

Lesson 5: Jesus Visits His Disciples

Bible passage: John 21:1-14

God's Word is full of valuable treasures. The most wonderful treasure is God's Son, Jesus. Our sin separates us from God, but, because of His great love and mercy, God sent Jesus to pay the price for our sin. Jesus died on the cross and rose again so we can be forgiven. If, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we believe Jesus is our Savior, we can live with God forever. That is good news worth more than any treasure!

The Bible story we're looking at today is found in the Book of John, chapter 21. While Jesus was alive on earth, His disciples—those fishermen we learned about: Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John, along with eight other men—spent a lot of time with Him. They became good friends. They learned about God's directions for living and about God's love, and they shared the Good News with others. After Jesus died, the disciples felt a bit lost. They weren't sure what to do. So, Simon Peter decided to go back to what he used to do before he knew Jesus. He decided to go fishing. Let's see what happened.

One evening, the disciples were sitting around feeling sad and lonely. Simon Peter said, "Hey, guys. I'm going to go fishing. Anyone want to come?" All the disciples got up, grabbed their fishing nets, and got in the boat with Peter. All night long, they threw their nets out, and pulled them back in, and threw them out, and pulled them in again. But they didn't catch anything. They were feeling even more sad than before. Just as the sun was starting to come up in the morning, the disciples gave up and started rowing the boat back toward the shore. They saw someone standing on the beach watching them.

When they got close enough, the stranger called out 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." The disciples sighed and decided it was worth one more try. So they threw their nets over the right side of the boat. And, lo and behold, they caught so many fish they couldn't even pull the nets back into the boat!

Well, that did it. One of the disciples recognized who was standing on the beach. It was Jesus! Peter jumped out of the boat, swam to shore, and went running to Jesus. The rest of the disciples came along in the boat, pulling the nets full of fish behind them. When they reached the shore, they got out of the boat and ran to Jesus too, leaving the fish behind.

"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 to ask him, 'Who are You?' They knew it was the Lord" (John 21:9-14).

They talked and laughed as they ate breakfast together. The disciples were so glad to be back with Jesus. He was their friend and their hero! He had died on the cross and risen again. He had defeated death, just as He promised He would. Jesus also promised to help the disciples, through the Holy Spirit, as they went on to share the Good News with others. He promised to prepare a place for them in heaven, where they would be together again. And Jesus kept all of His promises. In our first story, we learned that God keeps His promises. In this story, we're learning that Jesus helps us share His Good News!

Jesus is our priceless treasure, and He treasures us. He is the Way—the way to life forever with Him in heaven. He is with us as we share this Good News with everyone.

Lesson 5 Discussion Questions

Found in John 21

- Who suggested going fishing? Why do you think that's the activity he suggested? How did the other disciples respond?
 - John 21:3: Simon Peter suggested the disciples go fishing
 - He and his brother had been fishermen before Jesus called them to be His disciples. He may have missed fishing, or he may have wanted to do something that felt familiar
 - The other disciples joined him on the boat and fished all night
- Who stood on the beach and called to the disciples? Did they know who it was?
 - John 21:4-5: Jesus called to the disciples from the shore
 - They did not recognize Him yet
- What happened when the disciples followed Jesus' suggestion to throw their nets on the right side of the boat? What do you think Jesus wanted them to learn?
 - John 21:6: The disciples caught so many fish that they couldn't even pull their nets back into the boat
 - Perhaps Jesus was trying to teach the disciples that He could provide for them even when they were hopeless
- When the disciples joined Jesus on the beach, what did He give them? What has Jesus given us?
 - John 21:12-13: Jesus gave them bread and fish for breakfast
 - Jesus has given us everything we need for this life on earth and everything we need to enjoy life with Him forever.

The risen Jesus provided fish and friendship for His disciples. He provides for us too. What is the greatest treasure Jesus has given us? Remember, God loved us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to pay the price for our sins. Because of Him, we can live with God forever. That's a priceless treasure!

Pray

Risen Lord, thank You for Your friendship and for Your forgiveness when we sin. Thank You for providing everything we need for life on earth and for eternal life with You in heaven. Please help us to share Your Good News with others. In Your name we pray. Amen.