

1. Preview:

- Fishing the Sea of Galilee
- Ancient Harbors
- Modern site named: Tabgha.
- The miraculous catch of fish (John 21)
- 153 Fish – what is John alluding to?

2. Fishing the Sea of Galilee

- Scholar Mendel Nun dedicated his life to the study of the Sea of Galilee and fishing.
- “*The Sea of Galilee and its Fishermen in the New Testament*” (1989, published by Kibbutz Ein Gev)
- Hebrew *Nun* – means to “propagate, to increase greatly” and also means “fish.”
- Hebrew *Dag* – also a word used as a noun for fish. The verb also means to increase.

3. Ancient Harbors:

- Thirteen ancient harbors have been identified around the lake.

4. Jesus, the Disciples, and Fishing:

The Gospels never show the disciples catching a fish without the help of Jesus.

Either they were awful at fishing, or there is a message in here for all of us.

5. Tabgha -

- Located just west of Capernaum is a site with seven warm water springs.

Language	Word	Meaning
Hebrew	<i>Ein Sheva</i>	“spring of seven”
Greek	<i>Heptapegon</i>	“seven springs”
Eventually Arabic	<i>Tabgha</i>	

- Site of the **Church of the Primacy** based on Jesus declaring to Peter to “feed my sheep.” (John 21:17).

6. Tilapia Fishing

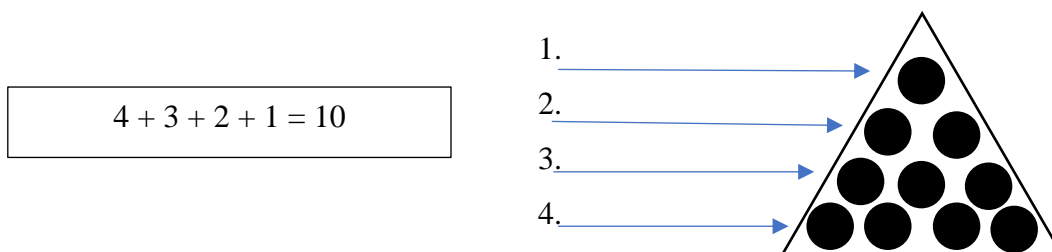
- Winter/early spring Tilapia fishing near the warm water springs of Tabgha.
- Trammel net (possibly with a Verandah net attached)
 - Trammel net set up in arc facing shore
 - Fishermen will make noise to scare the fish towards the net in an attempt to flee to deeper water.
 - Inside the net, a fisherman will throw a “cast net.” This fisherman is **naked** and will have to dive in the water to retrieve the cast net off the lake's floor.
- **Fishing is done at night.** When the sun comes up, the fish can see and avoid the net.

7. John 21

John 21:3	Fishing at night
John 21:3	Caught nothing
John 21:7	Peter put on his garment because he was naked (<i>gymnos</i> = naked)
John 21:11	153 “large” fish (tilapia vs. sardines – small fish)

8. 153 fish – why does John include this detail? What is unique about 153? What might this number be alluding to from the Old Testament that helps us understand the story of Jesus' death and resurrection?

- 153 is a unique number and would have stood out to many of John's readers.
- **Triangular Number:** triangular numbers are a unique sequence of numbers that can be represented by an equilateral triangle (equal on all sides).
- Example: 10 is the triangle of 4 –to have equal sides of (4), you will end up with (10) dots.



- **153** is the triangle of **17** ($17 + 16 + 15 + \dots + 1 = 153$).

9. **Ezekiel 47:10** – Ezekiel has a vision of the “living water” flowing from the Temple to water the earth. The verse concerns fishermen and the casting of nets. Two Hebrew words show up in the verse that fit the triangular sequence:

- *Gedi* = 17
- *Egliam* = 153