

A Miraculous Catch of Fish



The Bible Basis

John 21:1-13. A miraculous catch of fish.

After Jesus' death and resurrection, his followers returned to their fishing boats. When Peter declared, "I'm going out to fish," six other followers joined him. These experienced fishermen fished all night but caught nothing. They must have laughed when a man, who first appeared to be a stranger, suggested they try casting their nets on the other side of the boat. But when the nets quickly filled with fish, one disciple recognized the risen Lord. Quickly, Peter jumped into the water and swam to shore where Jesus was waiting with a breakfast of fish and bread. The other followers brought in the boat, dragging the bulging net along in the water.

Young children are fascinated by fish, so they'll love this story about the flipping, flopping fish that filled the disciples' net. Just as the disciples were excited to discover Jesus standing on the shore, preschoolers will delight in hearing about Jesus' miracle. Use this lesson to reinforce again that Jesus can do anything.

Getting The Point

Jesus can do anything.

It's important to say The Point exactly as it's written each time it appears. Repeating The Point over and over will help the children remember it and apply it to their lives.

Children will

- play fishing games,
- hear about the disciples' miraculous catch of fish,
- pretend to go fishing with the disciples, and
- fill a net with "fish" prayers as they name things they're thankful for.

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1. Greet each child as they come in.
Get down to their level.



Welcome Time

Welcome! (up to 5 minutes)

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week's "Today I Learned..." discussion. Use questions such as "What did you tell your family about the blind man?" or "How did the blind man get Jesus' attention?"
- Say: **Today we're going to learn that Jesus can do anything.**
- Hand out the angel name tags children made during Lesson 1 and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if children weren't in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable handout on page 30.
- Direct children to the Let's Get Started activities you've set up.



Use the popsicle sticks in the cup to select each student so they can choose their job for the class. Most popular is helping with crafts, helping with snacks and selecting the puppet of the day. Puppets that have been selected have their name inside the puppet at the bottom hem. If the students pick a new puppet, select a name (they may need some help. Doo-doo (comes up a lot) and write the name inside the puppet with a sharpie.

Let's Get Started

Station
1

Option 1: Heart Fish—Make heart-shaped fish and hear how Jesus' followers went fishing.

Heart-shaped cutouts, crayons or markers

Station
2

Option 2: Let's Go Fishing—"Fish" for crackers and hear about a time Jesus' followers went fishing.

Fish crackers, container, paper cups, wet wipes

Station
3

Option 3: Net Full of Fish—Fill a blanket "net" with toy "fish" and hear how the disciples' net was full of fish.

Blanket, toys

9:45-
10:10



Joy



☐ **OPTION 1: Heart Fish (up to 12 minutes)**

Before class, cut 2- and 4-inch hearts from colored construction paper. You'll need one 2-inch heart and one 4-inch heart for each child.

Give each child a small heart and a large heart. Show children how to make fish by gluing the hearts together at the points. Point out that the larger heart is the fish's head and body, and the smaller heart is its tail. Set out crayons and let children draw fins and scales on their fish. As they work, tell them that today's Bible story is about a time when Jesus' followers went fishing.

If children finish their fish early, have them make another fish to share. You'll need one fish for each child in your class. You'll use the fish later in the lesson.

☐ **OPTION 2: Let's Go Fishing (up to 12 minutes)**

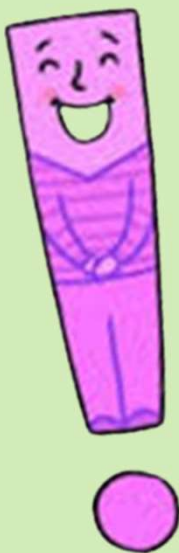
Empty a package of fish crackers into a shallow container. Let children "go fishing" with paper cups to see how many "fish" they can catch. Encourage them to count the fish in their cups each time. As children fish, tell them that today's Bible story is about Jesus' disciples going fishing. Explain that the disciples didn't catch anything at first, but then Jesus told them how to fill their nets with fish. Remind children that Jesus can do anything. Have wet wipes available for children to clean their hands on when they finish fishing.

☐ **OPTION 3: Net Full of Fish (up to 12 minutes)**

Lay a blanket on the floor. Invite children to place classroom toys or blocks in the center of the blanket, then pull the edges of the blanket together. Let children take turns dragging the blanket around the room. Encourage them to try it by themselves, with partners, and then all together. Explain that today's Bible story is about a time Jesus' disciples dragged a heavy net full of fish. Point out that Jesus helped the disciples catch the fish and remind children that Jesus can do anything.

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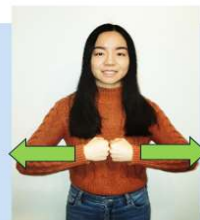
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Opening Prayer



Sing 


We are glad to pray together,
Together, together.
We are glad to pray together
And give thanks to God.

Thank you for (name),
And (name), and (name).
Thank you, God, for every person
Who's here in our class.

Lead children in folding their
hands and bowing their heads as
you continue to sing.

(Repeat) 

Sung to the song "Did You Ever See a Lassie?"

Sing 

We are glad to pray together,
Together, together.
We are glad to pray together
And give thanks to God.

Thank you for (name),
And (name), and (name).
Thank you, God, for every person
Who's here in our class.

Lead children in folding their
hands and bowing their heads as
you continue to sing.

(Repeat)

Did You Ever See A Lassie

from www.traditionalmusic.co.uk

Did You Ever See A Lassie? Words & Music:
Traditional Scottish

Did you ^D ever see a Lassie, a ^{A7} Lassie, a ^D Lassie?
Did you ^D ever see a Lassie go ^{A7} this way and ^D that?

Go this ^{A7} way and ^D that way, and ^{A7} this way and ^D that way?
Did you ^D ever see a Lassie go ^{A7} this way and ^D that?

Did you ever see a Laddie, a Laddie, a Laddie?
Did you ever see a Laddie go this way and that?

Go this way and that way, and this way and that way?
Did you ever see a Laddie go this way and that?

**“I can do everything through
Christ who gives me
strength.”**

Philippians 4:13

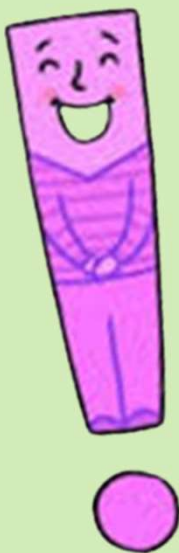


SNACK TIME

TREAT TO EAT: Fisherman's Breakfast

Remind children that after Jesus helped Peter and his friends catch so many fish, they had a special fish breakfast together. Set out bowls of tuna fish, plastic knives, and crackers. Let children fix themselves crackers and tuna fish, thank God for the great miracle Jesus did, and then enjoy their snacks.

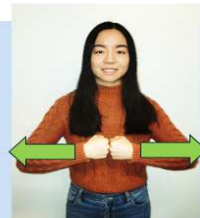
Jesus can do anything.



Jesus



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Bible Time



Spread out the Bible blanket and have the kids move to the floor.

Sing

We are glad to read the Bible,
The Bible, the Bible.
We are glad to read the Bible
For it is God's Book.

We'll hear Bible stories
And learn about God's love.
We are glad to read the Bible
For it is God's Book.

Sung to the song "Did You Ever See a Lassie?"

Did You Ever See A Lassie

from www.traditionalmusic.co.uk

Did You Ever See A Lassie? Words & Music:
Traditional Scottish

Did you ever see a Lassie, a Lassie, a Lassie?
Did you ever see a Lassie go this way and that?
Go this way and that way, and this way and that way?
Did you ever see a Lassie go this way and that?
Did you ever see a Laddie, a Laddie, a Laddie?
Did you ever see a Laddie go this way and that?
Go this way and that way, and this way and that way?
Did you ever see a Laddie go this way and that?

The Miraculous Catch of Fish

John 21:1-13



Seven disciples went out to fish

(hold up seven fingers)

Across the wet sand, squishety-squish.

(walk in place)

They rowed their boat in the fading light.

(make rowing motions)

They planned to fish very late in that night.

(wiggle hands like fish swimming)

Say: 🕯️ Jesus can do anything. Let's do an action rhyme to help us remember how he helped his disciples fill their net with fish. I'll say the words, and you can do the motions with me.

Lead children in the following action rhyme. As you say each line, do the motions.

Seven disciples went out to fish *(hold up seven fingers)*

Across the wet sand, squishety-squish. *(Walk in place.)*

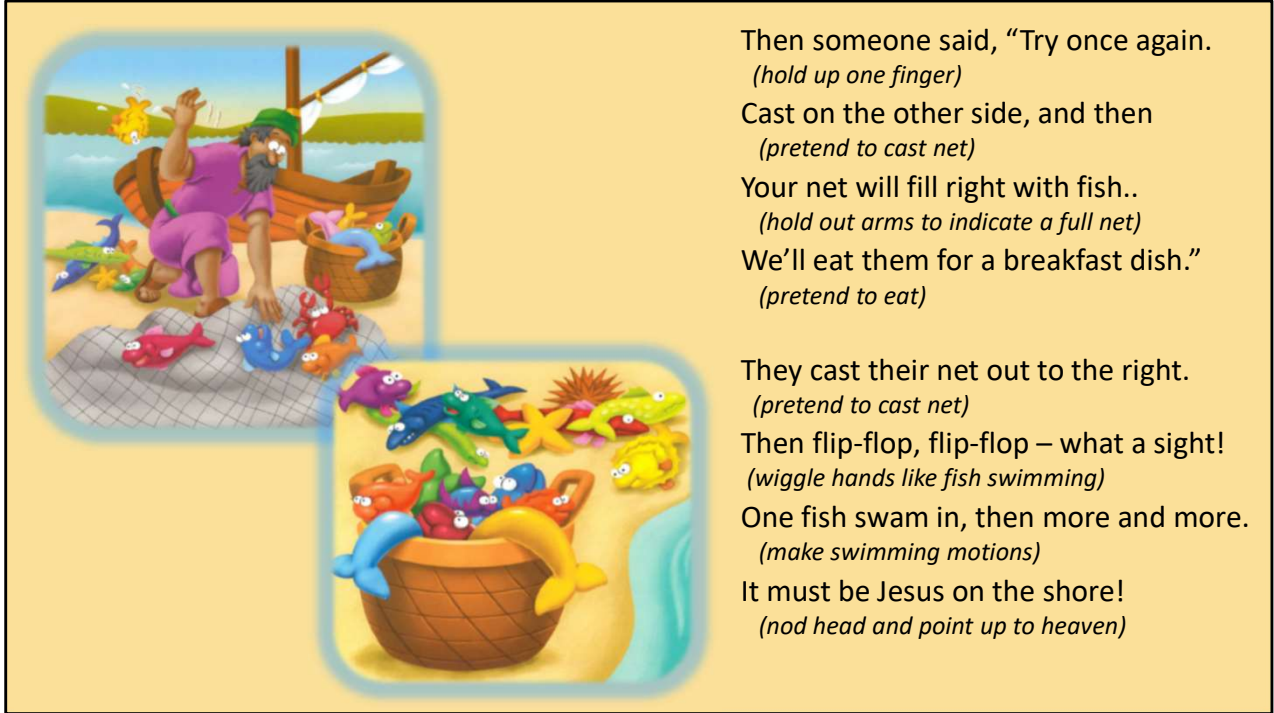
They rowed their boat in the fading light. *(Make rowing motions.)*

They planned to fish very late that night. *(Wiggle hands like fish swimming.)*



Into the water they cast their net
(pretend to throw out the net)
To see how many fish they'd get.
(wiggle hands like fish swimming)
All night they fished without a sound.
(cup hands around ears)
There simply were no fish around!
(shake head)

Into the water they cast their net *(pretend to throw out net)*
To see how many fish they'd get. *(Wiggle hands like fish swimming.)*
All night they fished without a sound. *(Cup hands around ears.)*
There simply were no fish around! *(Shake head.)*



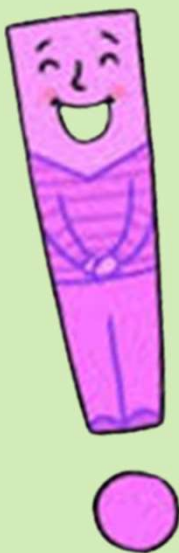
Then someone said, "Try once again. (Hold up one finger.)
Cast on the other side, and then (pretend to cast net)
Your net will fill right up with fish. (Hold out arms to indicate a full net.)
We'll eat them for a breakfast dish." (Pretend to eat.)
They cast their net out to the right (pretend to cast net),
Then flip-flop, flip-flop—what a sight! (Wiggle hands like fish swimming.)
One fish swam in, then more and more. (Make swimming motions.)
It must be Jesus on the shore! (Nod head and point up to heaven.)



The fishermen's net is like God's kingdom. Everyone wants to be part of his kingdom. But the angels will come and separate the godly people from the ungodly people.

The godly people will live in heaven with me forever."

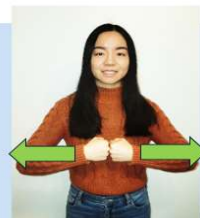
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Fish-Net Tangle

PUPPET SCRIPT

Whiskers: Hello, friends! I'm really glad to see you today.
„Could someone please untangle me?

Teacher: Sure. We'll help you. (Invite a child to help you untangle Whiskers from the net.) Where did you get this net, Whiskers?

Whiskers: My mom and I got it at a garage sale. The man there said I could go fishing with it. But I'm not sure about that. I've been fishing, and this thing sure doesn't look like a fishing pole to me.

Teacher: It's not a fishing pole, Whiskers. It's a fishing net. We just heard a Bible story about some of Jesus' friends who went fishing with a fishing net. Maybe some of your friends here could show you how Jesus' friends used their nets for fishing.

Whiskers: Yes! Would you please?
(Invite children to make casting motions, then take the net from Whiskers and cast it aside, out of children's reach.)

Whiskers: Wow! That's neat. What happened when Jesus' friends went fishing with their nets? Did they catch anything? I never seem to catch anything when I go fishing.
(Let children respond. Help them tell Whiskers that at first the disciples caught nothing. But as soon as Jesus told them where to cast their net, the net filled with fish.)

Teacher: Jesus can do anything. The disciples didn't catch any fish all night, but when Jesus told them what to do, their net filled up right away!

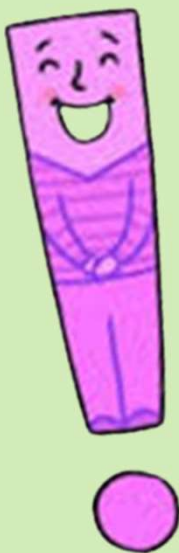
Whiskers: That's great. Jesus really can do anything. He helped people who were sick, he fed all those people with fish and bread, and now he filled his friends' net with fish.

Teacher: Jesus loves us very much, and he can help us, just as he helped the people in our Bible stories.

Whiskers: I love hearing Bible stories. And you know what? I tell Cousin Joey about them, too. Maybe Cousin Joey and I can use my net to go fishing in his bathtub. Then I can tell him about Jesus' friends and the net full of fish. Goodbye! See you next week.

One of the kids usually selects picking out a puppet for one of their jobs. They select a puppet. The giraffe, the elephant and ??? has been named. Look inside the puppet near the hem to see what the name is. If they select a different puppet, then work with the kids to come up with a name. For some reason, they keep wanting to name a puppet doo-doo. We try to pick a name that coordinates with the name of the animal.

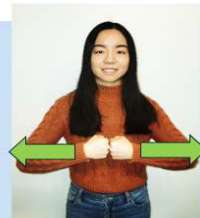
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SING

Sing 

^D
We are glad to pray together,
^{A7} Together, together.
^D
We are glad to pray together
^{A7} And give thanks to God.

Lead children in folding their
hands and bowing their heads as
you continue to sing.

^{A7} Thank you for (name),
^D And (name), and (name).
^D Thank you, God, for every person
^{A7} Who's here in our class.

(Repeat) 

Sung to the song "Did You Ever See a Lassie?"

Did You Ever See A Lassie

from www.traditionalmusic.co.uk

Did You Ever See A Lassie? Words & Music:
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^D Did you ever see a Lassie, a ^{A7} Lassie, a ^D Lassie?

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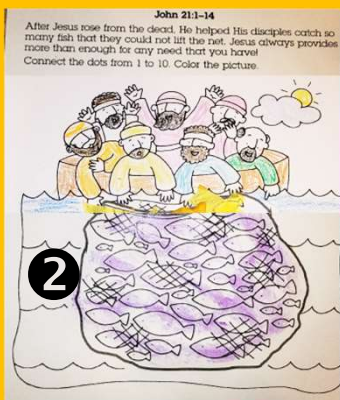
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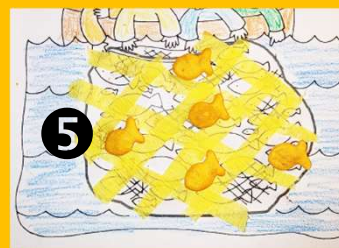
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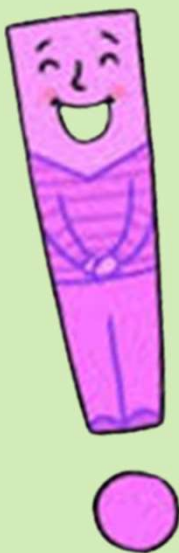


4



1. Color the page.
2. Use a glue stick to spread glue within the boundaries of the net.
3. Place the strings of crepe paper across the net.
4. Put glue on the net and crepe paper, then place lengths of the crepe paper in the opposite direction.
5. Use the glue stick in the gaps on the net and attach a Goldfish cracker. Be gentle so they don't get crushed.

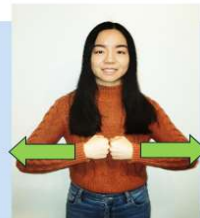
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Closing Prayer



The Miraculous Catch of Fish

John 21:1-13



"I'm going fishing," Peter said as he looked out over the water. "It looks like a good night to go fishing."

Peter's friends decided to go with him. So they all got into Peter's boat and went out to fish on the lake. They rowed the boat out into the water, then they threw out their nets and waited for the fish to swim right in. They waited, and waited, and waited, and waited. But every time Peter and his friends pulled their nets out of the water, they were empty.

the Bible to John 21:1-13 and show it to the children. Say: **Our story comes from the book of John in the Bible, God's special book. Our *Learning Mat* shows us pictures of our Bible story.**

Listen carefully to our story today. Every time you hear the word "fish" or "fishing" on the tape, pretend to cast out your net. Let's practice that. Fishing.

Let children practice casting pretend nets, then play the "Night Fishing" segment from the *CD* (track 15). Follow along in the text below so you can help children remember to cast out their nets.

"I'm going fishing," Peter said as he looked out over the water. "It looks like a good night to go fishing."

Peter's friends decided to go with him. So they all got into Peter's boat and went out to fish on the lake. They rowed the boat out into the water, then they threw out their nets and waited for the fish to swim right in. They waited, and waited, and waited. But every time Peter and his friends pulled their nets out of the water, they were empty!



Peter and his friends kept fishing all night long, but they didn't catch a single fish. They were discouraged and very, very tired. Early in the morning, they saw a man standing on the shore.

"Friends, did you catch any fish?" the man called out.

Peter and his friends shook their heads sadly. "No," they called back.

"Throw your net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some fish," the man said.

Peter and his friends weren't sure about that. They hadn't seen a single fish all night.

Peter and his friends kept fishing all night long, but they didn't catch a single fish. They were discouraged and very, very tired. Early in the morning, when the sun was just beginning to peek over the edge of the water, they saw a man standing on the shore.

"Friends, did you catch any fish?" the man called out.

Peter and his friends shook their heads sadly. "No," they called back.

"Throw your net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some fish," the man said.

Peter and his friends weren't sure about that. They hadn't seen a single fish all night.



But they did what the man said. Right away, their net filled with fish. Slippery, flippery, fish. Big fish, little fish, scaly fish, slimy fish. The net was so full of fish that Peter and his friends couldn't even pull it back into the boat.

One of Peter's friends looked at the man on the shore again. "It's Jesus!" he shouted. Jesus can do anything, and he helped his friends fill their net with fish.

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One of Peter's friends looked at the man on the shore again. "It's Jesus!" he shouted. 🗣️ Jesus can do anything, and he had helped his friends fill their net with fish.


Right away, Peter jumped out of the boat and started swimming back to shore. The rest of the friends stayed in the boat and rowed back to shore, dragging the net full of fish behind them.

When they got to the shore, Jesus was waiting. He asked them to have breakfast with him. And do you know what they ate for breakfast? Some of the fish they'd caught! They were glad to be with their friend Jesus once more.



The fishermen's net is like God's kingdom. Everyone wants to be part of his kingdom. But the angels will come and separate the godly people from the ungodly people.

The godly people will live in heaven with me forever."

Say:  Jesus can do anything. Let's do an action rhyme to help us remember how he helped his disciples fill their net with fish. I'll say the words, and you can do the motions with me.

Lead children in the following action rhyme. As you say each line, do the motions.

Seven disciples went out to fish (*hold up seven fingers*)
Across the wet sand, squishety-squish. (*Walk in place.*)
They rowed their boat in the fading light. (*Make rowing motions.*)
They planned to fish very late that night. (*Wiggle hands like fish swimming.*)
Into the water they cast their net (*pretend to throw out net*)
To see how many fish they'd get. (*Wiggle hands like fish swimming.*)
All night they fished without a sound. (*Cup hands around ears.*)
There simply were no fish around! (*Shake head.*)
Then someone said, "Try once again. (*Hold up one finger.*)
Cast on the other side, and then (*pretend to cast net*)
Your net will fill right up with fish. (*Hold out arms to indicate a full net.*)
We'll eat them for a breakfast dish." (*Pretend to eat.*)
They cast their net out to the right (*pretend to cast net*),
Then flip-flop, flip-flop—what a sight! (*Wiggle hands like fish swimming.*)
One fish swam in, then more and more. (*Make swimming motions.*)
It must be Jesus on the shore! (*Nod head and point up to heaven.*)

If there is extra time...