

Episode 4: The Rock On Which It Was Built

While you watch: As you watch this episode, mark off each person and the main events that happen in the show. This will help to keep your focus so you can pay close attention to each character that is introduced.

Characters:

- Simon
- Andrew
- Zebedee
- James
- John
- Matthew
- Yussif
- Eden
- Nicodemus
- Jesus
- John the Baptist

Events:

- Simon is on the boat with the Romans
- Matthew talks to Quintus
- Eden's mom is sick
- Simon fishing
- Andrew, Zebedee, James and John help Simon fish
- Jesus teaching and meets Simon
- Nicodemus visits John the Baptist

Reflect on the episode: Contrary to the previous episode, this one is not all about Jesus, he actually doesn't enter the scene until the end of the episode. This episode is all about Simon!

In episode 2, Simon is starting to get a bad rap for telling Quintus that he can provide the fisherman who are fishing on Shabbat and not paying taxes on their catch. But when it came down to it, Simon couldn't hand them over. Simon was on the boat with the Roman soldiers, notices that the boat out there was one of his friends and steers the Romans straight into a sandbar. Not only that, but he also comes clean to his friends, Zebedee, James and John about the deal he made with Quintus. Maybe he isn't such a bad guy in the end!

Matthew gets an assignment from Quintus to watch Simon and record everything he does. Little does Matthew know but observing Simon is going to change his entire life. More to come on that later in the episode.

We also get a glimpse of a new character that we don't actually see until the last scene of the episode, John the Baptist. Although we don't actually see these events come to life, we hear about what he did through Andrew and Yussif/ Shumel. See more about John the Baptist on the side panel.

- Read Matthew 3:13-17 and explain in your own words what happened with John the Baptist and Jesus.
- Circle the name that John calls Jesus from **John 1:29 (ESV)** *The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!"*

Unfortunately, later in the episode Yussif comes to Nicodemus to tell him that John the Baptist has been arrested and is in custody. Nicodemus wants to meet John the Baptist and ask about miracles. He is still trying to figure out who helped Mary as he believes only God himself could have casted the seven demons out of her. See below for scripture that backs up John the Baptist being in prison.

- **Luke 3:20 (ESV)** *Added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.*

Bible Reference

John the Baptist is introduced in this episode, read below to learn more about him:

- He baptizes people in the water - **Matthew 3:6 (ESV)** *And they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.*
- He called the Pharisees snakes - **Matthew 3:7 (ESV)** *But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"*
- He told his followers to share food and clothing - **Luke 3:10-11 (ESV)** ¹⁰*And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?"* ¹¹*And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise."*
- He also delivered a list of evils done by Herod to his court – **Luke 3:19 (ESV)** *But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done.*

DID YOU KNOW??

John the Baptist was Jesus' cousin? Mary was related to Elizabeth (John's mom).

Simon is in a very difficult situation. He can't give up the fishermen who are fishing on Shabbat, he can't pay down his debt, he is stuck and will be dead soon if he doesn't figure it out. He finally comes clean and tells Eden the trouble he has gotten himself into. And what is Eden's response, she says "Where is your faith?" "Why are you not pursuing God?" She calls him out for trying to fix his situation on his own. He feels desperate because he is not going to God. Are you facing a difficult situation? Do you need to go to God, instead of fixing it on your own? Do you have a tendency to fix solutions yourself or do you go to God?

The icing on the cake is Matthew tells him Quintus is going to arrest him at sunup the next day if he does not turn over the fishermen or pay off his debt. So, Simon gives it one last try, he is going to fish all night and hope for a miracle. It is during this last-ditch effort that Simon finally does go to God. He expresses his frustrations and disappointment with God. Do you feel comfortable bringing your feelings to God? Is there anything that you want to bring to him now? Write a prayer below:

A specific time I was frustrated and confused always comes to mind, because it wasn't until I brought those frustrations to God that I felt peace. Similarly to Simon, my disappointment and confusion was related to work. I'm not a fisherman, but I found myself in a predicament of uncertainty when the company I work for was bought by another company. I was so happy at my job, I loved working for my boss, I hired all of my staff, I fell back in love with my profession because of this job and it was potentially going away. I expressed this frustration to God during a women's retreat. I filled my notebook with my feelings and tears falling on the pages. But in the end, I said "Your will be done". I wrote this phrase over and over in my notebook until I was ready to accept it and I finally did. At the end of that weekend, my daughter received a sticker from a friend of hers, totally unrelated to the retreat that I was at and that sticker said "Thy will be done". I know God heard me, I know he has my back and is with me and I can trust his will. I am still going through the aftermath of the company being bought, so I'm not sure how it will work out, but I trust God. I trust that he will open and close doors and that he has a plan for me. I wouldn't have feel this way if I wouldn't have brought those feelings to God. So, the next time you are disappointed, confused, angry, bring it to God. You will feel better and you can trust him.

Did you notice that Eden said her mother would have to stay with them? She is sick and she wants to take care of her. Remember this as it will be important later in the season.

Did you notice that after Simon brought his frustrations to God, help arrived? Andrew, James, John and Zebedee arrived to help Simon fish. In the end they were not successful at catching any fish, but Simon didn't go through it alone. Do you have a Christian community of friends that support you? Who are they? If you don't what can you do to create or strengthen Christian relationships and a community that you can support and can help support you?

Now let's get into the scene that made this episode so memorable and impactful!

- Simon and Andrew were called to be disciples. Read the scripture below and circle what Jesus said Simon would be doing from now on.
 - **Luke 5:4-11 (ESV)** – *⁴ And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” ⁵ And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But as your word I will let down the nets.” ⁶ And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. ⁷ They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” ⁹ For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” ¹¹ And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.*
 - This encounter of Simon and Andrew is also mentioned in Matthew 4:18-20 and Mark 1:16-18.

What does “Being a fisher of men” (catching men) mean? Do you feel like you are a “fisher of men”?

If you think about how Simon's life is going to change. He will not be catching fish any longer. He will be pointing others towards Jesus. Simon (Peter) ends up being one of the biggest influences in the church. He will no longer catch fish, but catch men and bring them to Christ.

At that same encounter of Jesus and the fishermen, James and John are called to be disciples. Read the verse below and circle what they did after Jesus called them.

- James and John of Zebedee were called to be disciples
 - **Mark 1:19-20 (ESV)** – *19 And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. 20 And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.*
 - In addition to what you read above within Mark and Luke, Matthew also references this encounter in Matthew 4:21.

Are you willing to drop everything and follow Jesus? Reflect on your journey with Christ below.

Did you notice that Matthew said the catch that Simon caught was impossible? Check out verse – Matthew 19:26 (ESV) ...With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible. I think Matthew is going to learn something from Jesus pretty soon!
