



Breakfast on the Shore

John 21:1-17

























Teacher Notes

1. Cover: Breakfast on the Shore (John 21:1-17)

2. The apostles were all very happy that Jesus had been raised from the dead. They had seen Jesus a few times since He had been resurrected.

3. One day, Peter said, “I’m going out to fish.” Thomas, Nathanael, James, John and two other disciples decided to go along with him.

4. They all went to the Sea of Galilee and got into a boat. The way the fishermen would fish was to put their nets into the water and pull them up to see if there were fish inside. People liked to fish at night because lots of fish came to the surface of the water, and the fishermen could catch them. Usually, that worked, but not this time. Peter, James, John and the others fished all night, but they did not catch any fish. They tried throwing the net out as usual but couldn’t catch any fish.

5. Early in the morning, they looked up and saw someone on the beach. The man yelled and asked them if they had caught any fish. When they said “no,” the man yelled again, “Throw your nets on the right side of the boat, and you will find some fish.”

The fishermen probably wondered about that. After all, they had been throwing the net all night, and they hadn’t caught anything yet. Why should they do it again?

6. Finally, they decided to give it a try and cast their nets off the right side of the boat. When they started to pull the net up, they saw that there were fish in it. There were lots of fish in the net. In fact, there were so many fish that the seven apostles could not even lift the net into the boat. They decided to head for shore and pull the net beside the boat.

7. Then John looked at the beach again. He took a closer look at the man standing there. Wait a minute. The man looked familiar. It was Jesus! When John told everyone, Peter got very excited. He really wanted to see Jesus again, so he jumped into the water. Peter made his way to shore while the others followed with the boat and net full of fish.

8. When Peter and the apostles got to the shore, they saw that Jesus had a fire going on and some fish were already cooking. “Bring some of the fish you caught, and we will eat them too,” Jesus said. “We will eat breakfast on the beach.”

9. Peter and the others brought some of the fish. There were plenty left because they had caught 153 big fish! Jesus fed the apostles a big breakfast of fish and bread. Would you like to eat fish for breakfast?

10. While they were eating breakfast, Peter probably thought back to another time when they had all eaten together. Peter loved Jesus, but he had done something for which he was very sorry. A few weeks ago, when Jesus and the apostles had been eating the Last Supper together, Peter told Jesus that he would be willing to die for him. Then, when Jesus was arrested, Peter got scared. He did not die for Jesus. He had not been brave at all. He told people that he did not know Jesus. Three times, Peter denied that he knew Jesus. Peter wondered if Jesus could ever forgive him.

11. But Jesus loved Peter. He knew Peter would be a great leader one day. People are like sheep that need a shepherd to take care of them. Jesus knew Peter’s heart, and He knew Peter would be a good shepherd. He would be a good shepherd of people.

So, after breakfast, Jesus asked Peter three questions that all sounded very much alike.

Question 1: “Peter, do you love me more than these and with a deep love?”
Peter answered, “You know that I love you like a friend, Lord.”
Jesus then said, “Feed my lambs.”

Question 2 was like the first to make Peter think:
Jesus asked again, “Peter, do you really love me with a deep love?”
Peter answered again, “You know I love you like a friend, Lord.”
“Take care of my sheep,” Jesus repeated.

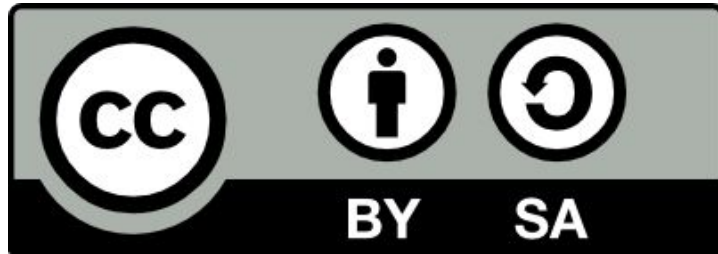
12. Finally, Jesus asked in a different way. He must have known Peter was trying his best. He asked, “Peter, do you love me like a friend?”

Peter was hurt that Jesus kept asking him. Asking questions three times reminded him of the three times he had denied Christ. “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you like a friend.”

And Jesus did know Peter’s heart. He knew Peter was trying to love him deeply. Jesus knew Peter would be a good shepherd for people. Jesus said, “Peter, feed my sheep.”

Peter had made some big mistakes. He was not a good friend to Jesus when Jesus really needed one. But Jesus loved Peter and forgave him. Jesus even trusted Peter and gave him new jobs to do.

13. Have you ever made mistakes or bad choices? Have you done bad things? Jesus loves you, too, and He can forgive you.



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