



Week 2
1 - 7 May 2022

**SMALL GROUP WEEKLY
DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL**

EASTER to TRINITY SUNDAY

CONTENT:

Weekly Sunday Sermon Bible readings, worship song, reflection, small group questions and family time

Daily Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation

Easter to Trinity Sunday:

Week 2	Sunday 1 May	Jesus and the miracle catch of fish
Week 3	Sunday 8 May	Further conflict over Jesus's claims
Week 4	1 Sunday 15 May	Jesus predicts Peter's denial
Week 5	Sunday 22 May	Jesus promises the Holy Spirit
		26 May Ascension Day
Week 6	Sunday 29 May	Jesus prays for all believers
Week 7	Sunday 5 June	Jesus the way to the Father
Week 8	Sunday 12 June	Trinity Sunday

Week 2: 1 MAY

Easter Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Third Sunday of Easter May 1, 2022	*Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)	Psalm 30	Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19



Praise and Worship: God I Look to You - Bethany Wohrle | Heaven Come
<https://youtu.be/5fTiQLzHZrk>



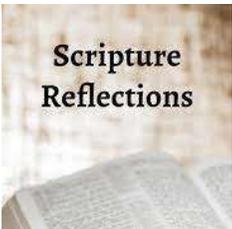
John 21:1-19

Jesus and the miraculous catch of fish

Afterwards 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 realise 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 round 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 metres. 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, 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.

Jesus reinstates Peter

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. ¹⁸ Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.' ¹⁹ Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, 'Follow me!'



WRITTEN BY: THABANG JANUARY

From chapter 20, the apostle John gives us the following narratives: the resurrection, the upper room, and the famous doubting Thomas. The disciples are gradually understanding that Jesus is alive, but they are not sure what that means for real, everyday life. There is no more preaching and teaching, so they can't follow Jesus and be his disciples anymore, but neither are they sure they can launch out without him. The disciples are feeling a bit out of place and without a course. They are without their all-time navigator – Jesus.

So, Peter seeks the comfort of familiar routine. "I'm going out to fish," he says, and the rest agree. It's easy to do, to slip back into the comfortable, the known. After all, they're expert fishermen, so they return to what they know best. Maybe to get their mind off the recent events that took place in Jerusalem.

Most of us are Peters in our own lives, we often choose the easier way back to what we know when what we were promised and hoped for doesn't work out. The Israelites wanted to return to Pharaoh's slavery when they faced The Red Sea.

The Good News is for them and us is: Jesus has risen, like he said he would. That's great. But now what? What difference does it make?

Just after our passage comes one of the sweetest events in the gospels. Peter wades ashore and finds Jesus' marinating fish on the beach for breakfast. Jesus tends to Peter's physical hunger, and then fills his spiritual emptiness too. "Simon son of John, do you love me? ... You know that I love you ... Feed my lambs ... Take care of my sheep ... Feed my sheep." Fisherman turned shepherd. Peter experiences what Mr. Wesley terms as prevenient grace and is reinstated to his initial call he received in Luke 5:10.

Jesus does this with us, too. He knows where our hurts are, our inner cuts and bruises, which are far more damaging to our well-being than physical weaknesses. Jesus is being the one spoken of in Ps 103:3, he “*who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.*” But this healing and forgiveness is not merely so that we can sit there being healthy and forgiven. Jesus did not feed Peter’s body and soul to have him be a fisher of fish. Peter was tasked with shepherding. Resurrection is supposed to make a difference.



Small Group Questions:

1. Peter went back to the Sea of Galilee to fish. Describe a time when life seemed crazy, and you wanted to surround yourself with the familiar and go back to your comfort zone.
2. If there was no resurrection, then Peter might have just gone back to being a fisherman. In what ways does the resurrection impact your daily life?
3. Catching a lot of fish is different than tenderly caring for a sheep. Why is it so important to not only lead people to Christ (cast the net), but to help them grow in Christ (tend the sheep)? Explain the difference.



Daily Bible Reading, Memory Verse and Prayer:

MONDAY, May 2, 2022: [Psalm 121](#); [Ezekiel 1:1-25](#); [Acts 9:19b-31](#)

MEMORY VERSE: “*I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.*” – *Psalm 121:1-2*

PRAYER: “God our Father, the creator of heaven and earth. You are help and my eyes will always be fixed on you. Please be my help in all circumstance. **Amen**”

TUESDAY, May 3, 2022: [Psalm 121](#); [Ezekiel 1:26-2:1](#); [Acts 26:1-18](#)

MEMORY VERSE: “*He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.*” – *Psalm 121:3-4*

PRAYER: Dear Heavenly Father, please watch over me, my family, and all your people so that our feet may not slip. Watch over us always dear Lord. **Amen**

WEDNESDAY, May 4, 2022: [Psalm 121](#); [Isaiah 6:1-8](#); [Luke 5:1-11](#)

MEMORY VERSE: “*The LORD watches over you— the LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.*” – *Psalm 121:3-4*

PRAYER: Dear Lord, thank you for providing shade for me against all that’s meant to harm me, and providing light in my path so that I may walk in the light. **Amen**

THURSDAY, May 5, 2022: [Psalm 23](#); [Ezekiel 11:1-25](#); [Revelation 5:1-10](#)

MEMORY VERSE: “*The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.*” – *Psalm 23:1*

PRAYER: God my provider. Thank you for all your provisions. May I always remember that I lack nothing when I have you. **Amen**

FRIDAY, May 6, 2022: [Psalm 23](#); [Ezekiel 20:39-44](#); [Revelation 6:1-7:4](#)

MEMORY VERSE: “*Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*” – *Psalm 23:6*

PRAYER: Gracious Loving God, may your love and goodness follow me all the days of my life and may I always dwell and serve in your house. **Amen**

SATURDAY, May 7, 2022: [Psalm 23](#); [Ezekiel 28:25-26](#); [Luke 12:29-32](#)

MEMORY VERSE: “*But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.*” – *Luke 12:31*

PRAYER: Loving God, father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant us hearts that seek your Kingdom and not only what you can provide. Grant us peace from worrying about tomorrow. **Amen**



It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN'S PASTOR
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Sunday 1st May

Pray daily: Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

Scripture Reading: [John 21:1-19](#)

Activity/Family Moment: Read verse 7 again.

We know that Jesus has been crucified, risen, and appeared to his disciples before this story. We also know that Simon Peter denied Jesus 3 times.

Peter stated to strangers that he did not know who Jesus was despite being a disciple, traveling with Jesus for years, seeing miracles, hearing Jesus teach, eating with Jesus and so on, he still was overcome with fear that he denied Jesus.

Peter most likely was still struggling with guilt and shame for denying Christ. So, when he realized the man on the shore was Jesus, he did not hesitate. He jumped into the water and swam to meet Jesus. Peter didn't wait. He had to be there with Jesus.

Sometimes we struggle with guilt and shame when we have done something, we are not proud of. We might also be fearful for the consequences. Have you ever felt like that?

If we read verse 9, we see Jesus is waiting for the disciples with breakfast. Can you imagine what Peter may have been feeling? Maybe he thought Jesus would deny him? Or shout at him or fight with him. But Jesus was waiting for him with breakfast. Jesus is waiting for you to jump off the boat and come to him. Don't be afraid, Jesus loves you and is waiting for you!

Take a moment to think about anything you wish to talk to God about. Decide if you want to give it to God. And decide if you would like to take the first step in faith.