

# The Fisherman

By Alan R. Hergert

**Overview:** New activities can be challenging, until you run in to an expert.

**Time:** 4-5 minutes

**Characters:** Fisherman – rusty, old salt of the sea, with a fishing pole, minimal tackle, an old tackle box and a small pocket Bible – graceful with a fishing pole.

Rookie – fresh, new fisherman with all the latest gadgets – totally inept at fishing.

Fish – average person

**Props:** 2 fishing poles  
Various tackle

**Lighting:** General lighting.

**Sound:** Three wireless lapel mics.

*Scene opens with bench center stage with Fisherman seated 'casting' his line...*

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*Rookie enters stage right... watches Fisherman for a moment... then sits and begins getting his 'line' ready...*

**Fisherman:** Hi! How are ya?

**Rookie:** Fine... Got any bites yet?

**Fisherman:** Nope... Not even a nibble... but that's okay... *(big smile)*... 'cuz I loves to fish! *(Rookie gives fisherman a strange look... continues to get his gear together)*

You fish much?

**Rookie:** No... this is my first time...

**Fisherman:** Oh, I see... well, you catch your first one and you'll love it... *(looking at Rookie's gear)* What's all that stuff?

**Rookie:** Oh, I've got a fish finder... a pole minder... and a hook binder... A minnow catcher... a line stretcher... and a worm fetcher... you name it, I got it...

**Fisherman:** *(somewhat in awe)* Wow!

**Rookie:** What kind of gear do you have?

**Fisherman:** Oh, I have a pole... some it bait... *(pauses)* ...and my lunch... *(Rookie suddenly remembers he forgot his lunch... starts scrambling around, looking for it)*

What are you looking for?

**Rookie:** Oh, nothing... *(pauses)* What did you bring for lunch?

**Fisherman:** Fried chicken! *(grins)* I have plenty... You want some?

**Rookie:** I'll get back to you on that... *(continues to look although fried chicken sounds pretty good)*

**Fisherman:** *(looking over the gear)* You know how to use all that stuff?

**Rookie:** Oh, yes! I've been to seminars, read books and even spent a week at a special fishing retreat...

**Fisherman:** But you've never been fishing?

**Rookie:** No...

**Fisherman:** You ever touched a fish?

**Rookie:** No...

**Fisherman:** You ever seen a fish?

**Rookie:** No...

**Fisherman:** I see... well, I've never been to none of those seminars but I loves to fish! *(Rookie again gives Fisherman a strange look as his has his first feeble cast)*

*(both make a couple of casts... this is to contrast the grace Fisherman and ineptness of the Rookie)*

Lemme tell ya the secret to fishing... *(Rookie cuts a glare at Fisherman)* Number one... you gotta go where the fish are... you don't fish in your basement do you? *(laughs – not waiting for an answer)* Me neither... well, not since the flood of '65... Ha, ha... number two... the fish have to be hungry... the funny thing 'bout fish is they're always hungry, they just don't know it... Now, that's where number three comes in... you have to use bait that the fish likes... how do you know what a fish likes? Well, you think like a fish... you don't have to be a fish or nothing like that... just think like one... *(Rookie gives Fisherman a dumb stare)* You mean they didn't teach you this in those seminars... *(Rookie slowly shakes his head)*

You know how I learned to fish? *(Rookie shakes his head)* I hung around fishermen... all the time... like I said – I loves to fish... *(his pole begins to shake)* uh, oh... I think I have one... *(starts to struggle)* He's a fighter...

*(more struggle... Fish dives on center stage from audience... Fisherman jumps up and pulls Fish to his feet... Fish shakes as though in shock... Fisherman steadies then 'slaps' him) I used to carry a baseball bat for the big ones...*

**Fish:** *(frantically)* I just lost my job... my wife left me... and my pick-up truck is on fire...

**Fisherman:** *(comforting)* It's okay... I'll help you through this... what's your name?

**Fish:** Gary... but my friends call me Fish...

**Fisherman:** Nice to meet you Fish... ya hungry? *(Fish nods)* well... I've got some fried chicken... *(He puts his arm around Fish and starts to lead him off stage left... he takes a couple steps then turns to Rookie)* I think you might be able to use this... *(He pulls a small pocket Bible from his back pocket - crosses to Rookie and hands it to him)*

**Rookie:** Thanks... *(reluctantly taking the Bible)*

**Fisherman:** See ya next week?

**Rookie:** Yeah... sure, see you next week... *(kicks his gear)*

**Fisherman:** Good... now you're getting it... *(crosses back to Fish, leading him off stage left)* You like to fish? I loves to fish... that's your problem – too much worrying, not enough fishing...

**Rookie:** *(opening the Bible)* And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

Fade to black

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