

LESSON 41

# Another Miraculous Catch

JOHN 21:1-25



**BIBLE TRUTH**

THOSE WHO BELONG TO THE LORD ARE SUSTAINED BY HIM

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN

Read John 21:1–25 from the Scriptures or read story 119, “Another Miraculous Catch,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN

Feed My Lambs

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ a large bag of plain popcorn (air popped if possible) (Using air-popped popcorn will avoid getting grease on the classroom floor.)

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 10 MIN

What Does It Mean to Love the Lord?

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 MIN

Color a Picture

**SUPPLIES:**

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

8. CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN

Fry a Fish

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ electric frying pan and spatula
- ✓ oil or butter and salt
- ✓ fresh (or defrosted) fish
- ✓ plates and forks for the class to taste the fish

**TOTAL 75 MIN**

## PREPARING TO TEACH

### TEACHING POINTS

**Jesus revealed himself in power**—Peter decided to go fishing and was joined by a number of the other disciples. They fished all night but caught nothing. In the providence of God this would set the stage for another miraculous catch of fish. Early in the morning, as they neared the shore, Jesus appeared and called to them. Knowing that the disciples didn't recognize him, Jesus revealed himself in a humorous way—with another huge catch of fish. As soon as the disciples drew in the net, they knew it was Jesus on shore.

**Jesus restored Peter**—The disciples join Jesus for breakfast on the shore. Jesus approached Peter after breakfast. If you remember, the night Jesus was arrested Peter had denied three times that he knew Jesus (see Matthew 26:69–75). Now, Jesus repeats a question to Peter three times: “Do you love me?” Most commentators believe that this passage is Jesus' restoration of Peter. Jesus, speaking the same words he used three years earlier to call Peter into service said, “Follow me” (Matthew 4:19; John 21:19). The night of Jesus' arrest Peter had boasted that he was ready to follow Jesus “both to prison and to death” (Luke 22:33). Now Jesus revealed that Peter indeed would die in his service to Christ (John 21:18–19). Some commentators believe the reference to Peter's hands being stretched out is a prophetic word pointing to Peter's eventual crucifixion. Tradition has it that he was crucified upside down.

**John saw it himself**—John ends his gospel with the declaration that he himself witnessed the accounts he wrote about (John 21:24). Unlike Luke, who sought to compile an orderly account of eyewitnesses of Christ (Luke 1:3), John saw it all firsthand. In his first epistle he stated it this way: “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:1–3).

## 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.

### THE LESSON

**OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN**

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

**BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

Read John 21:1–25 from the Scriptures or read story 119, “Another Miraculous Catch,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Feed My Lambs**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ a large bag of plain popcorn (air popped if possible) (Using air-popped popcorn will avoid getting grease on the classroom floor.)

This object lesson is to help the children understand the true meaning of “feed my lambs.”

First read through the whole passage for today, making sure to get to the section where Jesus says to Peter, “Feed my lambs” (John 21:15). Just then have a helper barge into your class and start tossing popcorn like he is feeding chickens, saying over and over, “Here you go, little lambs. Time to eat, little lambs. Go ahead and eat, little lambs.”

This, of course, will cause all kinds of commotion.

Interrupting the helper, ask her to explain what is going on, to which the helper will reply, “Just following today’s Scripture.” The helper should explain that in John 21:15 it says “feed my lambs,” and she thought since everyone likes popcorn it would be good to feed them popcorn.

When you object, have her remind you that the “lambs” in this passage is not referring to real lambs. She should then continue to toss the popcorn until you object again and tell her to stop. Finally, explain that the passage is not referring to real food either. Ask the class to see if they know what “feed the lambs” means. Explain to everyone that “feed my lambs” refers to teaching people the Word of God. In fact, you were already feeding the lambs when the helper arrived and caused all the confusion. Have the class work together to pick up the popcorn on the floor.

**TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

**OBJECT LESON 2 . . . . . 10 MIN**

**What Does It Mean to Love the Lord?**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

Ask the class to tell you what it means to love the Lord. Review the following Scriptures to help explain what it means: John 14:15–26; 1 John 5:3–5

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5 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 worker.

**ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Color a Picture**

**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.)*

**CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

**BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Fry a Fish**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ electric frying pan and spatula
- ✓ oil or butter and salt
- ✓ fresh (or defrosted) fish
- ✓ plates and forks for the class to taste the fish

Prior to class, heat up the electric skillet so that as soon as the children arrive you can begin frying the fish. While you are frying the fish tell them the Bible story. When you get to the end, ask them if they know why Jesus ate fish with the disciples for breakfast. (In Luke 24:37 it tells us that in one of his earlier appearances the disciples were terrified and thought they saw a spirit. Jesus told the disciples at that time to touch him to see that he was real. By eating fish with them, they would also know Jesus was real. Some people do not believe that Jesus rose from the dead and was alive and well. By recording details like this one—that Jesus ate fish with him—John assures us that Jesus did rise and was alive and well and not just a spirit.)

If the children would like to taste the fish, give them a small portion on a paper plate.

