

Entering In:

We read the essence of the gospel in chapter 20, "These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). Among the seven miracles that were written in John, which miracle is most meaningful for you? Why?

- A. Changing water to wine (2:1-11)*
- B. Healing the official's son (4:46-54)*
- C. Healing the paralytic (5:1-9)*
- D. Feeding the 5,000 (6:1-15)*
- E. Walking on the water (6:16-21)*
- F. Healing a man born blind (9:1-12)*
- H. Raising Lazarus (11:1-16)*

1. Where were the disciples, and what were they doing?

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples. List at least 5 *differences* between this appearance of Christ and the previous two appearances documented by John (20:19ff, 26ff.).

2. In 20:21, Jesus commissioned the disciples to a ministry of teaching others about him and the Kingdom of God. How do you explain the fact that they were out fishing instead of teaching? [Try to understand the disciples' feelings and spiritual conditions]

3. When Jesus stood on the shore, why do you think the disciples didn't recognize him?

Why did Jesus ask the question in verse 5?

What was Jesus' command to the disciples and what were the results?

What does this tell you about Jesus?

4. There is a strikingly similar story recorded in Luke 5:1-11. List at least 5 *differences* between the story in Luke and the text in John.

Focusing on Peter, how would you explain the difference between the way he responded to Jesus in Luke 5:8 and John 21:7?

Which of these responses would you say is most like how you would respond to Jesus if he were to appear to you today? Explain why.

What might the disciples have remembered at this point from the previous fishing story (Luke 5:10)?

How does this account strengthen your faith that Jesus literally rose from the dead?

5. What did Jesus provide for them? (verse 9)

Why do you think Jesus asked the disciples to bring their fish when fish were already on the fire (verse 10)?

How has Jesus provided for you?

6. Three invitations of Jesus are recorded in John's Gospel. Fill in the blanks and explain what each one symbolizes.

A. "Come and _____" (John 1:39)

B. "Come and _____" (John 7:37)

C. "Come and _____" (John 21:12)

7. There have been many allegorical explanations of the meaning of the "153" fish. Which of the following explanations makes the most sense to you? Why?

- A. That was merely the count of fish as most fishermen would know exactly how many they caught.
- B. That was the exact number since the disciples counted the fish to divide them.
- C. The sum of the Greek letters of "Simon" and "Fish" is 153; the fish represent the converts.
- D. 153 is the number of fish species, symbolizing many (all) nations.
- E. 153 is to be divided to symbolize the trinity: $153 = (50 \times 3) + 3$.
- F. There is no hidden meaning in it. It is just a good "fish story".
- G. Other

What does the fact that the net was not broken in verse 11 imply?

How do you personally enjoy fellowship with Jesus?

Living It Out:

Pray to be faithful to Jesus' calling to his church and ministry.

