

Jesus Restores Peter

John 21:15-19

MEMORY VERSE

PSALM 23:1-3

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Several items from home to illustrate ways children can help around the house. A broom, a bucket and sponge, a dust rag, and table settings will work well.

Masking tape and two cards reading “YES” and “NO.”

Cheerios and string to make necklaces for each child.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Helping!

Bring several items from home to illustrate ways children can help. A broom, a bucket and sponge, a dust rag, and table settings are a few examples. Ask for several volunteers to help with these various items and have the class clean and set the table for “dinner.”

When the help time is over, ask your students to share how it felt to work together and “help.” Ask them to come up with other ideas of how they can help in their homes, their neighborhoods, and their schools.

LESSON TIME!

Have you ever felt like a complete failure? You had good intentions but you didn't measure up. Or have you done something really wrong and didn't know how to make things right again? Maybe you had a fight with your best friend, talked back to your parents, or took something that didn't belong to you. You felt really bad about it but what could you do? How could you restore (or make right) your relationship again?

Peter was in this position. Jesus had been arrested. Peter had denied Jesus three times. He loved Jesus and was feeling really terrible about what he had done. He didn't know what to do.

Jesus had died on the cross and had risen from the dead. Peter was very excited; Jesus was there with him. But he didn't know how to make it up to Jesus. How could the relationship between Peter and Jesus be restored?

Our story today shows that Jesus forgave and restored Peter and passed on to Peter the leadership of the church. Even though Peter failed we see that Jesus still had a plan for his life and he went on to be a very strong and great leader in the church. Let's take a look at how Jesus restored Peter.

JOHN 21:15

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."

Remember that Peter had denied Jesus just before His death on the cross. Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him more than the things of the world. Peter told Jesus that He knew that he loved him. Peter

made some mistakes, some very serious, but he did have a sincere love for Jesus.

Sometimes we may make mistakes or do things wrong. The important thing is what is in our hearts. Did you know that Jesus is always faithful to forgive us of our sins when we ask Him? We are not perfect because we are human. So we often need to ask for forgiveness. But the interesting thing is that this just makes us love Jesus all the more and do those things that please Him. That is what grace is all about.

Jesus then instructs Peter to teach His little ones, the children and new believers. Did you know that you have a special place in Jesus' heart? He desires for you to be fed. How are we fed? Through the word of God. Jesus was telling Peter that the best way to show his love for Jesus was to feed His lambs. Lambs are the youngest of the sheep. Why do we come to church and listen to Bible stories? Because Jesus wants you to be fed His word. It is because Jesus loves you and wants you to grow up knowing Him. We can show we love others by sharing God's word with them. **We show our love for Jesus by helping others.**

Feed My Lambs!

Have your class prepare snack for one another. Cheerios necklaces are fun. Divide enough Cheerios for each student to make approximately the same size necklace on string. Then have them exchange the necklaces with one another saying, "Feed my lambs."

JOHN 21:16

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."

To get Peter's attention, Jesus again asked Peter if he truly loved Jesus and then told him to take care of His church. Why do you suppose that Jesus repeated Himself? Actually we will see that Jesus asked Peter the same question three different times. Can you remember how many times that Peter denied Jesus? It was three times. Peter would now declare his love for Jesus three times in being restored.

Jesus was not trying to embarrass Peter, but He wanted Peter to know the importance of confessing Him before others. Jesus loved Peter very much and wanted to see him used in His kingdom. **We show our love for Jesus by helping others.**

JOHN 21:17

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."

Peter had denied Jesus three times so Jesus restored Peter three times by asking him how much he loved Jesus. At first Peter didn't understand, so he felt hurt. After Peter firmly declared his love and allegiance he was restored and forgiven.

In John 10:11, Jesus declared, "I am the good shepherd." We are His sheep. Jesus wanted Peter to take care of and teach the new believers how to follow Him. As we study the book of Acts we will see that Peter truly is a changed man. What is the difference? He was filled with the Holy Spirit. And when he was under the influence of the Holy Spirit God used him greatly.

God wants to use our lives greatly to reach others for Him. Sometimes we need to learn a hard lesson like Peter, but there is always forgiveness in Jesus. God is never done with us. He will use

our lives greatly if we will only let Him. **We show our love for Jesus by helping others.**

What is Love?

Divide the classroom into two by putting a piece of masking tape down the center. Place one card reading “YES” on one side and another reading “NO” on the other. Prepare several statements that you will read to your class and have them move into the side of the room that best describes love.

Some examples of the phrases you might use are: “My sister took my best airplane and broke it, but I will help her with her homework anyway”; “Mom knows I love her, so I don’t need to do my chores”; “Grandma sure was grouchy today, but I should mow her lawn anyway”.

Explain to your class that “agape” love, the love of Christ, is an “anyway” love. God’s love is not a “because” love; He loves us no matter what and that’s the way He wants us to love others.

Jesus next told Peter what his future would be. He loved Peter very much, so He shared with him what would happen someday.

JOHN 21:18-19

"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."

Peter had denied Jesus because he was afraid of death. Here Jesus told him the future and how he was going to die. He was telling Peter that he would be killed because of his belief in Jesus, and his death would honor God. When this happened, he was not to be afraid because God is always in control, even when we can't see it. He was to follow Jesus no matter what happened.

We also need to obey and follow Jesus. If we fail, we need to confess and ask forgiveness each time and be restored so that God can use us. When we love and help others too, we will also find true happiness in our own lives. It feels good to help someone in need and to know that we have made someone else happy. **We show our love for Jesus by helping others.**

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to help where ever the Lord shows. If any children have not yet responded to the gospel, give them an opportunity to do so.



"Jesus restores Peter"
John 21:15-19

JESUS RESTORES PETER

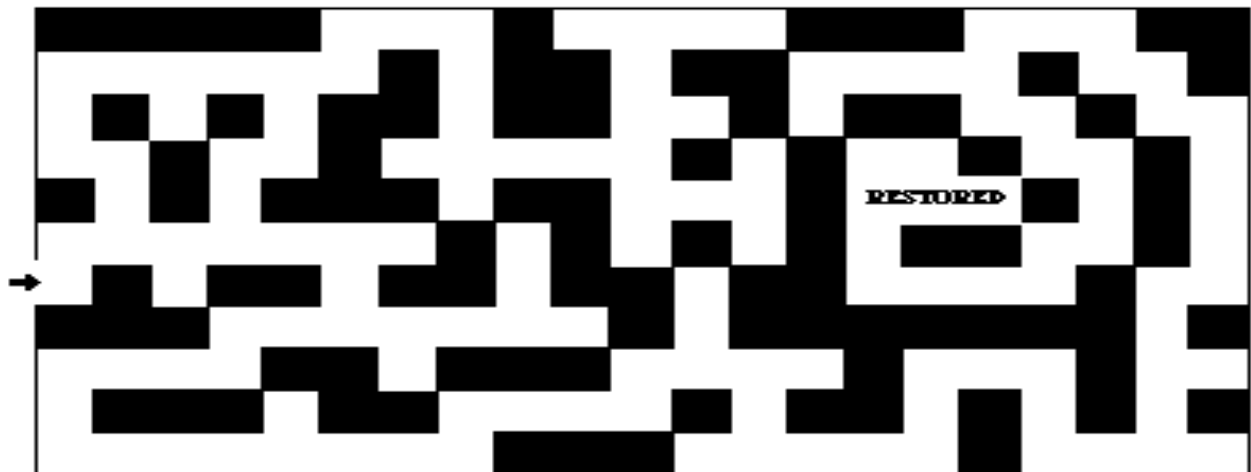
(JOHN 21:15-19)

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BREAKFAST
FEED
FOLLOW
GIRD
GLORIFY
JESUS

KNOW
LAMBS
LORD
LOVE
MORE

SHEEP
SIMON PETER
SON OF JONAH
TEND
WISH



JESUS RESTORES PETER

(JOHN 21:15-19)

MEMORY VERSE:

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake." PSALM 23:1-3

UNDERLINE THE CORRECT ANSWERS:

1. "So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of Jonah,...' " **JOHN 21:15**
 - a. Do you love Me more than these?
 - b. Do you need Me more than these?
2. "...He said to Him, 'Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.' He said to him,'...' " **JOHN 21:15**
 - a. That is all I wanted to know
 - b. Feed My lambs

FILL IN THE BLANK:

3. "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, '_____ My sheep.' " **JOHN 21:16**

TRUE OR FALSE:

4. "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?'..." **JOHN 21:17**

TRUE OR FALSE

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

5. "...And he said to Him, 'Lord, You know _____ things; You know that I love You.'..." **JOHN 21:17**
6. "...Jesus said to him, '_____ My sheep.' " **JOHN 21:17**
7. "Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you _____; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do _____ wish." **JOHN 21:18**

TRUE OR FALSE:

8. "This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God..." **JOHN 21:19**

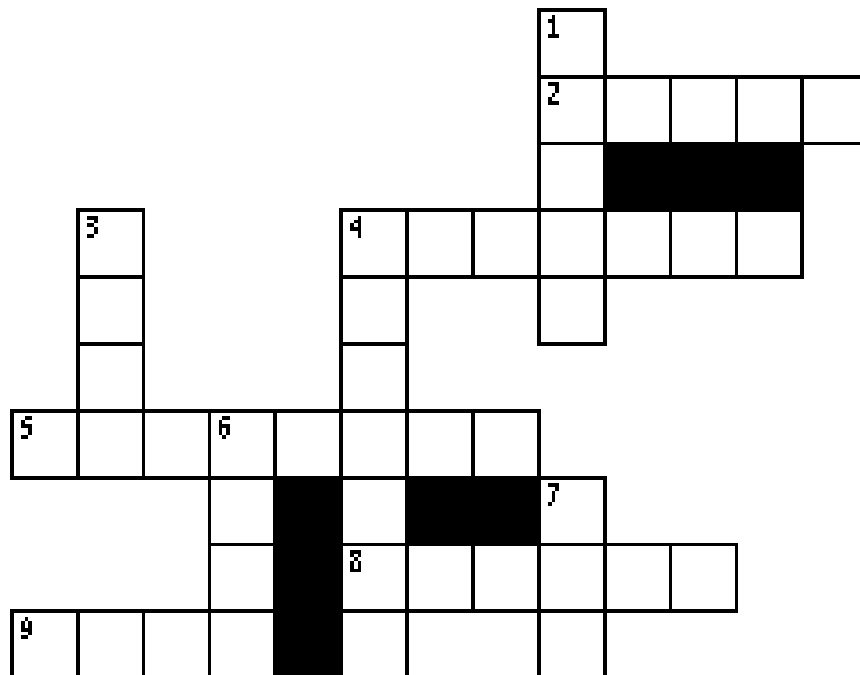
TRUE OR FALSE

9. "...And when He had spoken this, He said to him, 'Follow Me.' " **JOHN 21:19**

TRUE OR FALSE

JESUS RESTORES PETER

(JOHN 21:15-19)



- 5 ACROSS "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters. He _____ my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake." **PSALM 23:1-3**
- 3 DOWN "So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of Jonah, 'Do you _____ Me more than these?' " **JOHN 21:15**
- 9 ACROSS "...He said to Him, 'Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.' He said to him, '_____ My lambs.' " **JOHN 21:15**
- 6 DOWN "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, '_____ My sheep.' " **JOHN 21:16**
- 4 ACROSS "He said to him the third time, 'Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?' Peter was _____ because He said to him the third time, 'Do you love Me?'..." **JOHN 21:17**
- 7 DOWN "...And he said to Him, 'Lord, You know _____ things; You know that I love You.'..." **JOHN 21:17**
- 1 DOWN "...Jesus said to him, 'Feed My _____.' " **JOHN 21:17**
- 2 ACROSS "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 _____, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish." **JOHN 21:18**
- 4 DOWN "This He spoke, signifying by what death he would _____ God..." **JOHN 21:19**
- 8 ACROSS "...And when He had spoken this, He said to him, '_____ Me.' " **JOHN 21:19**

JESUS RESTORES PETER

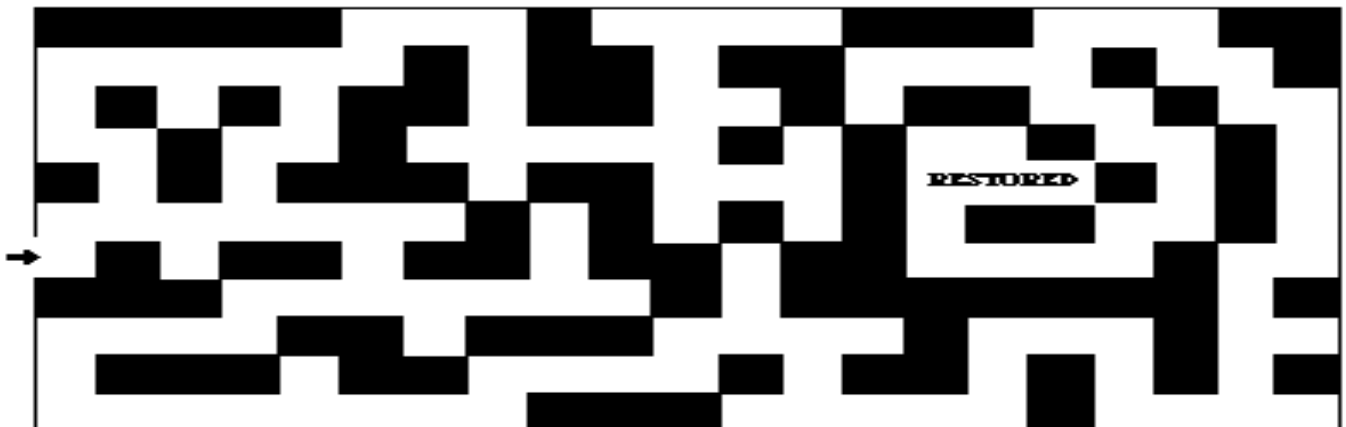
(JOHN 21:15-19)

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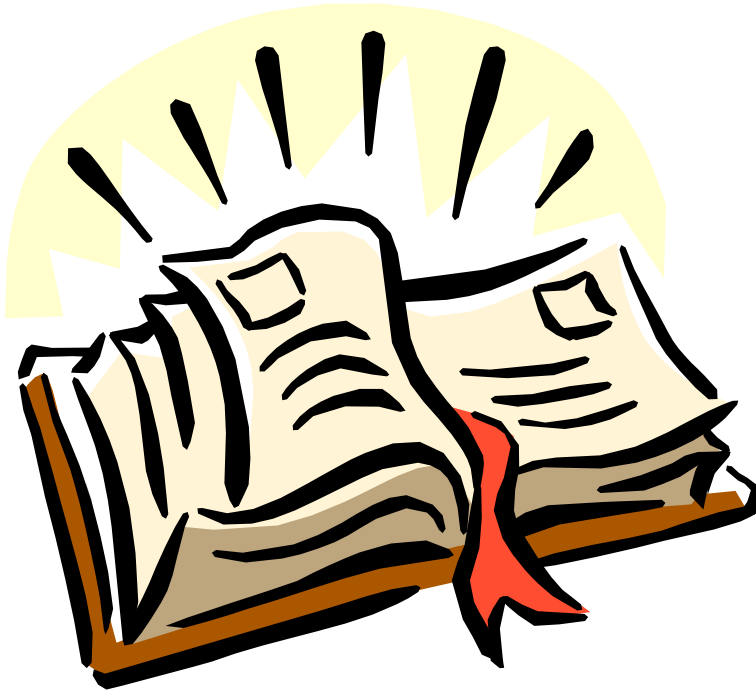
BREAKFAST
 FEED
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 SON OF JONAH
 TEND
 WISH



Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: Jesus Restores Peter

THEME: We show our love for Jesus by helping others!

SCRIPTURE: John 21:15-19



Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids. Bible Time for Kids is a series of daily devotions for children and their families. Our purpose is to supplement our Sunday morning curriculum and give you an opportunity to encourage your children to develop a daily devotional life. We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's Word together.

This week in Children's Church we learned about **Jesus Restoring Peter**. The theme was "**We show our love for Jesus by helping others.**" Peter had denied Jesus three times. In the lesson we studied this week we see Jesus restoring Peter and bringing him back to a place of ministry. Isn't it wonderful that in our failures that we can find forgiveness in Jesus?

This week we will look at a friendship that went bad for two young boys. We will see how the Lord worked it out through forgiveness and restoration. We will also see what the Lord taught these two boys, what He taught Peter when he was restored, and what He wants to teach us.

The section of scripture that we studied was **John 21:15-19**. The following five devotions are based on either the scripture and/or the theme for Sunday's lesson. As a starting point it would be good for you to review these verses with your children.

These devotions are designed to help you reinforce Sunday's lesson throughout the week with your children, provide some more ideas for the application of God's Word in your children's lives and provide a tool to help in family devotions.

Obviously children at various age levels will respond to the devotional in different ways. You may want to add your own ideas to these to make them more age appropriate.

May the Lord bless you as you study His Word together!

Day One

Sin and the Broken Heart

Text: 1 John 4:21 – “And this commandment we have from Him; that he who loves God must love his brother also.”

Also read John 20:15

A few weeks ago we read the story about Joshua and Kevin. These were the two boys that met at church camp and Joshua was in a wheel chair. They had become friends at camp and Kevin swore to Joshua that he would be his friend forever. But Kevin didn't keep his promise because he denied Joshua three times in front of his friends because they thought Joshua was “different.” Kevin felt like they might laugh at him if they knew that he was Joshua's friend. Well this story helped us to learn more about Peter's denial of our Lord Jesus Christ. Do you remember how that Peter denied knowing Jesus three times because he was afraid? We will learn this week how that Jesus forgave Peter and we are going to learn about it through the relationship between Joshua and Kevin.

After Kevin had denied Joshua the last time at school he felt horrible. Just like when Peter denied Jesus, his friend. The Bible teaches us that after Peter's third denial, he went out and wept bitterly (Luke 22:62). Kevin like Peter was being convicted of his sin and when the Holy Spirit convicts us, we feel guilty in our conscience and we have a broken heart. We need to thank the Lord when we are convicted of our sin because that leads us to seek His forgiveness, which then leads us to repentance or to turn away from our sin.

Kevin cried when he got home from school that day and he cried alone in his bedroom. He asked the Lord to forgive him for his betrayal of Joshua and wanted never to turn his back on a friend again. Kevin was sure that Joshua probably hated him by now and would not be willing to forgive him. But we will find that Joshua is a lot like Jesus. Just like in the story of Peter, Jesus welcomed Peter back and forgave him of his sin. We are all like Kevin and Peter; we are sinners. God wants to restore us so he can use us. It doesn't mean we have to be perfect but it does mean we must be willing to ask forgiveness, turn away from our sins and place others as more important than ourselves. **Continued on Day Two...**

- Why did Kevin feel so badly?
- Can you think of a time when you were convicted by the Holy Spirit for a sin?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Conviction: To be shown by the Holy Spirit that we have done something wrong, convinced that we are guilty for something.

Day Two

Time to Make It Right!

Text: Matthew 5:24 - "First be reconciled to your brother and then come and offer your gift."

Also read Matthew 6:15

Continued from Day One... Which do you think is harder, having to forgive someone for something they've done to you or asking forgiveness for something you have done to someone else? Both can be very hard because they are painful. When we need forgiveness we must be humble and when we forgive others we must give mercy, grace, and compassion. Like Peter with Jesus, he had to be humble towards the Lord and the Lord was gracious, merciful and compassionate towards Peter.

In our story of Kevin and Joshua these two boys had to do the same if they were to be friends again. It must have been difficult for Joshua to forgive Kevin for being so rude and unkind and just as difficult for Kevin to ask for Joshua's forgiveness. But they each wanted to please the Lord so they knew what they needed to do. So Kevin made a decision to call Joshua and Joshua made a decision in his heart to forgive Kevin. Kevin tried to call Joshua several times that day but no one was home. Kevin decided that he would keep trying until he talked to Joshua.

The next day at school, Joshua was coming down the hallway in his wheelchair and Kevin was coming out of his classroom with his friends. Just then Kevin caught Joshua's eyes and he smiled at him. Joshua waved to Kevin and said, "Hi Kevin." Kevin knew what he had to do. He walked up to Joshua and said, "Hi Josh, how are you doing?" What a surprise on the faces of Kevin's buddies! They started joking and saying things like, "We didn't think you knew that guy Kevin," and "That's the wheelchair kid, he thinks he knows you." Kevin had to turn to these guys and say, "I do know him, his name is Joshua and I've been lying all this time about not knowing him." Wow, that took guts to stand up and tell the truth. What would you do if you had been Kevin? **Continued on Day Three...**

- What was Kevin's attitude in this situation?
- What was Joshua's attitude in this situation?
- Is there someone that you need to forgive? Or to ask for forgiveness from?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Reconciliation: To bring back together again in peace.

Day Three

Yes, Yes, and Yes!

Text: 1 John 4:19 - "We love Him because He first loved us."

Also read John 21:15-17

Continued from Day Two... Just as Kevin had denied knowing Joshua three different times, so had Peter denied knowing Jesus three times. Just think of all of the things that Jesus could have done to Peter: He might have rejected Peter, He might have embarrassed Peter in front of the other disciples and worse of all He could have chosen not to forgive Peter.

In John 21:15-17 we see several ways that the Lord showed His love and forgiveness towards Peter. First, he talked to Peter directly by asking him three times if he loved Him. Jesus did not do this to embarrass Peter. He did it to show the other disciples that He was accepting Peter and loved him. You will see that after each time Jesus asked if Peter loved Him and Peter said, "yes" that the Lord was telling Peter what he must do to show his love for Him. He was telling Peter, "I love you and want to use you."

Secondly, Jesus was teaching Peter to be His disciple. Jesus showed so much love towards Peter. And like Joshua and Kevin, Joshua had already decided in his heart that he would forgive Kevin. And Kevin made it right by standing up for his friend in front of his other "so called" friends. Remember that love is an action word. That means that it causes us to do something. If we tell someone we love them we must show them in the way we treat them. This is how Jesus treated Peter. **Continued on Day Four...**

If we love Jesus we will do three things:

1. **Feed His lambs.** That means to teach others about His word.
 2. **Tend His sheep.** That means to help those in need and to give to those who don't have.
 3. **Feed His sheep.** After we tell others and care for them, we share more of His word with them and others.
- Do you love Jesus?
 - Have you ever fed or tended His lambs or sheep?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Love: 1 Corinthians 13

Don't Get Mad, Forgive!

Text: Matthew 10:39 - "He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it."

Also read John 21:18

Continued from Day Three... We've been learning about God restoring Peter and we've been learning about our responsibility when we sin and when we've been sinned against. Joshua and Kevin are examples of what it means to lose our life. As Matthew 10:39 reads, "He who finds his life will lose it and he who loses his life for My sake will find it." Joshua was willing to lay down his right to be bitter and angry with Kevin and Kevin was laying down his pride to seek forgiveness. This meant Kevin was also willing to give up his "other friends" to do what was right in the eyes of the Lord. Kevin was taking a risk and he was trusting in the Lord to give him courage and he wasn't sure if Joshua would even forgive him. That's how it must be when we follow Jesus. We can't be concerned about what others might think or say and we have to be willing to trust completely in Jesus for what happens.

Joshua was also revealing the love of Jesus towards Kevin by being forgiving. It took the grace of God to help Joshua have a soft heart filled with compassion for Kevin. Maybe there have been times you have had to forgive people for hurting you. Maybe you just wanted to stay mad and not pray for them. But what will happen is that bitterness and anger will keep us from having a close relationship with God and until we see our own sin and be willing to forgive others, we won't have real peace in our lives.

To follow Jesus we have to sometimes lay down what we feel like doing in order to do the right thing. We need to let Jesus have our lives, every single part of them. Each day we must ask God to help us, and each day we must give our lives to Him. Have you given your life to Him today? Are you willing to ask Him for help? **Continued on Day Five...**

- Did Joshua hold bitterness in his heart towards Kevin?
- Are you bitter and unforgiving towards someone? If so, will you ask for God to help you to forgive?
- Does Jesus have your whole heart and life?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Bitter: Holding sourness in your heart towards someone; anger.

Day Five

Apology Accepted

Text: John 21:19 - "This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, 'Follow Me.' "

Also read John 10:15

Continued from Day Four... So Joshua accepted Kevin's apology and the two became friends again. The Lord really blessed their friendship. Kevin learned that the other kids who he thought were his friends really weren't. They began to make fun of Kevin and laugh at him. Kevin was thankful that he found out that these "friends" never really cared about him. He also found out that a real friend would stick by you no matter what. What a blessing it is to have friends, even if they are a little bit different than us. Joshua had a disability, but that didn't matter to Kevin. And Joshua learned that it is good to forgive even when we may not feel like it. The Lord can bring reconciliation. He certainly brought Joshua and Kevin back together and He also restored Peter who went on to do some wonderful things for the Lord and His kingdom.

Even though there was peace in the end and reconciliation between these two friends, asking for forgiveness and forgiving is not always easy. We have to trust Jesus to help us to do the right thing. We don't always feel like doing the right thing, but when we obey the word of God then the Lord will bless us. Let's decide to follow Jesus and do the right thing no matter how we feel or what we think that others may think of us. We will find that when we trust Jesus He will give us true friends.

Is there someone that you can think of who you need to forgive? Or maybe there is someone who you need to ask for forgiveness from. Jesus wants us to do the right thing. He will help you and give you the strength to do what is right. Just pray and ask Him to help you to do what is right. You will find that He will give you the strength you need. It still may not be easy for you, but Jesus will always give you the grace you need to do the right thing.

- What happened to Joshua and Kevin when they did the right thing?
- Is it always easy to do the right thing?

Kid's Prayer Time



This week pray for God to help you notice those that you may need to forgive or ask forgiveness from, then to show you what you need to do.