

## FISHING

I always loved to fish. To sit in a boat or on a dock with quiet, concentrating on nothing other than your pole and sometimes a bobber was always the most satisfying and calming time to me. It was relaxing and sometimes, although I loved the thrill of catching a fish, it was just enough to sit by the water. When we went to Israel years ago, we stayed in a kibbutz beside the Sea of Galilee. Sometimes I would just go and stand by the water and imagine all the history of that Sea. To me it was Holy Ground. It was where Jesus walked, where Peter had his faith tested as he tried to walk on water, and where Jesus called Peter and his first disciples. There was much to think of beside that Sea. We were able to take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee and to be in the same place as Jesus and Peter, Andrew, James, and John as they were called to their destiny was inspiring and humbling. Jesus called his disciples to be "fishers of men." His call to us is the same. He calls us to bring others to him. As any good fisherman knows, sometimes you must change your bait, sometimes you must move the boat, but always you must go where there are fish, and to catch them you must feed them. Let us heed the call of Christ today and always as we seek to bring others to him.

Mark 1:16-20 As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. When he had gone a little farther, he saw James, son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Dear Lord, guide us as we seek to bring others to you. May we reach out to others and show them the love of Christ in our acceptance and nurturing and in our stories, for we all have a story to tell. A story of your salvation and love. Lord be with those who are ill and those who are grieving, comfort them. Be with those in our Military who serve at home and in distant and foreign places. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry and Lord, we thank you for his presence in our lives. Be with him and his family. Be with our staff and leaders, guide them and protect them. Be with our church, strengthen us and guide us, may we be the hands and feet of Christ. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson