

# Large Group

## Jesus Forgave Peter

Bible Passage: John 21

Memory Verse: John 17:3

**Big Picture Question:** How do we know that God wants us to know Him? We can know that God wants us to know Him because He has revealed Himself through His Word.



### Countdown Video (3 mins)

### Worship Song (4 mins)

Worship Leader briefly introduces self, welcomes kids, leads 1st worship song, and prays for the time.

### Welcome (1 mins)

Large Group Leader tell kids what to expect to happen (1 minute)

- watch the lesson video
- retell the story.
- read the story from scripture

### Watch the Lesson Video (4 mins)

### Retell the Story (11 mins)

Lead the kids in a fun retelling of the story

Here are some resources to help you formulate this time.

Review what we learned:

Over the past two weeks, we learned that after Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to some of His followers and His disciples. Who remembers some people who saw Jesus after He rose? [Allow responses.] Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene at the tomb, two men on the road to Emmaus, and His eleven disciples. At this point in our timeline, Jesus has appeared to His disciples twice. Today, we will read about the third time Jesus appeared to His disciples and how He forgave Peter.

## Today's Lesson

In our Bible story, the disciples fished all night but didn't catch any fish. Then Jesus appeared and commanded them to lower their nets in the water, and their net fills with fish! Do you remember another time this happened in the Bible? When? [Allow responses.] When Jesus first called Peter, Andrew, James, and John to follow Him and become fishers of men, they also had not caught any fish until Jesus appeared. Again Jesus performed a similar miracle, and then He invited them to eat with Him. Even though all His disciples had left Him when He was arrested, Jesus came to them and provided fish for them to eat. Jesus showed that He loved and forgave His disciples.

Peter was so excited to see Jesus that he jumped in the water and swam all the way to shore. After Jesus and the disciples ate, Jesus asked Peter three questions. What did Jesus ask three times? [Allow responses.] Jesus asked Peter, 'Do you love me?' What did Peter say to Jesus each time? [Allow responses.] Peter said he loved Jesus. Jesus forgave Peter and showed him that following Him means loving Him.

Peter was getting another chance. He had denied Christ three times before His crucifixion, but now he shared his love for Jesus three times. Then Jesus gave Peter an important job to do. When Jesus asked Peter to 'take care of His sheep,' He was commanding Peter to take care of Jesus' followers and spread the gospel to others. Peter became a very important leader in the early church. He was no longer just a fisherman, but a true fisher of men.

**Christ Connection | The disciples had turned away from Jesus when He was arrested, but Jesus still wanted to use them in God's plan—as fishers of men who would tell people the good news about Jesus. Jesus is the Lord who forgives us and makes things right again.**

## Read from the Bible (4 mins)

John 21:1-19

## Remind Kids of Four Questions (1 min)

- What did you like about today's story?
- What did you find confusing?
- What did you learn about people?
- What did you learn about God?

## Memory Verse Song (4 mins)

Worship Leader connects the lesson to the memory verse, leads the memory verse song with hand motions, and closes in prayer.