

Proper 16

Sunday between 21 and 27 August inclusive

Aim

To declare that Jesus Christ is our Saviour.

Readings

Exodus 1:8–2:10 or Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalms 124 or Psalm 138

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

Teaching

For a long time it was quite dangerous to be a Christian. The Roman Empire tried to make Christians worship other Gods. If they refused, they could be put to death. Christians had to be very brave and they often had to go into hiding. Christians refused to give up their love for Jesus. They continued to say their daily prayers and meet together for worship. Because the soldiers tried to kill them, the Christians often hid in caves underground, even in the city of Rome. Often in these tunnels they drew pictures of Jesus as a young man and wrote beside it the word 'Life'. They were proud that they knew Jesus and were able to speak to him in prayer. Many of them chose a secret sign to show they were Christians. It was the sign of the fish. (Sometimes today you can see this sign on a car to tell you a Christians owns that car.) It is a good sign when you think about it because at least four of the 12 disciples were fishermen. Jesus was often in a fishing boat. Jesus helped the fishermen to make a wonderful catch of fish. When he fed the 5000 he shared out two fish. After his resurrection he ate fish with his disciples. But it is also chosen because fish in Greek is ICHTHUS. (You can find the word used in Ichthyosaurus, which means fish lizard and is a dinosaur.) Each letter of ICHTHUS stood for something.

I is the same as **J** in Greek – it stood for 'Jesus'. Jesus is the same as Joshua and means deliverer. Jesus is the one who delivers us from evil.

CH is for 'Christ', God's 'Anointed One' or 'Appointed One' – the One chosen to be our Deliverer.

TH = God.

U is for son so '**thu**' is for 'God's Son'. Through Jesus we have special relationship with the Father.

S is for 'Saviour', the One who comes to help us and rescue us.

Now you know the Greek word for fish: ICHTHUS. You also know its secret meaning: JESUS CHRIST SON OF GOD SAVIOUR.

Activity

There is an opportunity on the worksheet to explore the lesson further and to make a secret sign to show that we are the ones who believe in Jesus.

Prayer

Jesus Christ, you are the Son of God, our Saviour and our friend.

We come to give you our love, for you gave your life for us and you came to rescue us.

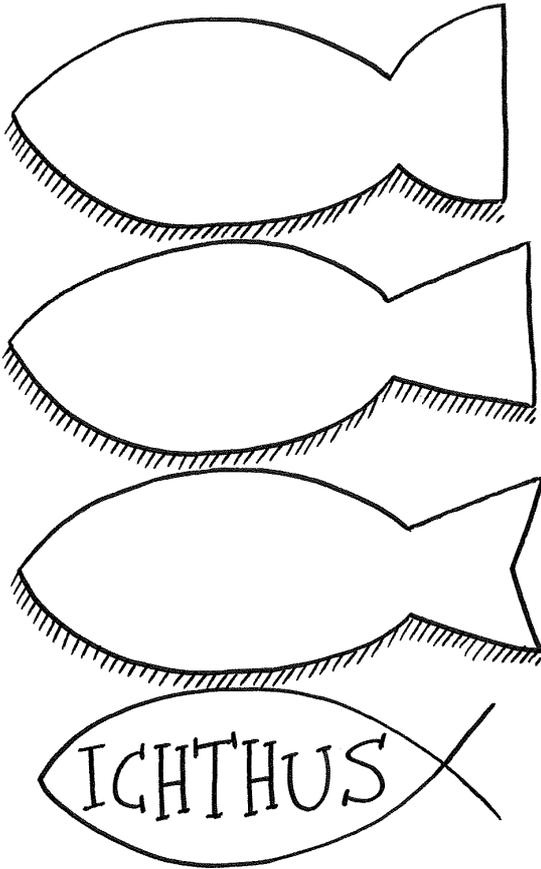
Thank you, Jesus.

Amen.

Song

Wide, wide as the ocean

Notes



Can you name the four fishermen disciples?

How many fish did the disciples share with 5000+?

After his resurrection Jesus ate what with his disciples? (John 21:9)

The fish became a secret sign of Christians.

I = J = Jesus and means 'Deliverer'

CH is for Christ and means 'God's Chosen One' sometimes written ~~X~~ which is X (Greek CH) and P (Greek R) and is the first letters of Christ

TH is the beginning of the Greek for God.

U is the beginning of the Greek for Son.

S is for Saviour - our Redeemer.

TRY AND MAKE
A SECRET
SIGN FOR JESUS.

PRAY Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour, be with us always. Hear us and help us. AMEN