

Each month we have a special memory verse and Life App. All of our stories revolve around those.

This month's Memory Verse is:

"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 16:33b, NIV

This month's life app is

HOPE

"Believing that something good can come out of something bad"

Weekly, we have a different bottom line that goes with our story and Life App So far this month our bottom lines have been:

- 1) **Whatever happens, remember God is always at work** (The Crucifixion)
- 2) **Whatever happens, remember God loves you** (The Resurrection)

The **Bottom Line** this week:

Whatever happens, remember you can always trust God (The Miraculous Catch)

Again, today's story comes from the book of John. John chapter 21 verses 1-19

The apostles were all very happy that Jesus had been raised from the dead. They had seen Jesus 2 times since he had been resurrected, but they missed Him very much. They were still confused as to what they were to do now. Where were they supposed to go? What was going to happen?

One day Peter said, "I'm going out to fish." Thomas, Nathanael, James and John and two other disciples decided to go along with him.

They all went to the Sea of Galilee and got into a boat and set out. The way the fishermen would fish was to put their nets into the water and slowly pull them up to see if there were fish inside. Often, people would fish at night because lots of fish came to the surface of the water being attracted to the lights from the boats that shined on the water's surface. This made it easier for the fishermen to get a good catch. Usually that worked well, but not this time. Peter, James, John and the others fished all night but they did not catch any fish. Not One! They tried all night long. Throwing the net on the right side of the boat then on the left, again & again, but they just couldn't catch any fish.

They were probably extremely tired and pretty discouraged too.

Early the next morning, as they were hauling in their nets, they looked up and saw someone on the beach. The man called out to them

"Friends, have you caught any fish?"

John 21:5

When they said no the man called out again,

"Throw your nets on the right side of the boat and you will find some."

John 21:6

The fishermen probably wondered 'who is this crazy guy'. After all, they had been throwing their net on both sides of the boat all night long and they hadn't caught anything. Why should they do it again?

Finally, they decided to go ahead and give it a try and they cast their net off the right side of the boat. When they started to pull up the net, they saw that there were fish in it. There were lots and lots of fish in the net. In fact, there were so many fish that the seven apostles could not even lift the net into the boat. They decided to head for shore and pull the net alongside of the boat.

Then John looked at the beach again. This time he took a closer look at the man standing there -- Wait a minute. The man looked familiar. It was Jesus! When John told everyone who it was, Peter got extremely excited. He wanted to see Jesus again so badly he jumped into the water and swam to shore. Peter made his way to shore swimming while the others followed with the boat and net full of fish.

When Peter and the apostles got to the shore, they saw that Jesus had a fire going and some fish already cooking and some bread.

"Bring some of the fish you caught and we will eat them too," Jesus said.

"We will eat breakfast on the beach."

John 21:10-12

(Fish for breakfast? 🐟)

Peter and the others brought some of the fish. There were plenty, their net was FULL of fish! Jesus fed the apostles a big breakfast of fish and bread and stayed awhile to visit and talk with them.

Even after everything that had happened, Jesus wanted the disciples to know that He would be with them. Jesus wanted them to know that

Whatever happens, remember you can always trust God.

He wants us to know that too. We can trust God to be with us, to help us to comfort and support us all the time, anytime, anywhere. He will never leave us.

Let's thank God for always being there for us, no matter what.

PRAY

"Dear Lord, we want to thank You for always being there for us. We know we can count on You anytime, anywhere. Sometimes our lives get busy, sometimes things even get kind of crazy, but whatever happens help us to remember that we can always count on You. Amen"