

appears on the board. It is large, true, solid, strong, and is one fitted to be built upon. It is a foundation-stone; one that will not crumble or wear away. It has stood the test of centuries; it is eternal. On it we build our faith? Why? All read.

APPLICATION.—He is ever present, ever living—a loving, guiding, helping Saviour.

Primary and Intermediate.

LESSON THOUGHT. *Jesus Offering Food.*

This lesson may be effectively taught as a picture lesson. The board must be prepared beforehand with a series of pictures either drawn or cut out and fastened to the board; or the two may be combined. The pictures should be covered, and the covers only removed when necessary. For the first picture make a bit of sky with yellow stars in it, some waves of the sea, and a boat. For the next a sea-shore, a hint of the rising sun, and the figure of a man on the shore. The next, a fish-net, and, last, a table with food on it, or an outstretched hand offering bread.

1. *The night of toil.* [Uncover the first picture.] Tell that Jesus had been seen twice since he rose from the dead by the disciples. [Let some child tell what he said to Thomas on one of these occasions.] Now some disciples had been out fishing all night. There was Peter [let children count as you name them], James and John, Thomas, Nathanael, and two whose names are not told us. They were all in a fishing-boat. They went in the evening and fished all night, but caught nothing. Do you not think they would be tired and hungry when morning came? Yes, and disappointed, too. They needed to catch fish to sell, so as to get money to buy food and clothes. But they had caught none, and perhaps had no money to buy food for their breakfast.

[Uncover the second picture.] The boat is coming toward the land now. Here is the shore. In the dim light they see a man standing on the shore. Hark! he is calling to them: "Children, have ye any meat?"

"No," they answer.

"Cast the net on the right side of the ship," the voice calls back, "and ye shall find."

[Uncover the picture of a net.] Do you know what this is? Yes, this is the kind of net which is used to catch fishes. The disciples had watched all night to feel the tug on the net which tells that the fish are coming into it. At last they drew the empty net into the boat and laid it down in the bottom.

They did not know who called to them to throw out the net, but they did it right away. May be they thought that the man on the shore saw something in the water near them which looked as if there might be fish there.

Right away the net began to grow heavy with the fishes in it, and they could not get it in the boat!

John, the disciple who loved Jesus so much, said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" He understood that this was a miracle.

And then Peter was so glad that he jumped into the water to swim to the shore. The others came in the boat dragging the heavy net after them.

Do you not think they were glad to see Jesus again?

[Uncover the last picture.] Who had made a fire and cooked breakfast for the tired fishermen? Think of it! The risen Lord himself! Just the same thoughtful, loving Christ whom they had known and followed for three years. And do not forget, children, that he is just as loving and thoughtful now as he was that morning so long ago.



Practical Lessons. Once when Jesus was talking to the disciples he had said he would make them "fishers of men" (chap. 13). Perhaps he sent them this great net full of fishes after the tire-some night's work just to teach them never to be discouraged in trying to do his work.

A long time ago some good missionaries went to an island where all the people were savages to teach them about Jesus and his love for them. They worked and prayed for eleven years before one heathen gave up his idols! What a long night's work that was! But after this so many people became Christians that in a little while there was not one heathen left on the island!

The sending of the hundred and fifty-three fishes into the net teaches us a lesson of trust in our loving, watching Lord.

There is another sweet lesson in the table which our Lord spread for his disciples. He has plenty of food for each one of us. You get some of Jesus's food every time you come to Sunday-school, and in a great many places besides.

How sorry Jesus would have been if one of the disciples had refused to eat his breakfast! And how sorry he is now when we will not take the sweet food of love and gratitude and obedience he offers to give us!

OPTIONAL HYMNS.

No. 1.

There's a wideness,
Break thou the bread.
Fear not.
All for Thee.
My Jesus, as thou wilt,