

# Welcome to Calvary Church, Brighton



Special service of baptism  
9<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Preacher - Philip Wells

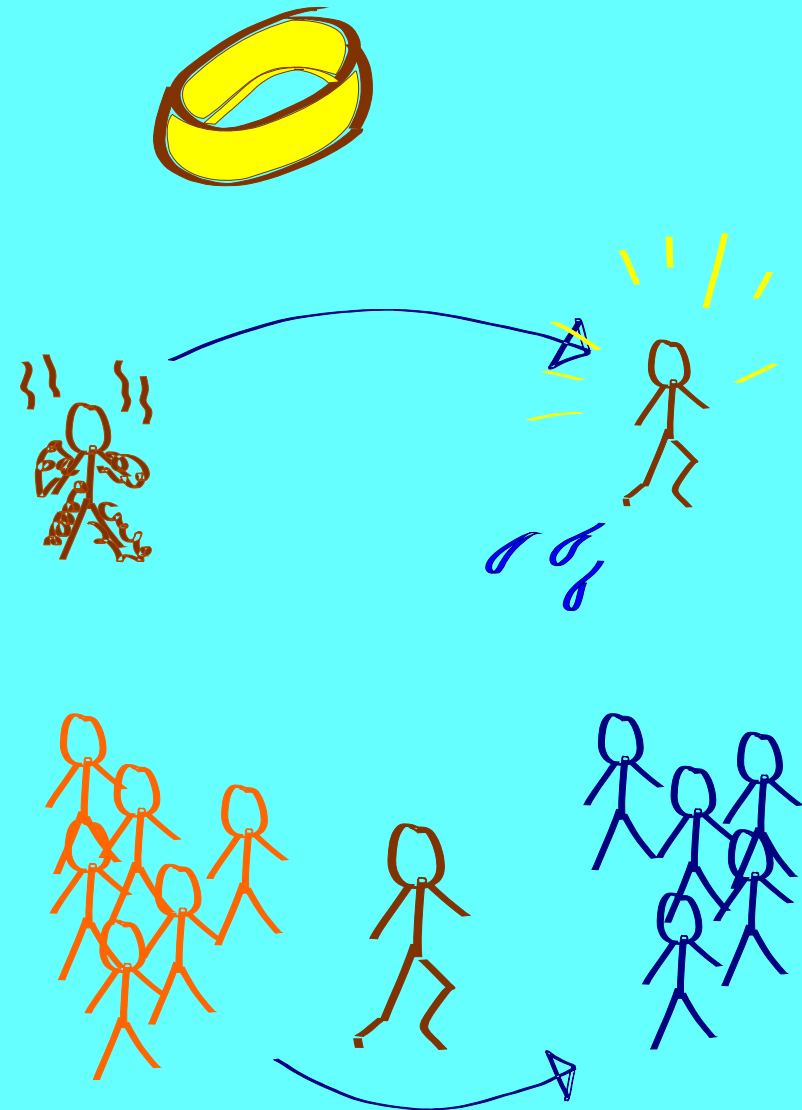
[www.calvary-brighton.org.uk](http://www.calvary-brighton.org.uk)

*Sermons and talks - [calvary-brighton.sermon.net](http://calvary-brighton.sermon.net)*

*What is a Christian?*

# It is a sign of ...

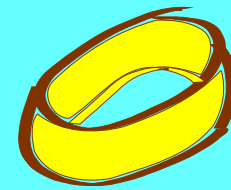
- A sign of a spiritual and inward change
  - Putting on a ring as “sign” of marriage
- A sign of **believing** - “those who accepted his word were baptised = believe”
- A sign of **washing**
  - Dirty → clean
  - Unforgiven → forgiven (through Jesus Christ)
- A sign of **belonging to the church of Jesus Christ**
  - “added to their number”



*A celebration of Christian baptism*



It is a sign of ... washing, believing,  
belonging for Matt and Penny today



Sign

believing



*A celebration of Christian baptism*



What is a Christian?

*Question: "What is a Christian"*

*Answers:*

*1. a person who likes to do good and be helpful*

*– In a rather old-fashioned way*

*– Not completely wrong - but doesn't hit the nail on the head!*

*2. a homophobic bigot who is anti-scientific and not fit for political office*

*– Oh dear, rather negative and ignorant*

*3. let's see what Jesus says!*

*What is a Christian?*



# What is a Christian?

Story in Mark's account - chapter 1

When?

- N.B. Roman soldiers occupy the area at this time.
- The current King in the capital is Herod - a pretender.

Where?

- Jesus goes up north from capital Jerusalem



*What is a Christian?*



# What is a Christian?

*Note - the geography and history matter*

Over hundreds of years the promises to the Jewish King David of a world-wide global kingdom of peace, right rule, and plenty had flopped



*What is a Christian?*



# What is a Christian?

after John was put in prison Jesus went into Galilee  
proclaiming the good news of God.

"The time has come," he said "The Kingdom of God is  
near".

Repent and believe the good news v.15

- John got put into prison by the pretend King = Herod
  - Being on the side of this [rival] Kingdom  
can be costly!
- Jesus hasn't given up on the Kingdom of God!
  - When he comes, it comes near
  - Jesus called people to believe it and  
repent=change (v.15b) . (How?)



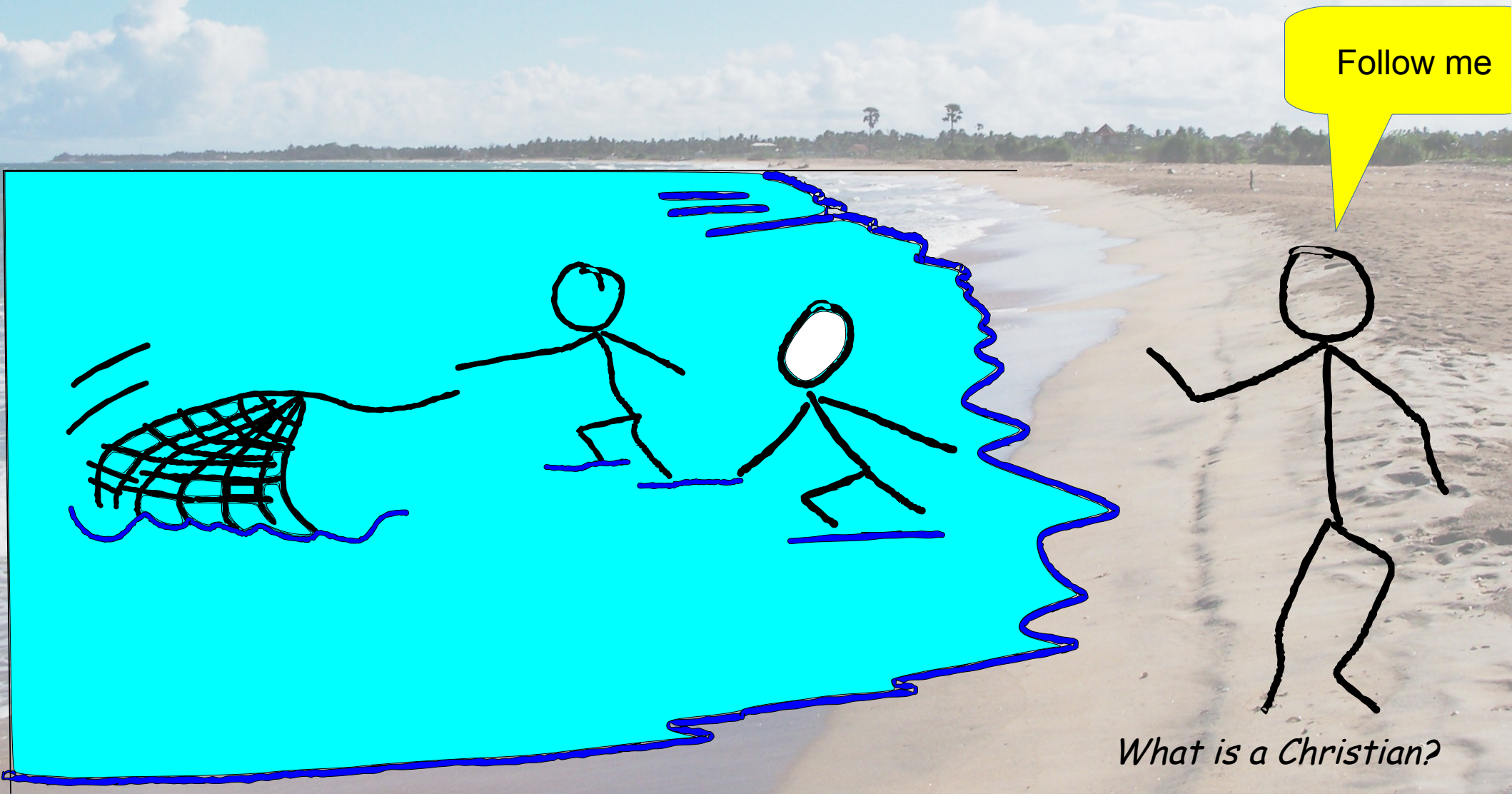
Herod = pretender King

*What is a Christian?*



# What is a Christian?

The story:

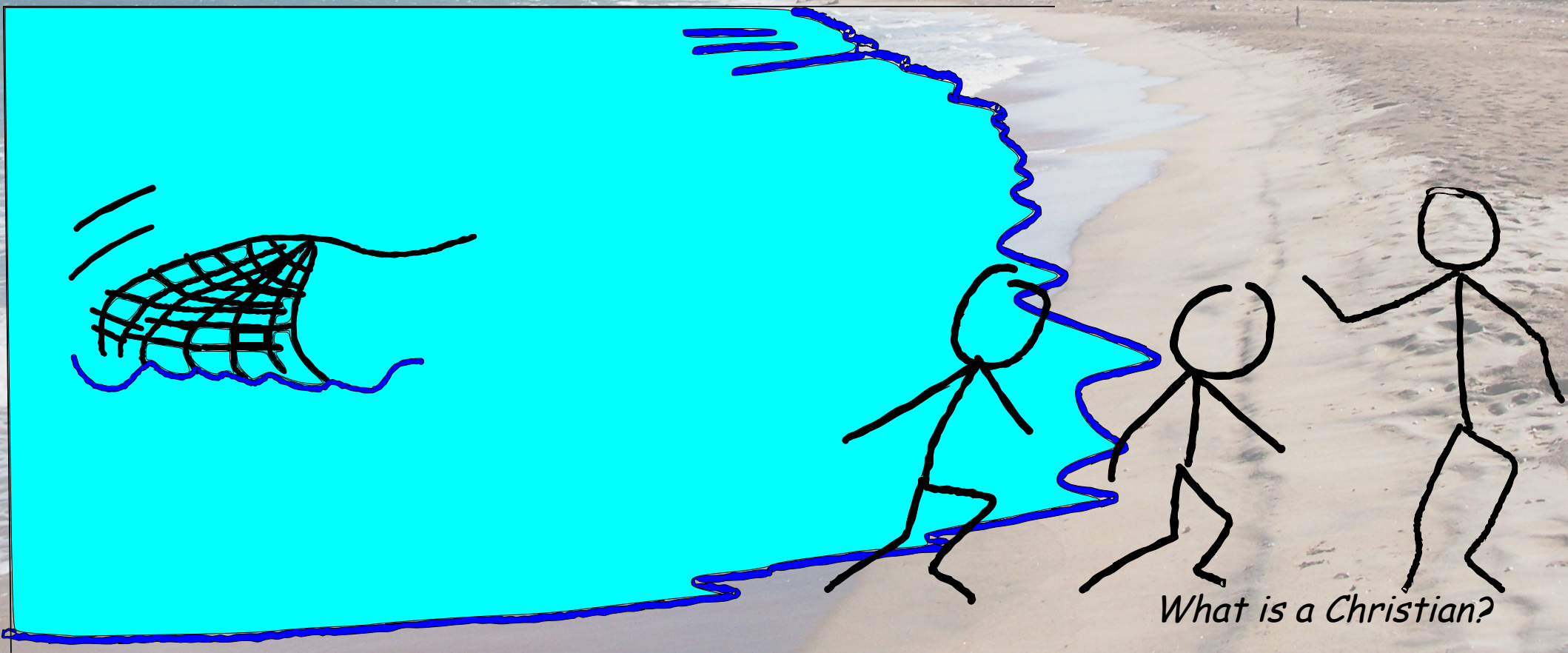


*What is a Christian?*



# What is a Christian?

The story:

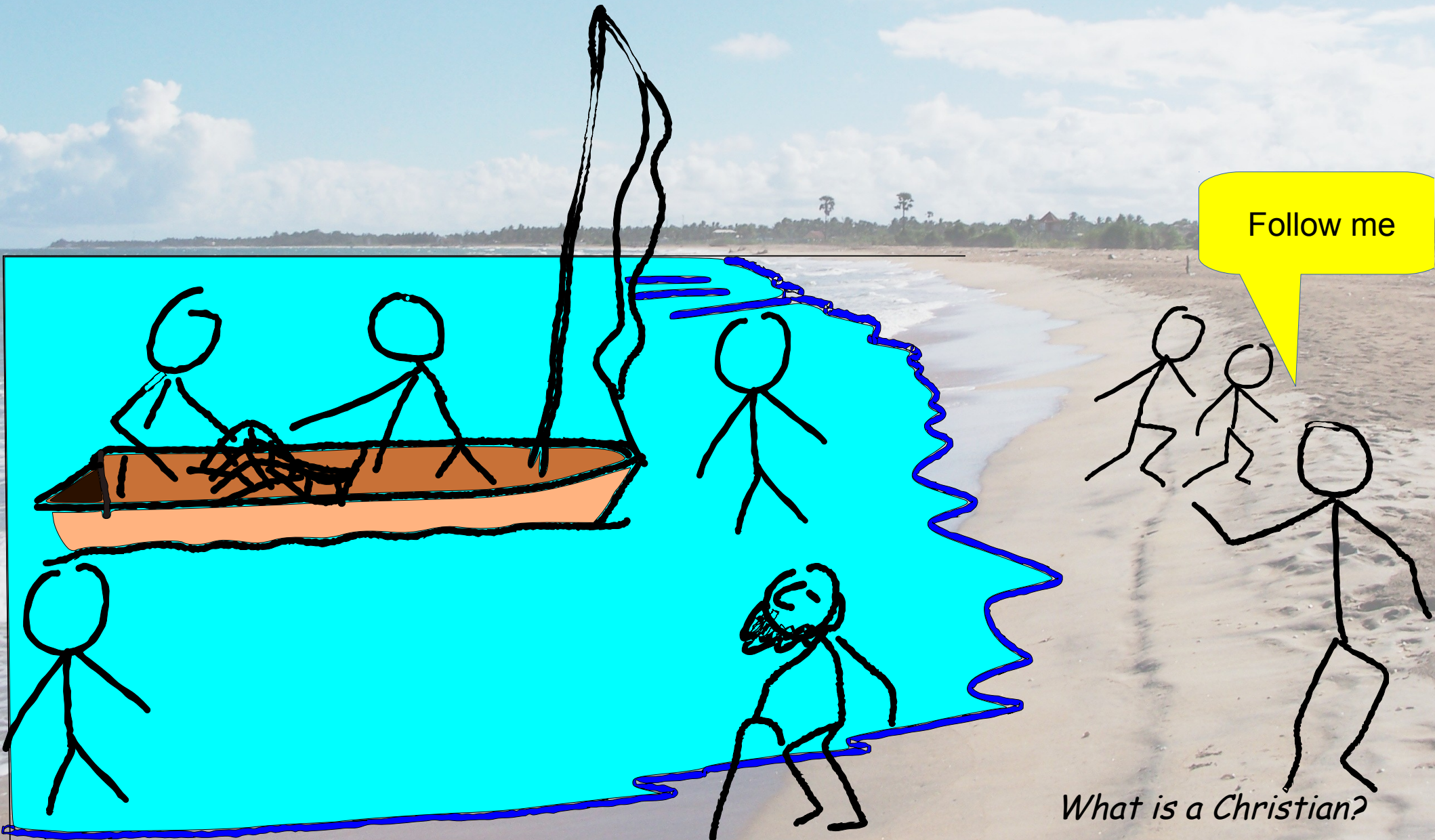


*What is a Christian?*



# What is a Christian?

The story:



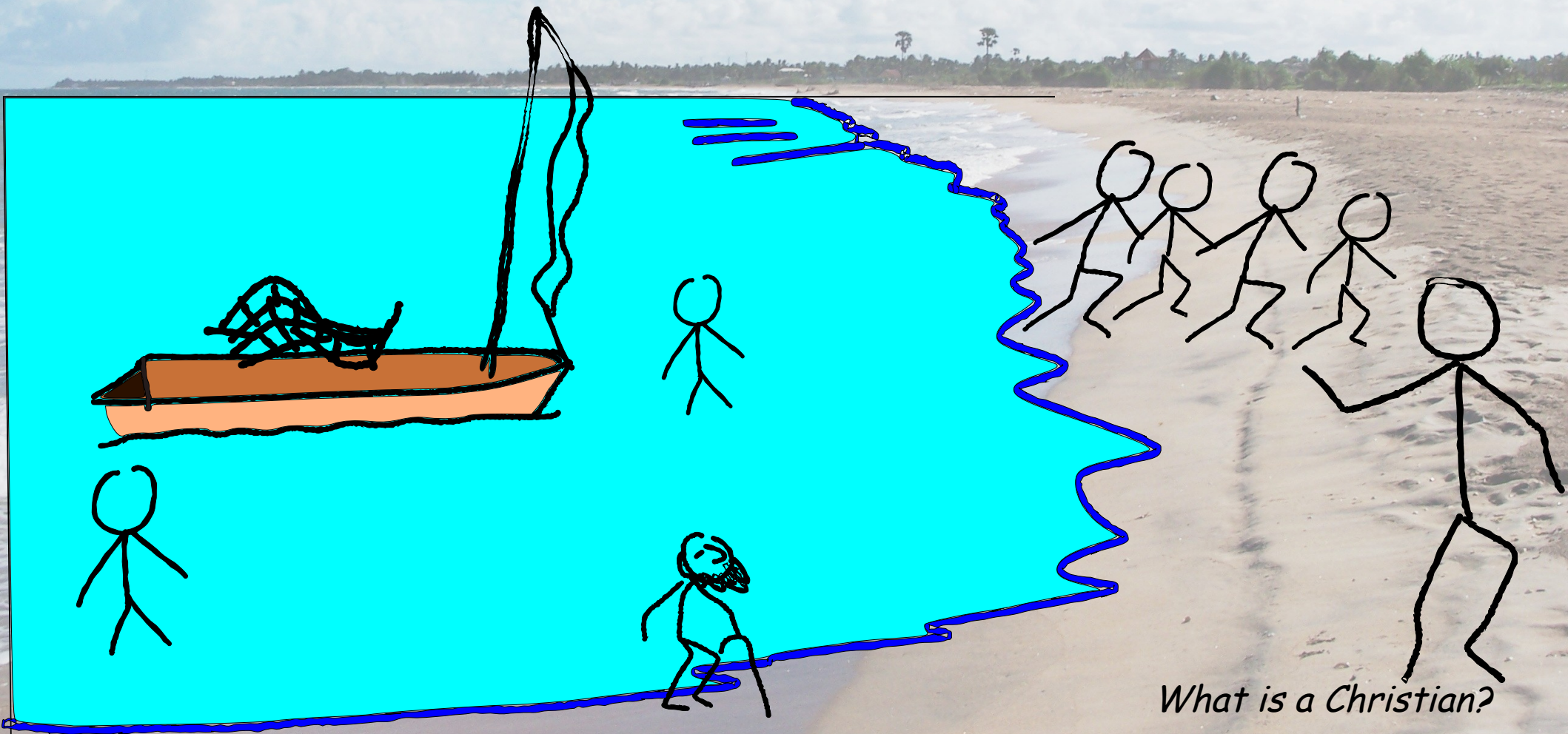
Follow me

*What is a Christian?*



# What is a Christian?

The story:



*What is a Christian?*



# What is a Christian? - answer: a disciple/follower of Jesus

## 1. A person who believes Jesus announces the key global kingdom of God

- This Kingdom is global and is key to everything
- It was a big thing for them to believe
- It is a big thing for us to believe!

## 2. A person who leaves [work, family, old life] to follow Jesus

- N.B. work/family/life are not necessarily bad thing
- N.B. Jesus might send his disciple straight back to ... work/family/life
- **BUT he calls us follow him = leave go of all other things**

## 3. A person whose life is transformed by Jesus

- "I will make you fishers of men"
- Jesus has the power and right to change us
- e.g. slave captain became a vicar

## 4. A person who is called personally by Jesus

- This is not about philosophy, or lifestyle choice, or things or isms - but a single person

**Are you a Christian = Are you a follower?**

**Would you like to be a Christian, by believing Jesus and following him?**

*What is a Christian?*