Lesson B4.1 - Jesus is Alive!



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: John 21:1-19

▶ Bible Characters: Jesus, the disciples

After Jesus had been crucified and had risen on the third day, he appeared to his disciples by the Sea of Tiberias. They had been fishing all night but caught nothing. Jesus told them to cast their nets on the right side of the boat, and this time, their nets were filled. Through this act, they knew he was the Lord.

Brief Bible Background

▶ Today's Lesson is from the New Testament

▶ Scripture Section: Commission

After his resurrection, Jesus sent his followers to make disciples of all nations, baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching all that Jesus had commanded. Then he ascended into heaven to be seated at the right hand of the Father.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening prayer song should be sung every week with young kids. The words are sung to the tune, "The Wheels on the Bus." No accompaniment needed.

We're all gathered here to thank you, Lord, thank you Lord, thank you Lord! We're all gathered here to thank you Lord, for all you do!

We're all praying that you'll teach us Lord, teach us Lord, teach us Lord! We're all praying that you'll teach us Lord, more about you!

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

I have a question for you. Is a rock alive? *(Let kids answer)* How about fish, swimming in the sea? *(Let kids answer).* What does it mean to be alive? *(It means to have the breath of God in you.)*

- Raise your hand if you've ever heard that **Jesus is alive.** When did you hear that? *(Easter Sunday, etc.)*
- If **Jesus is alive**, do you think he hears us when we pray? *(Call on volunteers)*

Today we will hear how Jesus came to his friends after he rose from the dead. He met them where they were fishing, as he had done in the past. When did they realize **Jesus is alive**? Let's hear the story and find out!

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

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e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading.

Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.



Picture 1

Tell the children: After Jesus died and was raised on the third day, the disciples missed him very much. But they still had work to do.

Read the caption: One day, Simon Peter decided to go fishing. His friends got in the boat too. They fished all night long but caught nothing.

- *Which person in this picture is Peter? [The man holding the net.] How do you think he might use that net to catch fish? [Call on volunteers]*
- *Have you ever gone fishing before? Did you catch a fish? How does it feel to fish for a long time and not catch anything? [Call on volunteers.]*

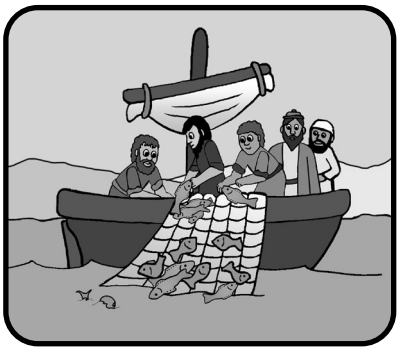


Picture 2

Tell the children: No matter what they did, their nets remained empty. When morning came, they were tired and frustrated.

Read the caption: As they rowed, Simon and his friends saw a man standing on the shore. He was waving at them!

- *Point out the man on shore. Who do you think that is? [Jesus]*
- *Why do you think Jesus is wearing a gold colored sash in this picture? [The artist is showing us that Jesus is risen from the dead.]*

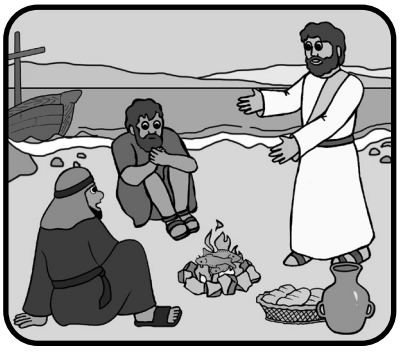


Picture 3

Tell the children: The man asked if they had caught much fish, but they shook their heads. “No sir,” they said. “We haven’t caught anything at all.”

Read the caption: The man told them to cast their net on the right side of the boat. When they did this, they caught hundreds of fish!

- *How many fish can you count in this picture? [Call on a volunteer] How many fish does the story say the disciples ended up catching that day? [Hundreds of fish!]*
- *Look at the men’s faces. What do you think they are feeling? [They are working hard and smiling. They are happy to have finally caught so many fish!]*



Picture 4

Tell the children: Suddenly, the disciples realized who this man was! Any guesses?

Read the caption: “It’s the Lord!” one of the disciples shouted. They rowed ashore, and Jesus made them a meal of bread and fish.

- *Point out the parts of the meal in this picture. Would you like to have a cookout after a hard day of work? Why or why not? [Call on volunteers]*
- *How do you think the friends knew this was Jesus? [He had helped them catch fish in this way before; he also had broken bread like this at the Last Supper.]*

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f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

One morning, Peter and his friends
were tired as they could be.
They'd fished all night but had not caught
one fish — nor two, nor three!

But then a stranger on the shore
told them to cast their net
back out again, where sure enough,
they found some seafood yet!

Who was this stranger on the shore?
Lord Jesus! It was he!
And after feeding all his friends,
he told them, "Follow me!"

g. Young Children's Activity (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. *(Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the "craft" for the day.)*

Fish Sun catcher Craft



Materials Needed:

- Card stock, permanent markers, scissors
- Clear contact paper, masking tape, colored tissue paper

Instructions:

Before class: Draw several large, simple fish shapes about 6 inches to 10 inches long on card stock (see illustration). Cut them out to use as templates.

To do the craft: Give each student two 12" pieces of contact paper, tissue paper in three different colors, a marker, a template, and a pair of scissors.

Peel off the backing from one piece of contact paper. Place it on a table with sticky side facing up. If it rolls, tape the edges to the table or desk with masking tape. Tear tissue paper into small pieces and stick these onto the contact paper, making an overlapping mosaic. Remove the backing on second piece of contact paper. With sticky side facing down, carefully place this on top of the tissue paper design, sealing it well. Place the fish template on top of the sealed design. Trace around the template with permanent marker and cut it out.

h. Song (optional)

This children's song has motions that can be found online on YouTube, Vimeo, or other sites. Or, since this is such a rhythmic song, you could invite the kids to play rhythm instruments instead.

My God is So Great!

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty!
There's nothing my God cannot do! (clap, clap)
My God is so great, so strong and so mighty!
There's nothing my God cannot do! (clap, clap)

The mountains are his, the rivers are his,
the stars are his handiwork too. (clap, clap)
My God is so great, so strong and so mighty!
There's nothing my God cannot do!
Shout: **FOR YOU!**

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

▶ *Start:* **One day, Simon Peter and some of his friends decided to go fishing. Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

O God, we praise you and we know,
you care for us and help us grow.
We thank you for our friends today
With whom we learn, and laugh and play.
Please help our world to know your Son,
Who loves us--each and every one. Amen.

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