



Barbecue on the Beach: Enthusiasm for Jesus

A Meal Ritual

Table Center

A toy boat filled with paper or plastic fish

Preparation

Have an outdoor picnic or barbecue meal.

✝ We Gather...

Invite those gathered to share some of the things, people, or events in their lives that they still get excited about, such as birthdays, a visit from a special friend, special holidays, etc.

Invite everyone to take one of the fish from the boat and write or draw on it something about Jesus that they find exciting. Have them share that with the group then place it beside the boat.

✝ We Tell the Story...

Invite someone to proclaim the Gospel reading...

Simon Peter, Thomas the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, and the brothers James and John, were there, together with two other disciples. Simon Peter said, "I'm going fishing!"

The others said, "We will go with you." They went out in their boat. But they didn't catch a thing that night.

Early the next morning Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize who he was. Jesus shouted, "Friends, have you caught anything?"

"No!" they answered.

So he told them, "Let your net down on the right side of your boat, and you will catch some fish."

They did, and the net was so full of fish that they could not drag it up into the boat.

Jesus' favorite disciple told Peter, "It's the Lord!" When Simon heard that it was the Lord, he put on the clothes that he had taken off while he was working. Then he jumped into the water. The boat was only about a hundred yards from shore. So the other disciples stayed in the boat and dragged in the net full of fish.

When the disciples got out of the boat, they saw some bread and a charcoal fire with fish on it. Jesus told his disciples, "Bring some of the fish you just caught." Simon Peter got back into the boat and dragged the net to shore. In it were one hundred fifty-three large fish, but still the net did not rip.

Jesus said, "Come and eat!" But none of the disciples dared ask who he was. They knew he was the Lord. (John 21:2-12)

✚ We Share a Meal...

Place the meal on the table.

Pray together...

Creator God, you give us so much to be excited about—friends, family, nature, daily surprises. Send your Spirit upon us to bless us with the gift of enthusiasm for our faith. Bless this food before us. May it give us energy to be passionate about being loved and chosen by you. Amen.

As the meal is being shared, invite those gathered at the table to discuss...

- Can you name a time when you felt excited about being loved by Jesus? Share some details about that with the group.
- How does one keep excitement for Jesus alive in one's life?

✚ We Go Forth...

Conclude by saying...

As soon as Simon Peter realized it was Jesus standing on the shore, he hopped from the boat and swam the 100 yards to the shore. How do we show enthusiasm for our faith? What excites us about our faith? How does Eucharist feed our excitement? Are we excited to be receiving the body and blood of Jesus at Eucharist? Are we excited when we recognize Jesus in the world around us? The challenge for us as we leave this meal is to be as excited as Peter—to hop from the boats of our lives in the excitement of seeing Jesus.

We pray...

Bless us with enthusiasm for you Jesus. May we be as excited about seeing you in our neighbors and daily events as we are when we receive you in Eucharist. We ask this in the name of God the Father who excitedly created us and the Spirit who continues to energize us. Amen.

