

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

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 the Bible text and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read the leader devotion found in the digital resource center.

IN DEPTH Read “Did You Know?” on page 303 in *Know the Bible Now* (CPH 2016).

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- ☐ Play dough, fish-shaped cookie cutters & plastic gems or buttons
- ☐ Tub of water, towel, aquarium fishnets or sieves with handles, plastic fish or Ping-Pong balls
- ☐ Plastic fish or picture of a fish, paper heart & story bag
- ☐ Net that holds stuffed animals, mesh net, or white bed sheet & paper or plastic fish
- ☐ Bananas, teddy bear crackers, fish crackers & blue paper plates
- ☐ Ink pads, blue paper, string or yarn; optional fly swatters or mesh with clip clothespins

FOR EVERY LESSON

- ☐ Bible, songbook & classroom supplies
- ☐ Copies of *Discover Leaflet*, stickers & music downloads
- ☐ Supplies for bonus activities
- ☐ cph.org/digitalcontent



LEADER NOTE

Greet the children as they arrive and direct them to an activity that will connect what they know to what they will learn. If class time is short, omit these and start with Jesus Time.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Use “Catching Fish” as another prelearning activity.



LEADER NOTE

Sing to tune “Where Is Thumbkin” to gather children: **Come and worship, come and worship** (*motion to come*), **Father, Son; Father, Son** (*put both hands up, then spread out as if on a cross for each mention*); **And the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit** (*roll hands in barrel tumble, then cover heart*); **Three in One, Three in One** (*hold up three fingers, place them into other cupped hand, and pull out with one finger pointing up*).



LEADER NOTE

Ask your coordinator for access to download music from the online digital resource center.

LAUNCH

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

PLAY DOUGH Set out play dough, fish-shaped cookie cutters, and buttons or plastic gems for eyes. Have the children use the cookie cutters to make fish. Also show them how to shape the play dough into a football shape for the body and a triangle for the tail. Say, **In our Bible story, Jesus’ friends are fishing.**

WATER Set out a tub of water on a towel with aquarium fish nets or sieves with handles. Put plastic fish or Ping-Pong balls in the tub and let the children “catch” them. Say, **How many fish can you catch? In our Bible story today, Jesus’ friends fished all night but they didn’t catch one fish.**

JESUS TIME

SING “Good Morning, Dear Jesus” (digital resource center) or “We Pray for Each Other” (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 15)

SAY Hi, boys and girls! I’m glad to see all of you here today. Are you ready to hear more about Jesus’ love?

PRAY Dear God,* help us listen* whenever Your Word* is spoken.* Help us learn* more about Jesus* and His love.* Amen.

LEARN

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Put a plastic fish (or a picture of a fish) and a paper heart in a story bag. Tell the children that you have two story clues. Describe items until the children guess each one. Say, **The first clue comes in grays and browns, but also many beautiful colors. It breathes in a special way through gills. It swims in the water.** Move hands like a fish. **What is it?** Take out the fish. **Yes, our story has a fish in it. The second clue is often pink or red. We see it at Valentine’s day. It reminds us of love. What is it?** Take out the heart. **Yes, a heart. Our story today is also about love. It happened sometime after Jesus rose from the dead on Easter. Jesus used some fish to show His disciples who He was. Most important, the story is about love, Jesus’ love for Peter and His love for us all.**

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the Bible story in your own words, using the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide. *Option:* Use a net fabric netting, or a white sheet to hold stuffed animals. Put it in the center of your storytelling area. Have the children hold onto the edge of the “net” and pretend they are the disciples fishing as you tell the story. Have them “cast” out their net (e.g., have them hold onto it and count to three, then move it up as a group, then down again). When Jesus tells them to cast their net, have them raise it again. Toss some plastic or paper fish into the net. Count the fish. Say, **The disciples didn’t catch just a few fish like we have. They caught over one hundred fish! They counted the fish one by one because they were so amazed at how many Jesus let them catch.** Have the children haul their catch of fish to shore and pretend to eat breakfast with Jesus. Then ask a child to be Peter and another to be Jesus. Say their lines for them as they act out those parts.

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Ask, **What did Jesus tell Peter?** Say, **Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep” (John 21:17).** Explain that Jesus wanted Peter to care for people by telling them about Jesus. **Jesus wants us to be His helpers too. We can tell them about Jesus and show love for them too.** Say verse with the children.

LIVE

DISCOVER LESSON TRUTHS

Separate each *Discover Leaflet* into two pages. Send the first page home with each child, or put the page into a purchased binder. Hand out the second page, stickers, and crayons.

SIDE 1 Have the children color Jesus and Peter, add sticker fish to the fire, and look for hidden hearts. Talk about how Jesus called Peter to feed His sheep and what that means.

SIDE 2 Jesus wants us to share His love with others too. Talk about ways grown-ups do this, such as pastors telling us about Jesus. Point out that when children grow up, they can teach their children about Jesus or even become a pastor or other church worker and teach others about Jesus too. Say, **But you don't have to wait till you grow up. You can do this now!** Let's look together at the pictures on your page that show ways you can do this. Have the children use a finger and then a crayon to color the path from the two children in the circle to the picture at the end of each path. Tell them that along the way there is a clue for what they can do to share about Jesus, our Savior.

Starting at the left, use the praying-hands clue to talk about how we can pray for missionaries who tell about Jesus. Give the children a sticker of children learning about Jesus. Using the child clue, talk about how we can invite a friend to church. Give the children a sticker of a smiling child to go beside the friend. Ask the children what the child might tell their friend about Jesus. For the heart clue, ask how we can show Jesus' love to a neighbor. Hand out stickers of a child with a watering can to help the neighbor. Ask the children what the child might tell about Jesus. Maybe she could sing a Jesus song!

On the opposite side, use the money clue to talk about how we can give offerings to share Jesus' love with others. Add a bag of groceries from the church food pantry. Using the leaflet clue, talk about how we can share about Jesus with friends so they know He is their Savior. Have the children point to the happy smiles on the children's faces when they learn Jesus loves them. Use the music picture to talk about how we can sing praise to God. Add a child with maracas sticker.

ENGAGE IN ACTIVE LEARNING

Take time to reinforce lesson truths with one or more of these active-learning options. Turn to "Active Learning" on the back page for instructions to do the activities below.

□ MOVE

Play "Gone Fishing."

□ SNACK

Make banana boats and serve with fish crackers. Provide options for those with allergies.

□ CREATE

Use an ink pad and yarn or paint and mesh or a fly swatter to make a picture of fish in a fishnet.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Do the children understand that Jesus loves and forgives them and wants them to tell others He came to be their Savior too? Ask, **What are ways you can share Jesus' love?**

LEAVE

SING "Oh, How I Love Jesus" (digital resource center) or "I Can Tell" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 99)

SAY Jesus loved and forgave Peter. He loves and forgives you too and wants you to tell others He came to be their Savior too.

PRAY Dear Jesus, we are happy You are alive! Thank You for Your love and forgiveness. Help us show love for others and tell them You love them too. Amen.



CHRIST CONNECTION

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



LEADER NOTE

This lesson is considered the seasonal lesson in this unit, for use at Easter, wherever that falls on the calendar. It tells about another of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances and how we can trust Jesus to take care of all our needs, especially our need for a Savior. Jesus cares so much for us that He died on the cross to save us and rose from the dead to give us new life. He assured Peter of His forgiveness and gave him a job to do: to care for His people and to tell people about Him. He gives us this job too.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Make "Egg-Carton Fish."



BONUS ACTIVITY

"Hearts for Jesus" focuses on the message children can share with others—that God loves us and sent Jesus to die on the cross to save us.

ACTIVE LEARNING

□ MOVE

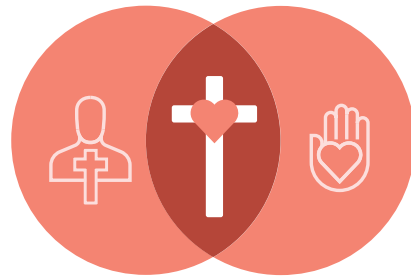
Choose one or two children to be fishermen (it) who try to catch (tag) the fish (the other children) as they “swim” around the designated play area. Any fish caught should stand still. A fish can be released when tagged by another fish swimming by. Change the fishermen after they have caught some fish, so others have a chance to be fishermen. Say, **Jesus helped His friends catch many fish. Let’s go fishing and catch some big fish too.** After the game, talk about how Jesus helped his friends catch fish. Say, **After Jesus fed them breakfast, what did Jesus tell Peter to do?** (Take care of His sheep) **What did He mean?** (Take care of His people)

□ SNACK

Give each child half a banana. Keep the peel on, but cut off the end of the banana and slice it down the center. In class, have the children peel their bananas and open them down the center. Give them teddy bear crackers (fishermen) to put in their banana boats. Put their bananas on blue plates; add fish crackers to the “water.” Review the story as the children enjoy their snack.

□ CREATE

Use ink pads to make fish thumbprints on blue poster paper. Add triangle tail fins and a dot eye. Add additional fish stickers for color. Make glue crisscross lines and add string or yarn to look like a fish net. Trim ends. Alternately, use fly swatters or cut mesh into squares and clip edges with clothespins. Dip the fly swatter or mesh into black or gray paint and make fish nets over the prints. Let dry. Add a Bible Verse sticker.



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

CATCHING FISH

10 minutes

Set out the children’s game that has plastic fish that go around in a circle, opening their mouths, and plastic fishing poles with hooks to catch them (e.g., “Let’s Go Fishing” by Pressman), or use a fishing game with magnetic fish and poles. Ask the children to count the fish and name how many colors of each they caught. Connect to the story. Jesus showed His power by giving His friends lots of fish. He cared for His disciples by making them breakfast. He forgave Peter and gave Him the job of telling people about Him.

EGG-CARTON FISH

15 minutes

Cut three cardboard egg-carton cups per child. Tape two cups together along the open wider sides using masking tape. Attach the third cup so the open part faces out like a tail fin. Set out green paint or markers for children to decorate their fish. When dry, add sticker eyes and glue on triangle fins cut from foam. Draw on a mouth. Connect to the story. Help children see that Jesus wanted His friends to know He was alive. He knew He would soon go back to heaven and wanted them to take up the job of telling others about Him.

HEARTS FOR JESUS

15 minutes

Cut large hearts from white paper. Put a masking-tape cross on the hearts. Clip pieces of sponge with clothespins for the children to use as paintbrushes. Cover table with newspaper. Protect clothing with old shirts. Have children dip sponges in red paint and paint their hearts, including over tape. Let dry. Remove tape to reveal white cross on red heart. Say, **Jesus takes away our sins and fills our hearts with His love. We can share this message with our friends and family. This is how we feed His sheep.**