

# The Mystery of the Marshes

Key Word: **Know**

Key Verse: Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. *John 21:4*

Rob and Bethany had spotted the marsh heron.

Having been brought up in the little cottage on the coast road, both Rob and Bethany knew the marshes almost as well as they knew their own backyard. Their father was the game warden, and had taught his children a deep love and respect for the marshes.

"Come on," cried Rob, and the two of them took off, silently following the heron. The heron led them deep into the marshes. But the children knew how to distinguish firm ground from marshy sinkholes, and followed with confident, sure feet.

Bethany noticed it first. She felt a sudden chill through the thick fabric of her sweat-shirt. She tugged at Rob's arm. "Look! It's the fog!"

"We'd better go back," said Rob. But the fog had descended thickly. The two children were further into the marsh than they'd ever been before, and were quickly disoriented. Everything looked different in the mist and they could no longer hear the sounds of the marsh. It was weird and scary, and already very cold.

"What'll we do?" asked Bethany.

Rob shivered. "Follow me," he ordered, "but be very careful to put your feet exactly where I put mine. And hold my hand."

But Rob soon stopped. He had an uneasy feeling they were going in circles, but he couldn't make out any landmarks. Then he muttered anxiously, "Look, over there."

Bethany looked, and screamed. A huge figure had suddenly loomed out of the mist. Its massive shape was distorted by the fog and it kept disappearing. But it had heard her scream, and now a deep, muffled voice reached them through the mist.

"Come...to...me. Over...here." The children stared at each other, terrified. Then Bethany whispered hopefully, "Do you think it might be Dad?"

"Come on," said Rob, "we have to risk it." And they began to make their way towards the waiting figure. When they got within a few feet, they recognized their father, and ran into his warm and welcoming arms.

"Dad, is it really you?" whispered Bethany. And Rob declared, "Thanks, Dad. I knew you'd come!"

## Questions

**Why didn't the disciples know that it was Jesus standing on the shore?**

**What made them realize who it was?**

Children, you have no fish, have you?

Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

FALLEN LETTER PUZZLE

CRYPTOGRAM

PICTURE DIFFERENCES

## Answers

1. Hand moved
2. Fire smaller
3. Fish scales added
4. Nail scar missing
5. Strap on Jesus
6. Beard/Mustache missing
7. Belt stripes
8. Hat is bigger, black
9. Mouth changed
10. Wave missing



# Gospel Grams

Today's Gospel Story  
is from  
**John 21:1-19**



