

Come, Eat Breakfast

By Paige Evers

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples and guides them to an overwhelming catch of fish and feeds them with a seaside breakfast. Experience the joy of the risen Jesus' presence by retelling the Bible story, decorating placemats, and enjoying a snack on an imaginary beach.



For

Young Family

Season

Spring

Needed

Bible (or see text on last page); plain paper placemats or 12" x 18" sheets of construction paper, 1 per person; crayons or markers; goldfish crackers; napkins; beach towels or beach blanket

Prepare in Advance

Arrange the beach towels or blanket so everyone can sit on them in a circle.

Activity Plan

1. Sit on the beach towels or beach blanket. Say this prayer aloud:

Dear God, thank you for raising Jesus from death! Help us learn from your Word. Show us how much Jesus loves us. Teach us to be Jesus' disciples and to share his love with others. Amen.

2. Together, close your eyes and imagine that you are sitting on a beach. What can you hear? What can you smell?
3. Open your eyes and imagine you can see a fishing boat bobbing in the waves. The fishermen don't look happy, because they haven't caught any fish.
4. From your Bible read aloud John 21:2-6 (or see text on last page). Review: How many fish did the disciples catch before they saw Jesus? (None.) How many did they catch after Jesus told them where to cast their net? (A huge number—153).
5. Give each person some goldfish crackers on a napkin to eat as you read aloud John 21:7-14. Talk about what the disciples saw when they reached the beach. (Jesus preparing a meal of fish and bread.) Take turns pretending to be a disciple and demonstrating what you might have said and done when you saw Jesus cooking breakfast.
6. Comment that this story takes place after Easter, after God raised Jesus from death. What does the story tell us about how the disciples felt when they saw their friend and Savior, Jesus. How do you think the disciples responded when Jesus invited them to come and eat breakfast? Why?
7. Give a plain placemat or 12" x 18" sheet of construction paper to each person. Take time for each person to use markers or crayons to decorate the placemat with a picture of Jesus having breakfast on the beach with the disciples, drawing each member of your family in the group of disciples.
8. Use the placemats when you eat meals together in the days to come. Take turns telling the Bible story to one another and to any guests in your home.

Breakfast on the Beach

John 21:2-14

² Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. ³ 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. ⁴ Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, “Children, do you have any fish?” They answered him, “No.” ⁶ 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.

⁷ 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. ⁸ 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.

⁹ When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

