

Put Jesus First Be on Time for Jesus!

John 21:1-14

OPENING:

It's summer vacation – When school lets out at the end of the year, it's time for kids and their families to have fun! People can't wait to enjoy their favorite summer time activities. They wait for it all year long. They plan for it, save for it, and make the most of it.

For some people, the best part of summer is the movies. Summer is when the big blockbusters hit the theater -. What are some of the BIG movies this summer?

And we want to be ON TIME (early in fact) so we don't miss anything!

- We all know movies never start on time. The lights dim at the time on the marquee, but what do they show us first? Commercials, and previews of other movies. It may be 15-20 minutes before the movie actually starts. But you know what? We're still there on time, and if it's a big release, we get there even earlier. *Why? Because we don't want to miss anything.*

How many of us can say that about church on Sunday?

It's not easy getting up on Sunday, especially in the summer. We want to sleep in, or have a big breakfast.

But Sunday is one time we have a chance to run after what's most important - Jesus.

For other people, summer's a time to relax. They spend time in the pool, or out back on a hammock. They read book after book, they sip lemonade, and they take it easy. Probably not too many of you look forward to a summer like that, but I'll bet some of your parents wish you did!

Summertime means trips to the faire, to amusement parks, to the zoo, and other outdoor places. They're all fun places to visit and get some sun, but for many people, they all pale in comparison to the one location best associated with summer - the beach!

How many of you have been to a beach before? Beaches are a world of fun because there's so much you can do. Moms and Dads get to take it easy on their blankets with their books. Kids can have fun playing in the water, collecting sea shells, and building sandcastles.

Older kids get out and enjoy the water by surfing, bodyboarding, and even water skiing.

When the school bell rings and summer starts, people can't wait to get to the beach. They load up the car in advance with swimsuits, beach balls, lounge chairs, umbrellas, and sunscreen, then make a mad dash for the coast.

Doesn't matter if it's the Atlantic, the Pacific, the Gulf of Mexico, Hawaii, or another country, there's no place like the beach.

Today's Bible story takes place on a beach. In fact, it's a story about a man who could not WAIT to get to the beach. But the man in our story, Peter, wasn't looking to surf or swim or build sandcastles. There was someone on the beach he wanted to be with very much.

Read: [John 21:1-14](#)

Some of the Jesus' followers were together. They were Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, the two sons of Zebedee, and two other followers. ³ Simon Peter said, "I am going out to fish."

The other followers said, "We will go with you." So, they went out and got into the boat. They fished that night but caught nothing.

⁴ Early the next morning Jesus stood on the shore. But the followers did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Then he said to them, "Friends, have you caught any fish?"

They answered, "No."

⁶ He said, "Throw your net into the water on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So, they did this. They caught so many fish that they could not pull the net back into the boat.

⁷ The follower whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Peter heard him say this, he wrapped his coat around himself. (Peter had taken his clothes off.) Then he jumped into the water. ⁸ The other followers went to shore in the boat, dragging the net full of fish. They were not very far from shore, only about 100 yards. ⁹ When the followers stepped out of the boat and onto the shore, they saw a fire of hot coals. There were fish on the fire, and there was bread.

¹⁰ Then Jesus said, "Bring some of the fish that you caught."

¹¹ Simon Peter went into the boat and pulled the net to the shore. It was full of big fish. There were 153. Even though there were so many, the net did not tear. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and eat." None of the followers dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them. He also gave them the fish.

¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus showed himself to his followers after he was raised from death.

- This story takes place after the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- Peter was a fisherman, as were several of his fellow disciples, and on this particular day, they decided to go out and fish - just as they were fishing the day they met Jesus.
- Suddenly, they hear a man on the beach calling out to them. They couldn't tell who he was, being so far out on the water, but when he suggested they toss their nets on the other side of the boat, they did. Their net was soon filled to overflowing with fish!
- That was all the evidence Peter needed; he knew the man on the shore was Jesus, and he dove straight into the water.
- Isn't it amazing the things we'll dive after? We'll beg and plead with our parents to take us to a cool movie.
- We'll pack our bags days ahead for a trip to the beach. B
- But I bet if we were honest, most of us had trouble getting up this morning and getting dressed to go to church.
- Most people don't race to church. They don't come in full of energy and excitement.
- They look at going to church as a chore, as an obligation to be done and gotten over with.
- That's a far cry from what we see Peter doing in this passage.
- Peter made a mad dash for the beach and when he saw Jesus on the beach from his boat.
- Peter reminds us that we need to love Jesus more than anything.

- When we chase after Jesus, we get to be with the one who loves us most.
- When we chase after Jesus, we also find direction for our life.
- The disciples were drifting in the water. They were fishing in the wrong spot. But Jesus set them right. "Cast your nets on the other side," he said, and they hit the jackpot.
- Jesus has a plan for your life. He knows you and he knows your gifts better than anyone.
- He's the one who gave you your gifts to begin with. Jesus wants to make us fishers of men and lead others into a relationship with him, and when we chase after Jesus, he'll set us on the right path.
- Finally, when we chase after Jesus, miracles happen.
- The miraculous catch of fish was not the first miracle the disciples had witnessed.
- That's one reason why Peter knew, without a doubt, who was standing on the beach that day.
- Jesus fed 5000 people with one little boy's lunch. He gave sight to the blind, cured lepers, and raised the dead.
- Nothing was impossible for Jesus because he is God. And nothing is impossible for us when we chase after Jesus either.

Let's read another story about some friends and their beach day trip -
Read attached story – then discuss.

The kids were so excited to meet their surfing hero and spend a day at the beach having fun that their eyes were not focused on what is important. In fact, they did not even recognize their hero. There is nothing and no one more precious than Jesus, and we need to be just as eager to embrace him.

- We need to love Jesus above everything else on Earth.
- God loves you. He loved you so much, he died for your sins. He wants to be your friend, your leader, your guide.
- It's so sad that so many people aren't excited about Jesus.

- Jesus loves us so much he left his throne in Heaven and came to Earth to save us from our sins so we could have a relationship with him.
- Why wouldn't we want to be with Jesus more than anything else in the world?
- When we follow Jesus, he will give us direction. Miracles will happen. And we will know the greatest love we will ever know.

Next Sunday, when it's time to go to church, remember the story of Peter. Remember what Jesus did for you. Then dive into your day, ready and eager to be united with Christ. He will never, ever disappoint you!

Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus and for his amazing love. Help us to keep Jesus first in our lives.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

Memory Verse:

In all the work you are doing, work the best you can. Work as if you were working for the Lord, not for men. Colossians 3:23

Crafts: Jesus Fish

Jumbo craft sticks, tacky glue, googlie eyes, markers, sticky jewels, Jesus paper.

Color and decorate craft sticks. Then glue together as pattern shows. Color Jesus paper and glue to back. Attach twine if kids want to hang their craft.



VIDEO -KidVu– Breakfast with Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oSUuIHnsOM&t=54s>

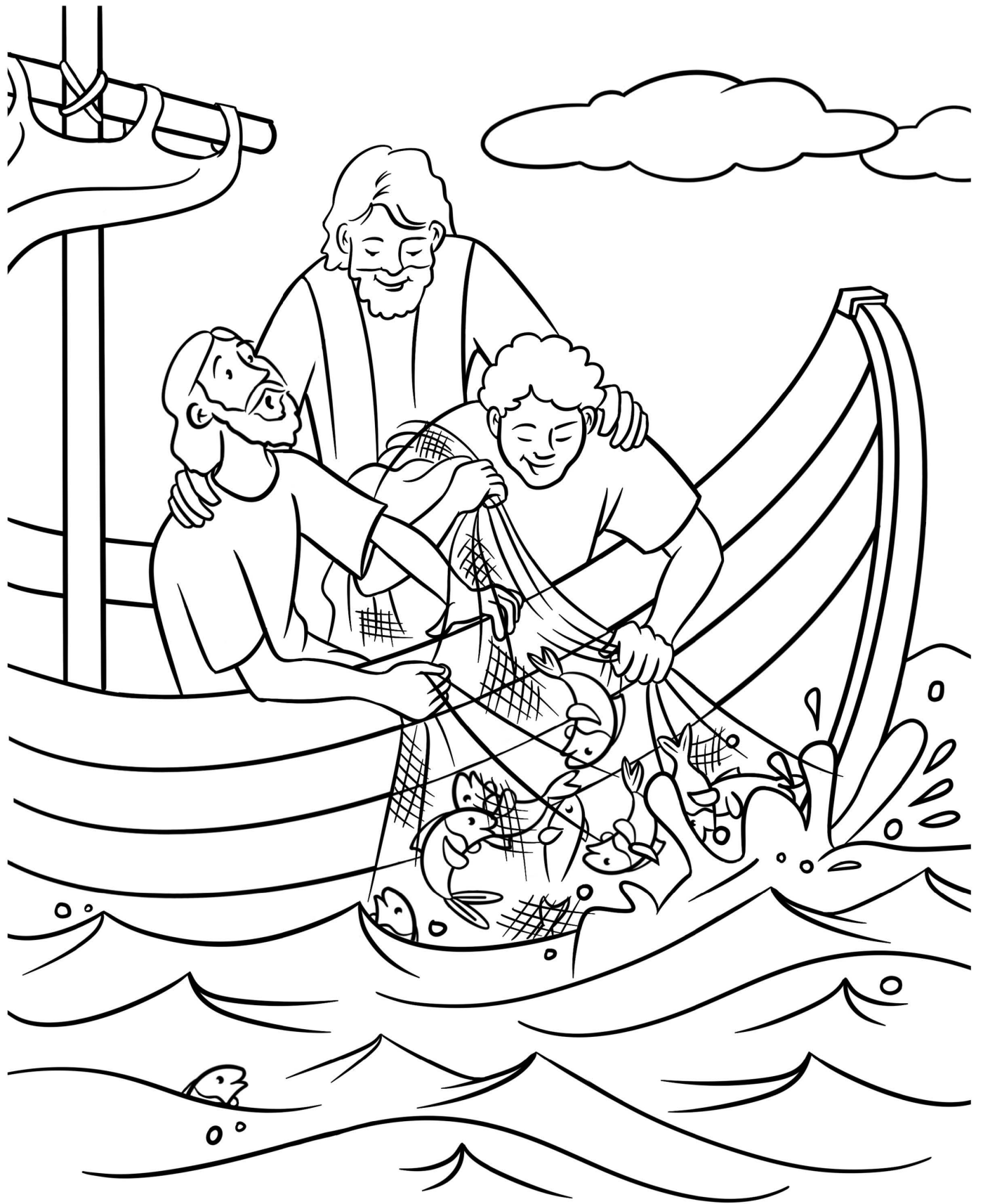
Veggie Tales:

<https://app.pureflix.com/videos/502172198535/play?autoplay=true&recommended=q%3Aveggie%20tales%20>

Feel free to take a picture of their art work or share how your activity went! Post it on our Facebook page or share it on GroupMe. Have a Blessed Day & Week! Until we can meet again

~ *Teacher Chrissy*

Thank you to <https://www.childrens-ministry-deals.com/> for their summer vacation curriculum
Thank you to www.daniellesplace.com for great craft ideas



Jesus Helps Catch Fish

John 21:14