



Date: _____

Series: The Gifts from Jesus (Spring)
Year 1, Lesson 49

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

Bible Event: John 21:1-17

Take Home Point: *JESUS IS ALIVE – *Share the good news!*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Jesus is alive. When we believe, his power helps us share the good news.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Kids will learn that Jesus is great news that needs to be shared! Not only did Jesus die on the cross for our sins, but he rose again and wants us to tell others about him. Just like Jesus told his disciples to spread the good news that he was alive, he wants us to spread the good news today. Kids will take home the point: JESUS IS ALIVE – *Share the good news.*
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.

Lesson 49 - 1



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Your choice.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: Imagination Theater

Imagination Theater is audience participation drama where the Bible event is told in creative fashion using children as actors. The Imagination Box contains the Bible and other special props used for the drama. Begin by removing the Bible and explain that it is God's word. Briefly summarize the story, and then remove an imaginary hat and place it on your head. This is your Imagination Hat. Invite the children to put on theirs as well. They will also use their imaginations to picture the events the Bible tells us about. Some will even use their imaginations to help act out these events. Distribute props to actors as they are called forward at the beginning of the presentation. Have them sit to the side until they are called on stage.

Use blue tablecloths or towels on the floor to create the Sea of Tiberias. Have a boat (or box made into a boat) on the Sea for the disciples to sit in. Provide costumes and/or headpieces for Jesus, and three or four disciples. Designate one of the disciples as Simon Peter. The disciples should be in the boat to start, with Jesus walking alongside the water. Use some fake fish and fake bread for props. Provide a net, if available, or even a makeshift fishing pole for the fishermen to use. Also have a separate area set up with a fire prop (*a fan on its side with red, orange and yellow streamers, for example*). The story begins at night, so dim the lights, if possible.

Presenter: This is a true Bible event telling how Jesus appeared to his disciples after he had died and rose again. A disciple is a person who follows Jesus and tells others about Jesus. The first disciples were special friends of Jesus. Here is what happened.

Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael and a few other disciples were out in a boat fishing on the Sea of Tiberias. They had been fishing all night, but hadn't caught a single fish!

Have disciples throwing nets and bringing them in empty.

Very early in the morning before it was even light, Jesus stood along the edge of the water. Because it was dark and he was pretty far away, the disciples didn't know who it was!

Jesus yelled to them, "Friends, haven't you caught any fish?" (State this to the child acting as "Jesus" to repeat after you.)

The disciples answered, "No." (Have "disciples" say this.)

So Jesus told them to throw their net onto the other side of the boat. That's where they'd find the fish!

Have disciples throw their net to the side of the boat away from the audience and then pretend it is too heavy to pull in the boat.

When they threw their net to that side, they caught so many fish that they could not even pull the net in the boat! It was a miracle!

Then, one of the disciples figured out that it must be Jesus! He said, "It is the Lord." (Have one "disciple" say this.)

When Simon Peter heard this, he threw off his robe and jumped into the water to see Jesus.

Have Simon Peter take off his robe or headpiece and jump out of the boat onto the water towards Jesus.

The other disciples stayed in the boat and steered it to shore, bringing the huge net of fish with them.

Have the disciples climb out of the boat and move with Simon Peter and Jesus to the area where the fire is.

When the disciples got to shore, they saw a fire burning with some fish and some bread.

Have the "fan fire" going with some fake fish and bread.

And Jesus told them, "Bring some of the fish you caught."

Have Jesus say this line and the disciples bring some plastic fish from the boat.

The disciples couldn't believe how many fish they had caught! They knew that Jesus had helped them.

Jesus said, "Come and have breakfast."

Have Jesus say these lines as the lights are turned on to show that morning was coming.

Then Jesus broke the bread and shared the fish with them.

Have Jesus distribute fake food to the disciples.

This was the third time that Jesus had appeared to the disciples after he had died and rose again. He had a very special message for them.

After they had eaten breakfast together, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Do you love me?” (Have Jesus ask Simon Peter.)

And Simon Peter answered, “Yes!”

Have Simon Peter answer. Have them repeat this two more times.

Jesus asked Simon Peter three times if he truly loved him and all three times Simon Peter said, “Yes!” After Simon Peter said, “Yes,” Jesus said something funny to him. Jesus kept saying, “Feed my sheep.” (Have Jesus repeat this line.)

Have Jesus and disciples sit while the presenter concludes the story.

Every time Jesus said, “Feed my sheep,” he was trying to tell the disciples something very important. You see, Jesus had just died on the cross and rose again. That was very good news! When Jesus appeared to his disciples and said “Feed my sheep,” what he was really saying was “Go tell people the good news – that I died and rose again for you! You all are my sheep!” Jesus wanted his disciples to share the good news about him. And Jesus wants us to be disciples today, too! Jesus wants us to “Feed his sheep” by telling others about Jesus, too. Remember: *JESUS IS ALIVE – *Share the good news.*



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal. If this is an option at your church, be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Have fish sandwiches. Give each child a slice of bread and have them spread blue butter on it. Let them place goldfish crackers on the bread. They may eat the 'sandwich' folded in half or open-faced.

HEALTHY SNACK OPTION: Pick a snack that God has designed for his "sheep" to eat. For example: fruits, vegetables, nuts and legumes (beans) were all created by God for us to thrive on. Let's help "feed his sheep" well.

Drama Zone: Provide robes, fishing nets, a box or boat and have children re-enact the scene.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to discuss ways that they can share the good news of Jesus with others.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of Jesus appearing to the disciples from today's Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #156 "Jesus Feeds His Disciples" from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Craft Zone: Give each child a sheet of white or blue cardstock with the fish template copied on to it. Provide pre-cut newspaper squares (approximately ½ inch by ½ inch) for children to glue into the fish outline to make a collage. They may decorate the rest of the page with markers or crayons as time permits. Attach a pre-made Avery 5960 label: "JESUS IS ALIVE – *Share the good news.*"

Play Zone: Provide cards for kids to play "Go Fish." Another option: Have children wave a parachute while throwing plastic fish to bounce around.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of Jesus appearing to the disciples.

Music Zone: Your choice of music.

Coloring Zone: "Jesus Appears to the Disciples" coloring page



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes out with really big news that he can't wait to share. He has a fishing pole or fishing hat, etc. with him. He went fishing with his dad and caught a huge fish! Bubba stretches his arms to show how big it was. The presenter is very impressed. He thinks that Bubba's fish is good news. But the presenter knows that there is even better news that Bubba can share with other people. Bubba doesn't know what could be more important than the big fish he caught.

The presenter explains that the best news anyone can share is the news about Jesus. The presenter tells Bubba that in today's Bible event, the disciples were fishing just like Bubba was fishing! Jesus appeared to the disciples while they were in their boat, but Jesus really didn't appear to them to help them fish. He had bigger plans. He wanted to give the disciples some special instructions.

The presenter invites the children to tell Bubba what the special instructions were (*feed my sheep*), and what the instructions really meant (*to tell others about Jesus*).

The presenter concludes by explaining that we should be disciples, too. We can tell others about Jesus today just like Jesus wanted his disciples to do then. Jesus is the best news! We should share with everyone that Jesus died for our sins and then rose again! That is the best news. Remember: ***JESUS IS ALIVE – Share the good news.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with hands. Finish by bringing the hands down and wiggling the fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross your hands over the heart)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with the hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- blue tablecloths or towels for water
- boat or box made into a boat for kids to sit in
- costumes and/or headpieces for Jesus, Simon Peter, and other disciples
- nets or fishing poles
- box fan
- red, orange and yellow streamers
- fake fish and bread

Action Zones:

Snack:

- Goldfish crackers
- slices of bread
- blue butter

Drama:

- blue tablecloths or towels for water
- a boat or box made into a boat for kids to sit in
- costumes and/or headpieces for Jesus, and disciples
- nets or fishing poles
- fake food

Craft:

- white or blue card stock half sheets (with template)
- newspapers cut into small squares
- glue or glue sticks
- markers and crayons
- pre-made label "JESUS IS ALIVE – Share the good news"

Play:

- deck of cards – Go Fish game
- *optional*: parachute and plastic fish

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books

Music:

- your choice of music

Puppet:

- various puppets

Felt:

- materials to reenact story (For example, use Lesson #156 "Jesus Feeds His Disciples" from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt.*)

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet
- fishing prop of any kind

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

