



# 3rd Sunday of Easter

## John 21: 1-14

After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish.

That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

## Some things to think about...

- The disciples fished all night but caught no fish. Why did they catch so many fish the next morning? What does this show us about trying hard to reach our goals?
- At first, the disciples didn't know it was Jesus on the shore. What made them realise it was Him? Have you ever missed the chance to see Jesus in your life? When? How can we see Him today?

## Activity

Your teacher will pick one student to be a reporter who will interview different characters in the Gospel reading. They will also choose students to be Jesus, Simon Peter and John ("the disciple whom Jesus loved") who will answer the reporter's questions.

The interviewer begins by setting the scene and giving a brief description of the Gospel story which has just happened. The reporter then asks questions to each character who answer in their own way. (You can either use the interview questions on the next page or make up your own questions).

## Materials needed for the activity:

Students to role play the reporter, John (the beloved disciple), Simon Peter and Jesus.



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## Activity: Interview questions for John and Peter

### Interview questions for John

- Thanks for coming on the show John. I understand that you went out fishing last night and caught nothing. What made you try again in the morning? Why couldn't you recognise Jesus on the shore?
- What made you recognise Him afterwards?
- Rumour has it that you're Jesus' favourite disciple. Why didn't you swim out to Jesus like Simon Peter then?
- What was it like to see Jesus again after He had risen from the dead? Were you shocked? Amazed? Scared?

### Interview questions for Simon Peter

- So Simon Peter, what made you decide to go fishing last night?
- How did you feel when you caught no fish?
- Jesus has appeared to you before today. Why didn't you recognise Him on the shore?
- What made you jump into the water to meet Jesus? Why didn't you stay and help the other disciples bring in the big haul of fish?
- 153 fish seems like a lot. What will you do with all the extra fish?
- So is Jesus a good cook?

### Interview questions for Jesus

- So Jesus, how are you feeling after your resurrection?
- How did you do it? Did anyone help you?
- How did you know there would be fish on the other side of the boat? Lucky guess?
- Were you upset that the disciples didn't recognise you at first?
- What made you cook breakfast for the disciples who didn't even recognise you?
- Where and when do you think you'll appear next?

## Teacher's Notes

Two main themes are central in this Gospel reading:

Trust in Jesus and He will provide: The disciples return to Galilee, unsure of what to do. Peter goes fishing, and the others join Him. Some see this act as aimless activity undertaken in desperation or even abandoning Jesus' commission to be fishers of men and returning to their former familiar life.

Others think they went fishing simply because they needed to eat. They catch nothing all night. When they follow Jesus' instruction to cast their net, they catch so many fish they can't pull the net in. The lesson is clear: when we rely on Jesus, He provides for us, even when things seem hopeless.

Jesus Calls Us to Serve: Jesus prepares breakfast for the disciples, showing His care and provision. By breaking the bread and sharing the fish, He reveals Himself as both master and servant. Previously, Mary had recognised Jesus when He called her name, and the disciples had recognised Him through his wounds.

Now He is recognised through His service and the abundance that comes through trust in Him. Jesus has met His disciples at a point of failure and revealed Himself as the one who cares for them, serves them and in whom they can trust.