

Third Sunday of Easter

Breakfast on the shore

INTRODUCTION

There are many different ways to show people that we love them: a kiss, a smile, an act of kindness. Jesus appeared to his disciples and prepared a meal to share with them as a sign of his love and friendship.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and say Candle Prayer 2.

SORRY

As we say our Sorry Prayer together, let us ask for God's forgiveness and his help to try again. Ask one of the children to choose a "sorry color" and read the corresponding prayer aloud together.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 3.

GOSPEL (JOHN 21:1-17)

Peter and some of the disciples had been fishing all night but had caught nothing. As daylight dawned, they noticed a man on the shore who called out to them, "Have you caught anything?" As they shook their heads, the stranger said, "Try once more over there!"

They threw their nets back into the water and caught so many fish that their nets were ready to burst. At that moment Peter recognized Jesus, and jumping into the water, he swam to meet him.

On the beach, Jesus had made a fire and was cooking breakfast for Peter and his friends. After they had eaten, Jesus turned to Peter and asked, "Do you love me?"

"Yes, Lord, you know that I love you," Peter said. Jesus asked Peter this question three times, and after he had answered, Jesus told Peter about the work he wanted him to do.

DISCUSSION

What made Peter recognize Jesus that day? Jesus

told Peter and the other disciples to cast their nets again, and suddenly they found them full of fish. Peter knew that only the son of God had the power to work such a miracle.

When the disciples found Jesus on the shore, he was preparing breakfast for them as a sign of his love and friendship. Jesus wanted to share a meal with his friends, just as he had done many times before, to prove to them that he was truly alive.

Have you ever prepared a meal for a special occasion to show how much you cared for someone? Perhaps you have helped to bake a birthday cake or brought breakfast in bed for one of your family.

When they had finished eating, Jesus asked Peter the same question three times, "Do you love me?" Each time Peter answered, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you." Why do you think Jesus might have asked this on three occasions?

When Jesus was arrested, Peter was asked three times whether he was a friend of Jesus, and each time he said, "No." Jesus gave Peter another chance to prove his love for him. He wanted Peter to know that he trusted in his love, and wanted Peter to share this love and faith with the rest of the world.

When we celebrate the eucharist, we gather together at a special meal, where Jesus shares himself with us in a very special way.

ACTIVITY

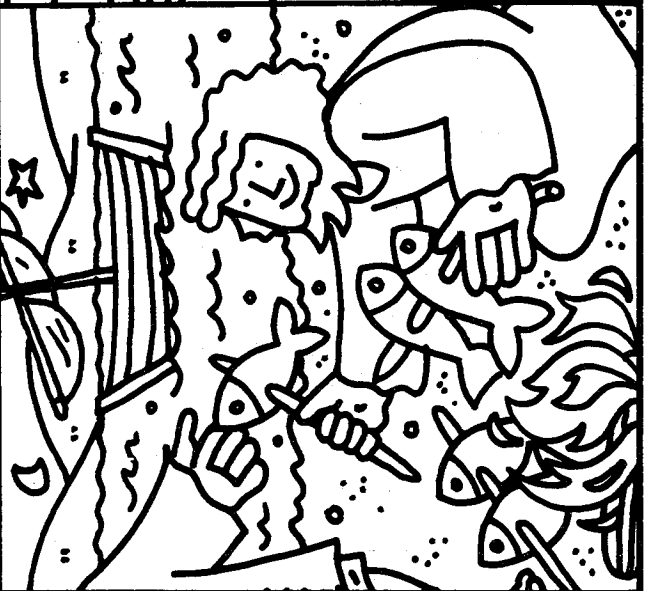
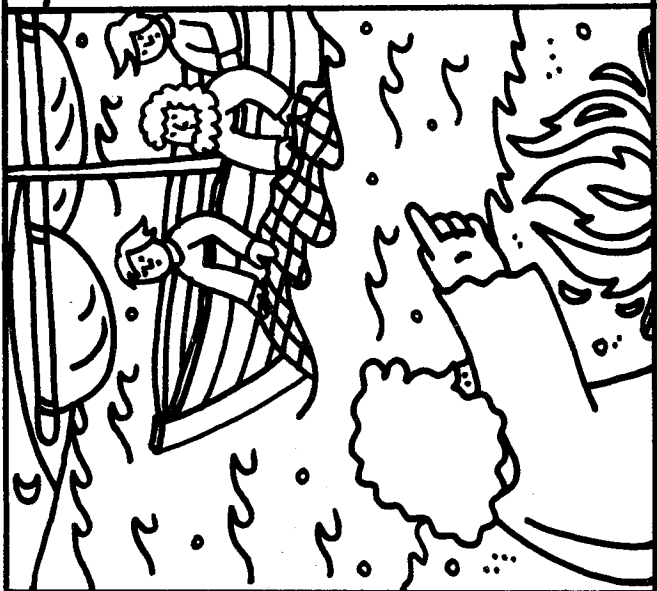
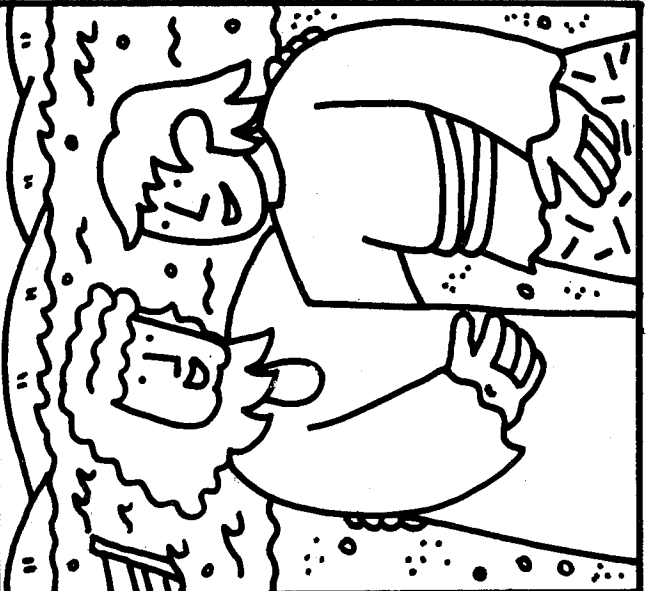
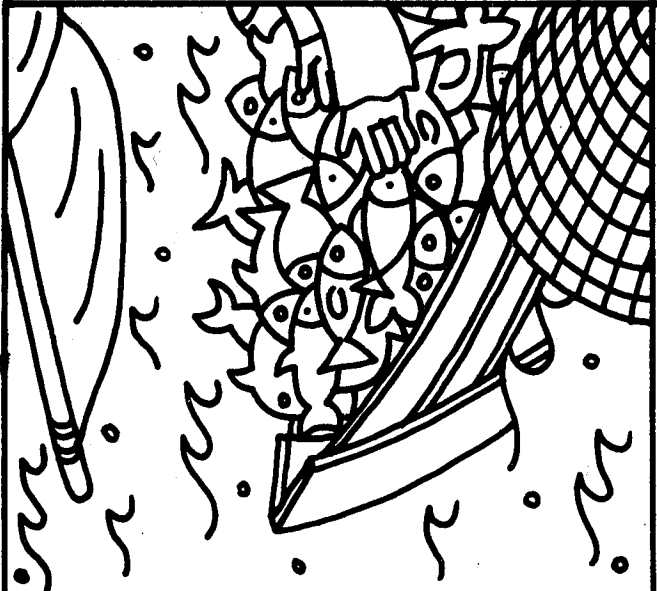
Help the children to retell today's Gospel story in their own words and to imagine the scene. Ask them to draw a picture of Jesus preparing breakfast for his friends that morning on the shore.

Or, the children can rewrite the story as a small book using the drawings found on the opposite page.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, help us to recognize you
in the world around us
and to show how much we love you
by our words and actions.



JESUS!
ON
THE
SHORE

