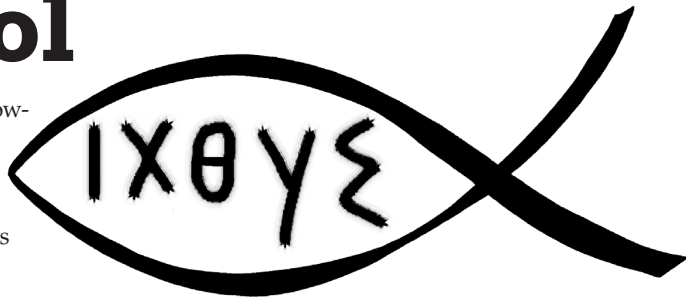




Fish Symbol

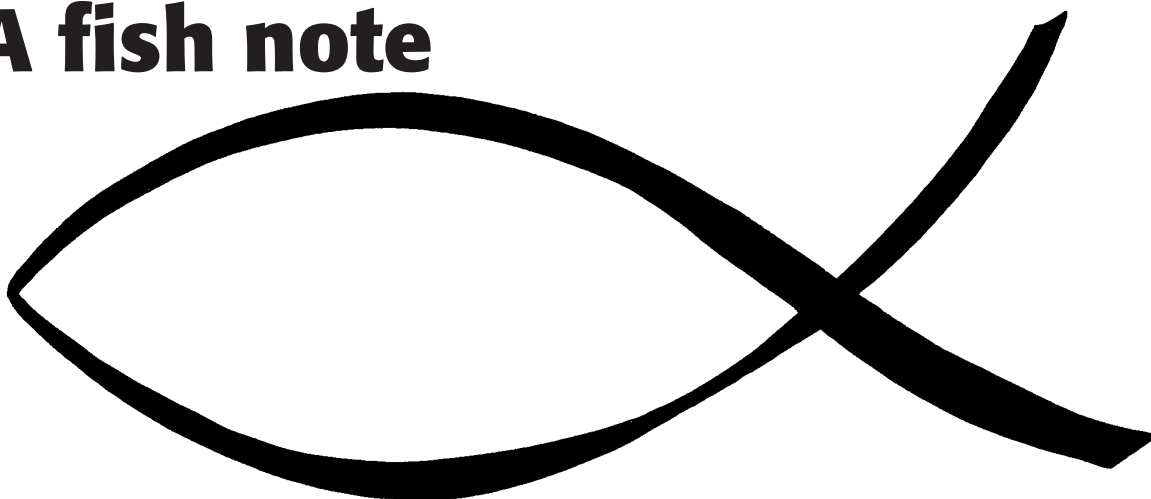
FISH AND FISHERS Some of Jesus' first followers were fishers and the fish became one of the most important symbols for the early church. The letters of the Greek word for fish – *ichthus* – were the same as the first letter of each word in the phrase "Jesus Christ God's Son Saviour."



A SECRET CODE During the time when Christians were being persecuted by the Roman government, the fish symbol was used like a password to find out if another person was a Christian. Someone would draw a half circle in the sand with their toe and if other Christians were nearby they would casually draw the other half of the circle to make a fish shape. The symbol could be quickly erased before any Roman authorities noticed.

THE FISH SYMBOL Fish symbols have been found carved and painted all over the walls of the catacombs – tunnels under Rome where Christians used to meet secretly 2000 years ago. The fish symbol is still very popular today and it still means, "I am a follower of Jesus."

A fish note



CODE

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

A fish hanger

Make a fish symbol to hang in a window or on a mirror.

1. Bend a pipe cleaner in half.
2. Thread one bead up to the bend in the middle and twist the pipe cleaner to secure the bead (the "nose" of the fish).
3. Thread beads onto the rest of the pipe cleaner, leaving both ends empty.
4. Twist these ends together to make the tail, making sure the beads are snug against each other.
5. Thread beads onto each "tail" end, twisting the pipe cleaner ends over each last bead to secure.
6. Attach a length of string to the top of the fish and hang from a suction cup.