



Jesus Appears

Lesson Overview

1. Watch a Video

Watch *Jesus Appears by the Sea* at bitly.com/JesusByTheSea (3min 36sec).

2. Discuss

Compare *Jesus Appears by the Sea* with the Catch of Fish.

3. Read

The Lord appeared to His disciples after the resurrection so they could learn about Him, and believe in Him. pp.1-2

4. Math Facts for 153

Investigate the unusual mathematical properties of the number 153. p. 3

From the Word Breaking Bread

In the Ancient Church bread was broken when it was given to another, and by this was signified to communicate good from one's own, and at the same time to appropriate it from one's own, thus to make love mutual. For when bread is broken and given to another it is communicated from one's own. Or when bread is broken among several, then the one piece of bread becomes a mutual possession, and consequently there is conjunction through charity. See *Arcana Coelestia* 5405

FaithBuilder 2 | Lesson 25 | Word

Video

Watch *Jesus Appears by the Sea* at bitly.com/JesusByTheSea (3min 36sec). (Enter the bitly link in the web browser bar at the top of your screen.) The events in this video took place after the Lord's resurrection.

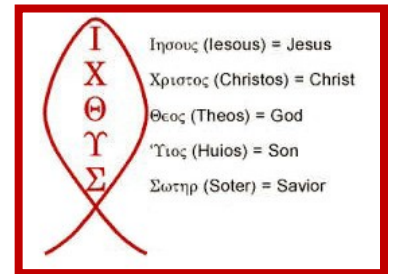
Discuss

1. For much of His life the Lord lived by the Sea of Galilee. (Tiberias is a town on its western shore.) Many of His disciples were fishermen. In fact, there's a story similar to this in Luke 5, when Jesus called some of His disciples.

[Jesus] said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. Luke 5:4-6

In what ways is this story different from today's story? (The disciples saw the *risen* Lord; a *number* of fish is mentioned (153); the net *did not break*; the *risen* Lord ate food.)

2. What other incidents in the Lord's life mention fish? (e.g. Feeding 5000; feeding 4000; coin in fish's mouth; fishers of men.)
3. Early Christians adopted a fish as a symbol of Christianity. Why was this? (It is an acronym for the Lord's names in Greek. The Greek word for fish is *ichthys*, pronounced ick-thoos—see right.) Fish symbols are sometimes put on cars as a sign of Christianity.



Read*

In rising from the tomb the Lord did the greatest miracle of all. He had told His disciples about His capture, his death and His resurrection at least three times. But as events unfolded they were not as the disciples had expected.

"Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again." Matthew 20:18-19

“Let these words sink down into your ears, for the Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men.” But they did not understand this saying, and it was hidden from them so that they did not perceive it; and they were afraid to ask Him about this saying. Luke 9:44-45

The idea of raising from the dead was strange to the disciples. They believed that people were spirits after death. They didn't think of them as real and solid, but as something like wind or cloud. They were afraid when they thought they saw a spirit—perhaps because they believed that spirits were an omen of death. Even after the Lord appeared to the women at the tomb, and to a group of disciples they doubted that He had risen as He said He would.

The Lord wanted them to believe that He had conquered death, that He was alive, that He was with them as someone they could know and trust, that He still had power to lead them. That is why He said that He was not a spirit (as they thought). He showed them His body and let them touch Him. And He ate food in front of them so they would not doubt that He was real.

The Lord was not like you and me

The Lord was not like you and me. When we die we lay aside our earthy body for ever. The Lord did not lay aside His earthy body—He made it Divine. That is why the tomb was empty. This is not easy to understand. How can an earthy body be Divine? We know that the risen Lord could only be seen with spiritual eyes. That is why He appeared and disappeared and could come through closed doors. The disciples only recognized Him when He let them. Perhaps we can think of His body as “super-natural”—or more natural than natural. It was somehow in nature and throughout nature, connected with the very life of nature. This was something new. It gave the Lord a new way of connecting with us in this natural world.

One of the ways the Lord showed the disciples that He was with them in this world was to eat their food. When He saw the disciples by the Sea of Galilee He asked them to bring Him some of their fish—it was what they had, their food. He also had food on the fire, and bread. They shared their food together.

The Lord came to earth so we could see Him and know Him. He forged links between our experience of the truth and His love and purpose. The Lord is here with us today, inviting us to dine with Him.

*Based on a talk by Rev. Grant Odhner

“Behold I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. Revelation 3:20

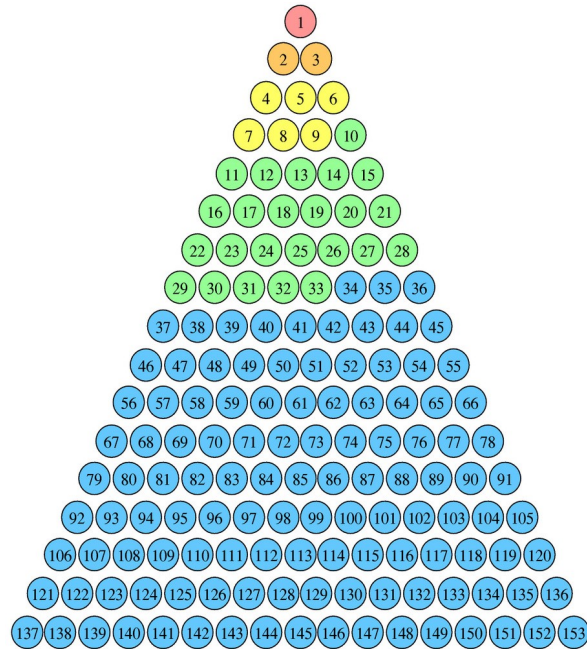
In the Word 'What has been roasted' means good, because it has been cooked by means of fire, for example 'the fish placed over the fire of coals' when the Lord appeared to the disciples, described in John as follows, After the disciples got down onto the land they saw a fire of coals that had been set, and a small fish lying over it, and bread. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the small fish. John 21:9, 13.

'A fish' means truth in the natural while 'a fire of coals' means good. Thus 'a small fish lying over it' means the truth of spiritual good within the natural. *Arcana Coelestia* 7852

Divine Human

The Lord made the Natural Self in Himself Divine, in order that He might be the First and the Last; and that He might thus enter with people even into their natural self, and might teach and lead it from the Word. For He rose with His whole natural or external self, and did not leave anything of it in the tomb. On this account He said that He had bones and flesh, which spirits do not have; and hence it is that He ate and drank with His disciples of natural food, and in their sight. That He was Divine, He showed by passing through doors, and by becoming invisible, which never could have been done, unless the very Natural Self with Him had also been made Divine. See *Invitation* 56

153



The disciples fished all night and caught nothing. But when the Lord told them to cast their net on the right side, they caught 153 fish. Here are some fascinating facts about the number 153.

- 153 is the sum of the first 17 integers and is also the sum of the first five positive factorials, $1! + 2! + 3! + 4! + 5!$. The number 153 is associated with the geometric shape known as the Vesica Piscis or Mandorla. Archimedes, in his *Measurement of a Circle*, referred to this ratio ($153/265$), as constituting the "measure of the fish", this ratio being an imperfect representation of $1/\sqrt{3}$.
- As a triangular number, 153 is the sum of the first 17 integers, and is also the sum of the first five positive factorials:
- The number 153 is also a hexagonal number, and a truncated triangle number, meaning that 1, 15, and 153 are all triangle numbers.
- The distinct prime factors of 153 add $1! + 2! + 3! + 4! + 5!$ up to 20, and so do the ones of 154, hence the two form a Ruth-Aaron pair.
- Since $153 = 1^3 + 5^3 + 3^3$, it is a 3-narcissistic number, and it is also the smallest three-digit number which can be expressed as the sum of cubes of its digits. Only five other numbers can be expressed as the sum of the cubes of their digits: 0, 1, 370, 371 and 407. It is also a Friedman number, since $153 = 3 \times 51$, and a Harshad number in base 10, being divisible by the sum of its own digits.
- Another interesting feature of the number 153 is that it is the limit of the following algorithm:
Take a random positive integer, divisible by three.

1. Split that number into its base 10 digits.
 2. Take the sum of their cubes.
 3. Go back to the second step.
- An example, starting with the number 84:

$$\begin{aligned}
 8^3 + 4^3 &= & 512 + 64 &= & 576 \\
 5^3 + 7^3 + 6^3 &= & 125 + 343 + 216 &= & 684 \\
 6^3 + 8^3 + 4^3 &= & 216 + 512 + 64 &= & 792 \\
 7^3 + 9^3 + 2^3 &= & 343 + 729 + 8 &= & 1080 \\
 1^3 + 0^3 + 8^3 + 0^3 &= & 1 + 0 + 512 + 0 &= & 513 \\
 5^3 + 1^3 + 3^3 &= & 125 + 1 + 27 &= & 153 \\
 1^3 + 5^3 + 3^3 &= & 1 + 125 + 27 &= & 153
 \end{aligned}$$

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/153_\(number\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/153_(number))
#Mathematical_properties