



Breakfast on the beach (John 21:1-17)

Parents: For the last few weeks we have been thinking about how Jesus appeared to his friends, walking on the road to Emmaus and when they were in locked rooms. Today we are looking at the story of when Jesus was waiting while his friends were out fishing and cooked breakfast on the beach for them and particularly at Peter's response! As usual, just pick out the bits which work for your family!

Chat together:

Have you ever been fishing? Did you catch anything?

Have you been to the seaside and maybe had a picnic or barbecue on the beach?

Have you ever had fish for breakfast?

Today we're going to hear about when Jesus and his friends did just that!

Tell the story:

You might like to watch the story being acted out and retold on this video:

<https://youtu.be/UNPmRtDvC04>

or read it from a child friendly version of the Bible or storybook,

or (if your grownups know the story well and you can find some props) you might like to act it out as a family to tell the story.

Think together:

I wonder why the disciples (Jesus' friends) had decided to go fishing after everything that had happened?

I wonder how the disciples (Jesus' friends) were feeling when they hadn't caught any fish?

I wonder what they were thinking when they were told to cast their nets on the other side of the boat and then caught so many fish? Do you think that reminded them of anything?

When Peter realised that it was Jesus on the beach he jumped into the water to see him, he was so excited. Are there times when we feel really excited to be with Jesus?

I wonder what they talked about while they sat and ate fish together on the beach?

I wonder why they counted the fish (there were 153) and why it was recorded in the Bible?

I wonder why Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved him?

Pray together:

Peter must have really struggled with the fact that he had denied knowing Jesus three times before Jesus died. On the beach Jesus takes him to one side and three times asks Peter if he loves him. This is amazing grace! Jesus has forgiven Peter and he forgives us too when we get things wrong. So maybe just spend a moment thinking if there is anything you want to say sorry for and perhaps tell Jesus how much you love him too.

I wonder what would have happened if Jesus' friends hadn't done as he asked and put their nets over the other side of the boat? They may not have realised that it was Jesus and wouldn't have received the many blessings that he gave them - an abundance of fish, time spent with their friend Jesus, a meal together.

I wonder what happens when you and I refuse to do the things Jesus has called us to do? We miss out on the wonderful blessings that he wants for us! Maybe spend a few moments of quiet listening to God and ask what he is wanting us to do for him today and this coming week.

Spinning fish prayers

Cut some strips of paper approximately 3cm wide and 20cm long. Make two cuts, one on each side as in this picture.



Write or draw your prayer on the paper and then slide the two cuts together to make a fish shape. Maybe you want to pray for a friend or a family member or to ask Jesus to help you with something, it's fine to write or draw whatever is on your heart to pray for.



When all the fish are ready, hold them as high as you can and then let go and watch them spin as a symbol of giving your prayers to God.

Activities to do:

Peter spent the rest of his life telling people about the good news of Jesus and caring for others. How might we do that too?

Maybe you have some ideas of your own and chat to your grownups too because they have been thinking about that in the rest of the service! Here are some ideas you could try:

- Write a card or a letter or draw a picture to send to a friend or a family member, maybe telling them about your friend Jesus or about what you learned today.
- Write a card or draw a picture to go to a grownup or another family in a boredom bag.
- Maybe think of ways to help at home, especially if your grownups are tired and busy!
- Maybe you'd like to make a short video to tell others about Jesus or about blessings you have received? You could send it to a family member or if you're happy to share it with the church family, send it to Helen.

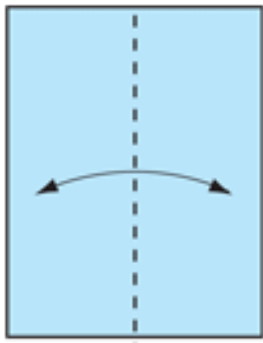
What a lot of fish! - a challenge. Can you draw 153 fish or make 153 fish from play dough or maybe if you have some paint and a potato you could ask a grown up to help you potato print 153 fish! Or maybe just draw or make a few fish for fun!

Blessings jar - Just as Jesus blessed his friends on the beach that day, it's good to think about the truth that every day God blesses us too, sometimes little things and sometimes really big things. So it's a really good idea to develop an attitude of gratitude (that means saying thank you to God) and we can do that by thinking about the blessings, answered prayers and good memories that you've had as a family and it's particularly important during these unusual times of 'lockdown'.

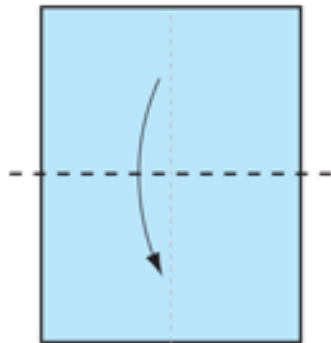
Find a large jar or container and decorate it, maybe you have some stickers or ribbons, add a label and cut up some pieces of paper to go alongside it. Every time you feel blessed or have an answered prayer or a special family time write or draw it on a piece of paper and pop it in the Blessings jar. Then after a week or a month or even a year (or maybe if you're just feeling a little sad) tip out all the pieces of paper and look at them to remind you of how much God loves you and of all the blessings you have received!



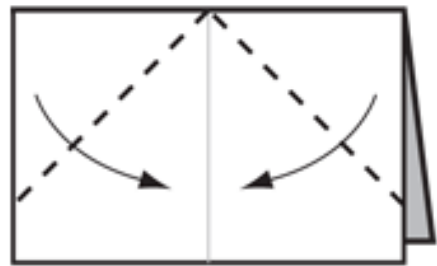




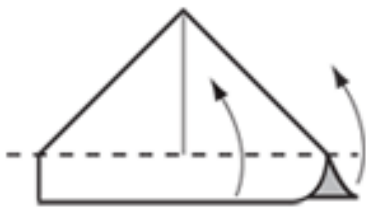
1. FOLD IN HALF



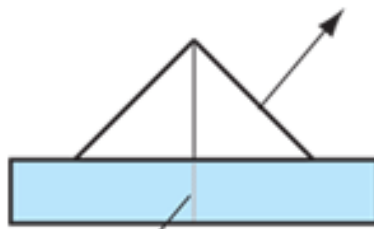
2. FOLD IN HALF AGAIN



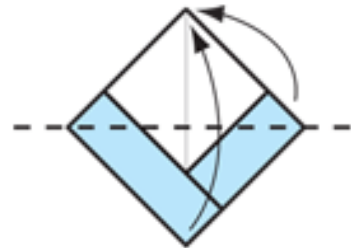
3. FOLD IN CORNERS



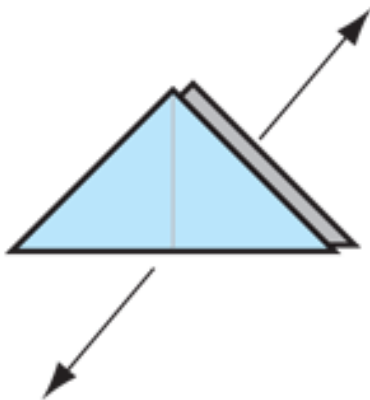
4. FOLD UP EDGES ON BOTH SIDES



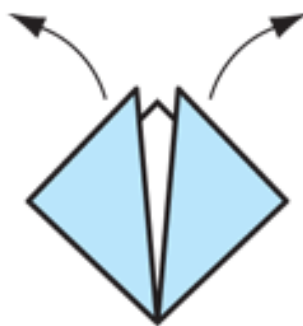
5. PULL THE SIDES OUT AND FLATTEN



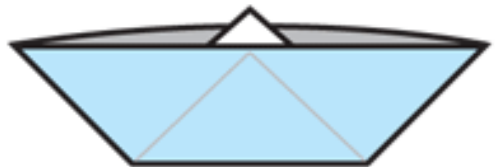
6. FOLD FRONT AND BACK LAYERS UP



7. PULL SIDES APART AND FLATTEN



8. PULL TOP FLAPS OUTWARDS



9. SQUISH THE BOTTOM AND PULL THE SIDES UP

10. TA DAAA!

