

# Become Like a Child:



## *Speaking a child's language in Children's Time*

When we use all of their senses, the experience becomes more meaningful and the soul is awakened. We could use the languages of the senses to bring the stories alive for the children in our lives. How could we go beyond simply *telling* the story? What could we hear, feel, taste, smell and see? Was there water warmed by the sun? A bottle of warm water could be heard when shaken, smelled and tasted when poured in little cups, the warmth felt by passing it around. When we use items familiar to a child's life, connections between current life and the stories of scripture are made. Imagine a child could forever feel a string and be reminded of the moment 153 fish were pulled into a net...



### **Breakfast on the Beach, John 21:1-14**

Gather children around a low table with guidance to keep bodies backed away (for safety!). Tell children that before telling the story, you have a few clues and they will use their different senses.

**Language of hearing:** arrange small sticks for a mini campfire in a metal pie plate ahead of time and have hidden under a cloth. Invite children to close their eyes and listen as you remove the cloth and light the fire. Invite children to call out what they think is happening before opening eyes. Let fire burn or extinguish with water.

**Language of touching:** pass around a bag with a rope net in it (or just pieces of string if you have no net) and invite children to reach in and feel, imagine what it is, but not tell their guesses. After everyone has felt, add the net to the table.

**Language of smelling:** pass around a bag with a real fish\* in it and invite children to smell, imagine what it is but not tell their guesses. After everyone has smelt, add the fish to a tray on the table. \*Most impressive is a whole fish, eyeball and all!

**Language of seeing:** add wooden people as the characters in the story to the table. Invite children to watch a section of the Visual Bible via YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=reM-Wbzzp2g> (story begins at 2:40:55).

**Language of tasting:** Bring Children's Time to a close by and offering each child a piece of bread and reading John 21:13, "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."

**"I hear and I forget. I see and I remember.  
I do and I understand." -Confucius**

### **Ways to speak the language of the senses for children:**

Sight: photos, book illustrations, nature items, videos, googled images, \_\_\_\_\_.

Smell: food, essential oils, nature items like dirt, grass and sand, spices, flowers, \_\_\_\_\_.

Touch: fabric, nature items, warmed or cooled items, wind from a fan or hair dryer, food, \_\_\_\_\_.

Taste: food, flavored water, awareness of how long taste lingers after eating, tea, spices, herbs, \_\_\_\_\_.

Hearing: sound effects on computer/phones, household objects, items placed in jar to shake, music, \_\_\_\_\_.