

## “A FISHY WORLD”

### Greed the Great Destroyer and Killer.

#### Introductory Note

*The "Fishy World" story is an allegory of what goes on in our world because of greed, competitiveness and a lust to have more and to be than others.*

*In the sea all the fish, although different in size, shape and color, were equally free and happy, till one day, "GREEDY" appeared on the scene. He wanted to be more than the others. Straightaway, in the fishy world a greedy competition to be more than others began. Injustice, exploitation followed; next, fears and unhappiness, finally, the "Fishy World" was ruined and destroyed. "Greedy" too once he made it to the top, died a victim of his own greed.*

#### Intent of this Fable.

- ✓ *To realize that cut-throat competition leads to disaster*
- ✓ *Competition as a rule is naked greed masquerading as a harmless desire for improvement.*
- ✓ *Cooperation and emulation are better ways*

## THE FABLE

The sea was vast and limitless. In that expanse of blue transparent water, there lived all sorts of fish: big fish, small fish, young fish, and old fish, fish of every color and shape and size. All were equally happy and free. It was fun to be a fish!

One day, "Greedy", one of the fishes began telling to himself: "I am fed up just being one fish among many. I want to be bigger than the rest. I want to be powerful, to boss and dominate."

He thought that the fastest way to grow bigger and powerful was to eat smaller fish. And so he began in earnest. Very soon, he grew very fast. Now, he was bigger than most of the rest, he was greatly feared and highly respected by all.

When the other fish saw what happened, they too, wanted to become bigger and powerful. And so, without any qualms of conscience the bigger fish began gobbling up the smaller ones. It was now, the law of the jungle. Might was right. Very soon, some fish grew very big and powerful. But, the number of fishes in the sea dwindled very fast. Those who survived improved a lot in size, in strength and power; yet not in happiness!.

After many days, all that was left in the sea were two monstrous fishes, "Greedy" and his rival. They could not live in peace. They were all out to destroy each other. One day, they engaged in a deadly battle. It was a fight to the finish. At the end "Greedy" won the

day. He felt very great. He grew even bigger. He became the biggest fish ever. He had no rival, no competitor!. He had made it to the top!

Now, he was feeling lonesome. He had no friends, no companions, no competitors and no rivals to dethrone! Besides, now, there wasn't a fish left to feed on; he could not grow bigger any longer. Finally, in frustration and sadness, "Greedy" starved to death.

### **POINTS FOR REFLECTION**

*If you conduct this exercise in a group, try to get the participants put their replies in writing.*

1. Why at the start, although the fish in the sea were so different in size, shape and colors, all were equally happy?
2. Why no sooner "Greedy" appeared in the scene, things changed for the worse in the world of the fish?
3. What evils did "Greedy" unleashed in the "Fishy World"? List them.
4. The story tells us that many fish grew in size, strength and power, but why did they not grow in happiness?
5. Can a greedy person be ever happy? Why?
6. Why when "Greedy" became the biggest fish ever he died of sadness and frustration?
7. Please, compare the story of "Fishy World" to our world. What is happening among us humans?
8. Why are there so many fights and quarrels and even wars between: Persons and persons, families and families, nations and nations?
9. What are the results of it all?
10. Can our world survive if each one of us wants to be more than the others? Why?
11. Is competition evil or good? Why?
12. Should we encourage "competition" in our homes, schools, colleges and places of work? Why?
13. Are there no other ways better than competition to help us and others to improve? What are those ways? How to go about them?
14. What is the greatest need of the world today?

### **GROUP SESSION:**

- ✓ Share yours replies with the group.
- ✓ Discuss the points brought up by the participants.
- ✓ Make relevant applications to the daily life.
- ✓ End with a short shared prayer time.