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Knowing that I'm in high school is a little scary. High school is where you really have to start "putting your nets out". It's a lot of pressure, knowing that in 3 years I'm legally an adult.

In the gospel today, Jesus says to Simon "Put out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch." When I read that, I thought about my own goals, what I want to fish for in life. I'm still finding out what I enjoy doing, what I want to be when I grow up, and what kind of people I want to be around. I'm still figuring all of that out... yet I only have 3 years until I graduate.

Sometimes it's not only scary, but overwhelming. Sometimes I look at what I have accomplished (and what I haven't accomplished) and want to say "Master, we have worked all night long and have caught nothing" like Simon says to Jesus. Or sometimes I want to say "Teacher, we have worked on this homework all night long but have finished nothing!"

I asked a few of my friends about times when they had put their nets out and tried something new, ending up with getting something positive out of it. One friend of mine said that in Elementary school her best friend got the lead part in a performance. Her best friend couldn't make it to the performance, though, so she took the roll. She had no idea what the lines or blocking were, but after some hard work she had a lot of fun performing it for the school.

Another friend said that he was at scout camp once and they wanted him to jump off of the pier. It was really high up, but he just went for it and jumped off, not really knowing what would happen. It ended up not being as scary as he thought it would be.

My own story about putting my nets out into deep water has to do with JYC (Junior Youth Conference). I thought that my first JYC was going to be something where I had to know a lot of technical bible stuff. At first, I didn't think that I wanted to go. I was scared that once I was there then I would be expected to be able to talk about stories in the bible in detail, and recite them. I was afraid that I would know less about the bible than the other kids, and that the kind of activities we would be doing at JYC would show that.

My step dad, Don (who staffs JYCs and HYCs), convinced me that I should try it out. I went, only knowing a few kids from my church that were going to JYC. Even though at first I wasn't sure if I wanted to go, once I got there I had a great time. I've been going to JYCs and HYCs ever since.

When I went to my first JYC, when my friend filled in for someone in a performance, and when another friend jumped off of the pier, we weren't sure what it was going to be like. It was kind of like putting our nets out. We put our nets out into the deep water and just hoped for the best. When I put my nets out at JYC, I think that I got a good catch. Out of my trying out JYC, I gained friends, knowledge and had a lot of fun.

Sometimes you just have to put your nets out for a catch and hope for the best. As long as you keep your nets out, something will come along.