

Jesus' Breakfast with His Disciples- John 21:1-17

THE POINT

Focus:

Jesus cares for the needs of his disciples.
Jesus wants us to know his love.

Application:

We trust God's care for us.
We respond to Jesus' love by caring for others.

*Last week we learned about...

*Two weeks ago we learned about...

*fill this in for your leaders so they know what the class has been studying

HEART CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)

MATERIALS:

- none

Content:

Have you ever had help with a big task? Maybe you had a big project to finish, and your mom or dad helped. Maybe you felt overwhelmed cleaning your room or finishing a school project. Maybe you were trying to build or draw something and it felt too hard. Can you think of a time?

Take a few answers, and/or share a personal story yourself.

In this story, Jesus helps his disciples with their task, and he also helps them know how to help with The Big Task of sharing God's love with the whole world. He shows them how powerful he is, and then reminds them that because of his love, he will help them with any hard thing they have to do in the future.

STORY CONNECTION (8-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS:

- A pretend firepit- you can make this with red/yellow/orange tissue paper, and sticks or brown paper bags
- Fish made with felt or colored paper- the passage says they had 143 fish, it makes a great visual of God's abundant love and provision if you can bring 143 paper or felt cut-outs!
- Sheep image or animal

Optional: Children with basic reading skills (first or second grade) can practice finding the Scripture passage even if they don't have the reading skills to follow along in their Bibles.

This is a longer story for children, but it has a lot of action- catching fish, eating breakfast, hearing Jesus love- it switches venues a few times. Here are a few things you can implement to help children step into the story:

- have everyone close their eyes and imagine being on the shores of the sea. What do they hear? Smell? See? Consider playing a recording of waves or sea sounds.
- Make part of the classroom a boat and part a "shore" - move mid-story to your make-shift fire-pit
- Hide the 143 fish in bag "nets" and have the children reveal how many fish Jesus' provided for the disciples

Have the children sit in a circle for the story This helps include children who might feel shy, and it helps each child feel equally engaged. It reassures children that they are seen and welcome in the community.

This is a longer story that we read, but it has a lot of action.

John 21:1-17

After this, Jesus appeared to his disciples again. It was by the Sea of Galilee. Here is what happened. 2 Simon Peter and Thomas, who was also called Didymus, were there together. Nathanael from Cana in Galilee and the sons of Zebedee were with them. So were two other disciples. 3 "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them. They said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat. That night they didn't catch anything.

4 Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore. But the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

5 He called out to them, "Friends, don't you have any fish?"

"No," they answered.

6 He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat. There you will find some fish." When they did, they could not pull the net into the boat. There were too many fish in it.

7 Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Simon Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Peter heard that, he put his coat on. He had taken it off earlier. Then he jumped into the water. 8 The other disciples followed in the boat. They were towing the net full of fish. The shore was only about 100 yards away. 9 When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals. There were fish on it. There was also some bread.

The disciples knew that it was Jesus because of the miracle he had performed.

This whole story shows Jesus demonstrating to his disciples that he can care for them.

10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." 11 So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat. He dragged the net to shore. It was full of large fish. There were 153 of them. But even with that many fish the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them. He did the same thing with the fish. 14 This was the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Stop here if you have younger children (PreK and K) or if you are running short on time.

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(John 21: 15-17)

*Hold the sheep image or stuffed animal during this next part.
Place it in the circle in front of you so everyone can see it.*

15 When Jesus and the disciples had finished eating, Jesus spoke to Simon Peter. He asked, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these others do?”

“Yes, Lord,” he answered. “You know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

16 Again Jesus asked, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord. You know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

17 Jesus spoke to him a third time. He asked, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

Peter felt bad because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He answered, “Lord, you know all things. You know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.”

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WONDER CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: None.

I wonder what it was like to eat a breakfast that Jesus' had made.

I wonder what Jesus meant by his lambs. I wonder how Jesus lambs are.

I wonder what it looks like for Peter to feed Jesus' sheep.

What do you wonder?

SPIRIT CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: Coloring supplies: paper, crayons, pencils, hard drawing surfaces (floor, clipboard, or a table).

Take a few minutes to talk quietly with the Lord while you draw, write, or just think inside your heard. Talk with God about the story today. This is a quiet time for you to spend with the Lord, not with your neighbor or anyone else.