

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

Come Follow Me Twice

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker
- ✓ prizes to award for correct answers
- ✓ Bibles for the class

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

Acceptable to God

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ pack of dominoes
- ✓ large bag of candy-coated chocolates
- ✓ slips of paper

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Fishing Again

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN

What Did Peter Learn?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper and pencil
- ✓ Bibles for the class

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).

A LITTLE BIT MORE

The Disciple Whom Jesus Loved

This description appears five times in John's Gospel (John 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20). Most commentators believe this refers to John himself, the writer of the Gospel. This does not mean that the Lord only loved one of his disciples; John is simply testifying to the love he uniquely felt from Jesus.

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

Come Follow Me Twice

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker
- ✓ prizes to award for correct answers
- ✓ Bibles for the class

Use this exercise as a creative way to introduce the teaching points to the children.

Write the following two references on the board: Matthew 4:18–19 and John 21:21–23.

Ask the class to look up and read both passages when you give the word Go. The first person who raises their hand and gives the correct answer to the question is the winner. The question is, What two same words do you find in both of these passages. (Pick the first three children to raise their hands in case the first one doesn't get the answer correct.)

Then ask what the significance of the repeated phrase is. (When Jesus tells Peter to “follow me” at the second miraculous catch of fish, he is restoring Peter to the same call he first gave to him. That is an indication that Peter is forgiven for denying Christ on the eve of his crucifixion.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

Acceptable to God

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ pack of dominoes
- ✓ large bag of candy-coated chocolates
- ✓ slips of paper

The object of this exercise is to demonstrate how, in spite of our failures, we are acceptable to God through Jesus.

Even though Peter failed Christ miserably, his sins were forgiven and Jesus commissioned him to feed Christ's sheep. This is only possible because Peter's sins, including his denial of Christ, were paid for on the cross.

Recruit several volunteers from the class. Lay the dominoes out on a table and explain that the challenge is to stack them end on end until all the dominoes are used up. (You will want to make sure you have enough dominoes to make this an impossible task.)

Explain to the volunteers that they can earn one candy for each domino stacked, but none if the stack falls. If they can stack them all they get twenty candies! (Make this number higher than the number of dominoes you have been able to stack in practice.)

Give several children an opportunity. Write their scores on slips of paper and tell them you will “cash out” their papers at the very end. If someone drops even one domino write a “0” on their card. Have the children line up with the highest score first, the lowest score last.

No matter the score, give them twenty candies, even those who got a zero.

Then ask the following questions:

- Did you get the number of candies you earned?
(No, I got more.)
- Did those who knocked dominoes down get the “zero” they deserved?
(No, they were blessed with candy as well.)
- How does this demonstrate God’s grace?
(God does not give us what we deserve—punishment. Instead we receive something we did not earn—everlasting life.)
- How is this possible?
(Jesus died to take the punishment for our sin and Jesus lived a perfect life that we might receive his righteousness.)
- How do you see grace at work in Peter’s life when you consider his denials of Christ before the crucifixion and Christ’s commissioning to feed his sheep?
(Peter did not deserve to be given a mission in the church for the Lord. Peter deserved to be punished for his denial of Christ. But Jesus paid the penalty for Peter’s sin and gave Peter his righteousness.)

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

Fishing Again

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Draw a picture of the disciples dragging in the net of fish.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN

What Did Peter Learn?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper and pencil
- ✓ Bibles for the class

Read together 1 Peter 1:1–25. Ask the class to answer the following question and write out an answer:

Based on this passage what do you think Peter learned after the resurrection?

Here are a few examples of passages you can write on the board for them. Write only the reference on the board. Have them connect it to 1 Peter on their own.

Matthew 14:28–31: Peter learned that his faith and hope needed to be in God, not his circumstances (1 Peter 1:21).

Matthew 16:21–23: Peter learned to be self-controlled and to set his hope fully on Jesus (1 Peter 1:13).

Matthew 26:69–75: Peter learned that our trials are given of God to perfect our faith (1 Peter 1:4–7).

Have the students share their answers and discuss as a class what we can learn from this passage and from Peter's mistakes. It is obvious that Peter matured in his faith. He could have used his own advice earlier in life.