
(tune: "Bible Songs for Preschool Children—Matthew" tape)

(Chorus)

We like to sing about the Bible themes.
We like to sing about the Bible themes.
We like to sing about the Bible themes.
It helps us understand (God's Wo-ord).

Matthew—Jesus, the king;
Mark—Jesus, the servant;
Luke—Jesus, the perfect man;
And John—He's the Son of God.
(Repeat chorus.)

* For tunes to songs, ask about the preschool tape.



Jesus called disciples to repent and follow Him.