



GROUP BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION

DIOCESE OF TORONTO SYNOD, November 18, 2022

John 21.1-14

Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples (NRSV)

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

GUIDELINES FOR DISCUSSION

Have someone in your group read the passage aloud. Share your responses to these questions.

1. In the Bible passage, we hear Jesus tell the discouraged and disoriented disciples to try a different way of doing things, resulting in unexpected abundance. In the process, they recognize the Risen Christ in their midst.

Have you seen examples in the Diocese of Toronto, of people trying a different approach that resulted in new life, and drawing people closer to Christ? What helps make that possible? What obstacles or frustrations need to be overcome? What do we need to let go of, to allow new things to flourish? How do we recognize Christ in our midst? How do we hear and respond to His call?

2. We, collectively, are the Diocese of Toronto. As members of Synod, you have a unique chance to see the Diocese as a whole. Over the past few years, have relationships among Anglicans throughout the Diocese changed? In what way? How has this affected you? Are there lessons for the future?
3. What might it mean for each of us, in our parishes and across the Diocese, as we face the future, to cast the net on the other side of the boat?