

Katie



The Sunday
School Lady



JOHN 21

PETER REINSTATED

Scripture: John 21

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: Scooters or wheeled chairs for boats (optional), paper clips, magnets, string, bags, markers/crayons, scissors.

Intro

Who remembers what we talked about last week? (Jesus' death and resurrection) Well, today we're going to talk about what happened after. And our story starts very similar to where it started for some when they joined Jesus in his ministry. The disciples are fishing. Let's first get our bodies moving by playing a fishing game.

Play a Game:

Go fishing. Have scattered throughout the floor fish from the cut out at the end of the lesson. Tape or glue paper clips to the back of each fish. Have a magnet on a string (or a magnet block), and have the kids scoot around on a chair or scooter (or just scoot on their behinds) and throw their line to catch a fish. When they catch it, put it in their bag. The kid with the most fish at the end wins. If you don't have enough chairs or scooters, you can create a relay race with teams.

Read: John 21:1-14

Ask:

Could you imagine being one of the disciples? There you are fishing, thinking about everything that has happened in the last several days, without catching any fish. Then Jesus shows up and you catch 153 of them!

What would be going through your mind as a disciple?

If you could ask Jesus any question after he raised from the dead, what do you think you would ask?

Explain:

Do you remember how Jesus told Peter he would deny him? Do you remember how Peter did and that he went outside and wept? Have you ever wondered what happened after? We know Jesus rose from the dead and that would have been amazing. But how would Peter have felt? He would have realized that he messed up. Bad. He denied Jesus in his hour of greatest need after promising that he would die for him. How would you have felt? I bet Peter felt shame, and guilt, and sorrow. Let's read about what Jesus does with this.

Read: John 21:15-19

Ask:

How do you think Peter felt?

What does Jesus mean when he says, "Feed my sheep?"

Peter becomes a great leader in the church after Jesus goes back into heaven, and Jesus wants him to feed his sheep. He wants him to be a shepherd to them, to teach them, to guide them, to feed them with his Word and all he has learned from Jesus.

This is specifically for Peter, but it can be for us too. If you have walked with Jesus, you can feed his sheep as well. You can tell someone about Jesus. You can teach people what you've learned from him. You can help lead people to Jesus.

Is there a sheep you could feed this week that you can think of?

Read: John 21:20-25

Explain:

Now this is one of the most important things that I have learned in my life and am still learning. Do you notice that Peter wanted to know about what God was calling John to do? Well, what about him? How will he die? And Jesus stops him. He says, "What is that to you?" Guys, so often, we can look at what God is calling other people to do and wish we had that calling or wonder why God has called them to that and you to what he has called you to. We can become jealous or nosy. We can get distracted wishing God called us to something different. But Jesus wants us to remember that isn't for us to concern ourselves with. We are to be concerned with what he has called us to do. Not others. And we don't need to be jealous because he has a special call for each one of us. Some might have grand, incredible callings. Some may have more humble callings. Ours is not to decide our calling, ours is to decide how to walk and obey in the calling God has for us. You can reach only the people you can reach. I can reach only the people I can reach. We all have a purpose and a part in God's Kingdom, and we need to trust him and his call for us. It is so special, so unique, and why we are here: to glorify him with our lives in the special way he has prepared for us.

Craft:

Have the kids color bookmarks from the following page. This quote comes from Dr. Seuss. He realized something I think that Jesus was pointing out to Peter: that each of us has a special purpose and reason for being alive. We are each meant to bring God glory in a special way. Get personal here and explain it to your kids. Point out their gifts, point out that you don't have those. For example, I can't sing, but God had given one of my students a beautiful voice, share that. Then remind them not to look to other people's gifts and feel jealous. We are each gifted in unique ways, meant to help one another and glorify God.

Memorize: John 21:25

Close in Prayer





