

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 243: JESUS RESTORES PETER
JOHN 21:15-19

When they finished eating breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me more than these other men love me?" Peter answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Then Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said to him, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me?" Peter answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Then Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." A third time Jesus said, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me?" Peter was sad because Jesus had asked him three times, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you!" Jesus said to him, "Take care of my sheep. The truth is, when you were young, you tied your own belt and went where you wanted. But when you are old, you will put out your hands, and someone else will tie your belt. They will lead you where you don't want to go." (Jesus said this to show how Peter would die to give glory to God.) Then he said to Peter, "Follow me!"

Have you ever felt like a complete failure? You had good intentions but you didn't measure up. Or have you done something really wrong and didn't know how to make things right again? Maybe you had a fight with your best friend, talked back to your parents, or took something that didn't belong to you. You felt really bad about it but what could you do? How could you restore (or make right) your relationship again?

Peter was in this position. Jesus had been arrested. Peter had denied Jesus three times. He loved Jesus and was feeling really terrible about what he had done. He didn't know what to do.

Jesus had died on the cross and had risen from the dead. Peter was very excited; Jesus was there with him. But he didn't know how to make it up to Jesus. How could the relationship between Peter and Jesus be restored?

Our story today shows that Jesus forgave and restored Peter and passed on to Peter the leadership of the church. Even though Peter failed we see that Jesus still had a plan for his life and he went on to be a very strong and great leader in the church.

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"Jesus restores Peter"
John 21:15-19

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MEMORY VERSE:

"The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want...." **PSALM 23:1**

Review Questions

True or False

1. So, when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you need me?"
2. He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you."
3. Jesus said to him, "Then that is all I wanted to know."
4. Then Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs."
5. Jesus said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my sheep."

Questions

1. When Jesus asked Simon Peter the third time, was Peter happy?
2. How many times did Jesus ask Simon Peter if he loved Him?
3. After the third time Jesus asked Simon Peter if he loved Him, what did Peter say to Jesus? (Lord, you know all things. You know that I love you.)
4. After Jesus told Simon Peter to feed, or take care of, His sheep, what else did Jesus tell Peter?
5. Why did Jesus tell Peter that story?
6. After the story, what did Jesus tell Peter to do?

Lesson 243 Craft/Activity

Jesus then instructs Peter to teach His little ones, the children and new believers. Did you know that you have a special place in Jesus' heart? He desires for you to be fed. How are we fed? Through the word of God. Jesus was telling Peter that the best way to show his love for Jesus was to feed His lambs. Lambs are the youngest of the sheep.

Why do we come to church and listen to Bible stories? Because Jesus wants you to be fed His word. It is because Jesus loves you and wants you to grow up knowing Him.

We can show we love others by sharing God's word with them. [We show our love for Jesus by helping others.](#)

Feed My Lambs!

Have your class prepare snacks for one another. Cheerios necklaces are fun. Divide enough Cheerios for each student to make approximately the same size necklace on string. Then have them exchange the necklaces with one another saying, "Feed my lambs."

We also need to obey and follow Jesus. If we fail, we need to confess and ask forgiveness each time and be restored so that God can use us. When we love and help others too, we will also find true happiness in our own lives. It feels good to help someone in need and to know that we have made someone else happy. [We show our love for Jesus by helping others.](#)

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to help where ever the Lord shows. If any children have not yet responded to the gospel, give them an opportunity to do so.