

Three Kinds of Fish

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**Illustration:** Either use three plastic fish; or cut out pictures of fish; or print of three fish pictures to represent three kinds of fish. As you cover each “fish” have a student represent a “fish.”

- A John the Baptist Fish
- An Andrew Fish
- A Simon Peter Fish

We made a PowerPoint presentation for this lesson using some comical character fish pictures and putting points on the screen.

**Introduction:** Open in prayer and read the following verse:

*John 1: 35-42 “Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God ! And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou? He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, we have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus, And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas; which is by interpretation, A stone.”*

**Message:** This Bible story shows three people and their relationships to Jesus at that time.

**John the Baptist: Saved and focused on telling others about the Savior.**

Before John was born, he was introduced to Mary while she was expecting Jesus. The Holy Spirit revealed to John that Jesus was Christ before He was born. No one else has ever had that experience. That pre-birth revelation probably had something to do with his intensity in the ministry. John spent his life telling that Jesus was the Messiah. He was preparing the way for Jesus and introducing Him to the world.

My desire is that I can effectively tell you about Jesus and His Word. John 1:14 says “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us..” When we study this Book we are studying Jesus anywhere we open it. I will never be like John the Baptist, but I want you to know that Jesus is “God in the flesh”. Hopefully, many of you: No, ALL of you; will want to do the same thing that I am doing; telling others about Jesus. He is the only one that can take away the sin of the world.

**Andrew: Disciple [student or pupil] of John the Baptist**

Andrew was looking for the Messiah or the Savior. Andrew wanted to understand what the Old Testament said about the coming Messiah and what John the Baptist was saying about the fact that the Messiah had already been born. It was easy for John the Baptist to tell him about Jesus; he just said :Behold the Lamb of God.: As soon as Andrew heard that statement from John, he immediately believed and became a follower of Jesus Christ. Andrew’s heart and mind were focused on knowing the Savior.

We should be students of good preachers and teachers but we must always remember that we are looking for a relationship with Jesus. I have great respect for our pastor but my love and devotion belongs to Jesus.

**Simon Peter, Andrew’s brother: He was not looking for the Messiah; someone had to go get him.**

Simon Peter was fishing, running a business, earning money so he could have the nicer stuff of this world. Getting saved was not on his mind. Andrew, his brother, had to go find him, and convince him to come see Jesus. Even though Simon was not that interested in coming to see Jesus, he came to see what Andrew was excited about. How excited are you in getting others to come meet Jesus?

When Simon met Jesus he was very impressed with Jesus' knowledge and concern about him as well as the power and authority that He had. Jesus immediately gave Simon a nickname [ actually a new name] and told him that He would also give him a new and more important business. Simon was impressed and followed Jesus but it took a little time before he really understood that Jesus was the Savior and not just an impressive prophet. But when Simon Peter understood, what a difference it made. He was able to stand in the book of Acts and preach with God's power and see 5000 men saved.

Three kinds of Fish in this room:

- † Some in here are saved, no doubt about it. Every saved person should be winning others to Jesus.
- † Some are looking for the Savior and doing all they can to find Him.
- † Some are not looking for Jesus and when they are introduced to Him they are not sure how to react. It may take awhile for them to let Jesus be the Master of their life.

Think about which category you fit into. If you are at the point where you are like Peter when he was interested and impressed with Jesus but not sure how far he was willing to go, what a miserable life you will have until you decide to trust Him with everything and live the life He has planned for you. Get saved/born-again and then go on to a victorious life on this earth and look forward to a spectacular eternity.

*Matthew 13: 45-46 "Again, the kingdom of Heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it."*