

Third Sunday of Easter – year B

Preparation

Read over these: [Acts 3:12-19](#) and [Luke 24:36b-48](#). Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearb/easterb3.htm>

http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452_115869_ENG_HTM.htm

http://www.sermons4kids.com/each_one_reach_one.htm

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/b/3Easter-b/A-3Easter-b.html>

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-bwss.htm#e3>

<http://children.cccm.com/NTSupportCurriculumPDF/287PeterJohnHealTheLameMan.pdf>

<http://www.create-kids-crafts.com/fish-and-ocean-crafts.html> – some great fish crafts here

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle and candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- White cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Paper with ‘**Good News**’ printed on it

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the candle and the Bible on the cloth. Light the candle.

Pray the following prayer together:

Thank you God for this new day! Alleluia!
Thank you Jesus for bringing new life! Alleluia!
Thank you Holy Spirit for coming to us! Alleluia!

Blow out the candle. Hold up the piece of paper with the message written on it. Have someone read it. Ask the children how they share good news with each other, with their friends and with their families. (*Wait for their responses.*) Ask the children if they know what it means to be a witness to something. Explain to them that it means someone who remembers something and tells others about. Tell the children that in today’s story they will hear about important witnesses to the events after God raised Jesus from the dead.

Story Time

Materials needed

- A comfortable place to tell the story – around a table or on the floor with cushions
- Fish-shaped crackers
- Four pieces of card stock. Print on each the following:
‘Witness’, ‘Faith’, ‘Fear’ and ‘Peace’ – place them face down in the story area

Peter and John were two of Jesus’ friends. They had become leaders in the community of believers in Jerusalem.

They were getting known for the faith they had *(Place the FAITH card in front of the children)* and for their ability to heal people in Jesus’ name.

Peter and John were in Jerusalem and had just healed a man on the steps of the temple. The people who were around them were amazed by what they had done.

Peter began to tell the people how they had healed the man. Peter said, “Friends don’t look so confused. You remember the man named Jesus who had the Romans put death. Well God raised Jesus from the dead. We have seen him and he, Jesus, has given us the power to heal this man.”

Peter continued telling the people of Jerusalem what God was doing for them. As he was speaking John was remembering a special time with Jesus.

It was Sunday night. Jesus’ friends were gathered together. Some of the women had told them about seeing Jesus at the tomb and the he is alive! Many of the friends could not believe what they were saying.

All of a sudden two of the friends who had decided to leave Jerusalem because they were afraid of what was going to happen next. *(Place the FEAR card in front of the children)*

They said, “We have seen Jesus. He met us on the road. He explained everything that has happened.”

Now some of the friends still could not quite believe what was going on. Just then Jesus showed up and said to them, “Peace be with you.” *(Place the PEACE card in front of the children)*

Jesus could tell that they were scared by what was going on. He told them, “Don’t be afraid. It really is me. Come and see my hands and my side. Do you have a piece of fish? Here let me have some.”

They gave Jesus some fish *(Invite the children to have some fish-shaped crackers as they listen to the rest of the story)* and he ate it with them.

After Jesus had finished the fish he said to his friends, “I want you to remember everything I have told you and everything you have seen. You are my witnesses. You are God’s witnesses in the world. Go out and tell everyone what has been done for the world.” *(Place the card with WITNESSESS on it in front of the children)*

John realized that was what he and Peter were doing. They were being God’s witnesses in the world. They were witnessing to what God had done by raising Jesus from the dead.

John watched how the people were reacting to Peter as he was preaching. He saw that they were being filled with faith *(point to the FAITH card)* and that the peace of God *(point to the PEACE card)* was taking away their fears. *(point to the FEAR card; push it away)*

John and Peter knew that soon, they too, *(point to the WITNESSES card)* would be witnesses for Jesus in the world.

Response

Project Idea 1: Fish Bookmark

This bookmark will help the children to remember the time that Jesus came to his friends after his death and ate a meal with his friends.

Materials needed

- fish image at end of lesson
- card stock
- hole punch
- scissors
- glue
- fine line markers
- tinfoil
- clear contact paper
- yarn

Instructions

Make a copy of the fish image for each child. Cut the card stock in half along short side. Give each child a piece of card stock and a copy of the fish image. Have them cut out their fish image and glue it onto the card stock. Tear up pieces of tinfoil and have the children glue some on for scales and then let them colour in their fish with the markers. When they are done decorating their fish have them print on their bookmark **'We are Witnesses'**. Help them to cover their bookmarks with the contact paper. Then punch a hole in the top and thread a length of yarn through it and tie off the yarn in a loop. Suggest to the children that they find a favourite book at home to put their bookmark in.

Project Idea 2: Paper Bag Fish

Younger children will especially appreciate the opportunity to respond to this story in this way.

Materials needed

- white paper
- Easter season stickers
- fine line markers
- Jesus image at end of lesson
- scissors
- glue sticks

Instructions

Have the children crumple up the newspaper and stuff a paper bag with it. Stuff the bags until they are about $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Help them to cut off a piece of yarn long enough to tie off the opening of the bag. Fan it out so that it looks like a tail. Let the children use the markers, tinfoil and construction paper to decorate their fish with. As they are working remind the children that Jesus used a piece of fish to convince his friends that he was indeed alive and that now it is our turn to be witnesses to God's love in the world. Invite the children to share today's story with their families by using their paper bag fish.

Project Idea 3: Easter Egg Poster – Fish

This is a continuation of a project started in the previous week and will be ongoing until the end of the Easter season.

Materials needed

- posters that the children started last week
- fish image at end of lesson
- scissors
- glue sticks
- crayons or fine line markers
- tinfoil
- glitter

Instructions

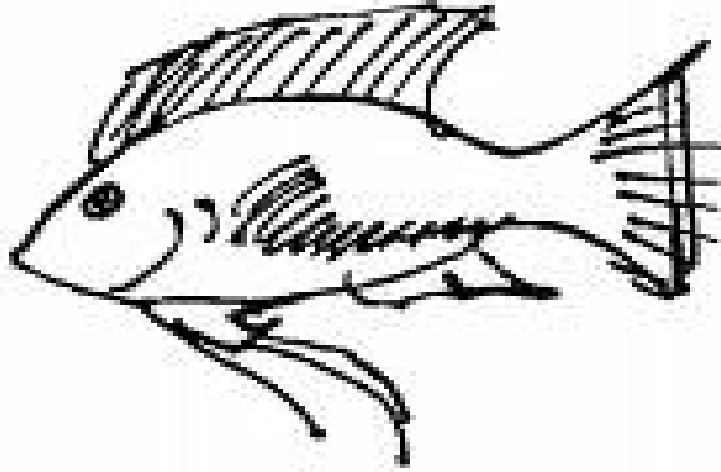
Make enough copies of the fish image at the end of the lesson so that each child has one. Give each child their own poster. Have them cut out the fish shape and then colour it with the crayons or the markers. Encourage them to think about today's story as they do the colouring. Once they have their image coloured get them to glue the fish onto the lower left corner of their egg. Help them to cut small pieces of tinfoil and glue them on as scales to their fish. If the children want let them finishing decorating their fish by adding some glitter as highlights. Remind the children that in the story they heard today Jesus used a fish to show that he was alive again to his friends and that the people of the early church remembered this story when they spoke to others.

Closing

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candles. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

Alleluia! Thank you God for loving us.
Alleluia! Thank you Jesus for saving us.
Alleluia! Thank you Holy Spirit for being with us.
Amen.

Fish Image



For Project idea 1, use large image

**For Project idea 3 on a large sheet of paper,
use large image**

**For Project idea 3 on 8.5" × 11" or A4 paper,
use small image**



Egg Poster – Guideline

