**Sunday School from Home**

**Week of April 19**

The story this week is from John 21:1-19. It details the appearance of Jesus to the disciples after the resurrection.

* Read the story from any Bible you have at home or online.
* The story mentions that the number of fish caught was 153. Challenge kids to count that high using small objects you have around the house. Try mini marshmallows, buttons, legos, or goldfish crackers (have them estimate first and then count to see if they were close). Go outside and count to 153: count 153 windows as you walk around the neighborhood. Take 153 steps (or hops, or skips, etc.). Use a tape measure to mark off 153 feet in the yard (or 153 inches indoors).
* Devise math problems and games using the number 153, according to your child’s grade level. For example, practice place value up to the hundreds place. Have them decide a certain type of object represents each place. Anything in the house will work: maybe drinking cups represent hundreds, forks represent tens, and crayons represent ones. Once they have used the objects to show 153, take turns trying other numbers. Or try operational story problems (problems that will require adding, subtracting, multiplying, or dividing) involving the number 153 and/or fish. Have kids both write and solve problems to challenge each other.
* The story tells us about Jesus and the disciples eating outside on the beach. Weather permitting, have a picnic meal outside and give thanks for God’s creation.
* Use washable markers and a coffee filter to create a masterpiece. Give your child a coffee filter and markers, and have them draw a heart in the middle and color it in. The more ink on the filter, the better (but leave plenty of space on the outside edge without any ink). Take a spray bottle with water and lightly mist the ink with water. What happens? Discuss how the heart “grows” as you add “love” to it. Next, allow your child to use what they have learned to create another piece of art. Perhaps they will experiment with other colors or shapes, or with more or less water. What happens if you dribble drops of water rather than using a spray bottle with a fine mist? After drying, hang your art in the window and notice how the light filters through the color. NOTE: this will work with paper towels in a pinch, but the best result is from coffee filters.
* Play Fisherman Tag! This game is just like regular tag, except one person is the fisherman and the others are fish. When the fisherman tags a fish, he or she must link arms with the fisherman. The next fish to be tagged links arms with the last fish, etc.
* Play Scrambled Sardines. Cut out the fish shapes on the attached page (or create your own), and put them in order to practice the verse from Matthew. Try scrambling the words and turning them over, then time yourself putting them in the proper order (or challenge other family members to see who can do it the fastest). For a special challenge, arrange the words in order without touching them – use a straw to pick up each word by sucking in air to pick up the words and set them back down in order.
* Now that our lectionary has taken us through the beginning of the New Testament, this is a good time to begin memorizing the books of the entire New Testament. Try singing along with this song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tbSgW5ty5ow> If needed, write down the list of books on a white board, then begin erasing a few at a time and see if you can still sing along. The final challenge is to sing the song without the video and without looking at the white board at all. See who in your family can memorize the entire New Testament first!
* Discuss why John gives the detail of 153 fish. Why does this detail matter? Could it be a hint about the abundance that God promises us? The fish were so numerous they could not even be pulled into the boat. Where else in the Bible are we assured of God’s abundant love and care? Use the concordance in your Bible or an online search to find other verses and familiarize yourself with the context of each. Compare and contrast them, and discuss what you feel God is calling you to do with that abundance as an individual or a family.
* Read Luke chapter 5, in which Jesus calls his disciples to follow him. How does this story compare to the one in John 21?