

A REVEALING RESTORATION

Jesus Appears
in Galilee
John 21:1–19
AD 33

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus forgives and sends us.

BIBLE VERSE

Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.” John 21:17

LEARNER GOAL

I can relate how Jesus forgives and sends Peter to how He forgives and sends me.

LAW & GOSPEL

God demands that I love Him and none other, solely and completely.

Even though I deny Him, God forgives me and assures me of His love for Christ’s sake.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Peter, James, John, Thomas, and a few of the other disciples fish all night on the Sea of Tiberias without catching anything. At dawn, Jesus appears on the beach and tells them to cast their nets on the right side of the boat. Immediately, the nets fill to overflowing, and John realizes Jesus is there. Peter swims ashore to see Jesus, who prepares breakfast. Addressing Peter directly, Jesus asks three times, “Do you love Me?” With each question, Peter becomes more distressed. Through these questions, the Lord restores and reinstates Peter to lead His Church.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read John 21:1–19 and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read “Apologetics Helps” on the back page in preparation for the “Live” section.

IN DEPTH Read the article “Enigmatic Sayings” on page 1775 of *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

SUPPLIES

FOR THIS LESSON

- Sticky notes
- Whiteboard or large sheet of paper
- Dry-erase marker or marker
- Sheets of paper

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Student copies of *Defend Journal*
- Bibles
- Pens
- Shareable images from digital resource center
- Supplies for bonus activities
- cph.org/digitalcontent



LEADER NOTE

This is the optional seasonal lesson for Easter. This narrative recounts how Jesus revealed Himself again to His disciples after He rose from the dead.



DEFEND JOURNAL

Hand out journals and turn to Lesson 1.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Treat your group by serving them with “Breakfast Served.”



BONUS ACTIVITY

Bring this narrative to life with “Act It Out.”



LEADER NOTE

For a review of Peter’s three denials of Jesus, look up and read Luke 22:54–62.

LAUNCH

WALK-IN QUESTION

What do you do when you don’t know what to do?

FORGIVEN FEELINGS

Hand out two sticky notes to each person. On one, they should write how they feel when they have hurt someone. On the other, they should write how they feel when someone has forgiven them. Have youth stick their notes on the wall; work together to sort them.

SAY How does it feel when you know you’ve hurt someone? How does it feel to be forgiven? Today, we’ll see what happened when Jesus forgave Peter.

PRAY Dear Jesus, we hurt you and others by our words and actions every day. Thank You for loving and forgiving us. Help us to forgive others. Amen.

LEARN

READ “THE BIG PICTURE” AND TALK IT OUT

▷ When Peter heard that it was Jesus on the shore, he jumped right into the water and swam to Him. What would you have done? Why?

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Let youth think about how they would have reacted to seeing Jesus on the shore. Even though Peter had denied Jesus three times, he knew Jesus still loved him.

LEARN ABOUT “A REVEALING RESTORATION”

Draw two large circles side by side on a whiteboard or a large sheet of paper, and draw an arrow pointing from the first circle to the second. Label the first circle “Jesus Acts” and the second “Disciples Respond.”

Read **John 21:1–14**, ask volunteers to read, or listen to it using a Bible app.

▷ **What did Jesus do for His disciples in these verses?**

- Jesus came and appeared to His disciples and called out to them.
- Jesus gave them a miraculous catch of fish—153 of them!
- Jesus provided breakfast for His disciples and served them.

▷ **How did the disciples respond?**

- They listened to Jesus and obeyed Him.
- They received what Jesus had to offer them.

Ask volunteers to read **John 21:15–19**, or listen to it using a Bible app.

▷ **What did Jesus do for Peter in these verses?**

- Jesus invited Peter to declare his love for Jesus three times, because Peter had denied even knowing Jesus three times after Jesus was arrested.
- Jesus called Peter (and the other disciples) to serve Him by feeding God’s people with His Word and by caring for them.

▷ **How did Peter respond?**

- Peter confessed his love and devotion to Jesus, and he accepted the role Jesus gave to him.

LIVE

DISCUSS “LOVED AND SENT”

Draw two more large circles side by side on a whiteboard or a large sheet of paper, and draw an arrow pointing from the first circle to the second. Label the first circle “God’s Love” and the second “My Response.” Have youth get in pairs and think about all the ways God shows them His love. They can jot notes in their journals or write their thoughts in the “God’s Love” circle. Then join together to share thoughts. Look back at the sticky notes in the “Launch” section and talk about how it feels to be loved and forgiven by God. As a group, talk about how God’s love affects us. What does it prompt us to do? Discuss the question below. For additional support as you discuss, see the bullet points below and “Apologetics Helps” on the back page. Ask for a student volunteer to write thoughts in the “My Response” circle as you discuss.

► **Yes, Jesus loves me. Now what?**

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Encourage youth to reflect on what it feels like to be forgiven. God hasn’t just forgiven us once, for one time we sinned against Him—He forgives us every day, for the many, many times we sin. He loves us no matter what. He promises to stay with us no matter what. That should give us great joy!
- When someone does something nice for us, we want to do something nice for them in return. God’s love gives us that same desire. We want to show our love for Him. How can we do that? By reading His Word, going to worship and Bible class, praying to Him, and serving others.
- God wants us to go and share His love with others. He sends us out into the world to serve others in His name. Have youth make a written or verbal list of ways they can share God’s love by serving others.

CONSIDER “DINING WITH THE SAVIOR”

Jesus often shared a meal with sinners when He lived on this earth, showing them love and forgiveness. He shared a meal with His disciples after He rose from the dead, strengthening their faith in Him. Jesus still shares a meal with us today—in Holy Communion. In the Lord’s Supper, Jesus gives us His true body and blood with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. Ask youth:

► **How does thinking about communion in this way encourage you to go to the Lord’s Supper more often?**

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Check for understanding by asking youth to answer these questions: **What has Jesus done for me? What has He sent me to do?**

LEAVE

Read the Bible Verse, written in the *Defend Journal*:

Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.” John 21:17

Ask for prayer requests. Offer to pray, or invite a student to pray for everyone.



CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus forgives our sins and sends us into the world to proclaim the Gospel.



LEADER NOTE

Give each person a sheet of paper and have them write the Bible Verse on it. Then have them fold their papers into paper airplanes and send the airplanes across the room as a reminder that Jesus sends us out to share His love and feed His sheep.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Invite your pastor to add to the conversation with “Shepherd of the Sheep.”



SHAREABLE DOWNLOAD

Connect with youth before and after the lesson by using the shareable images from the digital resource center.

APOLOGETICS HELPS

DEFEND THE FAITH

Jesus told Peter, “When you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” John tells us in verse 19 that Jesus was referring to what kind of death Peter would die. Tradition and the Early Church Fathers tell us that Peter was a martyr for the faith, crucified in Rome in AD 68, during the persecution of Nero.

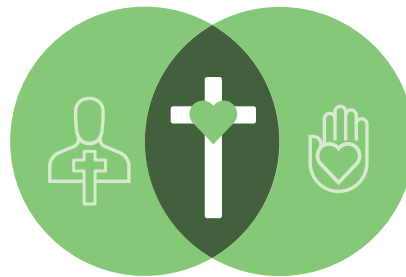
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

► **Isn't Jesus always going to forgive me? What's the big deal?**

Yes, Jesus promises forgiveness to all who repent of their sins and call on Him for forgiveness. But when we start to take God's forgiveness for granted, we're in danger of minimizing the seriousness of our sin and our need for a Savior. If we make a habit of denying the gravity of our sin, it can lead to more sinful behavior or even disbelief. Refusing to recognize or repent of sin is a dangerous sign of unbelief. See 1 John 1:6–10.

► **What are some ways I can share God's love and serve others?**

God has given each of us opportunities to serve others through our vocations, or our roles in life. As a brother or sister, you can care for your siblings. As a daughter or grandson, you can help your parents or grandparents. As a student or athlete, you can encourage your classmates and teammates. Do you have musical ability? Share it in worship. Are you artistic? intelligent? a good listener? Ask God to show you how the gifts He has given you can help the people in your life and point them to Him.



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God reveals Himself to me as my risen and living Savior.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can trust God to forgive and restore me through the death and resurrection of Jesus, my Savior.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on previous learning for each age.

ADULT

I can consider how the events of the text help me better understand what it means that Jesus forgives me and sends me.

YOUTH

I can relate how Jesus forgives and sends Peter to how He forgives and sends me.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that Jesus forgives me and sends me out to tell the Good News to others.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know Jesus loves me and wants me to tell others about Him.

BONUS ACTIVITIES

ACT IT OUT

5–10 minutes

Choose teens to be Jesus, Peter, John, and the other disciples. Have them act out the narrative as you or other teens read it. Bring in Bible-times clothes and props such as a fake campfire, fish, and bread.

BREAKFAST SERVED

10–15 minutes

Spread a picnic cloth on the ground and set out paper plates, cups, and napkins. Bring in donuts or muffins and orange juice, and serve breakfast to your group as you talk about the narrative. Talk about serving one another in love as Christ serves us.

SHEPHERD OF THE SHEEP

15–20 minutes

The word *pastor* comes from the Latin word for “shepherd.” Ask your pastor to come and speak to your group about what it means to be a shepherd to the congregation. Pastors tend their “flock” by feeding them with the Word of God and by caring for their needs.