

Bible background

John 21:1-17

Aim of lesson

To show that Jesus, when he was raised from the dead, still cared for his disciples.

Preparation required

Make the boat from your activity sheet. You will need scissors, glue, plasticine and small squares of net cut from an old net curtain - one per child.

Get to know the rhyme well so that you can say it with expression.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Remind the class of Jesus' resurrection. Perhaps you could use last week's song as a review.
2. Tell the class that the disciples went to Galilee to meet the risen Jesus. While they were waiting, Peter decided to go fishing, so they all joined him.
3. Produce your fishing boat made from the activity sheet. The disciples can be made from plasticine. Describe the appearance of the stranger and the catch of fish. Use the plasticine to make the figure of Jesus and the fish, as they come into the story. Tell how John recognised him and Peter swam to the shore.
4. Talk about the breakfast on the beach. If there is plasticine left you could make a fire - each child could make a stick and then put one of their fish on the sticks to cook. Tell them of Jesus' words to Peter to feed his sheep. Peter knew it meant to take care of the others.
5. Say or read the rhyme 'On The Beach'.
6. The class can also make their own boat from the activity sheets.

Alternative activities

1. Make a fish mobile. You could either get the whole class to help make one mobile to display in your Sunday school room or if you have sufficient time and adult assistance, the children could make individual mobiles to take home. Cut out lots of cardboard fish shapes and let the children colour them, decorate them with shiny paper, or, if you are feeling really brave, glitter! Hang the fish on lengths of cotton and suspend them from a metal coat hanger covered in foil. Its best to experiment beforehand with different sizes of fish and lengths of cotton in order to balance the mobiles.
2. Make a collage picture, either of the boat and the net full of fish (use orange bags for nets) or of the disciples and Jesus around the fire on the beach.
3. Give each child a large fish shape to decorate by printing, colouring, sticking, etc.
4. Make Plasticine or salt dough fish and experiment with different tools to make patterns on them e.g. lids, forks, combs, coins.

Relevance to the children's lives

Ask the children if they would have liked to have had breakfast on the beach with Jesus and walked and talked with him afterwards. What would they have said to him? What do they think he would have said to them?

Prayer

Ask who would like to thank Jesus for giving the disciples such a nice breakfast. Ask what they had for breakfast - would they like to say thank you for that too.

Verse

'Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.' John 21:17.

Rhyme

On The Beach

Peter decided what to do
He'd go fishing, the others came too.
They worked on the boat all through the night
Then just as it was getting light
Someone called 'Has your net
Caught any fish inside it yet?'
'No, nothing yet,' they all replied.
'Then throw it on the other side.'
They answered 'As you wish.'
And then they caught so many fish
They couldn't get them all on board.
Then John told Peter 'It's the Lord.'
And Peter didn't wait for more.
He jumped in the water and swam to the shore.
And there, on the fire, the Lord had prepared
Some fish and bread which they all shared.
After breakfast they went for a walk
And Jesus and Peter began to talk.
As they walked beside the sea
Jesus asked Peter 'Do you love me?'
Peter said, 'Lord, you know I do.'
What would you say if he asked you?