

Children and family talk for Sunday 1st May 2022

Good morning!

Last week in our bible reading we heard how Jesus appeared to his followers while they were hiding in a locked room, afraid of the people who had put Jesus to death. This week some of the followers are starting to return to the lives they had before they met Jesus. Let's see what happened when they went fishing. You can find this reading in John chapter 21, verses 1-19.

Jesus Appears to Seven Followers

21 Later, Jesus showed himself to his followers by Lake Galilee. This is how it happened: **2** Some of the followers were together. They were Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the two sons of Zebedee, and two other followers. **3** Simon Peter said, "I am going out to fish."

The other followers said, "We will go with you." So they went out and got into the boat. They fished that night but caught nothing.

4 Early the next morning Jesus stood on the shore. But the followers did not know that it was Jesus. **5** Then he said to them, "Friends, have you caught any fish?"

They answered, "No."

6 He said, "Throw your net into the water on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they did this. They caught so many fish that they could not pull the net back into the boat.

7 The follower whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Peter heard him say this, he wrapped his coat around himself. (Peter had taken his clothes off.) Then he jumped into the water. **8** The other followers went to shore in the boat, dragging the net full of fish. They were not very far from shore, only about 100 yards. **9** When the followers stepped out of the boat and onto the shore, they saw a fire of hot coals. There were fish on the fire, and there was bread.

10 Then Jesus said, "Bring some of the fish that you caught."

11 Simon Peter went into the boat and pulled the net to the shore. It was full of big fish. There were 153. Even though there were so many, the net did not tear. **12** Jesus said to them, "Come and eat." None of the followers dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. **13** Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them. He also gave them the fish.

14 This was now the third time Jesus showed himself to his followers after he was raised from death.

15 When they finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John do you love me more than these?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my lambs."

¹⁶ Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John do you love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

¹⁷ A third time he said, "Simon son of John do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" Peter said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you!"

He said to him, "Take care of my sheep. ¹⁸ I tell you the truth. When you were younger, you tied your own belt and went where you wanted. But when you are old, you will put out your hands and someone else will tie them. They will take you where you don't want to go." ¹⁹ (Jesus said this to show how Peter would die to give glory to God.) Then Jesus said to Peter, "Follow me!"

Jesus' followers must have been feeling lost and confused following the events of the last week or so, watching from a distance as Jesus was arrested and accused of things he hadn't done, and then seeing him die on the cross, and finally not quite believing their eyes as Jesus had appeared to them in the locked room. I know I would have been. It was all too much to take in. They had been following him and learning from him for the last three years, but they still didn't understand it all, and going back to what they did understand, fishing, gave them some comfort, as well as the added bonus of something to eat!

But they didn't catch anything, and they had fished all night. It wasn't until the man on the shore at the break of the day, told them to try again on the other side of the boat, that they caught so many fish they remembered another time this had happened, and John realised the man in the distance was Jesus. Overwhelmed with excitement and joy, Peter rushes out to meet Jesus grabbing his cloak on the way and the others follow in the boat. And Jesus cooks them breakfast. Such a simple thing to do, but demonstrating to his followers that he is as real as them, they eat fish and bread together.

Then Jesus speaks to Peter, who is feeling bad inside because he said he didn't know Jesus when people questioned him after Jesus was arrested. In fact, Peter did this three times, as Jesus had predicted he would. So, Jesus takes Peter aside and specifically, asks him three times: "Do you love me?" each time Peter says he does, Jesus asks him to look after his sheep or lambs. Jesus is really asking Peter to look after his followers. I think this is Jesus showing Peter that he forgives him, loves him and trusts him. Total forgiveness.

And Jesus gives us that chance for total forgiveness too, if we can show that we are sorry for anything we do wrong, and are prepared to follow him.

Let's talk to Jesus now;

Dear Jesus,

for showing us a new way to live:

Thank you.

For calling us to follow you...

For giving us second chances...

Amen.

Let's finish by saying the grace together:

And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out your hands as if receiving a present)

The Love of God (Cross your hands over your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (hold hands together)

Be with us all, now and for evermore, Amen. (Bring thumbs together).

Here is a link for a worship song: Casting Crowns Until: The Whole World Hears

with lyrics so you can join in if you want to! <https://youtu.be/C9jVK9cZ2aw>

And here is the link for the activity page: [activity-sheet-1-may-2022.pdf \(rootsontheweb.com\)](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/activity-sheet-1-may-2022.pdf)

And the roots at home pages: [roots-at-home-1-may-2022-colour.pdf \(rootsontheweb.com\)](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/roots-at-home-1-may-2022-colour.pdf)