



John 21:1-14 (ESV)

“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Our story today is about Jesus' first disciples - His special followers during His life on earth. The disciples Andrew and Simon Peter and James and John were fishermen when they met Jesus, so sometimes we use a fish symbol to represent Christians.

Discipleship, represented by following Jesus and doing Jesus' work, is a path to Jesus. Our symbol for following Jesus is a fish, and here is the discipleship path in our labyrinth.

The Gospel of Matthew tells us that after His baptism and His temptation in the wilderness, Jesus goes to stay in a fishing village named Capernaum, which is on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. He is preaching about the Kingdom of Heaven. People are starting to pay Jattention to Jesus.

One day Jesus is walking along the shore of the Galilee. There are fishermen in their boats catching fish with big nets. Two strong fishermen, brothers named Andrew and Simon Peter, see Jesus. Jesus calls out to them. He says, “Come, follow me.” And right away, they leave their nets and walk with Jesus.

And now, as Jesus and Simon Peter and Andrew are walking together, Jesus sees another fishing boat with a man named Zebedee and his two sons James and John. Jesus called these brothers to join him, too. James and John leave their boat and their father to follow Jesus.

Jesus tells these fishermen disciples that instead of working to gather fish for their nets, now they will be working to gather followers for Jesus.

The Gospels tell us that Jesus chooses eight more special disciples to help him, twelve in all. Not all of them are fishermen. One, named Matthew, is a tax collector. The twelve are: Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew;

Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot. In the Bible, these disciples help Jesus. Sometimes they stay with Him. Sometimes Jesus sends them on missions to spread the good news about the Son of God and the Kingdom of Heaven.

The symbol of the fish reminds us that we are called to follow Jesus, too.

FISHERS of MEN

