

# Session 3

## Peter on the beach

Love for Jesus leads to love for others

**Scripture:** John 21:15–25

**Supplies:**

Treasure hunt items:

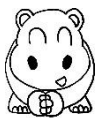
- Bread, coins, picture of an ear, nails, feathers, stones, strips of material, picture of a hand with a dot
- Mini beach:
  - Polystyrene container/paper plate/box
  - Sand or hessian
  - Cardboard disciples to colour in or the card set: <https://kixkinders.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/book-17-session-1.pdf>
  - Fish (biscuits/marshmallows/cardboard)
  - Paper/newspaper to fold a boat
  - Sticks (for the fire)
  - Net (hessian or veg/citrus bags)
  - Glue, crayons, scissors
- For older children:
  - Copy of word search



### Welcome

Treasure hunt – revision game: Put the following items in plastic egg containers or small boxes. Children work together (in teams or individually) to find them and to tie them to the scripture. (Each item is glued next to the correct scripture – answers below.)

- Piece of bread (Communion: Matthew 26:26–27)
- Coin (Judas betrays Jesus: Matthew 26:14–16)
- Ear (Peter and the sword: Matthew 26:51–52)
- Nail (Crucifixion: Matthew 27:35)
- Feather (Peter denies Jesus and the cockerel crows 3 times: Matt 26:72–75)
- Stone (Stone rolled away from the grave: John 20:1)
- Cloth (Cloth in the grave, resurrection: John 20:6–7)
- Hand with dot (Doubtful Thomas: John 20:27–28)



### Worship

**Settle-down ritual:** Children close their eyes in prayer.

- Touch your feet and thank God that you can go where He sends you.
- Touch your hands and thank God that you can help others.
- Touch your mouth and say thank you that God gives you words to be kind and nice to others.
- Touch your ears and thank God that you can make time for others and listen to their stories.
- Touch your eyes and thank God that you can see people who are suffering.
- Touch your head and thank God that you can make plans to help your friends.
- Touch your heart (put your hand on your chest) and thank God that you are his child and that He loves you.



## Word

John 21:15–25:

Use broomstick puppets or hand puppets or act out the scene to tell the story. The characters are Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James and John.

- Narrator:** John and Peter were the first two disciples who arrived at Jesus' grave and saw that He wasn't there anymore but had risen from the dead. Jesus appeared to them twice after that. A few days later Peter and a few of Jesus' closest friends were in a boat on the lake busy fishing. Thomas, Nathanael, James, John and two more disciples were there with Peter.
- Peter:** Hi you guys! I'm so tired and hungry!
- Thomas:** We've been trying to catch fish all night. What a waste of time! I'm also tired.
- Nathanael:** We don't even have one fish to cook for breakfast, not even a little one!
- James:** Ah, there's the sun at last! The time for fishing is now over.
- John:** Let's just go home and have some dry bread.
- Peter:** Hey, who's that guy standing on the beach waving to us?
- Thomas:** I don't know, but he doesn't look familiar.
- Nathanael:** I don't know either!
- Jesus:** Hi, guys! Did you catch any fish last night?
- James:** Nope! Nothing. Nada. Zero. Zilch.
- Jesus:** Just throw your net on the other side of the ship, to the right, there's plenty of fish.
- John:** (*grumbling to himself*) What does he know about fishing?
- Thomas:** But the fish swim left and right of the boat?
- Nathanael:** Clearly, he isn't a fisherman.
- James:** And once the sun is up you won't catch any more fish.
- John:** Yeah, that's a total waste of time.
- Peter:** Aw, come on guys! Let's give it a try. We have nothing to lose.
- Narrator:** The disciples sailed a little further and threw their nets into the sea on the other side of their boat.
- Thomas:** What's going on here? There are fish everywhere!
- Nathanael:** Oh man! Let's help, the net is going to rip!
- James:** Pull, guys, pull! Teamwork! We have never caught so many fish at once.
- John:** This is amazing!
- Thomas:** Who is this guy on the beach who told us to throw our nets in on the right side of the boat?
- Peter:** (*very surprised*) That's Jesus! The Lord!
- Narrator:** Peter was so excited to recognise Jesus that he jumped out of the ship, swam back to the beach, and ran straight to Jesus. The others sailed back to shore with their haul. When they got there, there was already a fire going with fish cooking on it. There was also bread.
- Jesus:** Bring some of the fish you caught so we can cook them and eat together.
- Peter:** Come give me a hand, guys! We need to drag the fish closer.
- Everyone:** (*Groaning while dragging the nets.*)
- Nathanael:** Gosh, this is heavy. Come count the fish.
- James:** 1, 2, 3, 4, ... 150, 151, 152, 153 fish!
- John:** Can you believe it, 153 fish!
- Thomas:** And the net didn't even tear even though there were so many fish!
- Nathanael:** It's a miracle!
- Jesus:** Come sit by the fire with Me and have some fish and bread.
- Peter:** Thanks, Jesus. It's so nice to see You again and to hang out with You.
- James:** We are always surprised when we see You that You've risen from the dead and are living again.
- John:** Yes, that is the greatest miracle!
- Narrator:** When they finished eating, Peter and Jesus went aside to have a conversation. After Jesus was

arrested, Peter denied Jesus three times. That means that he said he doesn't know Jesus three times. Peter probably felt very guilty and bad about it. Jesus knew all of this and wanted Peter to know that He forgave him.

**Jesus:** Simon Peter, son of John, do you love me more than these people here?

**Peter:** Yes, you know how much I love You.

**Jesus:** Keep watch over my sheep. Simon Peter, son of John, for the second time I want to know – do you love Me?

**Peter:** Yes, Lord, you know that I love You.

**Jesus:** Take care of my sheep like any shepherd would! Simon Peter, for the third time I ask you, do you love Me?

**Peter:** Lord, you know everything. You know that I love You.

**Jesus:** Take care of my sheep.

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder how you would feel if you spent the whole night fishing but didn't catch anything.
2. I wonder how it felt to catch all those fish.
3. I wonder what you would say to Jesus if you could cook fish with Him on the beach.
4. I wonder why Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him. (*Jesus wanted to remind Peter that even though he denied Jesus three times, Jesus forgave him. He wanted to give Peter a chance to right his wrong by saying three times that he loves Him.*)
5. I wonder what you would have answered.



## Working and Playing

- Make a mini beach: Everyone gets a paper plate or box. Make characters out of cardboard or use your disciple cards (Jesus, Peter, and a few others), fold a boat (from paper), cut a piece of net (from hessian or citrus bags), stick sand on it, make a fire on the beach (with sticks) and add small fish (from cardboard or small fish cakes). Then let everyone "play" the story again.
- Copy the boat and the disciples on cardboard. Let the children cut it out and glue the flaps to the inside of the boat's hull.
- For older children: Word search

## Closing prayer to end the session

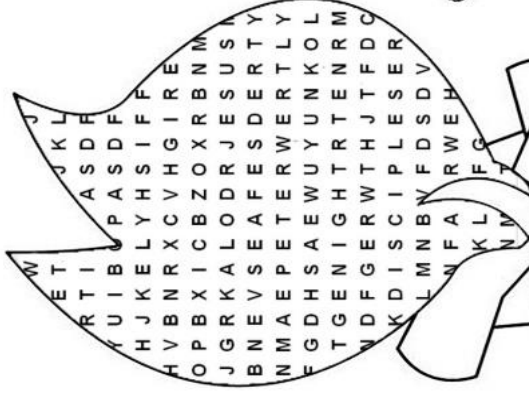
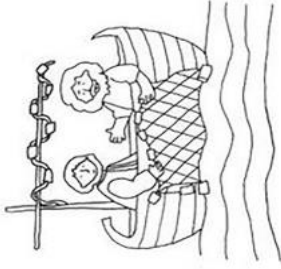
Word search answers:

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# Breakfast on the beach

John 21:9

“When they landed,  
they saw a fire of  
burning coals there  
with fish on it  
and some bread.”



- Tiberias
- Jesus
- Sea
- Disciples
- Peter
- Boat
- Fire
- Night
- Shore
- Net
- Fish
- Lord
- Bread

