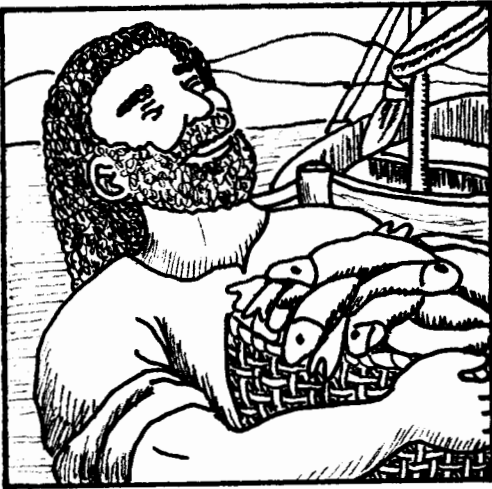


St. Peter



Peter's real name was Simon. In his Judean town near the Sea of Galilee, everybody knew "Simon the fisherman." Simon was married, had a family, and was a good Jew.

When Simon first met Jesus, he didn't know that Jesus was the Son of God. Then one day, Jesus asked Simon and his friends to go fishing. After trying to catch fish all night, they complained to Jesus that they hadn't caught any. Jesus then told Simon what to do. Simon obeyed Jesus, and suddenly their nets were overflowing with fish. From that day, Simon believed that Jesus was God's Son.

Jesus had great plans for Simon. He renamed Simon "Peter" or "Rock" because Peter's faith and courage were strong. Peter became the first pope (a special leader) of the Roman Catholic Church. St. Peter is buried in a special area below the altar in St. Peter's Basilica (a special church) in Rome, Italy, where the pope lives.



Activities:

1. Draw many fish in Peter's net.
2. Write the words (in the space provided) Peter might have said when he saw all the fish.
3. Name the present pope. Where does he live?