

Kids' Chronicle

Jesus stirs the Apostles' memories

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Jesus called his disciples together. He spoke to Peter first.

"Peter, when I first met you, what were you doing?"

Peter thought for a moment and said, "I had been out all night fishing with my brother Andrew. We had not caught a single fish, no matter how many times we had let down our nets. Then we saw you, and you told us to let down our nets one more time. I laughed, because I knew it would be useless. There were no fish there."

"And what happened when you put the net down again?"

"The net was so heavy with fish, I thought it would break. I had to call Andrew to help me. James and his brother John were also there, helping me to lift the net. There were so many fish, I thought the boat was going to sink. To this day, I marvel at the things God can do, even when I see them with my own eyes."

"And the four of you have been loyal friends ever since," Jesus said. Then he turned to Matthew.

"Matthew, tell the others how we met."

"I was a tax collector," Matthew said. "You told me to come with you. I knew there was something special about you. I quit my job that very moment and went with you. I remember the compas-



Illustration by Linda Jeanné Rivers

sion you showed to my friends, and family when the Pharisees wanted to know why you would spend time with people like us."

"I only wish I could find more people like you," Jesus said with a smile. "I chose each of you because you are all special people. And now I am sending you to the towns and cities to preach that the kingdom of heaven will soon

come. If there are sick people, heal them. If there are people who are dead, raise them up. If there are people plagued by spirits, set them free."

Then Peter asked, "Lord, we have seen you do these things. You would have us do them as well?"

"You will do what I have done, and more than that," Jesus answered. "What I whisper to you, shout on the mountain tops. If I speak to you at night, share that knowledge in the day time. Do not fear people, who can kill the body. Fear only God, who can destroy the soul. Your father in heaven knows even when a sparrow falls out of a tree. He will care for you."

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
Mt. 10

Q&A

1. What happened when Peter put his net down again?
2. Of whom should the disciples not be afraid?

Bible Accent

The Bible is God's word. We should read it regularly and take the time to understand what God is trying to tell us.

When you begin your Bible study, select a story or passage and read it through. Then read it again, asking yourself questions that will help you understand the story. Ask yourself: What is the main point of the story? What are the characters? What are the events? What is the meaning of the story? What are the lessons we can learn from the story?

Write your answers and questions in a notebook. Ask your parents or religion teachers what they think. And don't forget to share what you have learned with others. That will help you understand the meaning of the Bible, stories and events better. You can use what you learn to your understanding of God's word. Start a Bible study notebook today.

St. Paul

St. Paul is one of the most important people of the New Testament. He was originally called Saul, but he changed his name when he became a Christian. He was a well-educated man and an influential Jewish citizen. He watched in approval at the stoning of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr.

St. Paul was blinded by a bright light that was accompanied by the voice of Jesus. After he was miraculously healed, St. Paul became a missionary. He also wrote letters to the people of the early churches, explaining Jesus' teachings in more detail for them. The account of St. Paul's journeys in the Acts of the Apostles reads like an adventure story. We honor him on June 29.

Puzzle

Match the names of the Bible characters with the acts they performed.
Answers on page 9.

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|--------------------|---|
| 1. Noah | a) He was very strong (Judges 13) |
| 2. David | b) He built a big boat (Genesis 6) |
| 3. Paul | c) He lived a very long time (Genesis 5) |
| 4. Samson | d) He was betrayed by his brothers (Genesis 37) |
| 5. Joseph | e) He was called "the friend of God" (James 2) |
| 6. Methuselah | f) He was healed of blindness (Acts 9) |
| 7. Abraham | g) He helped Jesus carry the cross (Matthew 27) |
| 8. Simon of Cyrene | h) He killed a giant (1 Samuel 17) |

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Kids' Club

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) answering this question:

If Jesus had asked you what kind of a person would make a good disciple, what would you have told him?

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade — to Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Deadline for entries is June 17, 1999. The winner will be notified by phone and receive the savings bond by mail. In addition, the winner's essay will be published in an upcoming issue of Kids' Chronicle.

Last month's winner was Elizabeth Coykendall, a third-grade student at Rochester's Sacred Heart Cathedral School. In response to the question How does the Holy Spirit help us to live as better Christians? she wrote:

The Holy Spirit helps me by giving me courage. He helps me when someone calls me names. He helps me when others tease me. He helps my bad feelings go away. He helps me be kind to people who are mean to me. I hope the Holy Spirit helps my brother when he gets mad, too.

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