

Lesson 47: THE MIRACULOUS CATCH OF FISH
Luke 5; John 21

INTRODUCTION:

Among the first disciples that were called to follow the Lord were James, John, Andrew, and Simon Peter. Does anyone know how these particular men earned a living? What were their jobs? (Fishermen.) The Lord was once walking by the Sea of Galilee and saw them working there. He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” What do you think the Lord meant by that?

Today we will read of two amazing catches of fish—miracles! One of these catches happened during the Lord’s life on earth. The other happened after the Lord had died and then risen again.

The first story takes place when a large crowd had gathered to hear the Lord speak. The crowd was so large, and the people were pushing so much to get close to the Lord that He had to get into Simon Peter’s boat and go a little out into the water. From there He could speak to the people more easily.

READING:

Have the children take turns reading verses from Luke 5:1-11.

DISCUSSION:

Simon Peter and the others had been fishing all night and had caught nothing! And these were experienced fishermen. They knew all the right tricks for catching fish, but on that day, the fish were doing a good job of hiding! So how could the Lord suddenly say, “Go out again, and let down your net,” and lo and behold, a tremendous amount of fish appeared? It was a miracle. The Lord is God, and He knows and has control over everything in nature.

The second story takes place after the Lord had risen again from the tomb. Some of the disciples were out in the water, fishing, when He came to the shore and spoke to them. At first, the disciples did not know who He was.

READING:

Have the children take turns reading verses from John 21:1-14.

DISCUSSION:

Right after the Lord had told the disciples to cast their net on the right side of the boat, and they had caught a huge amount of fish, the disciples realized that this was the Lord. Why did this help them realize? (Because it was a miracle, as only the Lord could perform, and it was just like a miracle that had happened before.)

Now, back to the question: why did the Lord call the disciples “fishers of men”? Back before the Lord had called them, these disciples had spent their days gathering fish. The Lord came and asked them to do a more important job – to gather people to come to the Lord. This is why they would be called “fishers of men.”

In both of these miracles, the Lord told them just the right way to cast their nets and fish, and then they caught so many fish that the nets and boats could barely hold them! Why so many?

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These miracles were showing a promise. The Lord had been showing the disciples the right way to teach people, in order to bring them close to the Lord's love. The Lord knew that when the disciples would do this, they would gather a tremendous amount of people closer to the Lord's love – just like the tremendous amount of fish.

In the second miracle of the nets and the fish, the Lord told them to “cast their nets on the right side of the boat.” Why do you think He said “on the right side”? The right side represents love, and the Lord was showing that He wants all of His disciples to use love and kindness when they teach people and try to gather them closer to God.

We can all be disciples of the Lord. And everything that we do from true kindness and love will grow and multiply. Good things will come in abundance, like the great abundance of fish.

PROJECT: Origami Fish

Supplies:

origami paper in many colors
one blue poster board
glue
yarn

Procedure:

Take the children step by step through the process of making origami fish, using the enclosed instructions. (I highly recommend trying it by yourself ahead of time! You can get more detailed instructions online and on YouTube.) They can make as many fish as they like.

Create a scene on the poster board. Glue the fish all swimming around, then glue strings of yarn crossing over each other to create a net that is surrounding the fish. The net can cover all the fish, or can just be coming up from one of the corners, depending on how much time and energy the group has.

Make a title at the top of the poster board, either by tracing letters onto paper with letter stencils and cutting them out and gluing them, or just by writing with a marker. Have the title read:

“Cast the net on the right side...” John 21:6

OR

“Cast the net on the right side of the boat...” John 21:6

OR

“Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” John 21:6

Project Instructions:

1. Fold and unfold your paper along the diagonals then turn the paper over.
2. Fold and unfold along the center of the page.
3. Fold the sides in to the center and unfold.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 in the other direction.
5. Fold the top and bottom edge down to the closest fold line.
6. Repeat with the sides.
7. Now pull all four corners out.
8. Fold down along the diagonal crease that you made in step 1.
9. Fold one of the points down along the vertical crease to meet the overlapping points.
10. Then tuck the point behind one of the overlapping points.
11. Do the same with the other point.
12. Draw on an eye.

