



John 21:1-19

Aim: to see how God gives second and third chances as Jesus forgives Peter for letting him down



Peter was one of Jesus's special friends who couldn't imagine letting his master down. But, when the pressure was on and when he feared for his own life he resorted to denying knowing Jesus, not once or twice, but 3 times during the night that Jesus was arrested. I wonder when the deep regret and remorse began to set in? The worst of it was that there was no chance to make amends. Jesus was whisked away to be tried, crucified and buried in the tomb. It must

have hit Peter so hard. He had let Jesus down, big time, and would have to live with the sorrow of knowing that, deep in his soul.

The good news is that God is the God of many chances! When Peter spotted Jesus, who had appeared on the shore cooking breakfast, I'm not surprised that he jumped out of the boat to greet him as fast as he could. He had a precious opportunity to make amends. The risen Jesus not only gave him the opportunity and forgave him, but he restored Peter and gave him a very important job; to build his church.



Set up differently shaped paper fish all around the room for everyone to find and bring to your bucket.

You have 1 minute to go fish for as many fish as you can find. Bring all the fish to the bucket except for the (shape or colour of your choice) ones, ready for our story.

Do a check for the fish in the bucket. Say: *It would be a big mistake to get those naughty things mixed up with the others, but its easy to make mistakes sometimes.* Throw any of the offending fish out of the bucket.



We have a story about a special kind of fisherman today. His name is Peter. He was one of Jesus special friends but he made a big mistake!

Read Peter lets Jesus down, pg. 204, pause to ask everyone to say how Peter must have felt. Can they give you sad, shocked, upset, worried and sorry faces?

We had better read the next stories tell us about the happy ending! Read Fish for Breakfast, pg. 216, and Friends again, Pg. 217

Phew! I'm glad that Peter had chance to make friends with Jesus again. I was cross with those ... fish but now I think I should be kind and feed them in the bucket, too. Encourage everyone to put the 'naughty' fish in the bucket and feed them all.



- *I wonder how Peter felt when he saw that Jesus was alive again*
- *I wonder how Jesus felt when Peter told him he loved him very much*
- *I wonder if I need to say sorry or if I need to forgive some of my friends.*
- *I wonder what special jobs God has for us*



Read: The Friend Who Forgives: board book for toddlers by Daniel DeWitt.

Enjoy a bbq picnic or outdoor snack together. Encourage a couple of people to share stories of transformative experiences of forgiveness



- **Make 3D cockerels. Paint the bodies and stick on coloured feathers. Use googly eyes and thread treasury tags for legs.**

- Give children fishing nets and ask them to catch as many of the fish used earlier as possible. You could ask them only to get blue, round, small, etc. fish to make it more of a challenge. To make it more exciting laminate the fish or use plastic ones and fish them out of a pool of water (make sure you have plenty of towels to hand!)
- Role play, fish breakfast on the beach: Provide props and a picnic blanket.



Teach Makaton signs for sorry

<https://youtu.be/HZCBxAwyoB8>

and Thank you

<https://youtu.be/b4YQAPpo7UE>

Like Peter, we can say sorry when we do wrong things and we can say thank you because God always forgives us when we are really sorry. Today our prayer is a sorry and thank you prayer. Listen or join in with our new actions.

Dear Lord Jesus,

Sometimes we do things that make you sad.

Sometimes we don't do kind things or use kind words.

We are sorry (use action). Please let us be friends with you again.

Thank you (use action) for letting go of our bad things and for making us like new.

Amen (Roll arms upwards to make a slow, loud amen together)



- I love You by Doug Horley (here is the signed version: <https://youtu.be/ls27ywd0aws>)
- I'm Yours
- Shine



Explore more about the friendship between Peter and Jesus, together.

Video clip: https://youtu.be/SVx_G8yB19I