

Breakfast Blessing: Jesus Gives Peter a Job

#12

Big Idea: Jesus forgave Peter and told him to teach other people about Jesus, too.

Bible Text: John 21:1-17

Pray for Wisdom

Dear precious and giving Father, though I have failed You many times, You repeatedly reassure me of Your love and restore me in Your service. Thank You for offering full and free forgiveness.

Please help me to present the truths of this lesson in such a way that the children will listen with their hearts and minds. Plant within them a desire to tell others about Your love.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Supply Checklist

Welcome & Worship Time:

- ☐ fishing poles (bamboo, string, magnets), paper fish, paper clips, pan, blue bed sheet

Bible Time:

- ☐ Bible teaching picture #12
- ☐ student activity pages 45-48
- ☐ stickers from sticker page
- ☐ snacks

Disciple Time:

- ☐ Dee-Cy-Paul picture #12
- ☐ puppets (optional)
- ☐ paper bags, scissors, stickers or paper hearts, crayons, markers

Add'l "Learn by Doing" Activities:

- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Children will:



- Know** • Jesus helped His friends catch many fish; then they ate breakfast and talked together.
- Feel** • Glad to tell others about Jesus.
- Do** • Go tell their friends that Jesus loves them.

Lesson Summary

Peter felt awful about his last contact with Jesus before the crucifixion. It was only eye contact. It was a sad look from Jesus, right after the rooster crowed, right after Peter denied even knowing Jesus three times. Jesus was crucified that day, and Peter never had a chance to say he was sorry for forsaking his master and friend.

When Peter heard that Jesus' tomb was empty, he ran as fast as he could to see for himself. It was true. Jesus' body was gone. But was Jesus alive? Would Peter have a chance to make amends to his Lord?

Some time later, Peter was with several of the disciples beside the Sea. Peter said, "I'm going fishing." Peter had been a fisherman before meeting Jesus, but Jesus had turned Peter into a "fisher of men" (Matthew 4:19). Now that Jesus was gone, what else was Peter to do? He might as well go fishing.

The disciples joined him, but they caught no fish all night. At dawn, a figure on the beach called out that they should cast the net once more. It came up loaded with fish, and John said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Peter jumped out of the boat and swam ashore. He didn't want to miss this chance to be with Jesus.

Jesus gently led Peter through a conversation to heal the pain of those three denials. He gave Peter three chances to say how much he loved Him, and told Peter to teach others about Him.

Jesus set Peter free by forgiving him. Forgiveness is a powerful force for healing, and even preschoolers can give and receive this gift. We who care for preschool children can model forgiveness by gladly granting it when we have been wronged, and by asking for forgiveness when we have wronged a child.



Greet Each Child

Welcome each child warmly.

Encourage children to present their offerings to the Lord as they arrive.

Learn by Doing

Enjoy the suggested activity below or refer to the *Additional "Learn by Doing" Activities* on page 75 for alternate ideas to introduce this lesson.

Going Fishing

You will need: bamboo fishing poles, string, magnets, paper fish, paper clips, pan, blue sheet.

Before class, assemble simple fishing poles from a bamboo stick (found in gardening stores), string, and a magnet tied on the end. Also, cut out patterns of fish and attach a paper clip to each one. Lay a blue bed sheet on the floor and arrange chairs to represent a boat. Place paper fish in a shallow pan or bowl next to the boat on the sheet. You may also want to decorate the classroom with fishing nets that can be purchased from craft stores. As the children arrive let them know they are going fishing today. Provide them with a fishing pole and instruct them how to fish from the boat.

Tell children that in today's Bible story they will be learning about Jesus and His disciples fishing and eating breakfast together.

Sing with Joy

Move the children from the initial learning activity to the worship time with a favorite song. Select one below or use a preschool songbook or recording.

- *Oh, How I Love Jesus* (traditional)
- *Trust and Obey* (traditional)

- *This is my Commandment* (traditional)
- *Jesus, Jesus* (traditional)

Rehearse the Verse

Go to different places in the classroom and say the verse. You may want to sit at the tables, look out the window, sit in the story center, stand by the door, etc. The children will love the movement and the repetition of the verse will be great!

Lesson Memory Verse: John 21:16.

"Jesus said, 'Peter, if you love Me; go tell others about Me.'"

Monthly Memory Verse: Matthew 28:6.

"The angel said, 'Jesus isn't in the grave! He's alive!'"

Quarter Memory Verse: Matthew 28:6.

"The angel said, 'Jesus isn't in the grave! He's alive!'"

Seek God's Blessing

Talk with God about your time together with the children today, about the Bible story, and about any special needs.

As you pray, use meaningful and simple words from your heart. The children will learn to pray by listening to you.



Tell the Truth

Open your Bible to the passage and place it on your lap. Show Bible teaching picture #12 as you tell or read the story. (The Bible story is printed on page 74 and on the back of the teaching picture.)

The story "Breakfast Blessing" is based on John 21:1-17. It captures the interest and attention of older preschool children. If you are

teaching younger preschoolers, you may want to use the shorter *Summary/Review*.

Before you say Jesus' refrain, you may wish to give each child a small fish-shaped cracker and use a wide open-armed gesture to signify the sheep-feeding Jesus commanded.

Complete Page 46

Distribute student page 46.

Place the appropriate stickers on the picture as you reinforce the Bible story.

Talk and Snack

Consider serving blue finger-gelatin with fish shaped pineapple pieces. Follow the recipe on a blueberry gelatin box adding canned fish-shaped pineapple (found in most grocery stores). After it has chilled and set, cut it into bite-sized squares. Let the children pretend the wiggly gelatin and pineapple is the water and the fish the disciples caught with Jesus' help.

While you eat, talk about the Bible story. These questions will help you get started.

- What did Peter do when he and some of his friends were by the sea?
- At first, how many fish did they catch?
- After Jesus told them to try again, how many fish did they catch?
- What did Jesus want Peter to do?

Wash Up

Allow time for your children to clean up and use the rest room.

Play and Move

With the children standing, pretend you are the disciples throwing your nets out onto the water from inside a boat. Pull in the empty net with ease. Then, pretend to do what Jesus said by throwing the net over the other side of the boat, catching lots of

fish and pulling it in with great difficulty.

Another idea would be to pretend you are going fishing with your daddy. Do the actions for getting the fishing pole ready, putting on the worm, throwing or casting out the line, catching a fish, and reeling it in.

Complete Page 47

Distribute student page 47.

2 & 3 Year-olds: Look at the coloring picture and talk about people they could tell, "Jesus loves you." Invite the children to color the picture as you talk about them telling their friends that Jesus loves them.

Optional: Provide small red heart stickers for students to place beside those people in the picture they could tell, "Jesus loves you."

4 & 5 Year-olds: Same as above.

Learn by Doing

Enjoy the suggested activity below or refer to the *Additional "Learn by Doing" Activities* on page 75 for alternate ideas to reinforce the Bible story.

Do You Love Me?

Have children sit on the floor in a circle. Sing to the tune, "Are You Sleeping." Ask them to repeat the words after you.

Do you love me?

Yes, I do.

Tell a friend Jesus loves them.
(Point to a friend.)

Yes, Jesus loves you.
(Point to a friend.)

Practice with the children several times. When they are ready, sing the song again without your prompting or help.

Pray for People

Ask for prayer requests. Pray for each personal concern.

Pray that each child will boldly tell their friends that Jesus loves them very much.

Bible Story: "Breakfast Blessing" (based on John 21:1-17)

After Jesus rose from the dead, the disciples went home to Galilee. They were waiting for Jesus to tell them what to do next. One evening Peter said, "I'm going fishing."

And the other disciples all said, "We'll go with you!"

So they pushed a boat into the water and went fishing.

*They fished and they fished and they fished—all night.
But they didn't catch a fish, not even a bite.*

Early in the morning, the disciples saw a Man walking along the beach.

He called out, "Friends! How's the fishing? Did you catch anything?"

"Nope," they said.

*"We fished and we fished and we fished—all night.
But we didn't catch a fish, not even a bite."*

"Try the other side of the boat!" the Man said.

So they did. And oodles and gobs of fish swam right into their nets! There were so many fish they thought the nets would break.

Then Peter knew the Man was Jesus! Peter jumped right out of the boat and into the lake! He swam to shore to see Jesus.

Jesus had made a little fire. He was roasting fish for breakfast.

After they ate, Jesus asked, "Peter, do you love Me very, very much?"

Peter nodded and said it was true, "I'm fond of You, Jesus. You know I love You!"

"Then go and feed My sheep," said Jesus. "Go and feed My lambs." (Repeat with the children.)

Now Jesus wasn't a Shepherd with real sheep out grazing in the fields. When Jesus talked about His sheep and lambs, He was really talking about His followers. Jesus wanted Peter to teach others how to follow Jesus.

And then Jesus asked again. "Peter, do you love Me very, very much?"

Peter nodded and said it was true, "I'm fond of You, Jesus. You know I love You!"

"Then go and feed My sheep," said Jesus. "Go and feed My lambs." (Repeat with the children.)

One more time Jesus asked, "Peter, are you fond of Me? Do you love Me like a friend?"

This time Peter was hurt when Jesus asked him. Peter nodded, "You know that it's true, I'm fond of You, Jesus. You know I love You!"

"Then go and feed My sheep," said Jesus. "Go and feed My lambs." (Repeat with the children.)

Then Jesus told Peter to follow Him, wherever He might lead. And Peter finally knew what to do next! He would...

*Go and feed the sheep of Jesus.
Go and feed His lambs.
(Repeat with the children.)*

"Breakfast Blessing" (Summary/Review)

The disciples were waiting for Jesus in Galilee. One evening, seven disciples went fishing. They tried all night, but didn't catch a single fish.

Early in the morning, a Man on the beach called out, "Try the other side of the boat!"

Soon, many large fish swam right into their nets!

Peter knew the Man on the shore was Jesus. Peter jumped into the lake! He swam to Jesus.

After they ate breakfast, Jesus asked Peter three times, "Do you love Me very, very much?"

Three times Peter answered, "You know I love You!"

And all three times Jesus said, "Then go and feed My sheep. Go and feed My lambs."

Jesus wanted Peter to teach other people and show them how to follow Jesus.

Additional "Learn by Doing" Activities

All three *Learn by Doing* sections in this lesson include a suggested learning activity. However, you may want to substitute one or more of the activities below to capture the specific interests and needs of your children.

Select activities based on the age of your children, their learning style preferences, and their developmental needs.

(See pages 80-81 for more information about adapting these activities for *Learning Centers*.)

Coloring Page

(for all preschoolers)

Provide copies of the reproducible Bible story picture for this lesson (#12) for children to color. (See page 95 of this *Teacher Guide*.)

Door Hanger Hearts

(for all preschoolers)

You will need: red card stock, scissors, hole punch, rubber bands, miscellaneous stickers of Jesus, crayons, markers.

Before class, cut one 6" x 6" heart per child from card stock. Punch a small hole in the top and insert a rubber band for hanging. Write on each door hanger the following information:

*Jesus loves you
and I do too!*

*Please come to (your church name)
at (your church address).*

(worship times)

*You have been invited by
(child's name).*

Give each child a heart door hanger and help them write their name at the bottom. Write it for them if they cannot. Provide crayons, markers, and stickers for them to decorate their door hanger. Explain to them that a door hanger is one way to tell someone about Jesus and encourage them to hang it on a friend or neighbor's door when they go home. If time allows, let

the children make more than one to give to their friends.

Fish or Sailboat Straw Holder

(for all preschoolers)

You will need: construction paper, scissors, pattern of sailboat or fish (see below), straws

Before class, enlarge the patterns of the sailboat and fish to the desired size and cut out enough shapes for students and their friends. Print on each one, "Jesus Is Alive!" John 21:1-17 and cut slits (as shown on pattern). Give the shapes to the students to color and show them how to insert a straw into each one. If time allows, provide additional shapes for the children to color, put on straws, and take home for their friends.

Play and Sing

(for all preschoolers)

You will need: store-bought or hand-made instruments such as drum, wood blocks, sticks, sand-paper blocks, tambourines, and bells.

Invite children to choose an instrument and sit down in a circle. Sing the following words to the tune, "Farmer in the Dell." You may want to sing through the song first before playing the instruments, so the children can learn the words. Encourage them to stand and march around the circle while they sing and play their instruments.

We will tell our friends;

We will tell our friends;

Jesus loves everyone;

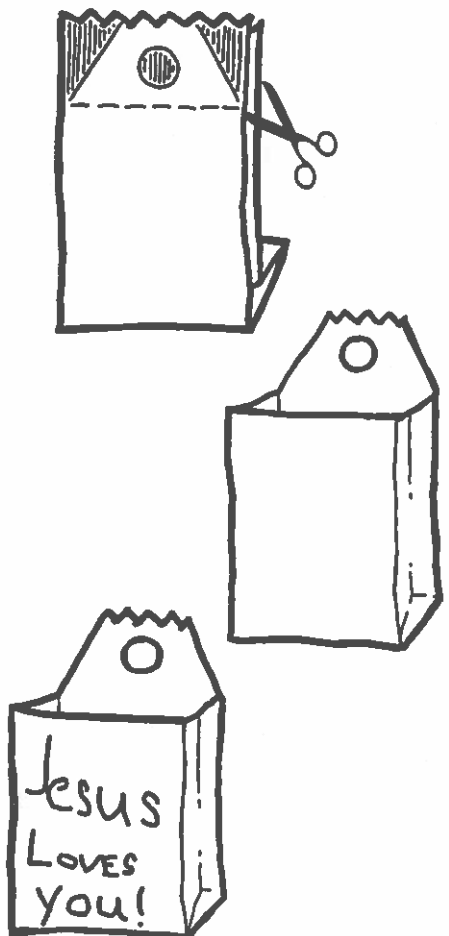
We will tell our friends.

Jesus Loves You Litter Bag

(suggested activity for Dee-Cy-Paul story, page 76; for all preschoolers)

You will need: one paper bag for each student, scissors, stickers or cut out construction paper red and pink hearts, crayons, and markers.

Before class, trim through both layers of the top corners of a paper bag as shown below. Cut off the front flap only as shown by the dotted line in the illustration. Make a quarter-sized hole in the back flap. Write on the front of each bag, "Jesus Loves You!" Give each student a bag to decorate with paper hearts, stickers, crayons, and markers. Encourage the children to give their litter bag to a friend so they will be reminded every day that Jesus loves them.



See *Learning Centers* on pages 80-81 for ideas that can be used as additional "Learn by Doing" activities.



Feed My Sheep

Jesus Gives Peter a Job
John 21:1-17

Name: _____

Jesus wanted Peter to tell others what God had taught him.

Seven disciples had fished all night, but caught nothing!
“where are all the fish?” they wondered.

“Try the other side of the boat!” a Man on shore yelled.
Soon, many large fish filled their net!

One disciple said, “It’s Jesus!” Peter dove into the lake and
swam to shore.

After breakfast, Jesus asked Peter three different times, “Do
you really love Me?”

Each time Peter answered, “Yes, You Know I love You!”

Jesus said, “Then go feed My sheep.”
Jesus gave Peter a new Job - to teach
His followers.

Jesus Gives Peter a Job - John 21:1-17



Parent Partners

Lesson Focus: Jesus wanted Peter to tell others what God had taught him.

Ways to reinforce this truth with your child:

ASK:

- After Jesus told them to try again, how many fish did they catch?
- What did Peter and his friends decide to do?
- At first, how many fish did they catch?
- What did Jesus want Peter to do?

ACT:

- Read the Bible story together (or read the summary on the front of this page).
- Lesson Bible Verse: **John 21:16**
"Jesus said, 'Peter, if you love Me, go tell others about Me.'"
- Provide opportunities for your child to share his or her love for Jesus with others.