

Dear Parents,

What a busy time we have had today with the story about Jesus and the Fishermen! Our special word for the day was help. Jesus helps us and He wants us to help others.

The members of your family are in a unique position to help each other at play and at work. If everyone works together, there is more time to play together.

Believe it or not, helping around the house can be fun if you do it together. Write all the jobs to be done on slips of paper and put them into a basket. Each person draws out one slip. The little ones can help the older ones with their jobs. Then have a good time by singing as you work. Rounds, such as "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" are fun. It makes the time go faster if you work and play together.

Is it hard to get everyone to cooperate? Try making it into a family project. Realize that you are not alone, but have Jesus to help you. Pray as a family, asking God to do His work through you as He teaches you how to love and help and work and play day by day.

We tend sometimes to be our nicest to people outside the family - even perfect strangers. Then, in the stress of everyday living, we forget that the members of our own family deserve to be treated best of all. But God is ready to help us in our family relationships if we will just ask Him. Here is a slogan to help you remember. You might even want to copy it onto a plaque or banner for the wall.

On our own, we can't do it - but God can!

Your Child's Teachers

Jesus and the Fishermen

John 21: 1 - 13

Bible Story Bookmark: FISH. *Hide the bookmark in the Bible. Let the children guess what it is. Use it to introduce the story. "Today's Bible story is about some fish. 153 to be exact! The fishermen could not catch them. The fishermen were sad. But Jesus helped them. It was a miracle!"*

Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James, John, and two other friends of Jesus were all together. "I'm going fishing," said Peter. "We're coming with you!" said the others. So they got into their boat and away they sailed.

All that night the seven friends fished and fished and fished. But they did not catch even one fish. The next morning, as the sun was coming up, they saw Jesus standing by the water. (But they didn't know yet that it was Jesus). He called to them. "Have you caught anything?" They answered, "No! We have been fishing all night, but haven't caught even one fish. There just are not any fish in this lake!"

Then Jesus told them what to do. "Put your net on the other side of the boat," He said. So they did. Soon the net was so full of fish they could hardly pull it in. John said "It's Jesus! He helped us catch all these fish. Only Jesus could do that!"

The fishermen hurried to the shore, bringing the net of fish. Peter counted them. Can you guess how many there were? One hundred and fifty three! More fish than they had ever caught before.

Jesus made a campfire by the beach. He was cooking their breakfast. "Bring some of the fish you caught," He told them. And soon they were having a delicious breakfast of fish and bread.