

John 21:1-14 (New International Version, ©2011)

¹ Afterward 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 realize 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 around 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 yards. 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, 153, 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.

OASIS: Come Awake, John 21:1-14

Possible starter question: Describe tomorrow. What are your plans? To what are you looking forward? What are you dreading?

Transitional comment: In our story the disciples had plans for their tomorrow. But their plans changed! Together we'll study John 21:1-14 and see how their encounter with Jesus changed their plans, and maybe how it can even change ours.

- Let's listen as to our narrative passage as it is read aloud (Jn 21:1-14).
- *Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead your study, if you haven't already prayed.*

Read and Overview observations: There are four scenes in our passage. Take several minutes alone to dive into the scenes, and ask yourself: Who are the central figures? How are they relating to each other? What is happening? Why is it happening?

Scene 1 (vv. 1-3): Our first scene takes place in the evening, when commercial fishermen went to work.

O Who are these fishermen and how are they introduced?

(n.b. the "Sons of Zebedee" are James and John, the "sons of thunder". Didymus means "twin." "Two other disciples" are possibly Andrew and Philip, who lived in Bethsaida, a town near the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee where this story takes place.)

O How do the disciples respond to Peter's plan in v. 3?

O After spending all night fishing on the sea, what results?

I Suppose at the end of your workday you accomplished nothing. How would you feel?

Scene 2 (vv. 4-6): Our second scene occurs in the early morning, when fishermen concluded their work.

O What does Jesus tell the disciples to do?

I You've been unsuccessfully fishing all night. In the wee hours of the morning a stranger yells out to you, "Try the other side of the boat!" How do you respond?

O How do the disciples respond? What happens (how is the catch described)?

Scene 3 (vv. 7-9): In our third scene, the fishermen realize who told them to try the other side of the boat and go to him.

O How do these disciples respond after they catch the fish?

I What do their responses tell us about Peter? The others?

A Which response might you have at this point? Why?

O What awaits the disciples on the shoreline?

Scene 4 (vv. 10-14): In our fourth and final scene, the disciples encounter the resurrected Jesus.

O What does Jesus tell the disciples to do?

I How do you think Jesus' presence and breakfast preparations affected the disciples?

I After the disciples walked away from that beach, how were their lives changed?
(n.b. It is okay for people to draw upon their general knowledge of Acts and the rest of the New Testament.)

Summary/Conclusion:

A Think about your upcoming day, about tomorrow. How do you want your encounter with Jesus to affect your plans—your approach, attitudes and actions. Identify one or two specifics.

Pray together: that tomorrow would reflect our encounter with the risen Jesus.

Text is on other page or www.Biblegateway.com

- a. BIG idea: Our plans change when we encounter Jesus.
- b. Key verses: Jn 21:7, 8
- c. KEY: O = Observation; I = Interpretation; A = Application (or C = Challenge).

Advice to study leaders:

- d. Complement your OIA questions with “process questions” (what else? what more? What do others of you see/think?).
- e. Determine the core questions you'll ask (know which ones to skip if pressed for time).
- f. Always reword questions in words are comfortable for you (and, if the question doesn't make sense to you, then discard it.)
- g. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. How long do you wait? Take your time; don't rush people but encourage their participation. And avoid answering your own questions!
- h. Timing/pacing: allocate your time and move forward gently, with a steady pace.
- i. Application: Pace the study to conclude with “difference making” application.
- j. Secondary texts—use other texts very sparingly, even if they are relevant. Otherwise, other texts will push you more into the “teacher role,” rather than that of facilitator. It also can cause some people to feel distracted or de-powered.
- k. If you are utilizing this “on-line” study and not part of the OASIS course, I recommend that you get the 1-volume commentary entitled New Bible Commentary, Revised (21st Century Edition, IVP). It is well worth the \$40.