

A circular graphic with a bright sun, a bridge over water, and a wooden walkway with seagulls. The sun is large and yellow with rays, set against a blue sky with light clouds. Below the sun is a bridge spanning across a body of water. In the foreground, there is a wooden walkway with a railing, and three seagulls are perched on the railing. The entire scene is enclosed in a circular frame.

MY FISHING DAYS AT THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

**Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.**

Psalm 119:105

A BOSS READER AND SUNBEAM PRODUCTION

THERE IS AN ADAGE OR OLD SAYING.

Give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day,
teach a man to fish and he'll eat for a lifetime.



PROVERBS 19:23



WHEN WE RESPECT, TRUST, OBEY AND WORSHIP THE LORD WITH OUR HEARTS.
HE GIVES US LIFE EVERY DAY: WE WILL SLEEP AT NIGHT WITHOUT THE FEAR OF DANGER.

The morning's early dawn light came through my bedroom window, chasing away the darkness. Its gentle, shimmering rays tapped me on the face.

First, I opened one eye, then the other. I remembered today's my first fishing day! I shouted and jumped out of bed. This was the first time I was to catch my dinner fresh from the largest estuary in the United States, the Chesapeake Bay.

I ran through my bedroom door to wake Granddad and Dad. To my surprise, they were awake and outside, loading up the van with our fishing gear.

I sang out through my open bedroom window, Please don't forget the fish bait.

We have everything under control, Bum-Beanie, and you don't need to worry. There's plenty of bait, said Granddad.

Then Dad said, I hear those Chesapeake fish begging us to come and catch them. Hurry and get dressed.

I dressed in a flash and dashed out the house front door to the packed van with my new fishing rod I got for my tenth birthday six months ago.



COLOSSIANS 3:20.
CHILDREN, ALWAYS OBEY YOUR PARENTS, FOR THIS PLEASURES THE LORD.

Granddad drove Dad and me to his lucky fishing spot on the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia. They called it a bay. Wow! It was tremendous and looked like an ocean to me.

The fish filled our huge, ice-packed cooler each day we fished that summer. Dad and I watched with amazement as Granddad's fishing rod caught more fish than ours.

Somehow, the bay fish knew I was from New York City, the Big Apple. A place where life's fast and hectic, and to help me slow down, I believe God was teaching me patience and waiting on His timing. Sunday school taught me that patience is a virtue with God and a good thing to have.

I waited two hours, and the fish neither wiggled nor jiggled my fishing rod. I believe waiting for God was harder on the worm than me. After another hour passed, I finally caught my first fish.



PSALM 38:15

**FOR I HOPE IN YOU, O LORD:
YOU WILL ANSWER, O LORD MY GOD.**



One day, while fishing, a stranger came to us and tipped his hat. He said, Howdy neighbors, are the fish biting today?

Granddad smiled and answered, Yes!

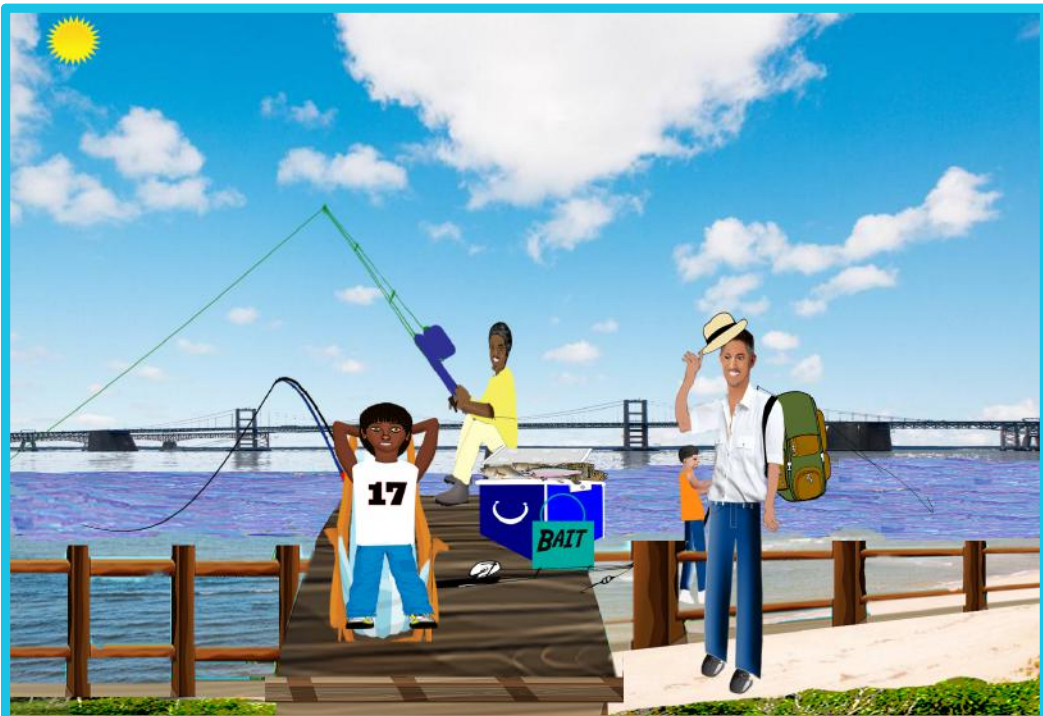
The man glanced at our cooler on the dock. It was overflowing with fish. He opened the backpack he carried on his shoulder, reached inside it, and pulled out a book.

The man said, Neighbors, I would be humbly grateful if I could trade this fine book for three of your fresh-caught fish, and he handed Granddad the book.

Granddad read the book's cover and said, Bum-Beanie, this book's called Treasure Island. It is a great story. You should read while fishing. It would be an excellent use of your time.

I said, Okay Granddad, I'll bring along some comic books to read.

Granddad frowned. He said, Bum-Beanie, Treasure Island is the book I want you to read while you sit at the fishing dock.



PROVERBS 19:17

WHEN YOU GIVE TO THE POOR, YOU GIVE TO THE LORD AND HE WILL REPAY YOU FOR YOUR
KINDNESS.

Granddad handed the man three large fish wrapped in foil. He placed them in his backpack and said, Thank you. God bless you, and may the fish in the bay swim your way today as he walks away.

I thumbed through several pages of the book Granddad handed me and said, Dad! Granddad gave me this book without pictures. It only has words! I muttered, This book isn't worth our fish.

Dad said, Read it. Bum-Beanie, you'll enjoy reading this book without the pictures.



Three days passed. The man returned with a boy, whom he called Sonny, to our fishing site. Do you and your folks fish here every day? Sonny asked me.

Almost every day. I love being near the water and catching fish with my Grandfather and Dad. They are teaching me to use my fishing rod. Do you fish Sonny?

No, but I might like it, He said. Your fishing rod looks strong enough to catch really big fish.

Sonny's dad pulled another book from his backpack, entitled A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens, and handed it to Granddad. Granddad wrapped foil around four large fish and gave them to the man.

Thank you, oh so graciously! My generous friends, said the man while placing the fish again in his backpack. Thank you, kind people, for your generosity, said Sonny. He smiled, waved goodbye, and walked away with his dad.

I thumbed through the book's pages and said, Granddad; you have traded fish for another book without pictures.



EPHESIANS 5:20- GIVE THANKS ALWAYS AND FOR EVERYTHING TO GOD THE FATHER IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

**Gee-whiz, I don't believe we should trade with them anymore.
I like picture books. Granddad smiled and said, Bum-Beanie, pictures can help a book's story, but they tell only a part of the story, yet words can paint an entire adventure.**

Sonny and his dad returned three days later to our favorite fishing spot, along with a young girl named Grace.

My generous friends, I have nothing to trade today. Will you share three of your fish with me and my family, anyway? He said, Your kindness and generosity have been a blessing to us; we don't have fishing rods or know how to fish. We offer something to trade when we can.

Granddad said, God has blessed you and your family. We only shared God's gift of the fish in His bay with you. My humble friends, today we will share with you more than the three fish that you asked for. We will give you these three extra fishing rods and teach you to fish.

Sonny and Grace each claimed a fishing rod and followed me to the bay's dock, where I showed them how to bait their hooks and cast their lines into the water.



PSALM 91:15
BECAUSE GOD HOLDS FAST TO ME IN LOVE... HE WILL BE WITH ME IN TIMES OF TROUBLE.

While we waited for fish to take our bait, Sonny said, My dad lost his job seven months ago, and it has been tough for him to pay the bills and put food on our table.

I understand. My dad lost his job a year ago, and it was tough for us too. My Sunday school teacher said we can ask God for anything in Jesus' name. But when we pray, we must believe with all our hearts that He will hear us and answer us. Which means we should not doubt Him when we ask Him for something from our hearts.

So I just talked to God and asked Him to give my dad a job. I believed with all my heart that God would answer my prayer. A week later, my dad found a job. It made him a cheerful worker and paid him more money.

God answers my prayers. He doesn't always give me the things that I sometimes think He should, yet He always has the best plans for me. God lives and works miracles, not magic.

Bum-Beanie, will you help us pray to God too? Said Grace.

We bowed our heads, closed our eyes, and prayed together for Sonny and Grace's dad. I knew everything would work out alright for them. After that, we caught many fish in the bay that day.



PHILIPPIANS 4:19- AND MY GOD WILL SUPPLY EVERY NEED OF YOURS ACCORDING TO HIS RICHES IN GLORY IN CHRIST JESUS.

JOHN 14:13- WHATEVER YOU ASK IN MY NAME, THIS I WILL DO, THAT THE FATHER MAY BE GLORIFIED IN THE SON.

LUKE 1:37- FOR NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD.

**Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net
that was thrown into the sea and gathered
fish of every kind.**

Matthew 13:47



CREDITS: WE ARE NEVER ALONE BY KIRK FRANKLIN

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A Boss Reader/Sunbeam Production, 2023