

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Third Sunday of Easter
Lesson Plans for Older Children

Scripture: John 21:1-19

"Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again." An astounding discovery! The Easter news was spread to all who would listen. The disciples told people, who in turn, told people, and to this day, we hear the message — a message of weeping and then of joy that comes with the morning of a new day. We too like the disciples weep **AND** then delight in the joy bursting forth in us. We too are called to bring this message with our lives, and, if necessary, with words, to those who have not yet heard it.

A Notation for This Week's Gospel

Thinking their ministry days were over, the fishermen went back to what they knew: fishing. But they caught nothing all night. In the depth of their discouragement they hear a call from the shore, "Try the other side." Abundance. And who is that on the shore, standing by the charcoal fire he made in anticipation of the fish?

Theme: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Before Class: Make sure you have copies of the story, either by copying the story from below, or by having enough Bibles for each person. Be on the lookout for craft supplies that will appeal to the children. Gel pens and dark paper are great fun, if your budget allows for their purchase.

Beginning: Tell the children you are going to do something a bit different today. You, the teacher, will read the passage because it is a bit long, and each child will have a copy to follow.

After we talk a bit about the passage, the children can act it out and the teacher can be the audience. Ask the children if any of them have ever gone fishing? Would you tell us about it? Did you go in a boat, use bait, use a net? Then tell them this story is about a fishing trip the disciples take after Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection.

Opening Prayer: Thank you, Jesus, for the way you taught your disciples and the ways you teach each of us. Amen.

The Story: John 21: 1-19 Have the teacher or assistant read the story for today.

Questions:

Which of the disciples go fishing in this passage? (Verse 2)

How long did they fish and what did they catch? (Verse 3b)

What did the "man on the shore" suggest they do? (Verse 6)

What happened? (verse 6b)

What did Peter do? (verse 7)

What did the other disciples do? (verse 8)

What had Jesus prepared for them? (verse 9)

How large was the catch of fish? (verse 11b)

What did the disciples and Jesus do then? (They had a breakfast of bread and fish.)

Activity: Ask the children to act out this passage. They can decide which one of the disciples each of the children is, they can choose who will be Jesus, they could "create" a boat by lining up chairs to sit in and pretend to row. Tell them to use their copies of the passage to decide what happens when.

Be an appreciative audience.

Option. A word for today that has less contemporary meaning is **LORD**. We have people who have authority over us (parents, for example, teachers, and for our parents: bosses) but the concept of "Lord" is not in our experience, unless we mean God.

Invite the children to discuss what the word "Lord" means.

A definition from a dictionary is:

1: one having power and authority over others

2: *capitalized*

a : GOD

b : JESUS

3: a man of rank or high position

4: a British title

5 : a person chosen to preside over a festival

After you have had a short discussion for the word "Lord," invite the children to design an icon for the word "Lord." (For a template in the shape of a bookmark, see the Lesson for Easter 2C)

Getting Closure. Display what the children have come up with and invite them to make a copy for themselves to take home.

Closing Prayer: Thank you, Jesus, for showing yourself to us as our Lord. Help us to follow you and know you as our Lord in this Easter Season. Amen.

John 21:1-19

21 After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ²Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. ⁴Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. ⁹When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." ¹⁹(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

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