

A MONTHLY UPDATE FOR KIDS AND PARENTS AT LEWINSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST MESSY CHURCH OF 2024

AND WE'RE GOING FISHING!

There are several stories about Jesus that involve FISH. The miraculous catch of fish when He called the Disciples which He repeated after His resurrection; the feeding of the 5000 when He used two fish and 5 loaves of bread to feed a multitude; and then an odd story where He directed Peter to find the tax money in the mouth of a fish.

Is it any wonder that the symbol for Christians and the first statement of faith was the FISH (IXOYE=Greek for NOW THIS IS WHAT I CALL EFFECTIVE FISH)?

Join us JANUARY 21 in Fellowship Hall at 9:30-11:00 a.m. for this Messy Church where we will explore these FISH stories and symbols through crafts, storytelling, games, and more. All ages welcome and invited.





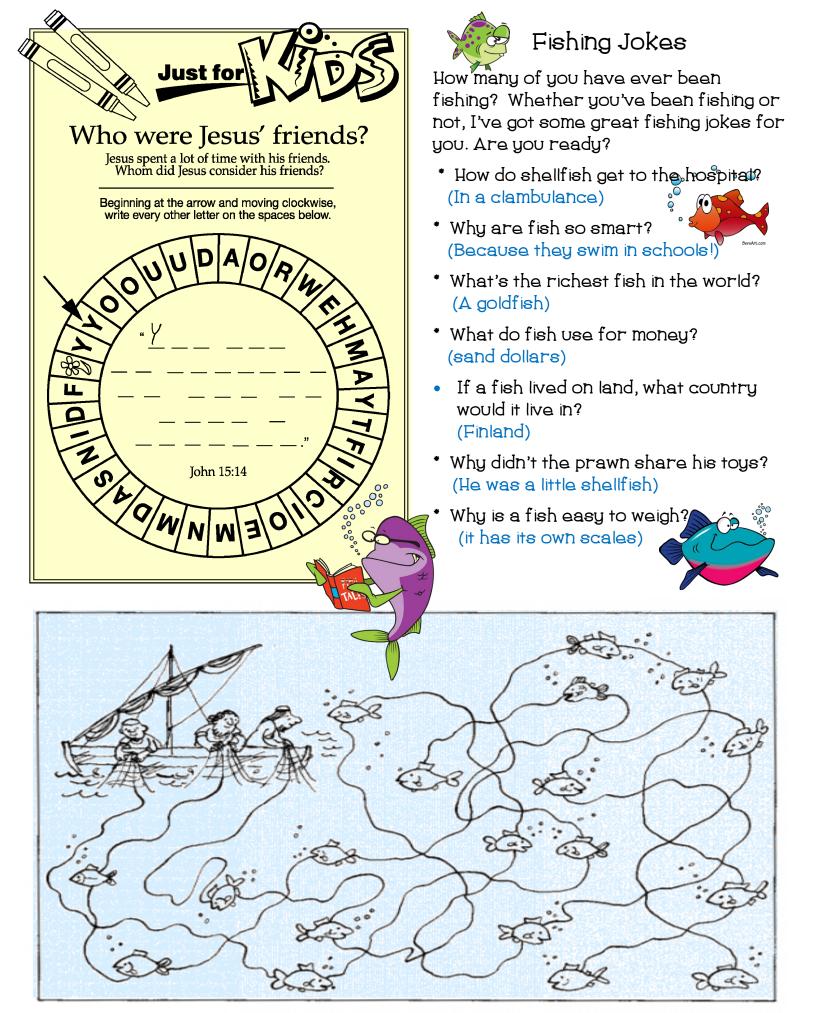
NETWORKING

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REMEMBER IN THE BIBLE WHEN THEY SWITCHED TO FISHING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THEIR BOAT AND THEN THEIR LUCK MAYRE WE SHOULD TRY

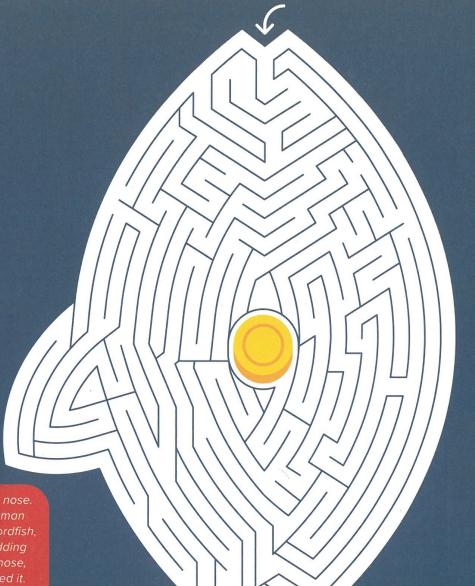
CHANGED MAYBE WE SHOOLD TRY THAT	
TABLE OF CONTENTS	
PUZZLE PAGES	2-3
THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS	4-5
SERMON STORIES SCHEDULE + JOIN PUPPETS + BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY	6
CHRISTIAN SYMBOL OF THE FISH	7
spinning fish prayers	8





In Matthew 17:27, Jesus tells Peter to go fishing, and that in the mouth of the first fish he catches, he'll find a coin to pay a tax. What are the odds!

Help Peter find his way though the fish maze to reach the coin.



Right on the nose.
In 2002, a man caught a swordfish put his wedding ring on its nose, and released it.
Incredibly, three years later, he caught the same swordfish—and it still had the ring on its nose!

E FOOTSTEPS OF JES

Jesus led an incredible life—full of



preaching and teaching.





healing, and



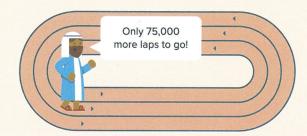
FOLLOW ALONG IN HIS FOOTSTEPS. It's estimated that Jesus traveled more than...

...3,000 miles during His ministry.



...20,000 miles during His lifetime.

That's like walking 80,000 trips around a track.



Is born. Luke 2:10-20



Escapes from Herod. Matthew 2:13-18



Returns with His family to Israel and grows up here. Matthew 2:19-23

Is baptized by John the Baptist. Matthew 3:13-17

5 Is tempted by Satan.* Matthew 4:1-11



Performs His first miracle. turning water into wine. John 2:1-11

Begins baptizing people. John 3:22

Talks with a Samaritan woman at the well. John 4:1-42





Heals an official's son. John 4:46-54





Heals an invalid at a pool. John 5:1-9

Preaches in His hometown, only to be rejected by His own people. Luke 4:13-30



Establishes His preaching ministry (which is also a fulfillment of prophecysee Isaiah 9:1-2). Mark 1:14-15





Picks His 12 disciples and delivers the famous Sermon on the Mount. Luke 6:12-49









Travels through Galilee, preaching, performing signs and miracles, and teaching in parables. Luke 8:1-3





Calms a storm. Mark 4:35-41







Heals a bleeding woman and two blind men, casts out demons, and brings a young girl back to life. Matthew 9:18-35



Is rejected again. Mark 6:1-6



Tours through this area preaching. During this time, John the Baptist is beheaded. Mark 6:7-29





Feeds 5,000 men (plus women and children). Matthew 14:13-21





Walks on water. Matthew 14:22-33





Heals the daughter of a Syrophoenician woman. Matthew 15:21-28







Heals many, including the lame, blind, and mute. Feeds 4,000 men (plus women and children). Matthew 15:29-38





Begins teaching the disciples about His death and resurrection. Peter declares that Jesus is the Christ. Luke 9:18-27





Is transfigured before Peter, James, and John (brother of James).* Luke 9:28-36



Begins teaching the Jewish people who He is. They try to stone Him, but Jesus escapes. John 7:14-8:59

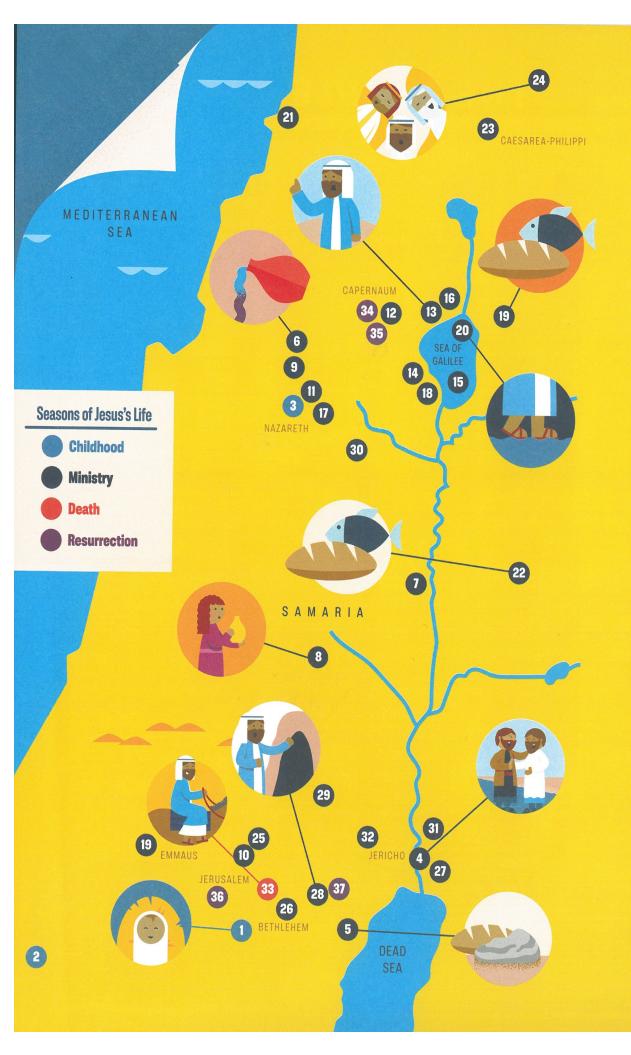


Teaches in Mary and Martha's house. Luke 10:38-42



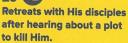


Teaches about the kingdom of heaven and His upcoming death. Luke 13:22-17:10



Raises Lazarus from the dead. Infuriated, the Pharisees plot to have Jesus killed. John 11:1-53





John 11:53-54







Joins pilgrims heading to Jerusalem for Passover, healing and teaching along the way. Luke 17:11-18:14





Connects with more followers, teaching about His death in Jerusalem for a third time. Matthew 19:1-20:28







Heals a blind man and saves a tax collector named Zacchaeus. Luke 18:35-19:10







Arrives in Jerusalem for what is now called Holy Week, is crucified, and rises from the dead. Matthew 21:1-28:5





Appears to seven of His disciples while they were fishing and eats breakfast with them.

John 21







Appears to 11 of His disciples, giving them the Great Commission. Matthew 28:16-20



Appears to His brother James and again to His disciples. 1 Corinthians 15:7;

Luke 24:44-49





Ascends into heaven. Luke 24:50-53

*Possible location, exact location is unknown.



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Date	Season	Theme/Story	Activity/Project	Location		
JAN 7	EPIPHANY/ BAPTISM OF THE LORD	Jesus is Baptized	Holy Spirit Paper Dove	Room 102B		
JAN 14	EPIPHANY	Jesus in the Wilderness	Jesus is Tempted Minute to Win it Games	Room 102B		
JAN 21	NO SERMON STORIES/MESSY CHURCH-FISHING FOR PEOPLE					
JAN 28	EPIPHANY	Jesus' Disciples	12 Disciple Bingo Game	Room 102B		

Activities that explore a Bible story or church season for children, Ages 4 through Grade 2 during the 11:00 a.m. worship service following the Children's message-Held in meeting room 102 B

The Wiggle Worship Bags will continue to be available at every worship service. Please remember these bags should be returned to the blue bins in the Narthex at the conclusion of the service.

Lewinsville CTS

Calling all PuppeteersIf you have been a puppeteer in the past or would like to be a puppeteer but have not yet joined in.....We are regathering on Sunday, January 7 at 3:45-4:30 p.m. for our Spring puppet presentation at the Washington Cathedral in May.

This year, our puppeteers will be able to perform for both days of the

Cathedral Flower Mart,
May 3 & 4 (May 3 is a
Teacher Workday!) IF
you're in Grades 1-12 and
would like to be part of
the Fun...join us on January 7
in Fellowship Hall at 3:45 p.m.

our 2024 flower Mart Show:

"Chester jester & HIS Basket of Foolish tales"



SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF GAMES, TREATS, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP!

CHILDREN, GRADES 1-5 AND YOUTH ARE INVITED TO BRING FRIENDS TO THE CHURCH TO PLAY A VARIETY OF GAMES FOR PRIZES, EAT DUCK DONUTS, AND START THE NEW YEAR WITH A LOT OF FUN WITH FRIENDS.

THE GAMES BEGIN AT 3:30 P.M. IN FELLOWSHIP HALL



WHAT DOES IXOYE (IXΘYΣ) MEAN?

A question we get asked, What does IXOYE mean?

For Christians, the fish is one of the earliest symbols, it was used to profess faith and to avoid persecution. "IXOYE" was a used as an anagram by members of the early Christian church to identify themselves. It means "Jesus Christ - Son of God - Saviour".

IXOYE is the Greek word for "fish". Pronounced: "lck-thoose" The Greek letters break down as follows:



X - Chi is the first letter of Christos (Christ)

Θ- Theta is the first letter of Theos (God)

Y - Upsilon is the first letter of Yios (Son)

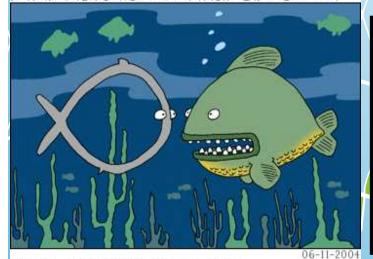
Σ- Sigma is the fist letter of Soter (Savior)

"Jesus, Christ, Son of God, Savior".

The fish symbol also helped Christians distinguish between friend and foe. When a Christian met a stranger in the road, whilst traveling, the Christian would draw half the fish (half a crescent) in the sand. If the other person completed the fish, he or she was a Christian and the two would know it was safe to discuss the Lord.

Believers in Jesus were themselves "little fishes", according to the well-known passage of Tertullian (De baptismo, c. 1) "we, little fishes, after the image of our IXOYE, Jesus Christ, are born in the water".

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YOU'RE RELIGIOUS, AREN'T YOU?

Jesus Calls the Disciples: Spinning Fish Prayers

This prayer activity links really well with the story of Jesus calling the disciples but could be used to pray for anyone or any situation!

You will need: strips of paper (experiment with length but the ones shown are roughly $10cm \times 2cm$) Scissors, pens





Choose a strip of paper and write on it the name of the person or situation you would like to pray for. Cut slits near to the ends of the strip as shown (to the right).



Fit the slits together to make a fish shape. Now comes the fun part! Hold the fish high in the air and let it go. Ås it gains momentum you will see it start to spin!

Talk about:

Discuss the story in the Bible where Jesus calls the disciples and sends them out to make more-turning fishermen into fishers of people (Matthew 4:19) What does it mean to be a disciple?

How would people know that you are a disciple?

How do you think that the disciples made more disciples?

How would you try?

Pray

Think of people who don't know who Jesus it or who you would like to ask God to bless. Write their names or draw them on the strip and make them into fish as shown above. Play some music and let the children drop the fish and watch them spin as a symbol of giving their prayers to God.

