

Story-Meal for
John 21

Salad: Mixed field greens with strawberries, pecans
and a balsamic vinaigrette

Entrée: Grilled halibut with a pineapple mango salsa,
coconut rice, roasted asparagus and red peppers.

Unleavened bread (flat bread)

There is to be a storyteller at each table, who will act as host (hostess) and will lead the activities. In the middle of the table is a big cup with strips of paper (the eight questions) sticking out. This will be used later during the meal.

After opening prayer, the storyteller follows these instructions.

1. Introduce yourself, and have each person introduce themselves. Ask them to only give their name and where they are from. Normally they could say more, but the activities are about to start, and there is only enough time for name and location.
2. Briefly explain how all the food will represent part of the story.
 - Salad – they ate the meal on the ground.
 - Bread & Fish – the food Jesus served his disciples.
 - Rice – There is a meaning for the rice,
but it will be a part of the discussion later.
3. Begin telling the story. Go up to the part where the disciples have fished all night and not caught anything (before Jesus appearing on the shore).
4. Send one volunteer up to where the waiters/waitresses are standing.
5. Two people will come and stand next to your table. One of them will hand you a small piece of paper with nothing on it. Tell that person your table is ready for the food. They will ignore you. Keep asking. They will tell you no, but you keep asking anyway.
6. Finally someone will tell the entire room, “Ask the waiter on the other side.” At that point, you will turn to the other waiter and ask for your food. They will go get it, and the first “waiter will sit down at your table.
7. Continue telling the story through the big catch, and up to where Jesus feeds them bread and fish.
8. Once the salad is on the table, explain how the disciples ate this meal outside, on the ground, next to the lake, in the early morning. Have everyone give suggestions of what the various parts in the salad could mean.
9. Tell the rest of the story once the salad is eaten and you are waiting for the main course (even if it comes quickly).

10. Point out the bread is “flat bread,” the type Jesus would have made.
11. Jesus told Peter to “Feed my lambs” “Feed my sheep.” He was talking to Peter about ministry. Peter would preach and 3,000 people would accept Jesus as their messiah. Later there would be 5,000 – and later “multitudes upon multitudes.” Each grain of rice represents a sheep in Peter’s ministry. As the food is being eaten, encourage everyone to tell a “Ministry Story.” It could be:
 - Peter – a lamb/sheep ministry God gave him.
 - Personal – a “feed my lamb/sheep” ministry God has lead you in.
 - Someone else – a “feed my lamb/sheep” ministry you heard about.These should be short so everyone can get involved.
12. Once the ministry discussion is over, take turns pulling a question out of the mug in the middle of the table. Lead a table discussion on each question.

Questions:

- What is the significance of them going fishing?
- Why did they fish all night?
- Why were they only fishing from one side of the boat?
- Why was Peter undressed while in the boat fishing, and why did he dress before jumping into the water?
- Why would they count the fish?
- How do you cook fish on an open fire?
- What kind of discussion were they having around the fire?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What is your favorite part of the story?

Catching Fish

Some time later, a few of the disciples were at the Sea of Galilee. Peter said to the others, "I'm going fishing." They said they would go with him.

They went out in a boat and fished all night, but didn't catch anything. In the dim of early morning, a man stood on shore and asked, "Have you caught any fish?"

"No."

"Cast your net on the right side of the boat."

They did, and suddenly the net was full of fish. John turned to Peter. "It's the Lord."

When Peter heard that, he wrapped his clothes around him, jumped into the water, and swam for shore. The others came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish.

Once they got to the shore, they saw bread and fish cooking over a fire. Jesus turned to them, "Bring me some more fish." Peter got up and helped haul in the net which had 153 large fish.

Renewing Fellowship

Once everything was ready, Jesus called out, "Come and eat." They all gathered around and He gave them bread and fish to eat. When they were done, Jesus directed a question to Peter. "Simon, do you love Me more than these?"

Peter was surprised by the question, "Yes, Lord. I love You."

"Then feed my lambs."

Before Peter could ask about this, Jesus asked a second time, "Simon, do you love Me?"

"Yes Lord, you know I love You."

"Then feed My sheep."

Yet a third time, Jesus asked the question. "Simon, do you love Me?"

Peter was greatly moved by this. He said, "Lord You know all things. You know I love You."

Jesus looked right into his eyes and said, "Then feed My sheep."

"Listen to me carefully. When you were young, you went wherever you wanted. But when you get old, someone else will take you where you don't want to go." Jesus said this to indicate how Peter would die and that his death would bring glory to God.

Then Jesus said to him, "Follow me!"