

## “It’s the Lord!”

Have you ever had an experience where you recognized the miraculous hand of the Lord turning an impossible circumstance around for good? Have you ever found yourself saying, “It’s the Lord!” after something amazing occurred? A characteristic of Christian maturity is being able to recognize the presence and intervention of God. John 21 records the account of the four disciples that had been fishermen before Jesus had called them to ministry (Peter, Thomas, Nathaniel, James and John). Following Peter they had all decided to return to the Sea of Galilee and reclaim their old lives as fishermen. It was there’ after a night of failed luck, they recognized Jesus saying, “It’s the Lord!” Jesus had repeated the miracle of a miraculous catch just as He had done some three years before when He had called them the for the first time to be “fishers of men”. But this time was different. This time they recognized Him as the resurrected Christ and this time they left their nets, never to look back again. It is easy for an immature Christian to return back to old life habits when things don’t work out. Sometimes our expectation of the Christian life doesn’t go the way we think it should. Sometimes we become confused concerning the will of God, not understanding why He does things the way He does. Times like this can even sometimes cause us to question if our encounter with Christ was real in the first place. It is only after we come to an authentic revelation and the reality of the risen Christ – just as these four disciples did – that we will go all out for His Kingdom, never looking back to the security of our old lives before Christ.

## Monday – Gone fishin’ – life as usual

Read John 21:1-4 1, Kings 19:19-21 and Luke 9:61-62

### Questions for reflection

- In the Greek the implication of “I’m going out to fish” meant that Peter and the others were going back to business as usual. Based on this thought, what do you think Jesus intended when He said, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the Kingdom of God”?
- What was different about what Elisha did after he was called by Elijah than what the disciples did by “going fishing”?
- In present day Christianity we often use the term “backsliding” when we speak of someone who becomes discouraged or disillusioned by Christianity and returns to their old pre-Christian habits and even sin. What would cause this? What do you think might have been missing from that person’s life in the first place?

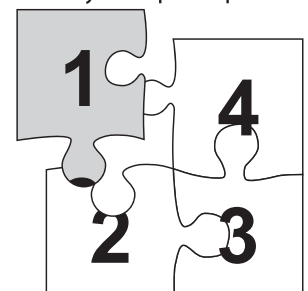
## Tuesday – A miraculous catch

Read John 21:1-14 and Luke 5:1-11

### Questions for reflection

- Notice the similarity between these two stories. Why would Jesus repeat the same miracle, once at the beginning of these fishermen’s calling and again at this time after the resurrection? What was different about the second time He provided a miraculous catch? Why did the second time cause them to go all out for the Kingdom of God?

### Weekly Discipleship Track



## Wednesday – “It’s the Lord!”

Read John 21:4-14 and Luke 24:13-35

### Questions for reflection

1. Life reflection – need for change, hunger for God
2. Presentation of truth – teaching and studying
3. Processing the truth – reflection and debrief in community
4. Life change – response to truth, new habits and actions

- Luke 24 tells the story of the two disciples who were walking on the road to Emmaus after the resurrection. It tells us in vs. 16 that as they were walking Jesus joined them, “but they were kept from recognizing him”. Then in vs. 31 it said that “their eyes were opened and they recognized him”. In many ways this was very similar to Peter and John’s experience. What causes a person’s eyes to open so that they come to recognize Jesus?
- How and when did this happen to you?

## Thursday – Feed my sheep

Read John 21:15-19, Luke 22:31-34 and 54-62

### *Questions for reflection*

- At the conclusion of the Last Supper Jesus made a prophetic proclamation over Peter’s life when He said, “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” Why would Satan try to sift Peter like wheat? How would Peter fail? What did Jesus mean when He said, “When you have turned back...”? (Note: Not only did Jesus predict that Peter would deny Him but He also knew that Peter would turn back.) How did the command to “strengthen your brothers” correlate to the command to “Feed my sheep”?
- Why do you think Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him three times?

## Friday – This testimony is true

Read John 21:20-25 and 1 John 1:1-4

### *Questions for reflection*

- John concludes his Gospel by writing, “This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true”. Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written”. Why is John’s Gospel so important to someone who wants to understand and know Christ in 2000 A.D.? What gives John special credibility?
- Notice how John begins his epistle in 1 John. As he begins convincing his readers that Jesus’ life and ministry is absolutely real he makes a number of statements such as, “...which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched--this we proclaim...we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard...” What makes John’s Gospel and epistles so convincing? Why is John’s Gospel such a good place for a new believer to begin their Christian journey?