

BELONGING
the
BOOK
of
BELOVED DELIGHTFUL
BELONGING

WORDS >by<
MARIKO CLARK

PICTURES >by<
RACHEL ELEANOR

BIBLE STORIES for
KIND & CONTEMPLATIVE KIDS

JESUS'S DIVERSE DISCIPLES

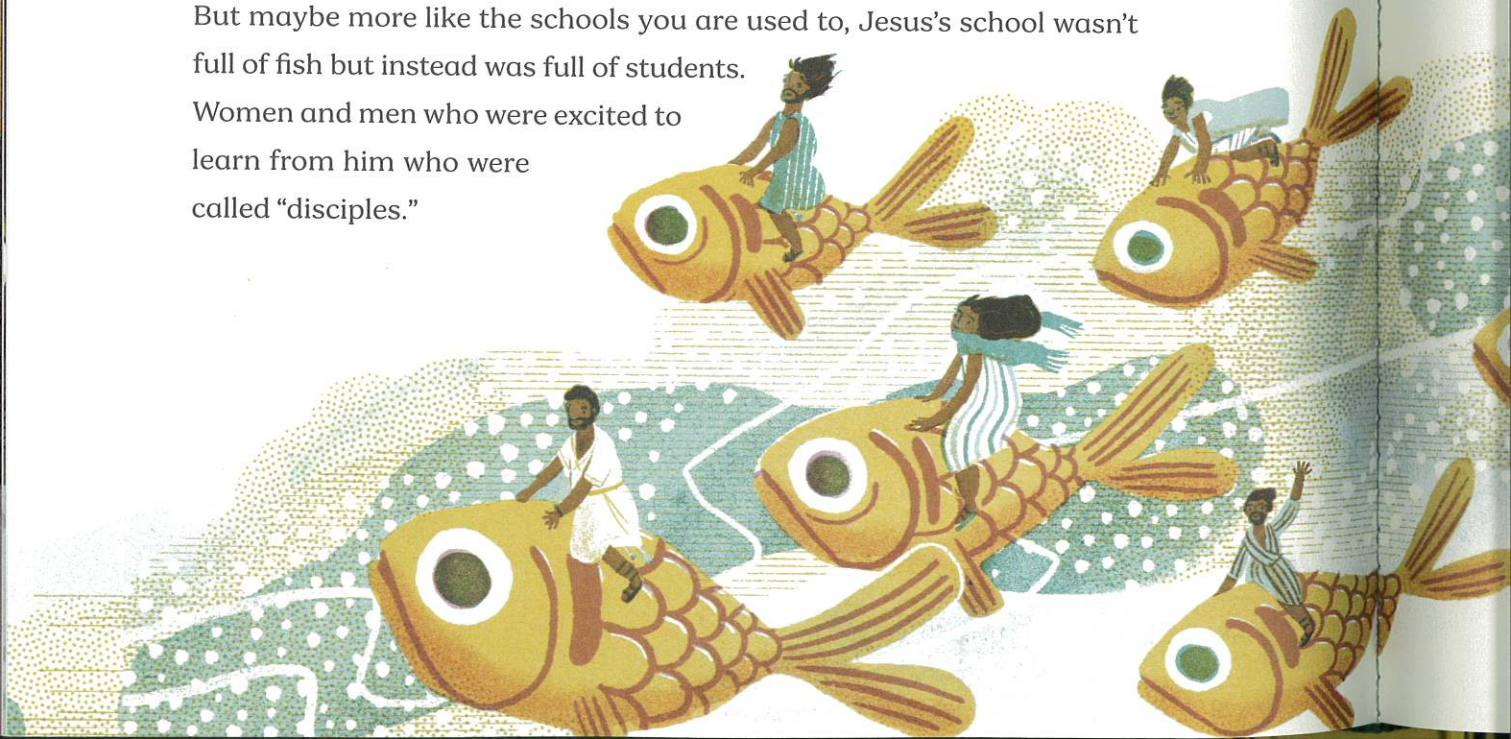
MATTHEW 4; MARK 1; LUKE 5; 8

Shimon is also called Simon. Petros is also called Peter. Andreas is also called Andrew. Yaakov is also called James. Yokhanan is also called John. Matityahu is also called Matthew. Miryam the Migdal is also called Mary Magdalene. Thaddios is also called Thaddaeus. Philippos is also called Philip. Shoshana is also called Susanna. Ntanel is also called Nathaniel. Yokhana is also called Joanna. Yehudah is also called Judas. Shlomit is also called Salome.



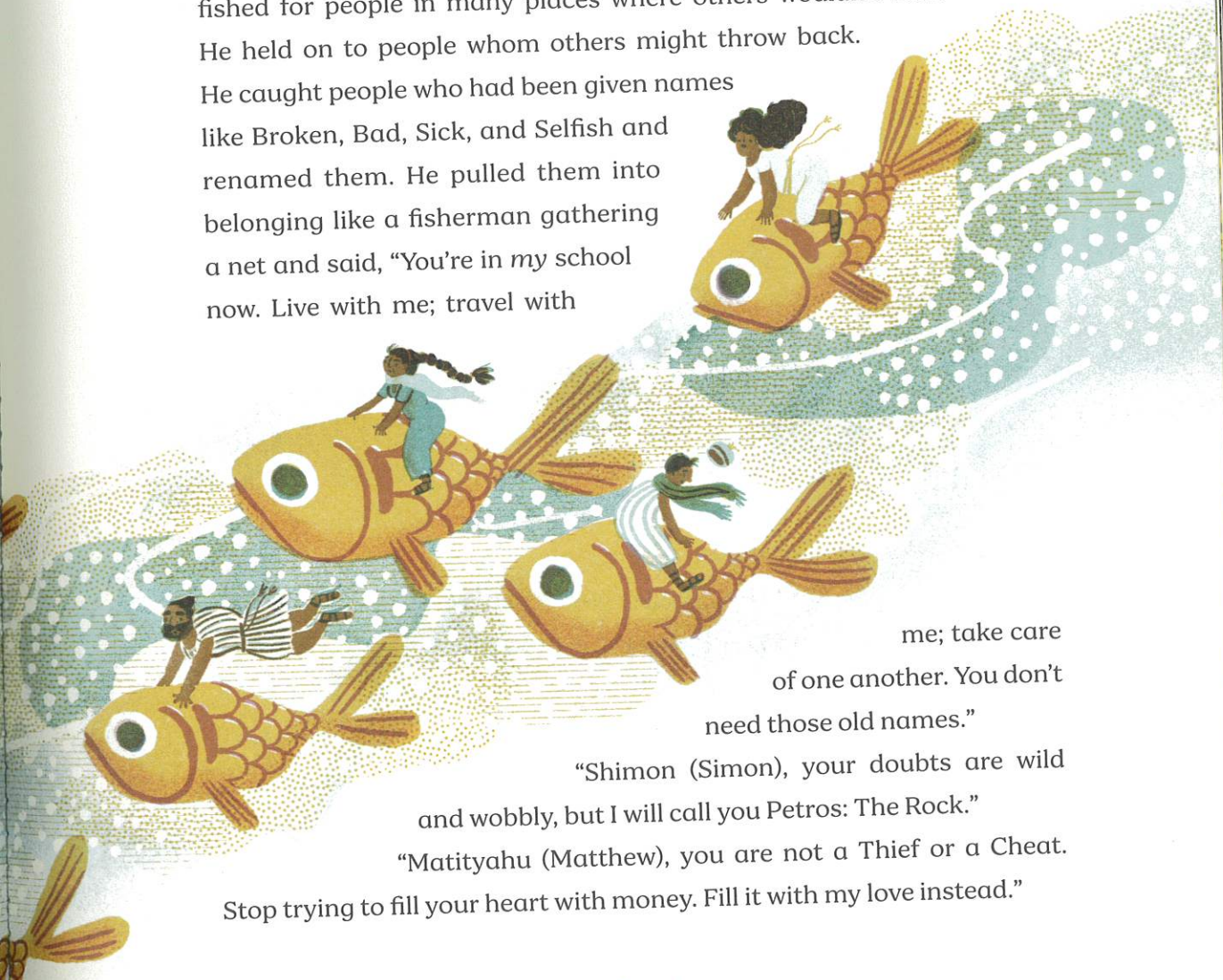
WHAT'S A GROUP OF FISH CALLED? THAT'S RIGHT—a school. A school of fish live together, travel in the same direction, and care for one another.

Jesus had a school too. A group who lived with him and traveled with him from place to place and took care of one another. But maybe more like the schools you are used to, Jesus's school wasn't full of fish but instead was full of students. Women and men who were excited to learn from him who were called "disciples."



The first students who joined Jesus's school were—you guessed it!—fishermen. Jesus met Shimon (Simon) and his brother, Andreas (Andrew), fishing with their friends Yaakov (James) and Yokhanan (John), who were also brothers. Jesus told them, "Follow me! You have always used your nets for fish, but now your job and your joy will be to fish for people. You will find people, pull them close, and welcome them into my school."

So these fishermen left their boats behind and joined Jesus as he fished for people in many places where others wouldn't look. He held on to people whom others might throw back. He caught people who had been given names like Broken, Bad, Sick, and Selfish and renamed them. He pulled them into belonging like a fisherman gathering a net and said, "You're in my school now. Live with me; travel with



me; take care of one another. You don't need those old names."

"Shimon (Simon), your doubts are wild and wobbly, but I will call you Petros: The Rock."

"Matityahu (Matthew), you are not a Thief or a Cheat. Stop trying to fill your heart with money. Fill it with my love instead."

“Miryam the Migdal (Mary Magdalene), you’re not Bad. You’re not Sick. You’re not Crazy. You’re a migdal—a tower of truth! You’re Loved. Come and belong with me.”

Jesus’s school traveled all over the land, fishing for people and holding them tight as Jesus called their names. Here’s what they would sound like in English: “Thaddaeus! Philip! Susanna! Nathaniel! Jacob! Joanna! Judas! Salome!”

“These are wonderful names. I’m delighted by them and by you too. Come, follow me! Somehow each one of you is my favorite. You are so delightful to me.”



And so Jesus’s school grew and grew. And all kinds of different men and women were gathered up to belong, and they tossed away their old names. They stopped thinking they were made to be Smart or Lazy or Forgotten or Rich or Poor or Best or Least, because as they listened to Jesus teach and watched him live, something special happened. The more they heard about the kingdom of God, the more they wanted to live there, and the closer they wanted to swim to this man who already did. So they swam, a school of students, beautiful in all their differences and held close by the same goal: to believe in the names that Jesus called them and learn more about the kingdom he promised.