

LESSON 41

Another Miraculous Catch

JOHN 21:1-14



BIBLE TRUTH

THOSE WHO BELONG TO THE LORD ARE SUSTAINED BY HIM

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ one can of tuna fish
- ✓ one charcoal briquette
- ✓ a loaf of bread
- ✓ a piece of netting
- ✓ (Alternatively, draw the following on the whiteboard: a fish, a fire, a loaf of bread, and netting.)

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 119)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 41—one for each child; markers or crayons

Who Are You?

SUPPLIES: a nonthreatening mask or a paper bag with holes cut out of it for eyes and mouth

Try the Right Side of the Boat

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ brown paper lunch bag
- ✓ large bag of fish crackers (153 crackers—the same number of fish that the disciples caught)
- ✓ tablecloth to lay down on the floor for your ocean
- ✓ bandanna (to serve as the net)

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today’s lesson the children will learn about the third time Jesus appeared to the disciples after his resurrection.

Bring to class the following items: one can of tuna fish, one charcoal briquette, a loaf of bread, a piece of netting. (Alternatively, draw the following on the whiteboard: a fish, a fire, a loaf of bread, and netting.)

Show the children the objects one by one. See if they can identify the objects and guess what today’s Bible lesson is about. (Note: Keep the items handy and as you read the story hold the items up as you come to them.)

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 119, “Another Miraculous Catch,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What is this story about?**
(The story is about Jesus appearing after he rose from the dead.)

- **To whom did he appear?**
(He appeared to seven of the disciples who were fishing at the Sea of Tiberias.)

- **Did they recognize Jesus?**
(No, they did not know who it was at first. It was not until Jesus told them to recast their nets and they caught a huge number of fish that they knew who it was.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Why did the disciples not recognize Jesus?**
(It was an amazing thing for a man to rise again from the dead as Jesus did. They just didn't expect Jesus to be there.)

- **What helped them recognize that it was Jesus?**
(When they caught the huge netful of fish following his instructions they knew it was Jesus.)

- **How many times had Jesus appeared to the disciples before this?**
(There were two other times that Jesus appeared to the disciples, once without Thomas, who doubted, and once with Thomas present.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult.

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

When Jesus called Peter, James, and John to follow him, he demonstrated his power by a miraculous catch of fish (Luke 5:1-11). Jesus demonstrated his power again to the disciples through a second miraculous catch of fish. John concluded his gospel at the end of this story with a declaration that all he wrote was true regarding the ministry of Christ, the death of Christ, the resurrection of Christ, and even the appearing of Jesus on the shores of Galilee, where he cooked the disciples a breakfast of fish.

John's final statement should cause great anticipation for heaven when we will learn of all the other amazing things Jesus did while he ministered on earth. It would take more than a million books to record them. But since we will have eternity to listen, we will have time enough to hear about them all.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 41—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- How many fish can you see with eyes?
(There are five.)
- How many fish do you think are in the whole net?
(The Bible tells us there were 153 fish.)
- Who caught all these fish?
(The disciples caught the fish in their net.)
- How did Jesus help them catch the fish?
(Jesus, who is God and knows everything and commands all nature, told them where they should cast their nets.)

Who Are You?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a nonthreatening mask or a paper bag with holes cut out of it for eyes and mouth

Tell the children about how the disciples didn't recognize Jesus on the shore. It wasn't until they caught the fish that they realized it was Jesus.

Take time to review everyone's name in class. Pass the mask around and let those who want to try it on. Then tell the children you are going to play a guessing game by placing a mask on one of the students. Have everyone close their eyes. Slip the mask over one child's head, and then ask everyone to open their eyes and try to guess who the person behind the mask is.

To add an interesting twist to this exercise, have a volunteer from an older class stand by and bring this person in while everyone has their eyes closed. Make sure you pick someone that the children would know. Put the mask on the guest and then have everyone open their eyes and try to guess who it is. You might even pick an adult, perhaps one of the better-known teachers.

The idea is that the children will be stumped as to who is wearing the mask because he had not been in class earlier. Tell the children to ask the guest questions and try to guess who he is from the sound of his voice. In the end, reveal the person's identity and talk to the children about how the disciples didn't recognize Jesus at first.

What might have given the disciples a clue as to who the stranger was among them? (Jesus' voice may have given them a clue, but the large catch of fish was something Jesus had been involved with before.)

Try the Right Side of the Boat

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ brown paper lunch bag
- ✓ large bag of fish crackers (153 crackers—the same number of fish that the disciples caught)
- ✓ tablecloth to lay down on the floor for your ocean
- ✓ bandanna (to serve as the net)

Before class precount 153 crackers and place them in a brown paper lunch bag.

Ask for a volunteer to play the role of a fisherman. Give the bandanna to the fisherman and tell him that he should cast the net onto the ocean (the tablecloth spread out on the floor) and see if he can catch a fish. Hold one goldfish cracker in your fingers and place it on the net then tell the fisherman to pull in the net. Keep hold of the cracker so that the net comes up empty.

Ask the children how what just happened is like the story about the disciples fishing and not catching anything. (You've basically given the children the answer in your question.) Then ask the children how Jesus helped. (He told the disciples to cast their net again.)

Now tell the whole class to play the role of Jesus and say “Throw your net on the right side and you will catch some fish.” Coach them to repeat the line, then have your volunteer recast his net. As soon as the net settles down, dump all the goldfish crackers right into the middle of the net. Announce to the class, “He caught so many fish he needs some help to bring them all in.”

Help your fisherman bring in his or her catch. Then share the goldfish with the children and draw them out about how amazing it must have been to catch so many fish.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today’s lesson.

