

The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like a Dragnet

“The kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away” (Matthew 13:47-48).

The Lord wants to draw all people into heaven, but He lets us decide whether we will be happier living in heaven or in hell. The good fish are like good people who can be happy in heaven, and the bad fish are like people who would not like heaven at all. They choose not to live in heaven.

Make a picture of a person with a net full of fish. You might want to use plastic netting from a bag of potatoes or onions for the netting. And you could cut out little fish from colored construction paper or fabric. Or you could use crayons or colored markers to draw the fish and then cut them out. You can show all of the fish in the net or some fish in a container like a basket or jar and some outside the container.

Looking at the Fish as Good and Bad Habits:

There is another way to understand the parable about the dragnet and that is that each person is a mixture of good and bad habits or qualities. Even a good person may find it hard to get rid of all of his bad habits. When a good person goes to the spiritual world, the Lord helps him or her set the bad habits aside.

To illustrate this, cut out larger fish and write good qualities or habits on some fish and bad qualities or habits on the others. Show the fish with good qualities going into a container and the fish with bad qualities staying outside the container.