

Life of Christ

Breakfast by the Sea

John 21:1-14

Younger Verse "It is the Lord!" John 21:7

Older Verse "It is the Lord!" John 21:7

Bible Story

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do NOT read to the children.

In our lessons we have studied about the things that happened after Jesus died and was resurrected. We have learned that Jesus appeared to His disciples two times. The first was the Sunday He came back to life, when Thomas was not with the other disciples. The second time that Jesus appeared to His disciples was eight days after that. This time, Thomas was able to see the Lord and he believed. Our lesson today is about another time when Jesus appeared to His disciples.

Simon Peter was hanging out with some of the disciples. Thomas was there, the twin, the one they called Didymus. Nathanael was also there. We learned almost a year ago that Nathanael was from Cana, Galilee, the town where Jesus changed the water to wine. The brothers, James and John, were there and two other disciples. We do not know their names. While they were hanging out, Peter decided that he wanted to go fishing. Thomas, Nathanael, James and John, and the two others decided they would go with Peter. They would go fishing, too. Peter and his brother and James and John had been fishermen before they met Jesus. They had made their living catching fish and selling them.

The men got into a boat with their nets and went out into the Sea of Galilee. They took off their coats so that they could fish better. They fished and they fished. All night they threw, or cast, their nets into the sea and then pulled them back into the boat. It was dark on the sea. They cast and pulled, cast and pulled. Every time they cast the nets, they pulled them back empty. These great fishermen didn't catch a single fish! How awful! They had wanted to go fishing but couldn't catch a thing.

Then, the sun began to come up. The sky grew lighter and brighter by the minute. When they could finally see well, they noticed a man on the beach. That man wasn't just any man; it was Jesus! They did not know it was Him, though. Jesus shouted to them, "Friends, do you have any fish?" They told Him that they did not. Then Jesus told them to do something that He had

Lesson Goals

Understand Jesus' friendship with His disciples.
Know that we, too, can have a friendship with Jesus.

told them to do before. Jesus said, "Throw the net on the right side of the boat. You will find fish there." And they did it. They threw the net over the right side of the boat. Then they pulled, but they could not pull their net in. Unlike casting and pulling in an empty net from the night before, these fishermen could not pull their net in this time because it was so full.

Then John saw what happened. He remembered that it had happened three years before, when Jesus had asked these fishermen to follow Him. John told Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Peter heard this, he put on the coat he had taken off to work in and he jumped into the sea. Peter swam to the shore, ready to see Jesus. The other disciples were not far behind. They had been close to the shore and they came in, dragging their heavy, loaded net behind them. When they got to the shore, there was a charcoal fire burning. There were fish placed on the fire that were already cooking and there was bread. Jesus asked them to bring some of the fish they had caught. Peter went over to the boat and pulled the net in to the shore. It was full of large fish. There were 153 fish! The net did not tear, even though there were so many large fish. What a miracle! Jesus invited the disciples to eat breakfast with Him. What a breakfast! There was fresh fish and bread. But best of all, there was Jesus!

Jesus had been dead and the disciples didn't know what they would do. And then, just a short time later, He was alive again. This was the third time Jesus had spent time with His disciples since His death and resurrection. This was a special time for the disciples. You know, you and I can't sit with Jesus and have breakfast. We cannot touch His hand or see the scars that the nails left. But there is a way that we can be His friends, just as the disciples were His friends. We can choose to follow Him, too. When they followed Jesus, they believed that He was who He said He was, the Son of God. They left the old things they had done and they began obeying Him. You, too, can choose to believe that Jesus is God's Son. You can follow Him by leaving your old way of life, like lying or stealing or cheating, behind. You can spend time with Him at church by listening to Bible lessons and even at home as you read your own Bible. Don't you want to be Jesus' friend today?

**Memory Verse
Activity**

Make a fire like Jesus did when He cooked the fish for the disciples. Make four logs and a flame. Write in a word on each of the logs. Write the scripture reference on the flame. Glue them together to resemble a "camp fire." Practice the verse as you work.

Preparing for Next Week

Lesson 49
Peter's Second Chance
John 21:15-25

Preschool Lesson

Breakfast with Jesus!

Sing: “Peter, James and John in a Sailboat”

Teach: In our lesson today, we read that Simon Peter, one of Jesus’ friends, was hanging out with some of the other disciples. Thomas was there. Nathanael was also there. James and John, who were brothers, were there with two other disciples whose names we do not know. While they were hanging out, Peter decided that he wanted to go fishing. Thomas, Nathanael, James and John, and the two others decided they would go with Peter. They would go fishing, too. Peter and his brother and James and John had been fishermen before they met Jesus. They caught fish and sold them.

They did not use fishing poles and worms to catch fish like we do today. They used big nets. Peter and his friends took their nets and they got into a little boat. They went out into the Sea of Galilee. They took off their coats so that they could fish better and they fished and they fished. All night they threw their nets into the sea. SPLASH! Then pulled them back into the boat. SWOOSH, SWOOSH! It was dark on the sea, but they kept fishing. Every time they threw the nets, SPLASH! they pulled them back empty, SWOOSH, SWOOSH! These great fishermen didn’t catch a single fish! How awful! They had wanted to go fishing but couldn’t catch a thing.

Then, the sun began to come up. The sky grew lighter and brighter by the minute. When they could finally see well, they noticed a man on the beach. It was Jesus, but they could not tell it was Him. Jesus shouted to them, “Friends, do you have any fish?” They did not. Then Jesus said, “Throw the net on the right side of the boat. You will find fish there.” And they did it. Then they pulled, and pulled, but they could not pull their net in. Their net was full of fish! Because this had happened before, John knew the man on the beach was Jesus! He told Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Peter heard this, he put on the coat he had taken off and he jumped into the sea. Peter swam to the shore, ready to see Jesus. The other disciples followed in the little boat, dragging their heavy, full net behind them. When they got to the beach, Jesus was there cooking fish and bread, but He asked them to bring some of the fish they had caught. Peter went over to the boat and pulled the net in to the shore, SWOOSH, SWOOSH! It was full of large fish. There were 153 fish! What a miracle! Jesus invited the disciples to eat breakfast with Him. What a breakfast! There was fresh fish and bread. But best of all, there was Jesus!

Pray: Thank you, God, for Jesus!

Activities

- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today.
- Use beach towels to set the scene. Tell the story today from the floor on beach towels.
- Bring a large fish net to class. Explain casting, throwing the net out, and pulling it back in.
- If you have access to large appliance boxes, make your own “small boat.” Take turns acting out the story from your “boat.”
- Sing “Peter, James and John in a Sailboat.”
- Make large fish. Use paper grocery bags and newspaper. Flatten the paper bags. Draw the outline of a fish, using as much of the bag as possible. Staple around the outline of the fish, leaving the mouth open for stuffing. Stuff each fish with newspaper. These may be used in re-enacting today’s lesson.
- Provide your students with small sea shells and either sand or coarse salt. Encourage them to create “beach” pictures.
- Go fishing - with paper fish and dowel rod fishing poles. Attach paper clips to the fish and magnets and string to the poles. Fish can be caught from a small kiddie pool or bucket.