

## CHURCH SCHOOL LESSONS

APRIL 19, 2020

Did you make Resurrection Rolls last week? How did yours turn out? Mine weren't so good. I didn't get the marshmallow sealed in the dough and my pan was pretty sticky when they were done. But it was fun!

Today our Bible story is about a special breakfast. I promise, we will not be doing the cooking. In our story, the disciples went fishing. They caught 153 fish. That is a lot of fish! Our story is found in the Gospel of John. John is the last Gospel, after Matthew, Mark and Luke. But it is still close to the beginning of the New Testament. Read John 21:1-5.

How do you think the disciples felt about not catching any fish after being out all night?

Continue reading John 21:6-8.

It's not so unusual that Peter was naked. Sometimes Bible stories can be pretty interesting. How do you think the disciples felt when they caught so many fish? Why do you think Peter jumped into the water? What did the rest of the disciples do when he did that?

Read John 21:9-14.

Do you remember the last time Jesus ate with his disciples? When was that?

Finally, read John 21:15-17.

Why do you think Jesus was so persistent in his questions to Peter? Why did he keep asking Peter questions? Can you remember another time when Peter was asked a question three times?

Here is a narrative of the story. If you have enough people, you can act it out.

**Peter:** I'm going fishing!

**James, Thomas and James:** We will go with you.

**Narrator:** The friends got into a boat and rowed out into the lake. The friends worked together to throw the big net out into the water, but they catch nothing. The friends continue working together all night long.

**Thomas:** There is the sun. I'm ready to call it quits. Let's row back to shore.

**Narrator:** As they near the shore, they see a man standing there. The man was Jesus, but the friends did not know it was him.

**Jesus:** Hey you guys! Have you caught any fish?

**James:** Anybody know this guy?

**Peter:** Haven't caught thing!

**Jesus:** Throw your net on the other side of the boat.

**James:** It can't hurt, I guess.

**Narrator:** The friends did as Jesus said. They worked together to throw the big net into the water. This time they caught lots and lots of fish!

**Thomas:** Whoa! How did that guy know that would work?

**John:** Wait! That's. . . Jesus!

**Peter:** What? I am going to run to shore and greet him.

**James:** Don't worry about us, Peter! We will get all these fish ourselves!

**Narrator:** Peter eventually helped the disciples bring in the net – and all 153 fish onto the shore.

**Jesus:** I will make breakfast!

**Narrator:** So Jesus cooked and they all ate. After breakfast, Jesus spoke to Peter.

**Jesus:** Peter, do you love me?

**Peter:** Yes, Jesus. You know I love you.

**Jesus:** Then I want you to care for others just like a shepherd cares for sheep. Okay?

**Peter:** Got it.  
**Jesus:** You're sure you love me?  
**Peter:** Yes!  
**Jesus:** Don't flake out on me this time. Deal?  
**Peter:** Deal.  
**Narrator:** Later, Peter became a leader in the Christian church. He kept his work to Jesus.

What stood out about this version of the story? Did it make you think of the story in a different way?

The huge number of fish the disciples caught reminds of the vastness of God's love. Because God loves us so much, we have plenty of love to share with other people. In fact, the more we share, the more it grows. Let's try an experiment.

Using a marker draw a heart in the middle of a coffee filter and color it with the marker. The darker the color of your heart the better. Now using a spray bottle with water, lightly spray the letters L-O-V-E on the heart and watch the heart grow.

This is like the love in our lives. The more love we have the bigger our hearts become.

Let's end with a prayer. Thank you God for giving us Bible stories telling us about your love. Help us to remember to spread your love to others so that our lives will become even bigger. Be with us and keep us safe in these changing times so that we will be able to gather to learn your stories. Amen.