

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

YEAR C

Living in love





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CONVENCIAL

Share your highs and lows, or respond to the following:

- 1. Have you ever let someone down or been let down? How did Peter let Jesus down?
- 2. Jesus gave Peter a new start. How has Jesus given you a new start?
- 3. Do you find it hard or easy to give others a new start? Why?



BIBLE READINGS

Read the following Bible readings throughout this week. Talk about what words or phrases stand out for you.

S	John 21:1-19	Jesus appears to the disciples
Μ	Acts 9: 1-20	Saul's conversion
т	1 John 4: 7-19	Love for God
w	1 Peter 4:12 - 5:4	Shepherds of God's flock
т	Revelation 5:1-10	The throne and the elders
F	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Jesus appeared to his followers
s	Psalm 30	You restored my health

VERSE OF THE WEEK

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

1 JOHN 4:16



CREATIVE RESPONSE

The fish has been used as a Christian symbol from the earliest times of the church.

The Greek word for fish is 'ixthus' or 'icthus'. In the Greek language, the five letters making up the word form an acrostic for "Jesus Christ is God's Son, the Saviour." The first letter (i) represents the name "Jesus" in Greek; the second letter (x) the title "Christ"; the next two ('thu' in English) "God's Son"; and the final letter (s) the word "Saviour".

Many early Christians were put to death for practising their faith, and so worshipped secretly in their homes. A fish was painted on the outside door of a house to let other Christians know that they would be safe and welcome inside. Make up an IXTHUS symbol to display in your home as a sign of your faith in Jesus as your Saviour.



ACTION RESPONSE

While Jesus had shown himself to be the Son of God and Lord of all by rising from the dead, he was still willing to serve his followers in humble, practical ways. In John 21 we read that he cooked breakfast for his disciples!

Follow Jesus' example this week by being "breakfast servants" to one another e.g. preparing food, setting the table, doing the dishes. Take turns in carrying out your morning acts of love and service.



Bless this meal, Lord, we pray, and bless us too throughout this day. Keep us safe and close to you, and kind in all we say and do. Amen.



Risen Lord Jesus, come to us today. Help us to love you, serve you and follow you. Amen.



BLESSING

May you always rely on God's love.