

Jesus Makes Breakfast (The Reconciliation of Peter)

Teacher Pep Talk: Sometimes we sin. That's it. We sin and that sin separates us from God, who loves us. When Peter denied Christ three times, you would have thought that all was lost. Here was Peter, who had followed Jesus faithfully for three years, denying that he even knew Him. And just a few hours earlier, Peter had told Jesus that he was ready to lay down his life for Him. However, Jesus knew what Peter didn't. He knew that in reality Peter would deny Him three times before the rooster crowed. And he did. Thankfully, that wasn't the end of the story! The Risen Christ came and found Peter, confronted him gently, and reconciled him to Himself. After that, He put Peter back to work. "Follow me," He told him. And Peter did. From that time forward he faithfully followed Christ, right up until the time of his death... just like he said he would do.

You will Need: Breakfast by the Sea: Picnic blanket, Sticks or wood, and Snacks
Puzzling Pieces: Copies of activity sheet, crayons, scissors, and construction paper and glue (both optional)

Major Points: Sometimes....We sin
Sin pushes us away (or separates us) from God.
Jesus comes and finds us.
He forgives us, and puts us back together with God.
He gives us purpose (or things to do).

Reference Verses: John 21:1-19 and John 13:37-38

Memory Verse: *"Lord, ...you know that I love you."* John 21:17

Lesson: **Sometimes... We sin.**

- We do things every day. Don't we? Every day we make choices about things we are going to do.
- Sometimes we choose to do really good, fun things: Like ride our bike, or play nicely with our brothers or sisters. We do what our parents tell us to do. We say "please" and "thank you." We get up and go to bed when we are told to do so.
- Tell me some other things we may choose to do that are good and right. (*Wait for several answers.*)
- Good. I'm glad that you do so many things that are good! That is wonderful! You do lots of good things!

- But, I have to say that we don't ALWAYS do everything that is right... Do we? Sometimes... SOMETIMES... sometimes (not often, maybe) we do things that are wrong.
- Not a mistake, like "Oops, I spilled my milk." Or "Uh, oh, I forgot to feed the dog." But something really, really wrong that we decide to do on purpose... even when we KNOW that we aren't supposed to. This is what we call a "sin."

Sin "pushes us away" (or separates) us from God

- When we do wrong things on purpose, we call that sin.
- Sin pushes us away (or separates) us from God, who never ever sins.
- In the Bible there is a story of a man named Peter. Peter was one of Jesus' disciples. He followed Jesus every day for three years. He cared about Jesus very much. He thought he was Jesus' best follower. He even once told Jesus, "I will lay down my life for you." (John 13: 37-38)
- Jesus told Peter that on that very night he would deny even knowing Jesus three different times. And that he would do all of this before the rooster crowed the next morning.
- *(Roosters crow in the morning, before the sun comes up.)*
- That night Jesus was arrested. Afterwards someone asked Peter if he knew Jesus. Peter told the person "No." He was asked again and again. All three times Peter said that he didn't know Jesus. All of a sudden the rooster crowed and Peter remembered what Jesus had told him. Peter cried.
- Why do you think Peter cried when he heard the rooster crow? *(He was sad that he had denied his friend, Jesus. And he knew that he had lied. Lying is a sin.)*
- Peter's sin had pushed him away from his friend, Jesus, the Son of God. Perhaps he was afraid that was forever.

Jesus Comes and Finds Us

- But, happily, the story doesn't end there! Jesus died and was buried. But on the third day He rose from the dead! After that He visited with His disciples.
- One day Jesus met His disciples at the side of the lake. They all had breakfast together.
- Jesus asked Peter "Do you love me?" And Peter said "Yes, I love you." Jesus asked him that three times. Each time Peter told Jesus that he loved Him. But, Peter was ashamed that Jesus asked him three times.
- Think back. How many times did Peter tell the person that he didn't know Jesus? *(Three)* And how many times did Jesus ask Peter if he loved Him? *(Three)*

- Jesus came and found Peter. He allowed Peter to say how he felt about Jesus.
- After that Jesus talked to Peter about his future again, and this time there was no talk of him denying Jesus. (In fact Jesus gave Peter some big things to do. Then he told Peter, “Follow me.” Peter followed Jesus all the rest of his life.)
- When we sin, it is Jesus who comes looking for us.

Jesus forgives us and puts us back together with God.

- Jesus is the one who sets things right. He died for us on the cross, so He can forgive us.
- When He forgives us, He puts us back together with God.

Jesus gives us purpose.

- When Jesus comes into our lives and forgives us, He then also gives us purpose for our lives.
- And He calls us to follow Him!

Let’s pray and thank God for His goodness to forgive us of our sins and to bring us back together with Him.

PRAYER: Dear God,
Thank you that you love us.
Thank you that you forgive us of our sins.
Thank you that you put us back together with you!
We love you.
Amen

Suggested Activities:

Barnyard Business

Discuss what kind of sound a rooster makes. See who can make the best rooster sound. (*Test out everyone... If you like, choose one or two winners.*) Read the following and have everyone say “**No**” and make the **Rooster** sounds. (*Repeat.*)

Jesus said, “Peter, before the rooster crows you will deny me three times.”

Later that night someone asked Peter “Do you know Jesus?”

And Peter said, “**No.**”

The person asked Peter again “Do you know Jesus?”

And Peter said, “**No!**”

The person asked Peter a third time “Do you know Jesus?”

And Peter said, “**No!!!**”

(Rooster crows!!!)

Sing Old McDonald

For fun sing the “Old McDonald” Song. Don’t forget the rooster!

Breakfast by the Sea

Re-enact the Breakfast by the Sea encounter of Jesus with His Disciples.

Spread a blanket on the ground to sit upon. (*For fun, bring in some wood or sticks and “lay” a fire nearby.*) Hand out snacks for the children. For example: Goldfish crackers or other crackers, Gummi Worms, juice, water, etc. While the children have their snacks retell the story of Jesus and His encounter with His Disciples by the Sea of Galilee. Review the Bible story found in John 21:1-19. **Say the story in your own words.**

Peter and the disciples had gone fishing. They had been fishing all night and had caught nothing. The next morning they were headed in to shore when they saw someone on the bank of the lake. (It was Jesus, the Risen Christ, but they didn't realize it yet.) Jesus asked them “Have you caught anything?” No, they hadn't. “Let down your net on the right side of the boat,” Jesus told them. They did so and caught 153 large fish. All of a sudden they realized it was Jesus! Peter jumped into the water and swam to shore. When they arrived Jesus was cooking breakfast for them on a fire of coals. He fed them bread and fish.

(Note here that you are having a snack, just like the disciples had breakfast. And that you have sticks for a fire, just like they had that day. Do you think they used Gummi Worms for fishing? Probably not.)

After breakfast, Jesus had a long talk with Peter, who had denied Him three times. Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him. Peter said he did three times. (But he was embarrassed that Jesus had to ask him three times. He remembered that he had denied Jesus three times.)

Each time when Peter said he loved Jesus, Jesus told him things like “Feed my lambs,” “Take care of my sheep,” and “Feed my sheep.” Jesus was giving Peter something to do for Him. He wanted Peter to help take care of those who would believe in Jesus. Jesus put Peter “back together” with God and gave Peter some very important jobs to do! Finally He told Peter, “You follow me.”

When we do things that are wrong, it pushes us away from God. When we do that, it is Jesus Himself who searches for us, and puts us back together with God. He even gives us fun and wonderful things to do!

From that time on there are no stories about Peter denying that he knew Jesus again. In fact, Peter became a great preacher and was a follower of Christ until the day he died. Now Peter is alive with Jesus forever! Hurray! **The End.**

Clean up the cracker crumbs and fold up the picnic blanket. Get some special help putting things away.

Puzzling Pieces

Allow the children to decorate and color the puzzle pieces on this sheet. Then cut out the pieces carefully, creating a puzzle that can be put together again later. You may glue the pieces to construction paper after they are back together again, if you like.

