



UNBELIEVABLE

JESUS' RESURRECTION APPEARANCES

IPHC CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM

MIRACULOUS CATCH OF FISH

BIBLE PASSAGE

John 21:1, 3-8, 13 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

Jesus does the unbelievable.

FOCUS VERSE

“Stop doubting and believe.” John 20:27 (NIV)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Go Fish or Playing Cards | Fish Outline | Crayons | Decoration Add-Ons (Optional)
| Scissors |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- What is your favorite hobby?
- What is one new thing you learned this week?

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Worship for as long as the children will stay engaged. Sing their favorite songs (allow them to make requests if possible), and enjoy the presence of the Lord together.



YOU MAY HAVE CHILDREN WHO DON'T PARTICIPATE IN WORSHIP. DON'T GET IMPATIENT OR FRUSTRATED WITH THEM, BUT DO ENCOURAGE THEM TO ENGAGE. ASK WHAT KIND OF MUSIC THEY LIKE. IF IT'S SLOWER MUSIC, TRY A SLOWER WORSHIP SONG. IF IT'S UPBEAT MUSIC, TRY A FASTER WORSHIP SONG. WE CAN WORSHIP WITH ALL DIFFERENT STYLES OF MUSIC!

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Gather the children for prayer. Ask for a volunteer to pray for the day.

SAMPLE PRAYER: “God, You are amazing! Each week, we can’t wait to be here and learn more about who You are. Teach us to believe in You and what You say. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

Review the weeks in the unit using the puzzle pieces.

BACKGROUND: Say, “We are learning about Jesus’ unbelievable acts. Remember, unbelievable means that something that is so incredible and so surprising that it’s hard, almost impossible, to believe! Who can tell me what happened in one of our unbelievable stories this month?”

Week 1: Jesus is mistaken for a ghost when He appears to His disciples.

Week 2: Jesus supernaturally appears to Thomas and shows Him the holes in His hands.

“Right! **Jesus does the unbelievable!** Who is ready to hear another unbelievable story? Me too! Can I have a volunteer to put up our new puzzle piece?”

TRANSITION: Say, “Let’s play a game to get our minds ready for today’s story!”

ENGAGE – 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Go Fish or standard playing cards (1 deck per group) |

Say, “Our game is going to be one I think a lot of you already know how to play! Who knows how to play Go Fish? Wow! Great! That’s what we will be playing today. Are we ready?”

GAME GOAL: The player with the most pairs (or 2-of-a-kinds) wins.

HOW TO PLAY:



MODEL HOW TO PLAY GO FISH WITH A STUDENT VOLUNTEER BEFORE THE GROUPS BEGIN THEIR GAMES.

1. Recite the “Game Goal” from above.
2. Deal the cards. For groups of 2-3 children, deal each player 7 cards. If there are more than 3 Players, deal 5 cards each. The rest of the deck is then placed face down in the middle of the players. This is called the “pool.”
3. Each player gets a turn in clockwise order. During a turn, a player asks another player if they have a particular card.
For example, the player may ask Katie if she has any nines. If Katie has any nines, she must give all of her nines to the player. If Katie doesn’t have any nines, then she says, “go fish.”
4. When you “go fish,” you take any card from the “pool.”
5. If the player gets the card they asked for, either from the “pool” or from Katie, they get another turn, and they put the matching cards face up in front of them.
6. The game is over when one player runs out of cards, or there are no more cards in the pool.
7. The winner is determined by who has the most pairs of cards in front of them.
8. Allow the children to play as time permits.

MODIFICATION: You can use either “Go Fish” cards or a regular deck of cards. NOTE: If you use a regular deck of cards, explain that the color and suit doesn’t matter, but the number does. For example, if Student A has a 4 of hearts and Student B has a 4 of Spades, Student A should only ask, “Student B, do you have a 4?”

TRANSITION: Say, "Great job playing our game! I hope whenever you play Go Fish again, you'll think of today's story. Are you ready to hear it?"

LEARN — 15 MINUTES

Say, "This week's story is unbelievable! If you remember from last week, Jesus is coming to show His people that He is alive. Jesus does this because He loves them so much! Now, don't forget to listen for what our game of Go Fish has to do with this story! Here we go." Read John 21:1, 3-8, 13 (ICB).



(CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT) TO INCREASE ENGAGEMENT, TELL THE KIDS: "EVERY TIME YOU HEAR THE WORD 'FISH' IN OUR STORY, RAISE YOUR HAND QUICKLY AND THEN LOWER IT AGAIN. LET'S SEE HOW MANY YOU CAN FIND!"

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee.[a] It happened this way:3 "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them [the disciples], 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 (robe) around him and jumped into the water. 8 The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish. 13 None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord.

Say, "What an unbelievable story! **Jesus does the unbelievable** again! Who was listening closely? Great! Well, I need your help with this next question:"

- Ask, "What was unbelievable about this story?" (Answers could include: Jesus appeared miraculously, Jesus knew where the fish were, Jesus gathered so many fish into the nets, the nets didn't break, the disciples caught so many fish they couldn't pull them into the boat, etc.)

"Jesus does the unbelievable! Do you see now why we played Go Fish? This story is called the 'Miraculous Catch of Fish.' Jesus' disciples recognized Jesus when they saw Him perform this miracle. **Jesus really does the unbelievable!**"

TRANSITION: Say, "Let's talk about our story!"

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Discuss the story with your group.



FEEL FREE TO ASK YOUR OWN QUESTIONS, AND ENCOURAGE THE CHILDREN TO ASK QUESTIONS TOO. THIS WILL DEEPEN DISCUSSION AND MAKE IT MORE PERSONAL.

1. Who does the unbelievable?

Response: Jesus.

2. Why do you think Jesus does not tell the disciples who He is?

Response: Answers will vary.

3. How did Peter know it was Jesus on the shore?

Response: This was a miraculous event that only Jesus could have done. Peter had seen Jesus do similar unbelievable miracles.

4. How did Peter react to Jesus when he pulled up the net full of fish? Why do you think Peter was so excited?

Response: He was so excited to see his Lord and friend that he jumped into the water to get to Jesus as quickly as he could.

5. How do you think you would have reacted if you had been in that boat?

Response: Answers will vary.

6. What do we learn about God in this story?

Response: God is all-knowing, God cares about the little things, God surprises us with His presence, God provides for us, etc.

TRANSITION: Say, “**Jesus does the unbelievable.** Great job listening to the story and answering questions.”

RESPOND — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Fish Outline | Crayons | Decoration Add-Ons (Optional: Listed Below) |

Say, “The activity we are doing now will help you remember our unbelievable story. Let’s start!”

- Provide each child with a fish outline.
- Color the fish. Decorate it with add-ons (optional).
- NOTE: Do not put decorations on top of the words, “Jesus



REINFORCE THE BIBLE STORY AND BIG IDEA AS CHILDREN WORK ON THE ACTIVITY. ASKING DIFFERENT CHILDREN TO RETELL THE STORY IN THEIR OWN WORDS WILL HELP WITH COMPREHENSION AND STORY RETENTION.

MODIFICATION: Optional decorations to make “fish scales” include: tissue paper, sequins, puffy paint, muffin liners, tin foil, macaroni noodles, or beads. This is not an exhaustive list—add whatever you have in your supply closets.

TRANSITION: Say, “**Jesus does the unbelievable!** He knew exactly where the fish were and did the unbelievable by making it possible for the disciples to catch so many fish. **Jesus does the unbelievable** in our lives too.”

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "Let's practice the verse of the month together. Our verse is a reminder to stop doubting and believe in Jesus." Before practicing your verse as a group, see if any of the children want to say it from memory.

"Stop doubting (Extend your left hand, palm upward. Sharply bring the side of your right hand down to your left palm in a "chopping" motion) and believe (point to both of your temples)." John 20:27 (NIV) (hold your hands like a book)



OUR ACTION FOR "STOP DOUBTING" IS THE SAME AS THE AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE MOTION FOR "STOP." LOOK ONLINE FOR THE MOTION FOR "STOP" FOR A SIMPLE VISUAL.

CHALLENGE: One way to help children memorize the monthly verses, is to post them in the classroom for easy reference.

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, "**Jesus does the unbelievable!** I am so grateful we serve a God who makes His unbelievable power known to us. Did you know that Jesus is still with us today? Even though we can't see Him, He is still there—always! Jesus uses the Holy Spirit to speak to us, and He still works miraculously! Isn't that great news!"



TEACH THE CHILDREN WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES. SAY, "JOHN 14:16 SAYS THE HELPER IS IN US 'TO HELP YOU AND BE WITH YOU FOREVER.'"

SAMPLE PRAYER: *"Lord, thank You for doing the unbelievable in the disciple's lives and ours! Please help us believe in You and see You for who you really are. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

RELEASE —

If there is extra time before parents arrive, children can replay the ENGAGE game, review the story, or continue decorating their fish.



