Preschool–Grade 6

Jesus Restores Peter

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love Me?" I love Jesus, and I will follow Him.
Bible passage: John 21. Read John 21:1–19 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "thou knowest that I love thee" *John 21:15 (KJV)*.
You need: a Bible, about 20 paper fish, a bedsheet or blanket for a net, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at John 21. Hide the paper fish around the room.

1. Opening game: Which Side? (5 minutes)

The kids stand facing you. Say "Left side!" and they hop to the left. Say "Right side!" and they hop to the right. Play a few times. Say: "Today we will hear a true story. Jesus told His friends which side of the boat to put their net on!"

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to John 21. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Peter and his friends went fishing in a boat (John 21:3). *(Row, row!)*
They fished all night and caught nothing (21:3). *(Shake your head.)*
In the morning Jesus stood on the shore (21:4). *(Hand over your eyes.)*
Jesus told them to cast the net on the right side (21:6). *(Throw a net to the right.)*
The net was full of fish (21:6)! *(Pull, pull, pull!)*
Jesus gave them bread and fish to eat (21:13). *(Pretend to eat.)*
Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him (21:15). *(Hands on your heart.)*
Say it with me: "Yes, Lord, I love You!"
Jesus said, "Feed my sheep" (21:16). *(Pretend to feed a sheep.)*
Jesus said, "Follow me" (21:19). *(March in place.)*
Say it with me: "I will follow Jesus!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. How many fish did they catch all night? *(Nothing, John 21:3)*
2. What did Jesus ask Peter? *(If Peter loved Him, 21:15)*
3. What did Jesus say at the end? *("Follow me," 21:19)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Peter said to Jesus, 'thou knowest that I love thee.' That means, 'You know that I love You.'" Teach the motion: point up on "thou knowest," cross your hands on your heart on "that I love," and point up again on "thee." Say it with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "John 21:15" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Fill the Net (5–10 minutes)

Spread the bedsheet "net" on the floor. The kids find the hidden paper fish and put them in the net. Count them together and say, "The net was full!" Then they draw the boat and the fish on their take-home sheets.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Jesus, I love You.
Help me follow You every day.
In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep it short and happy. Let every child throw the net and pull it in.

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