

WORSHIP HELPS FISHING LESSONS JOHN 21:1-13

This can be done individually or in a group setting:

Starter:

What is the best breakfast you've ever had. Where? With Whom? Why?

In our bible reading today Jesus is having breakfast with his disciples and it was probably the most memorable breakfast they have ever had. Jesus' aim during this breakfast is to work with the disciples and refocus them back on their original calling and not be overly discouraged by their past failures. He reminds them to continue the work He has called them to and affirms before others their appointment by Christ. Merrill Tenney says, "The last chapter of the Gospel opens the door to the future and shows how belief should be translated into terms of daily activity."

READ JOHN 21:1-13

1. When have you seen God at work in your life – what can you learn from that experience to take into your future?
2. Remember in the podcast I talked about familiar smells and the familiar smell of the charcoal fire for Peter? The smell of the charcoal fire was the same as the one he warmed himself at the night he denied Jesus. The smell reminded him of past failures and now reinforced that feeling. Have you had a "charcoal fire" experience (compare Jn 21:9 with Jn 18:18) in your life?
3. How have you struggled with loyalty versus disobedience and/or God's enablement? What can you do to better pursue His work in you?
4. If there were not the resurrection, then Peter might have just gone back to being a fisherman. In what ways does the resurrection impact your daily life?

Taking It Further:

Jesus Makes Breakfast: A Poem about John 21:1-14

*I could smell that charcoal fire a long way off
while we were still rowing far from shore.*

*As we got closer, I could smell the fish cooking,
I imagined I could hear it sizzling.*

When you're hungry, your mind works that way.

*When the man by the fire called out asking us about our catch,
we held up the empty nets.*

*And his advice to throw the nets in once more
is something we might have ignored,
except for the smell of cooking fish...*

this guy must know something about catching fish!

*The catch took our breath away.
never in my life have we pulled so many in one heave.
I was concentrating on the catch,
but John wasn't even paying attention,
he was staring at the shore
as if his life depended on it.
Then he clutched my shoulder, crying,
"It is the Lord!"*

*Suddenly, everything came into focus,
the man, the catch, the voice,
and nothing could stop me,
I had to be with the Master.*

*There were no words at breakfast,
beyond, "Pass the fish,"
or "I'll have a bit more bread."
We sat there, eating our fill,
basking in the sunrise.
We didn't have to say anything.
Jesus just smiled and served.*

Action: Imagine your conversation with Jesus over breakfast, what would you talk about? How would you feel?

Final Thoughts

Jesus tells them to cast their nets to the right side of the boat. Like all fishermen at the time, the disciples were fishing from the left side of the boat. This is because the steering apparatus was located on the right side of the boat and thus fishing from that side risked tangling the net with the steering apparatus when a full net of fish was raised into the boat. This meant fishing from the right side of the boat could result in damage to the boat or the net, something any fisherman would want to avoid. And yet the disciples find, when they allow the risen Jesus to change their old fishing habits, they get an abundant catch.

We are so like those disciples returning to fishing. We celebrate this Easter season while going about our old habits, routines, and patterns of life. Like the disciples, we too return to what we know. Jesus does not reprimand the disciples for returning to their old way of fishing. Instead he offers them a small but significant transformation, a twist on the old way that has huge results.

The risen Jesus offers us a twist on the old way, we are called to respond to Resurrection with fearless love that transforms even our smallest habits, routines, and ways of life. What would it look like for you to fish on the other side? What would it look like for you to go about everyday life responding to the call of the risen Christ? Perhaps during this

period of lockdown the Lord is teaching you and helping you transform some old habits and routines – how are you responding to that? Cast your nets to the other side. Allow familiar ways to be transformed by resurrection love.

Prayer

Father, may we acknowledge daily that you are with us, providing for our every need and empowering us to fulfill your every task. May your rule in the world find an anchor in our hearts. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Song Suggestions

Lord I Come Before Your Throne of Grace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fo1UV9pfrs>

Teach Me To Dance

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vE_fz0xc774

He Giveth More Grace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AL2teN8-ks8>

Will You Come and Follow Me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o469PRLdbHU>

You Have Been So Good To Me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UO4FrDkOAFM>