The Miraculous Catch of Fish

VBS-multiple puppeteers (John 21:1-19)

Peter	Man, I'm hungry. *(Peter should be easy to recognize, bigger, older, etc.)*
James	Me, too!
John	Me, three!
Nat	Me, four!
Thomas	Me, three!
John	Hey, I already said "me, three!"
Thomas	So?
John	So, you're "me, FIVE!"
Thomas	I don't want to be "me FIVE!"
John	You have to be!
Thomas	Do not!
John	Do, too!
Thomas	Not!
John	Do!
Thomas	Not!
John	Do!
Peter	Hey! Hey, guys! Knock it off! We're all hungry.
Thomas	(*whiney*) Yeah, but, Peter! John is being bossy.
John	Am not!
Thomas	Are, too!
Peter	Cut it out! We're all a little cranky 'cause we're hungry. Let's just forgive each other. Okay? (*they nod*) How about going fishing? We need food and we like to fish!
John	Cool idea, Peter. I'll come with you!
James	Me, too!
John	Me, three!
Nat	Me, four!

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Thomas	Me, three!
John	Why I ought to…
Peter	Knock it off, guys. We're not a bunch of cranky babies, are we? We are men!
All	Yes, we are men! (*general manly hubbub*)
Peter	And we don't bicker and fight. We take action.
All	We go fishing!
Peter	(*singing*) Gotta a rumble in my tummy and I'm wishing! I could eat some tasty food! Think I'll get my boat and go fishing! It'll do us all some good!
Guys	We are men! We are men! And we go, go, go, go fishing! We are not a bunch of cranky babies! We are men, we are men, we are men!
Peter	Okay, let's get in the boat, guys! *(mime getting in, perhaps a painted shoe-box?)* Alrighty. Put down the net. And let's catch some fish! *(they lower a net over the edge of the stage)*
James	(*excited*) Yeah. Yummy, yummy fishies.
John	Okay. (*trying to be patient*) Any minute now.
Nat	We'll catch some fish. (*laughs with excitement*)
Thomas	Yeah. (*yawns*) Some fishies.
James	(*getting a little discouraged*) Some little bitty fishies.
John	Boy this is taking forever!
Nat	(*whiney*) I'm hungry!
Peter	Don't start that again.
Thomas	But we've been sitting here for hours.
Peter	Just be patient. (*yawns*)
James	Yeah, patient. (*yawns*)
John	Yeah, pa… (*they all fall asleep, snore loudly*)
Peter	(*wakes up, looks around, checks net*) Hey, guys, the sun is coming up. We've had our nets out all night and we haven't caught anything.
Nat	Huh? Mommy?
John	Wake up, Nathaniel.

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James	Who is that guy standing on the beach?
Nat	Hey weird. There's some dude cooking on the beach. It smells good.
Peter	Quiet everybody. He's saying something.
Jesus	Children, have you any fish?
James	Nope.
John	Nah.
Nat	Nada.
Thomas	Zippo.
Jesus	Cast the net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.
Thomas	Yeah, right! (*laughs*)
James	(*yucking it up*) Buddy, we've been fishing all night.
John	Yeah, what's the big idea?
Nat	We've fished to the left, fished to the right!
Thomas	We waited and we waited, all the long night!
Peter	(*with wonderment, suspecting*) Do as he says.
Thomas	Okay. (*sarcastic*) Let's drop the net on the right side. That's original. *(drop it on the far side of the boat and exchange with filled net)*
James	Woah! Hey! This thing is heavy!
John	Are you pulling on it, Nathaniel?
Nat	No! It's not me!
Jesus	Look in the net, guys!
	(*they all bend over to look*)
All	(*various guys speak*) Woah. Weird. The net is full of fish! Awesome! Cool! It's enough fish to feed the whole village! Good, 'cause I'm starving! Chow down!
Peter	It's a miracle! It is the Lord! I'm going to swim ashore! (*dives in*)
James	Yo, Pete. This is heavy man. Get back here!
John	Come on! We are men! Let's get this fish ashore! (*they struggle with the heavy load*, *you can have them reprise "We are Men," if you need time for Peter to swim over to Jesus*)
Peter	(*reaching Him*) My Lord! It's you! Oh, Jesus! We've missed you so much!

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Jesus	Hey, buddy! No hugging, okay? You're dripping wet.
Peter	Oh, sorry. (*laughs*)
Jesus	I've got a nice fire here and some bread and fish cooking. Why don't you give the guys a hand and bring in that load of fish.
Peter	You got it, Lord! Hey guys! Let me give you a hand with that! (*takes the whole net and carries it easily, setting it down near Jesus*)
Guys	*(getting off boat)* That's a lot of fish. And the net isn't even ripped! Lets count them. Cool!
James	1, 2, 4, 9… no wait… 2, 3, 5, 21
John	You skipped some numbers!
Nat	I'm guessing there's about 2,000 fish here. Yep. 2,000.
Thomas	Nah. More like 80.
John	You're way off. I'm gonna say 350, give or take.
James	45, 87, 90, 200…
Nat	You're not counting right.
James	Hey! You made me loose count! Now I have to start over! 4, 7, 13…
John	(*trying to mess him up*) 33, 101, 5000….
James	Quit it!
Peter	Guys… I'm trying to talk with Jesus, here. Could you keep it down?
Jesus	Come and eat breakfast, everybody!
Guys	Chow down! (*they descend on food, eating noisily, general yummy hubbub, compliments to the chef*)
Jesus	Wow. You guys are hungry.
Peter	That was delicious. You sure love to feed us, Lord.
Jesus	Yes, I do.
Peter	You feed us with your holy words, you feed us with love and you feed us with a nutritious and tasty breakfast.
Jesus	I'm happy you liked it! Hey guys, I hope you'll remember this and always try to take good care of each other.
James	Okay, Jesus. (*looks sheepishly at John*)
John	We will. (*also a little guiltily*)
Nat	Sorry we got so cranky.

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Thomas	My mom says I have low blood sugar.
Jesus	No problem.
James	Hey, Jesus, how many fish were in the net?
Jesus	153 total. 74 mackeral, 43 tuna and 36 flounder. There were also 4 sea stars, but they're technically not fish.
John	Wow.
Nat	Dude!
Thomas	Righteous!
Peter	Lord, you know everything, don't you?
Jesus	Yes, Peter. Let me ask you a question. Do you love me?
Peter	Yes, Lord. You know that I love you.
Jesus	Feed my lambs. (*Peter looks around confused*) Peter, do you love me?
Peter	(*looks at Jesus*) Yes, Lord. You know that I love you.
Jesus	Tend my sheep. (*Peter looks around again*) Peter, do you love me?
Peter	(*looks at Jesus*) Lord, you know everything, you know that I love you.
Jesus	Feed my sheep. (*watches Peter look around and then stop and stare at the Guys. The Guys stare back at him*)
Peter	But Lord, I… do you mean… ?
Guys	Baaaaaaa. Baaaaaaaa.
John	Hey, wait. I thought we were men, dude.
Peter	Oh, I get it! Don't worry, Lord. I'll do my best. I'll take care of the guys and anyone else you want me to take care of.
Jesus	And even when you can't see me, Peter. I'll be with you, helping you.
Peter	I know, Lord. That's because you love me.
Jesus	I love you all.

The End

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