

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

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 (TLSB)*.

MORE TIME Read **John 21:20–25** with study notes in *TLSB*.

IN DEPTH In the introductory material to the Book of John in *TLSB*, read the section “Enigmatic Sayings,” page 1775.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- ☐ Blank paper for drawing or writing

FOR EVERY LESSON

- ☐ Device with downloaded music
- ☐ Pens or pencils
- ☐ Student copies of *Explore Bible Guidebook*
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Copies of downloadable activity page
- ☐ Supplies for bonus activities
- ☐ cph.org/digitalcontent



BONUS ACTIVITY

Check the back page for the “153 Fish Crackers” activity. This might be a good alternate way to begin your lesson today. Children love a snack to start off their time together.



GUIDEBOOKS

Hand out student copies of the *Explore Bible Guidebook* and turn to Lesson 1.



BONUS ACTIVITY

For a craft activity, check the back page for the “Lamb Puppets” activity for a hands-on way to extend the learning.

LAUNCH

PRAY Dear Jesus, our Savior, thank You for bringing us together to be with our friends and to learn more about You. Amen.

SING “Oh, How I Love Jesus”
 “Jesus, I Believe in You”
 Music can be found in the digital resource center.

SAY Have you ever really hurt a friend and felt so guilty you were afraid to see him or her again? What kind of face do you make when you feel like that? When you feel this way, do you go running toward that person or do you try to stay away from them? Does anyone remember what Peter did when Jesus was on trial? (This might be a good time to review the events of Holy Week and Easter to bring everyone up to speed. When possible, let your students do the retelling, or you can draw the events on the board while they retell them.) **Peter denied Jesus three times, and he felt pretty terrible about it. But instead of hiding from Jesus, Peter does just the opposite. As I read this true Bible account, listen for what Peter does when he sees Jesus.**

LEARN

READ “A REVEALING RESTORATION”

Use the *Explore Bible Guidebook* to read the Bible narrative aloud to your students.

DO SOMETHING

FOR YOUNGER LEARNERS The first portion of this narrative has many good action verbs that you and your students can act out as you read. For the second part, have students count with you and hold up one, two, and three fingers to mark the three times Jesus asks Peter if he loves Him.

FOR OLDER LEARNERS Divide this section into two parts, John 21:1–14 and John 21:15–17. Before reading each section

aloud from Scripture, ask students to listen for the answers to the following questions. Who is present? What is the problem? Who provides the solution? For students who are more visual, let them draw their responses, folding a piece of paper into three sections and titling the sections “Who,” “What,” and “Who.” In each section, the students can draw or write their responses.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- There is a Part 1 and a Part 2 to this narrative. The first scene revolves around the disciples and the miraculous catch of the fish. The second scene shows Jesus forgiving Peter in a manner to remind Peter of his three denials. Then Jesus gives Peter a job, to “feed My lambs.”
- Peter was a man of action, often acting impulsively. This can cause him trouble sometimes, but other times it means that he can be a man of action for the Lord.
- Jesus is in control and provides all that these men need. He will also provide all that they, and we, need to fulfill our calling to “feed [His] lambs.”
- Jesus remains faithful to Peter and to the disciples. This is a constant we can rely on.
- With Jesus there’s always more. The catch of fish is more than expected, the forgiveness is more than Peter expected, and Jesus’ love for us is more than we could ever imagine.

LIVE

EXPLORE THE CONTEXT

Before you start the discussion questions, use the *Explore Bible Guidebook* for further details about fishing and other “threes,” found on the second page of Lesson 1.

TALK ABOUT IT

Choose from the following questions. For a few helps, encourage students to look in the *Explore Bible Guidebook*.

- ▶ **What does it feel like to be forgiven of something that you did wrong? Have you ever thought that you couldn't be forgiven and then someone forgave you? If not, imagine what that might feel like.**
- ▶ **Maybe we take it for granted that we will be forgiven. Why is that a problem?** (It means we don't realize what a big deal it is that Jesus died to forgive us of our sins. It makes our Savior seem smaller. This might be a question for older students.)
- ▶ **Peter and other disciples were fishermen. Jesus used their occupation, or job, to help them serve Him. What are some occupations or jobs that you know about? How do those people serve God in their occupation? How do we serve God in whatever our occupation or vocation is?** (If you have students who like to draw, give them an opportunity to draw the disciples fishing and then modern people serving God's people through their jobs.)

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE TOGETHER

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

KEY DISCUSSION POINT

- God sends all of us to care for His people, His sheep. We, too, are part of those sheep. God uses His people to care for us too.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Ask students to tell you, or draw, their favorite part of this Bible narrative and why.

LEAVE

SAY Jesus forgave Peter, and He forgives us too. Jesus sent Peter out to “feed [His] sheep,” and He sends us out to do the same.

SING The Doxology, “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”
“The Lord's Prayer”

Music can be found in the digital resource center.

PRAY Dear Lord Jesus, help us to be loving and forgiving to one another, just as You love and forgive us. Help us to tell everyone about You! In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.



DOWNLOADABLE PAGE

Extend learning by printing the downloadable activity page found in the digital resource center. See the back page of this guide for details.



CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus forgives our sin and then sends us out to tell others about His love.



LEADER NOTE

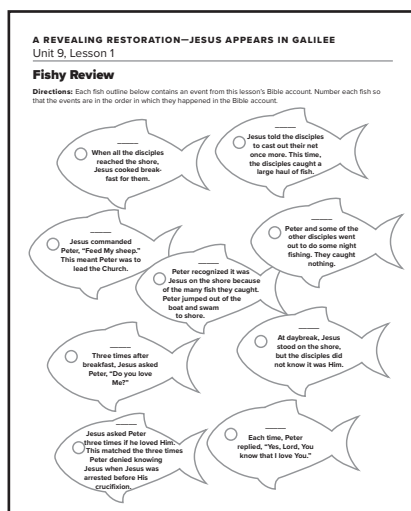
Remember to collect student copies of the *Explore Bible Guidebook* for use in class again next week.

DOWNLOADABLE PAGE HELPS

Make copies of the downloadable activity page found in the digital resource center. Use helps below as a guide.

Fact order: **1.** Peter and some of the other disciples went out to do some night fishing. They caught nothing. **2.** At daybreak, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not know it was Him. **3.** Jesus told the disciples to cast out their net once more. This time, the disciples caught a large haul of fish. **4.** Peter recognized it was Jesus on the shore because of the many fish they caught. Peter jumped out of the boat and swam to shore. **5.** When all the disciples reached the shore, Jesus cooked breakfast for them. **6.** Three times after breakfast, Jesus asked Peter, “Do you love Me?” **7.** Each time, Peter replied, “Yes, Lord, You know that I love You.” **8.** Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him. This matched the three times Peter denied knowing Jesus when Jesus was arrested before His crucifixion. **9.** Jesus commanded Peter, “Feed My sheep.” This meant Peter was to lead the Church.

Many students may find this activity easier if the fish are cut out so they can physically arrange them in the correct order.



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

153 FISH CRACKERS

5–10 minutes

John 21:11 says that the disciples' net was filled with 153 fish. Bring in exactly 153 fish crackers to divide among your students. Count them in groups of 10. Talk about how many that is and how much room they would take up if they were real fish. Talk about how Jesus always gives us more than we can imagine. Let students eat their fish crackers.

LAMB PUPPETS

10–15 minutes

Jesus told Peter to feed His sheep. God's children are His sheep. Use small paper bags to make lamb puppets, one for each child. If you have time, the children could make more for other family members. Glue cotton balls on the top for the lamb's face. On the bottom portion write today's Bible Verse.

PLAY A GAME OF GO FISH

Times may vary

This would work especially well for a small group. If you have time, use index cards to make your own deck of Go Fish cards with your students. To make it more creative, have them use Bible people as the "fish." If you are unsure of the rules, look online. Each time a student gets a pair, the whole group can recite Psalm 100:5.