

Hope in the Forgiveness

STORY

Jesus and the picnic on the beach

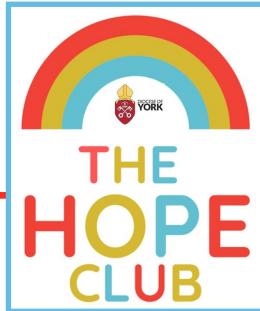
John 21

The disciples knew that Jesus was alive again but it was still a scary and confusing time. One night they went fishing on Lake Tiberius, but they didn't catch a thing. Early in the morning Jesus appeared on the shore but they didn't realise it was him. He shouted "Friends, have you caught anything?" When they said they hadn't he told them to put their net down on the other side of the boat. They did and the net was so full of fish that they could not drag it up into the boat. They started to realise that the stranger was Jesus. Peter was so excited he jumped out of the boat and rushed to the shore.

Eventually the disciples were able to haul the full net on to the shore. There were 153 large fish in it, but it had not ripped. Jesus had made a small fire on the beach to cook the fish and they picnicked on bread and fish. This was the third time Jesus had appeared to his disciples after he was raised from death. There wasn't much talk, the disciples just feasted their eyes upon him.

Peter was so pleased to see Jesus but felt ashamed because what Jesus had said about him denying he knew Jesus had come true. When they had finished eating, Jesus spoke to Peter giving him the opportunity to say how much he loved him. Offering Peter, not just forgiveness, but restoration. He gave Peter the important job of looking after all his followers.

Animated video from Saddleback kids
<https://youtu.be/Ppb9bKX1r7k>



READY STEADY

Pretend your chair or sofa is a boat. Throw your nets over the side to catch some fish. When you have finished hauling them in, climb out of the boat and settle down on the beach for a picnic and story.

DO

Make 'forgiveness hearts' by writing the name of someone you have upset or someone you need to forgive on a paper heart. Cut the heart into a few pieces and then put it back together like a jigsaw. This is what Jesus did when he forgave Peter—put his heart back together.

Have a go at making some fish shaped biscuits.

Make fishing game with magnets and pipe cleaners.

PLAY

If you have a garden or yard, play 'beach volleyball' seeing how long you can keep the ball off the ground.

Play 'hot barbequed fish' by passing a ball or a fish-like object around the circle to some music. If you are holding it when the music stops, you lose a point. Start with five points each and see who has the most after several rounds.

WONDER TOGETHER

About what you would be thinking and feeling if you were Peter in this story

Make a Scene!
The moment when the disciples start to work out who is on the shore

PRAY

Put a cup of vinegar and two tablespoons of salt in a container with a lid. Take some copper coins and think about parts of your life where you might have let others down or things you would like to say sorry for. As you put each coin in the container say sorry to God for whatever it represents. Put the lid on and shake. Take the coins out and rinse with water. See how shiny they are and thank Jesus for forgiveness and fresh starts.