

JESUS' APPEARANCES IN GALILEE

Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:50-53; John 21:1-24

STRUCTURE

Key-persons: Jesus, Peter, and the other disciples

Key-location: Galilee

Key-repetitions:

- Three times Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" Each time Peter answered, "Yes, you know that I love you!" and then, each time, Jesus ordered Peter to feed his sheep (Jn 21:15-19).
- Jesus gave his disciples responsibilities: to feed his sheep (Jn 21:15-19); to make disciples (Mat 28:19-20).

Key-attitudes:

- Peter's impatience when he said, "I'm going fishing." He was impatient because time had passed since Jesus had appeared to them.
- Peter's embarrassment when Jesus repeated the question, "Do you love me?"
- Disciples' emotional confusion when their doubts were mixed with worship (on the mountain in Galilee).
- Jesus' authority when he gave commands to his disciples.

Initial-situation:

On Friday, Jesus died and was buried. On Sunday morning, Jesus was brought back to life and appeared to Mary Magdalene, some other women, two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and the disciples gathered in Jerusalem when Thomas was absent. A week later, Jesus appeared to the disciples with Thomas present.

Initial-problem:

Jesus made several appearances on the first two Sundays after his resurrection. After time passed without seeing Jesus, Peter told some of the other disciples, "I'm going fishing."

Final-situation:

On a mountain in Galilee, Jesus ordered his disciples to make disciples.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus Appears Beside the Sea of Galilee

Jesus made several appearances on the first two Sundays after his resurrection. Twice, he appeared to his disciples. The third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after his resurrection was by Lake Tiberias (also called Sea of Galilee).

This is what happened. Seven disciples were together and Simon Peter told them, "I'm going fishing."

The others responded, "We'll go with you." They went out in a boat and fished all night without catching anything (Jn 21:1-3).

At sunrise, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples didn't recognize him.

Jesus called out, "Friends, did you catch any fish?"

They answered, "No, not a thing!"

Jesus told them, "Throw your net off the right side of the boat, and you'll catch some." They did, and caught so many fish that they couldn't drag the net up into the boat (Jn 21:4-6).

John told Peter, "It is the Lord!" Simon Peter jumped into the water and swam to shore. The other disciples stayed in the boat and dragged in the net full of fish. They were about a hundred yards from shore. They landed and saw a fire of burning coals with fish and bread cooking on it.

Jesus told his disciples, "Bring some of the fish you just caught."

Simon Peter went back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. The net was full of 153 large fish, but the net didn't tear. Jesus invited them, "Come and eat." And Jesus gave them bread and fish (Jn 21:7-14).

After they finished eating, Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you truly love me more than these?"

Peter answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

Jesus asked a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Peter answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

Jesus asked a third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was upset because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" Peter answered, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep" (Jn 21:15-17).

Jesus continued, "I tell you the truth, when you were young, you dressed yourself and went where you wanted. But when you're old, you'll stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you don't want to go." Jesus said this to indicate how Peter would die and bring glory to God. Then Jesus commanded Peter, "Follow me!"

Peter turned his head and noticed that John was following them. Peter asked, "Lord, what about him?"

Jesus answered, "If I want him to live until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me!" (Jn 21:18-24).

Jesus Appears on a Mountain in Galilee

Then the eleven disciples went to the mountain in Galilee where Jesus had told them to go. The moment they saw him, they worshiped him; however, some followers doubted.

Jesus approached them and said, "I've been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, wherever you go, make disciples of all peoples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and teach them to obey everything I've commanded you. And I'll be with you always, to the end of time" (Mat 28:16-20).

GENERIC DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

1. What catches your attention in the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main characters in the story?
4. What problems did the characters face?
5. How did the characters face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

SPECIFIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What happened when Peter wanted to go fishing?
2. What question did Jesus repeat to Peter three times?
3. What task did Jesus repeat to Peter three times?
4. When Jesus spoke about Peter's future, what was Peter's concern?
5. What can we learn about how to deal with people who have betrayed Jesus from the way Jesus dealt with Peter?
6. When Jesus met the eleven disciples on the mountain in Galilee:
 - What was their reaction to Jesus?
 - What was the Great Commission that Jesus gave them?
 - What did Jesus promise his disciples?
7. How can we fulfill the Great Commission?

LIFE-LESSONS

1. **The person who stops following Jesus' instructions can put forth effort but will not experience productivity.** Jesus called Peter to be a fisherman of men (Mat 4:19); Peter decided to return to fishing for fish (Jn 21:3). Peter worked all night without catching any fish (Jn 21:3). Effort without productivity contrasts with the overabundance that Jesus gives those who obey him. Examples:
 - A large amount of water was transformed into wine at the wedding in Cana (Jn 2:6-9).
 - After feeding the 5,000, there were twelve baskets of surplus food (Jn 6:11-13).
 - Living water flows for eternity (Jn 4:14; 7:37).
 - God gives a constant flow of the Holy Spirit (Jn 7:37-39).
 - Jesus gives abundant life, life to the full (Jn 10:10).

2. **Jesus seeks to restore his follower who has deserted him.** Jesus went to where Peter was fishing (Jn 21:4). He is the Good Shepherd who seeks the lost sheep (Mat 18:12).
3. **The decision to follow Jesus may require that a person make the sacrifice of doing something he doesn't want to do.** Jesus informed Peter that he would have to go where he didn't want to go (Jn 21:18). Examples of some who went against their personal desire in order to obey God:
 - Moses (Ex 3:10-4:17).
 - Jonah (Jon 1:13; 3:1-3).
 - Peter (Jn 21:18; Ac 10:28).
 - Paul (Ac 16:6-7, 10).
4. **The reason a leader should take care of the spiritual needs of others is his love for Jesus.** Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" When Peter answered, "Yes," Jesus gave him the task, "Feed my sheep" (Jn 21:15-17).
5. **The follower of Jesus should accept the road that Jesus assigns him without complaining about privileges others have on their life's journey.** When Jesus informed Peter of the way he would die, Peter wanted to know what Jesus had to say regarding John. Jesus answered that John's destiny was none of Peter's business; Peter needed to follow him (Jn 21:18-22).
6. **Jesus gives his followers the Great Commission of making disciples** (Mat 28:18-20). The central imperative of the Great Commission is: MAKE DISCIPLES. That means to bring people to Jesus so that they agree to submit to him and place their faith in him. Methods used to make disciples:
 - Go.
 - Teach about Jesus.
 - Baptize those who believe in Jesus.
 - Teach those baptized to obey everything that Jesus taught.
 - The power to make disciples comes from Jesus. Jesus is present with disciple-makers.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1. **Interactive Sharing:**
 Jesus was on trial for his life and three different times Peter denied that he knew Jesus. Jesus went to where Peter was fishing and restored Peter to serving him.
 Ask for volunteers to share experiences when they failed Jesus and then Jesus restored them to himself.

2. **Chant:**

- Tell the story one time.
- Chant the part of the story where Jesus dialogues with Peter.
The teller chants the words of Jesus and the listeners chant the words of Peter.

Leader	Listeners
Simon, son of John, do you truly love me more than these?	Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.
Feed my lambs.	Feed Jesus' lambs.
Simon, son of John, do you love me?	Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.
Take care of my sheep.	Take care of Jesus' sheep.
Simon, son of John, do you love me?	Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.
Feed my sheep.	Feed Jesus' sheep.
When you were young, you went where you wanted. But when you're old, someone will lead you where you don't want to go. Follow me!	Lord, what about him?
You must follow me!	I must follow Jesus.