

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

1st Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 32

"Do You Love Me?"

“Do You Love Me?”

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The “Main passage” is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the “reward box” found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God’s Word.

Objective This lesson will show the students that when we sin, we are not disqualified from following Jesus using the story of Peter’s restoration in John 21.

Key Verses

John 21—Main Teaching Passage

Luke 5:1-11

Matthew 4:19

John 18:15-18

Mark 14:29

Memory Verse - 2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

Hook

Review last week’s memory verse, 1 Corinthians 15:22.

Have the students stand up for a game of “Simon Says” and tell them to sit down when they are out. Play for a couple of minutes or until all but one student is out.

Some people think that the Christian life is like Simon Says. They believe that if you do one thing wrong, you are “out” and unable to continue following Jesus. That is probably what Peter thought in today’s story. However, as we are going to see, this is not how the Christian life works.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

After Christ had risen from the dead and appeared to His disciples, He remained on earth for another forty days. Outside of John 21, today's passage, the Bible records very little of what happened during that time. At the beginning of this story, Peter had returned to Galilee and decided to go fishing. Many of the disciples went with him. The disciples went out to sea and fished all night, but John says they caught nothing. The next morning, Jesus stood on the shore and shouted out to the boat, asking if they had caught anything. The disciples did not recognize Him and told Him they had not. Jesus then commanded them to throw their nets on the other side of the boat. Once they did that, they caught so many fish that they were unable to haul them back into the boat. They realized that the man on the shore was Jesus. Once Peter recognized Him, he dove out of the boat and swam to shore, while the rest of them brought in the fish.

On the shore, Jesus and the disciples had breakfast around a fire. As they ate, Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" Peter answered, "You know that I love You." So Jesus commanded him, "Feed My sheep." Then Jesus asked Peter again. Peter gave the same response, and Jesus again told him to take care of His sheep. Jesus asked a third time, and Peter affirmed once more that he loved Jesus. Again, Jesus said, "Feed My sheep." After predicting how Peter would die, Jesus gave him one last simple command: "Follow Me."

LOOK

This story echoes two stories we have already looked at this year. The first one brings us all the way back to the beginning of our study of Jesus' ministry when He first called the disciples (see Luke 5:1-11). When Jesus first asked Peter and the disciples to follow Him, they also had been out all night fishing and had caught nothing. Then Jesus came to them and told them to try again, and they caught so many fish that their nets were breaking. After that, Jesus also told them, "Follow Me" (see Matt. 4:19). Many of the details of today's story are identical or similar to that of Jesus' original calling of the disciples.

This story also parallels a more recent event, Peter's denial. In verse 9 of today's story, it says that Jesus and the disciples ate around a charcoal fire. In John 18:18, it mentions that Peter's first denial also took place by a charcoal fire. In his denial, Peter denied that he knew Jesus three times. In today's story, Jesus asks Peter three times if he loved Him, and three times Peter answered that he loved Jesus. In fact, Jesus even asked if Peter loved Him more than the other disciples, an echo of Peter's boast (Mark 14:29).

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK (Continued)

These details are no coincidence. After three years of following Jesus, seeing His miracles, and hearing His teaching, Peter had ended up right where he started. He had returned to fishing, his old way of life, after denying Jesus. He must have thought that his failure meant that he could no longer be used by God. However, Jesus' plan for Peter was not yet finished. He restored Peter with three affirmations of his love for Jesus to replace his three denials. He also charged Peter with an important task: feed His sheep, which means to take care of the Church. Then, He gave Peter the same calling He had given him in the beginning: follow Me. God had big plans for Peter, and the next few months we will see these plans as we study the book of Acts. Yet none of this would have been possible if Peter had returned to his old way of life.

When we become believers in Christ, all of our sin is taken care of. We cannot sin our way out of God's Kingdom. Once we turn to Christ, we are forever changed. We will still sin. Perhaps your failures have made you feel disqualified from following Jesus, but Jesus does not demand that we live perfectly. If that were the case, none of us would make it. So when we sin, we do not need to give up following Jesus and return to our old way of life. Instead, we need to turn to Him in repentance and allow Him to restore us.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Review the lesson by listing all the similarities between this story and Peter's calling and denial. Emphasize how when we are saved, we are totally transformed. We are not disqualified from following Jesus when we sin, nor should we return to our old lifestyle.

Pray: Thank Jesus for forgiving and restoring us even when we sin. Ask Him to help the class repent when we sin and return to Jesus.

Parent Question: What does it mean that we are a "new creation" in Christ?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on John 21 by David Guzik

The Restoration of Peter

A. A miraculous catch of fish.

1. ([Jhn 21:1-3](#)) Peter and six other disciples return to fishing.

After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed *Himself*: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the *sons* of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing. " They said to him, "We are going with you also. " They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing.

a. **I am going fishing:** Was this a return to the old life or prudence? Only the attitude of their hearts could tell. If they wanted to give up on the business of serving Jesus, it was bad; if they were providing for themselves and those near to them until Jesus told them what to do next, it could be fine.

i. At the best, it shows they were uncertain. "The fishing expedition plainly reveals the uncertainty of the disciples, an uncertainty which contrasts sharply with their assured sense of purpose from the day of Pentecost on. " (Morris)

b. **That night they caught nothing:** No matter what their reason was for returning to their fishing boats, their own efforts were futile.

2. ([Jhn 21:4-6](#)) Jesus directs their work.

But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?" They answered Him, "No. " And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find *some*. "So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

a. **Have you any food?** When you are unsuccessful at fishing, you don't welcome questions about your progress. Jesus asked anyway.

b. **Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some:** "There is no need to seek symbolical meanings for the right and left side. The difference is not between right and left, but between working with and without Divine guidance. " (Plummer)

3. ([Jhn 21:7-14](#)) The disciples eat breakfast with Jesus.

Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on *his* outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught. " Simon Peter went up and

dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, "Come *and* eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?"; knowing that it was the Lord. Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish. This *is* now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

a. **Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?" - knowing that it was the Lord:** There seems something unusual about the appearance of Jesus after His resurrection. Possibly it was a result of the beatings He endured at the cross, the scars of which remained at least in part.

b. **Jesus then came and took the bread:** Jesus is often seen eating with His disciples after His resurrection. This is a picture of intimate, friendly fellowship.

c. **Full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three:** Why 153 fish? This number has been a field day for speculative interpretations of the Bible since the early church.

i. 153 is the sum of numbers 1 to 17. Some (like Augustine) say that it is a number representing the number of commandments (10) added to the sevenfold gifts of the Spirit.

ii. 153 is the added numerical value of the Greek words "Peter" and "fish."

iii. Some ancient writers (such as Jerome) held that there were 153 different types of fish in the world; this represents a "full harvest" of all of the world.

iv. Some (like Cyril of Alexandria) say that 100 stands for the Gentiles, 50 for Israel and 3 for the Trinity.

v. The truth is that all we know for certain is that 153 stands for *the number of fish that they caught!* We must always be careful of manufacturing "hidden meanings" in the Word of God.

B. The public restoration of Peter.

1. ([Jhn 21:15-16](#)) Jesus inquires about Peter's love.

So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." He said to him again a second time, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep."

a. Jesus met with Peter individually on the day of His resurrection, ([Luke 24:34](#)) but a public restoration was also needed.

b. **Do you love Me more than these:** Jesus strangely asks Peter to compare his love for Him with that of the other disciples.

i. It is possible that "these" refers to the fish and a fisherman's life. Jesus could be asking Peter if he is willing to give up fishing again to follow Him. But Peter *had* claimed a superior love ([Matthew 26:33](#)). Does he still have this proud estimation of his devotion?

c. **Do you love Me more than these ... You know that I love You:** Jesus asks about *agape* love (all giving, uncaused, unselfish love) and Peter answers with *phileo* love (reciprocal, friendly affection). Some translations have Peter answering "I am your friend."

i. Some commentators see no distinctions between the two different ancient Greek terms, but most say that Peter is now more reserved in his proclamation of devotion.

d. **Feed My lambs ... Tend My sheep:** For Peter to follow through with that love for Jesus, he must give himself to the service of God's people.

2. ([Jhn 21:17](#)) Jesus asks Peter a third time: **Do you love Me?**

He said to him the third time, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You. " Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.

a. **Do you love Me ... Lord, You know all things:** This time, Jesus asks if Peter does in fact have a friendly devotion (*phileo*) to Jesus. Peter leaves the question with Jesus' omniscience.

b. **Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time:** What really grieved Peter was the three-time repetition, because it was a plain reminder of his previous three-time denial.

i. Jesus restores us by causing us to face squarely our point of failure, then challenging us to set our eyes on the work ahead.

ii. Jesus *doesn't* ask "are you sorry?" nor "will you promise never to do that again?" "Jesus Christ asks each one of us, not for obedience primarily, not for repentance, not for vows, not for conduct, but for a *heart*; and that being given, all the rest will follow. " (Maclaren)

c. Jesus allowed Peter a three-fold public affirmation of love to replace a three-fold denial, and gave him a three-fold challenge to **feed My sheep.**

3. ([Jhn 21:18-19](#)) Jesus' call on Peter's life.

"Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry *you* where you do not wish. " This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."

a. **When you are old, you will stretch out your hands:** Jesus promises Peter that his life will end in utter faithfulness, that in the end Peter will make a faithful stand for Jesus and be crucified.

b. **And carry you where you do not wish:** If Peter's principle of life once was a self-reliance, from now on his principle of life will be the cross.

c. The most important, all encompassing words: **Follow Me.**

4. ([Jhn 21:20-23](#)) What about John?

Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what *about* this man?" Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what *is that* to you? You follow Me. " Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If I will that he remain till I come, what *is that* to you?"

a. **If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me:** Jesus' words apply to us. Instead

of worrying about what He will do or is doing with other believers, our focus should be on His command to **Follow Me**.

b. **Jesus did not say to him that he would not die:** "Rumour had it that the Lord had prophesied that the beloved disciple would be alive when He came again, and the evangelist is anxious to make it perfectly clear that Jesus had only spoken hypothetically about such a possibility. " (Tasker)

5. ([Jhn 21:24-25](#)) Conclusion to the book.

This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

a. **The disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things:** It is both a testimony of accuracy and incompleteness.

b. **Even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written:** God's works have no end, and the events are to continue as we obey Jesus' command to *follow Me*.