

LESSON SUMMARY:

Learn how God sometimes speaks to us in unexpected ways, and that we can trust God to help us but may be surprised by how he does it.

OPENING CONVERSATION:

Do you like to hunt for things?! When we play Hide-n-Go-Seek or go on a scavenger hunt, we keep our eyes open wide for that person or thing we are looking for.... Sometimes we know right where to look, but sometimes we don't!

Last week our study guide talked about how others can believe in God because of the love we show them...and how we can trust God more because of what others do for us. God wants to work through people to give us all what we need and to do His good work in the earth. See, the best part with this, is that God doesn't make His love hard to find! When you read the Bible, pray, & talk about Jesus with others, you can learn to listen for His voice that will guide you in things that are good and not bad.

You can TRUST that God will help you through everything in life... but just know that God might surprise you in the WAY he shows His love to you! Be ready for God to work through someone or a situation that you may not expect Him to or that you wouldn't have thought of as a solution. We have to choose to have our eyes open wide, to SEE the amazing work that He wants to do through us and the ways he will make our situations better.

And remember, it is up to us to SHOW His love to others, so they can SEE Him working in their lives, too.

Jesus' own disciples weren't expecting to see Him on the shore that morning while they were out fishing. They also weren't expecting for Him to help them catch a GIANT net-full of fish! But he did it!

When we are willing to look for them, God takes the things that seem "normal" and plain and brings joys & adventures that we didn't expect!

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE:

Miraculous Catch of Fish and Reinstatement of Peter

John 21:1-17, Adventure Bible page 1194

"¹ Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: ² Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³ "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told

them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. ⁴ Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. ⁵ He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. ⁶ He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. ⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸ The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. ⁹ When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead. ¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." ¹⁷ The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION:

Who was standing on the shore, ready to help the disciples while they were fishing?

Jesus.

After they fished all night and came up with empty nets every time, what did Jesus help them do?

Catch a net full of fish.. and kept the net from breaking as they pulled it up and out of the water, as well.

The did not realize it was Him. Do you think there are times when we don't recognize that God is trying to help us?

Yes.

What does he ask Peter 3 times?

Do you love me?

What did he ask Peter to do?

Feed and take care of his sheep.

Who are his sheep?

Everyone.

If we love God, how should we treat others?

Love them, take care of them.

MEMORY SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 7:7, Adventure Bible page 1059

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”