

Crossword Puzzle

Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

May 5, 2019

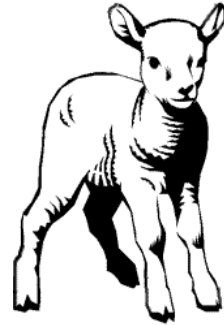
Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]

Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

Third Sunday of Easter



Do you enjoy fishing? I have heard some people say that they enjoy fishing even if they never catch a fish. They say that they just enjoy the peace and relaxation of fishing. I will have to confess, it doesn't sound like much fun to sit in a boat holding a fishing pole without ever catching any fish. How about you? Imagine that you have been sitting in a boat fishing all night without catching a single fish. As the sun begins to come up you can see someone standing at the edge of the water. "Hi!" he calls out. "Have you had any luck?"

"I haven't caught a thing," you answer.

"Well, if you would put your fishing pole on the right-hand side of the boat, you would catch a lot of fish."

Would you try it, or would you say to yourself, "That's the craziest thing I've ever heard. What difference does it make which side of the boat I am fishing from?"

Well, that is almost exactly what happened in our Bible lesson for today. Several of Jesus' disciples were gathered beside the Sea of Galilee. The group included Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathaniel, and James and John, the sons of Zebedee.

Suddenly, Peter said, "I'm going fishing."

"We'll come too," the others said. So they got in the boat and they fished all night, but caught nothing."

As the sun came up, Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn't make out who it was. Jesus called out to them, "Have you caught any fish?"

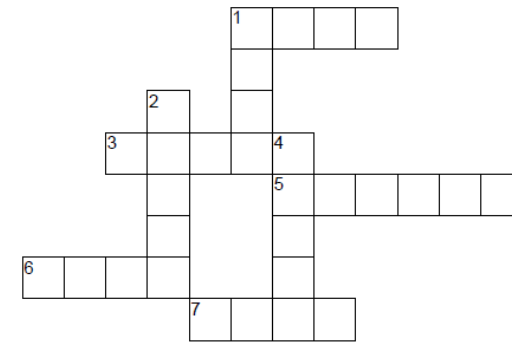
"Not a thing," the disciples called back.

"Throw your nets on the right-hand side of the boat and you'll catch some!"

Did they do it? Yes they did! Did they catch any fish? They caught so many fish that they couldn't even pull the net into the boat! Then the disciple that Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Lord!" When Peter heard that, he jumped into the water and headed for shore. The others stayed with the boat and dragged the loaded net to the shore. When they got there, they found Jesus cooking breakfast -- fish over a charcoal fire and some bread.

"Bring some of the fish you've just caught," Jesus said. Peter dragged the net to the shore and there were 153 large fish. "Now, come and have some breakfast," Jesus said. Then Jesus served them fish and bread.

Oh my! It just doesn't get any better than that. Breakfast on the beach with the risen Lord! What would have happened if the disciples had refused to throw their nets on the right-hand side of the boat? They would have missed out on a wonderful breakfast on the beach with Jesus. What happens when you and I refuse to do the things Jesus has called us to do? We miss out on the wonderful blessings that he wants for us! Loving God, we know that you have wonderful blessings in store for us when we faithfully follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Help us to listen for your voice and to follow where you lead us. Amen.



ACROSS

1. A young sheep
3. Woolly animals similar to goats
5. Taking food into the body through the mouth
6. To give food to be eaten
7. The Almighty, Creator, God; the One we worship

DOWN

1. A deep, tender, feeling of affection toward another person
2. The person or thing following the first and second
4. A fisherman who was one of Jesus' disciples

LAMB
LORD

FEED
PETER

EATING
SHEEP

THIRD
LOVE

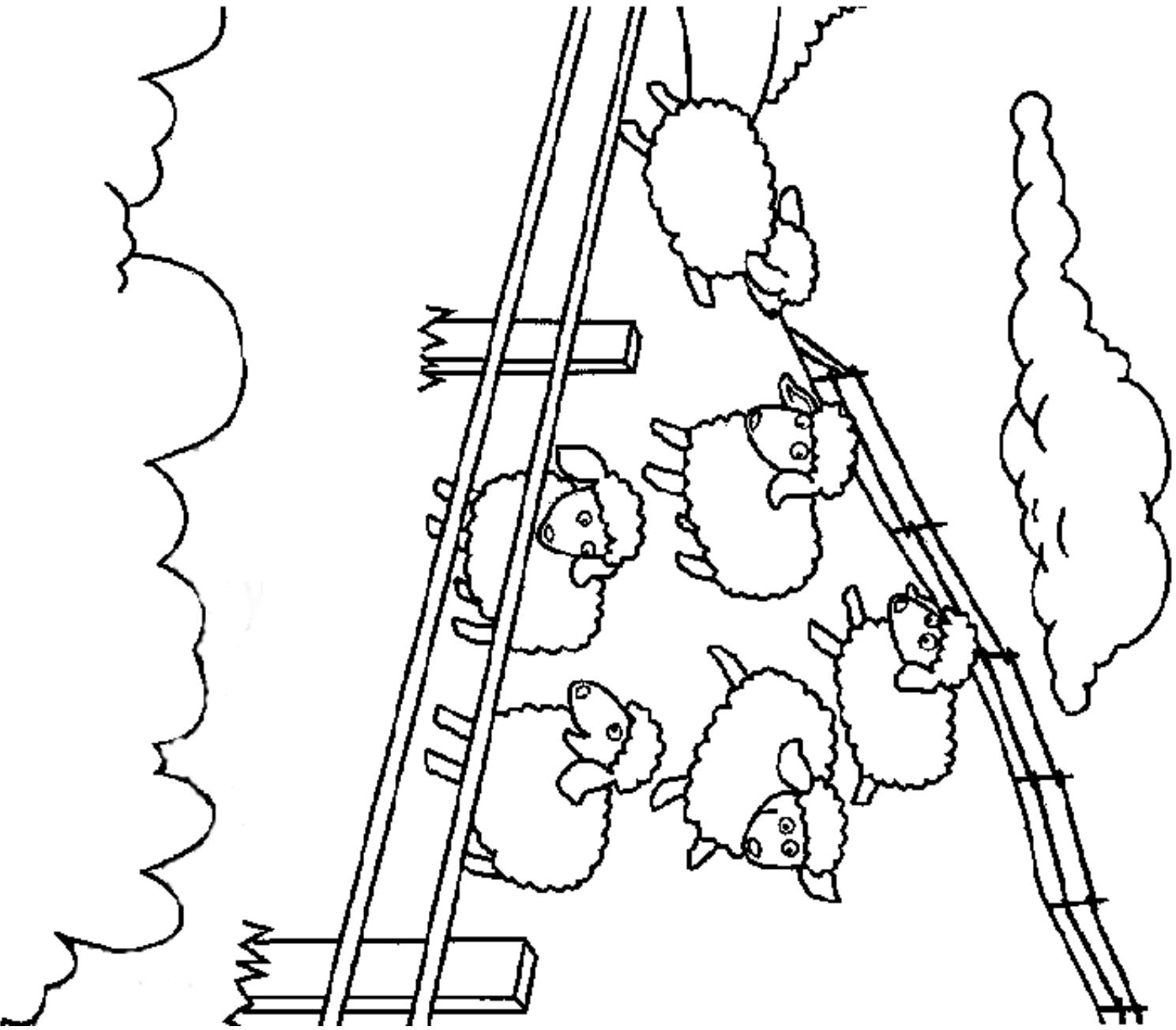
Activity and Discussion: Have the children count out 153 Goldfish and put them in a jar, then put only 1 Goldfish in a jar. Which one is more appealing? 153, of course! God gave us life so that we may live it abundantly. 153 is certainly more abundant than 1. When we follow God's will for our lives and listen for God's voice to guide us, our blessings overflow with goodness. How can we listen for God?

Family Table Prayer for May:

Thank you, God, for the gift of bread
For cool water and a comfy bed
For all our needs that you take care
And for all of your children, everywhere. Amen.

May Memory Verse: Exodus 20:12 Honor your Mother and Father so that your days will be long in the land the LORD has given you.

Coloring Page



"Do You Love Me? Feed My Sheep."
John 21:15-19