

## Jesus Calls His First Disciples

**5** One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret,<sup>[a]</sup> the people were crowding around him and listening to the **word of God**. **2** He saw at the **water's** edge two **boats**, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. **3** He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to **Simon**, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

**4** When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the **nets** for a catch."

**5** Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

**6** When they had done so, they caught such a large number of **fish** that their nets began to break. **7** So they signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to **sink**.

**8** When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' **knees** and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" **9** For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, **10** and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for **people**." **11** So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.