

Jesus Gives His Friends Food

John 21:1-14

WEEK 5

**POINT ➔ WE BELIEVE
JESUS IS ALIVE.**

Open your Bible to John 21, and show the children the words. SAY: **The Bible is God's special book that tells how God takes care of people. We're going to hear about how Jesus took care of his friends after he died and came back to life. Jesus' friends had been fishing all night, but they didn't catch anything. But Jesus came to the rescue!**

Let's see how well we can catch fish. But since it's night, you have to keep your eyes closed! Wind up the *Go Fishing Game*, and have three kids at a time, their eyes closed, try to catch fish for about a minute.

SAY: **It's hard to catch fish in the dark! But even in the morning, Jesus' friends weren't catching fish. Until Jesus came along. He stood on the beach watching them. He called, "Throw out your net!"**

Let's try to catch fish again. This time, you can have your eyes open. Wind up the fishing game and play again. Then SAY: **Jesus' friends tried**

to fish again, and they didn't just catch a few fish—they caught a whole bunch! They caught so many fish they couldn't pull their net into the boat. They had to drag the net onto the shore. Let's see if you can catch *all* of our fish.

Have kids stand in a circle and hold out their hands in the center to make a big net. Then dump the fish from the fishing game into their hands.

SAY: **When Jesus' friends got to shore, Jesus made bread and fish for breakfast. This was the third time Jesus appeared to his friends after coming back to life.**

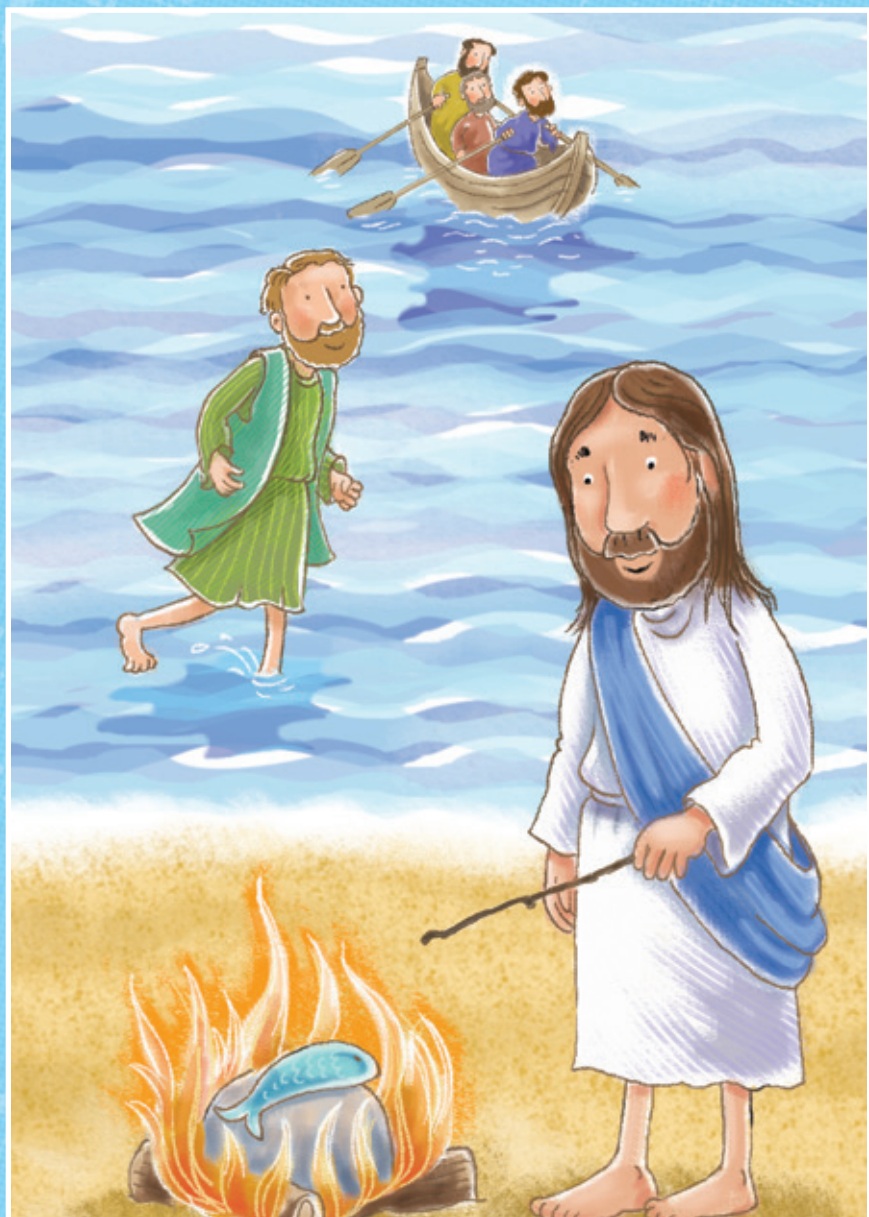
ASK: **Tell about a time you couldn't do something, even though you tried hard.**

How do you decide when to keep trying or give up?

What has Jesus helped you do?

SAY: **Jesus' friends probably wanted to give up. They'd been fishing all night and hadn't caught any! But when Jesus came along, he showed that he could still help them. Even though he had died, he came back to life, and that means he can still help us, too! ➔ WE BELIEVE JESUS IS ALIVE.**





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POINT ➡ WE BELIEVE JESUS IS ALIVE.

Give children paper and *Color Switchers Markers*. SAY: **Draw a net with your markers. To draw a net, just color a big spot on your page.** Allow time.

SAY: Now think about a way you'd like Jesus to help you, the way he helped his friends. As you do, use the white end of your marker to draw fish in your net. Allow time.

ASK: **What were you thinking about as you drew your fish?**

What could Jesus do to help you with that thing?

SAY: Jesus' friends knew he came back to life because he was right there, helping them. And Jesus shows us he's alive by being with us and helping us. Because ➡ **WE BELIEVE JESUS IS ALIVE**, we know he can help us just like he helped when he filled the net with fish.



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Recite the following poem, and have kids echo each line and do the motions.

SAY:

Jesus walked along the sea. (*Move two fingers in walking motion.*)

**Out fishing were two sons of
Zebedee** (*hold up two fingers*),
**And Peter, and Thomas, and three
more.** (*Count on fingers, adding to the two.*)

Jesus saw them from the shore.
(*Put hand on brow to "search."*)

**They'd fished their best all through
the night** (*yawn and rub eyes*),
But no one got a single bite. (*Shake head "no."*)

Then Jesus shouted, "Try again!"
(*Cup hands over mouth.*)

**They quickly dropped their fishnet
in.** (*Pretend to throw a fishnet.*)

The net got so full, it nearly tore.
(*Open arms wide.*)

They had to pull it to the shore.
(*Pretend to pull something.*)

ASK: What have other people helped you do?

How does that remind you of the way Jesus helps you?

SAY: **Jesus took care of his friends by helping them fish when they probably were tired and frustrated because they hadn't caught anything all night long. Jesus' friends caught fish, and they got to see Jesus alive again. When we read about people who saw Jesus after he died and came back to life,**
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**POINT ➡ WE BELIEVE
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Lead kids in singing "Too Many Fish" to the tune of "Ten Little Indians" (not on the CD). Encourage kids who can to hold up the mentioned number of fingers as they sing.

SING:

**One little, two little, three little
fishes.**

**Four little, five little, six little
fishes.**

**Seven little, eight little, nine little
fishes.**

Too many fish to count! (*Shrug
shoulders and hold hands out, palms
up.*)

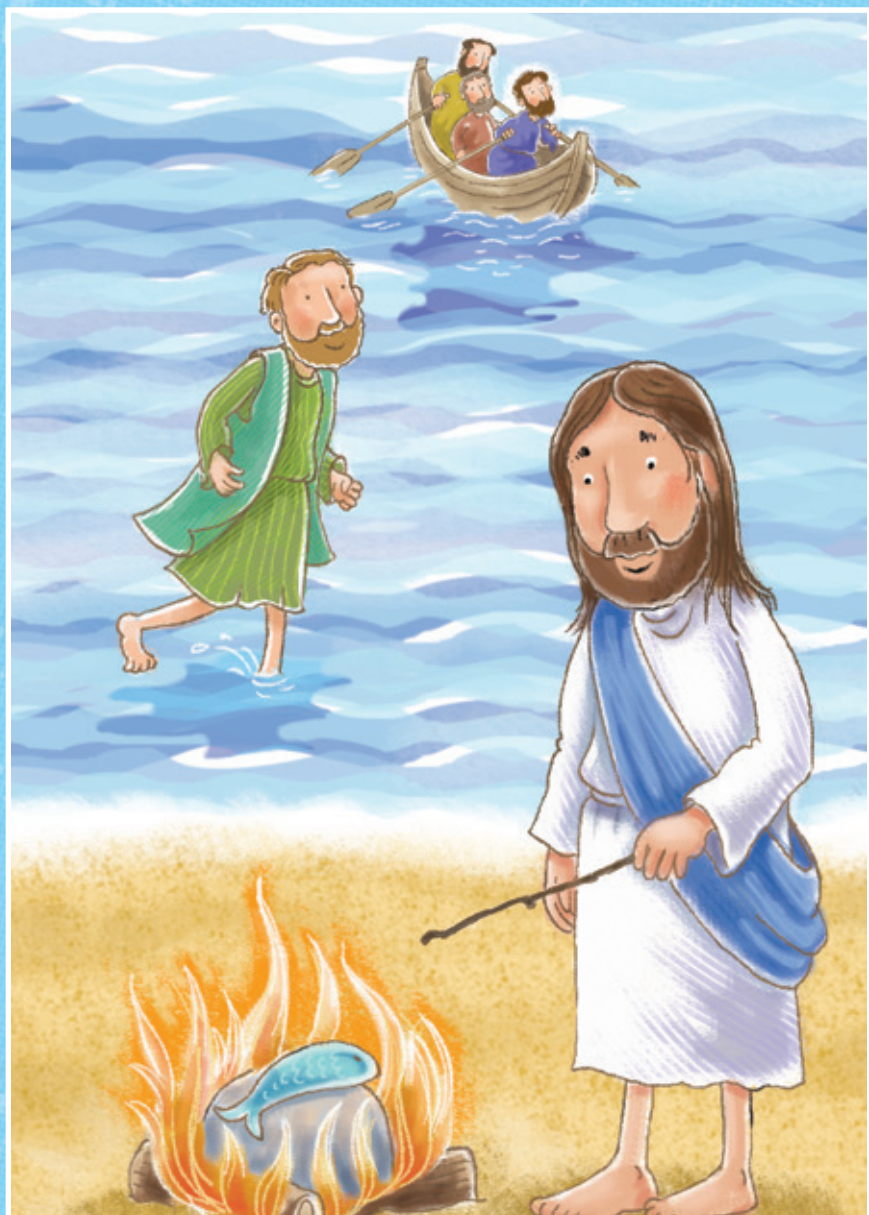
**SAY: When Jesus' friends couldn't
catch any fish, he helped them.
They caught so many that their
boat began to sink!**

**ASK: Tell about a time you needed
help doing something hard.**

**What did you think about
the person who helped you?**

**Tell about some things Jesus
has done for you.** Count the
children's answers on your
fingers as they give them.

**SAY: Jesus helps us in so many
ways, and it's hard to count them
all! It was hard for Jesus' friends to
count all the fish he'd helped them
catch, too. ➡ WE BELIEVE JESUS
IS ALIVE because we see all the
ways he helps us.**

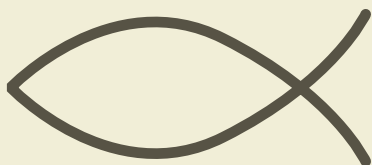


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Distribute *Wikki Stix*, and show kids how to bend them to make a basic fish shape as seen below.



While the children make all the *Wikki Stix* into fish, place two chairs back to back about 12 inches apart. Stretch two pieces of tape parallel between the two chair backs, about a half-inch apart and sticky-side down. Fold a piece of paper in half lengthwise, and balance it on the tape in a V shape. (Since the tape is sticky-side down, the paper won't stick to the tape.)

When everything is ready, show kids the tape and paper. SAY: **We're going to pretend this paper is a boat floating on the water. Let's see how many fish we can put in the boat before it begins to sink!** Have kids take turns placing the *Wikki Stix* fish in the boat until it gets so heavy that it falls. Help kids count the fish as they place them in the boat. When the boat falls or spills the fish, replace

the tape and repeat the activity, letting kids see if they can fit more fish in the boat each time by placing them very carefully.

ASK: **What could've helped us fit more fish in our boat?**

What was so amazing about how many fish Jesus' friends caught?

What are some amazing things you've heard that God has done?

SAY: **Jesus' friends were amazed by their catch of fish. But it wasn't really about the fish. Jesus' miracle helped them realize that Jesus was alive! And when we see him do amazing things in our lives, ➡ WE BELIEVE JESUS IS ALIVE.**