
JESUS REDEEMS

SERIES: LIVE FOR HIM

Join us throughout the months of March and April as we learn different Bible stories that show us what it looks like to LIVE FOR HIM! We will be going through the books of Matthew and John.

REMEMBER VERSE

GALATIANS 2:20—I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

SCHEDULE

All Services

- 0:00—0:10 Welcome (Check-in)
- 0:10—0:15 Transition to Large Group (Outdoor)
- 0:15—0:30 Outdoor Large Group
- 0:30—0:35 Transition to Small Group (Classroom)
- 0:35—1:05 Lesson and Respond Activity
- 1:05—1:15 Bless and Dismiss (Check-out)

NOTES

LEADER RESOURCES

SERIES OVERVIEW

WEEK 1: Jesus Is King

Triumphant Entry (Palm Sunday)

WEEK 2: CSI: Christ Scene Investigation

Jesus Rises (Easter)

WEEK 3: Jesus Is Alive

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

CURRENT WEEK: Jesus Redeems

Jesus Reinstates Peter

WEEK 5: Remember & Celebrate

ZONK! Review Weekend

EQUIP

Of Jesus' 12 apostles, Simon Peter was considered to be one of Jesus' closest friends. Peter was passionate and zealous—often overeager and outspoken. Peter was the first disciple to boldly declare Jesus as the Messiah (Matthew 16:13–16). When Jesus shared that one of His disciples would betray Him, Peter vowed he would never leave Jesus or deny Him (Matthew 26:35).

Though Peter clearly had a passion for Jesus, there were times his passions were inconsistent and misdirected. Jesus rebuked Peter when he couldn't accept that Jesus would have to die (Matthew 16:22–23). And when Jesus was arrested, Peter, who'd sworn his allegiance to Jesus just days prior, denied Him three times (Matthew 26:69–75).

For someone with such a volatile personality, it's interesting that Jesus gave him a new name that means "the rock." But Jesus knew what He was doing. Though Peter may not have seemed like "the rock" to those watching, Jesus had the authority to give Peter this identity and the power to transform him to live in this identity.

In John 21, Jesus called Peter to shepherd His flock—a role that required him to be faithful and constant; a role that required him to be led where he did not want to go; a role that seemed contrary to Simon Peter's nature. We see in Acts that Jesus did lead Peter into his transformed nature because Peter cared for the flock, preached to multitudes, and was even (believed to be) martyred in Rome in AD 64 or 65—crucified upside down because he felt unworthy to die in the same way as Jesus. Though Peter experienced many pitfalls and slipups throughout his life, Jesus transformed him into his given identity, "the rock."

ENCOURAGE

Jesus graciously redeemed Peter, even after the passionate disciple denied knowing the Lord three times. Through Jesus, Peter's identity again came to rest in his relationship with Jesus.

The world attempts to clothe us with identities that aren't from God. We are His, not our own, and that fact alone defines us. Spend some time with the Lord confessing the false identities to which you might be attached. Maybe it's a desire to belong or a desire to feel important. It could even be a need to feel beautiful or worthy. Ask the Lord to reveal whatever these false identities may be and to give you the strength to exchange counter-identities for the identity He gives you—the identity of His beloved child.

WELCOME

Some fun ideas to welcome kids as they check-in to your room at the beginning of service.

Invite the kids to color on the provided coloring page or work on the provided activity page.

As kids arrive, feel free to ask them this week's Connect Question. Feel free to write the question on the board and encourage some fun dialogue before you start your lesson.

QUESTION: If you could go fishing and catch anything you wanted, what would it be?

RESPOND

A chance for kids to respond to what God is putting on their hearts through creative expression.

The Bible tells us that we've all sinned—every single one of us. But God is so good, and He loves us so much. No matter what we've done, because of Jesus, if we come to Him and ask for His forgiveness, He will forgive us.

INSTRUCTIONS: Hand each child a Jesus Redeems Story Template. In each square, instruct them to draw out the scenes in the story or images that remind them of each part (i.e. a fish for the miraculous catch, a sheep when Jesus calls Peter to care for believers). Have them color the different pictures and walk through the story together, focusing on the lesson that Jesus is able to redeem anyone.

SUPPLIES:

- Jesus Redeems Story Template
- Coloring supplies

REFLECT

A chance to reflect on what kids have just learned about The Big God Story.

Today we walked through some important events in Peter's life. We saw how Jesus used all of those events to remind Peter that he belonged to Jesus. Jesus redeemed Peter as well as the events in Peter's life.

- What does redeem mean?
- How do you think Peter felt when he saw Jesus after He died and rose again? *John 21:7*
- How did Jesus redeem Peter? *John 21:19*
- Why did Jesus ask Peter three times if he loved Him? *John 18:15-17, 25-27; 21:15-17*
- What plans did Jesus have for Peter? *John 21:15-17*
- How does it feel to know that Jesus redeems you?
- Is there anything too big for Jesus to redeem? *Romans 8:38-39*
- How has Jesus redeemed you?

BLESS

A powerful way to bless the kids and parents by sending them off with a benediction.

INSTRUCTIONS: Invite the parents into your room at the end of the service to say one last prayer together with the whole family. Instruct them to find their child and sit/stand by their side. Explain what their child learned today and read the verse below. Pray together and then dismiss.

1 JOHN 3:1a – See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

BLESSING: Jesus redeems! May you know that you are God's child and that He can bring good things out of hard things. May you know Jesus as your personal Redeemer and be filled with joy because of His love for you.

NOTES

This script serves as an outline of what your storytelling might sound like. Items written in italics are cues for the storyteller and are not meant to be read out loud. You are fully encouraged to make it your own and add a personal touch.

The script serves as an example, however if you would like to teach based on the script and are in need of any supplies mentioned, we would be happy to supply those for you! Storytelling images mentioned will always be provided in your basket each week, but if you need any other supplies for your lesson, contact a Grove KIDS Staff member beforehand so we can supply it for you! You are also welcome to bring in your own props if you would like!

RESOURCES PROVIDED

- Peter as Fisherman Image
- Peter Following Jesus Image
- Peter's Denial Image
- Peter Not Catching Fish Image
- Peter Swimming to Jesus Image
- Peter's Name Change Image
- Peter's Calling as a Shepherd Image

STORYTELLING

Let me ask you kind of a hard question: have you ever done something that was wrong and you felt so bad about it that you just wanted to run away? Well, I hope you know that no matter how bad you mess up, no matter how big your mistake, you can always run to Jesus and ask for forgiveness, and you can know that Jesus will forgive you. Today we're going to be talking about the disciple Peter after he made a big mistake and how Jesus redeemed him. Before we begin, let's ask the Holy Spirit to teach us today. *Lead the children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.*

Do you know what it means when we say that Jesus redeems? When we say Jesus redeems we are saying that Jesus saves us, pays for and brings us out of our sin, and heals us so we are made whole. Jesus is the only one who can redeem anyone from sin, and this is because He is the one who paid the debt of our sins with His perfect life when he died on the cross. But Jesus rose again and when we believe and follow Him, our sins can be paid for—they can be forgiven. Jesus redeems.

As I said before, we're going to be talking about Jesus' disciple Peter and how Jesus redeemed him after Peter made a mistake. Before this, we learned that Jesus rose from the dead and then appeared to His disciples. Jesus had a special conversation with His disciple Peter. When we first meet Peter in the Bible, we actually meet him by his other name. Do you remember what his name used to be? *Invite responses.* His name was Simon. What kind of job did Simon do? *Invite responses.* Right! Simon was a fisherman. *(Peter as Fisherman Image)*

On the day Jesus met Simon, Simon and his friends had fished all night without catching anything. Just when they were ready to give up, Jesus told them to try again by casting their nets on the other side. They caught so many fish that their nets started to break! After that miraculous catch, Jesus invited Simon to follow Him and "fish for people" instead of fish (Luke 5:10). Simon left his life as a fisherman, became one of Jesus' disciples, and walked alongside Jesus during His three years of ministry. Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter, which means "rock." *(Peter Following Jesus Image)*

One night, near the end of Jesus' life, as Jesus and His disciples shared in the Passover meal, Peter promised he would always follow Jesus and never deny Him. To deny someone means to act as though you don't know

that person (Matthew 26:35). But Peter ended up doing the very thing he promised he never would do: He denied Jesus three times, right before Jesus went to the cross! *(Peter's denial Image)*. When Peter realized what he had done, he felt very sad, and the Bible says he "wept bitterly" (Matthew 26:75). The story doesn't end on this sad note, however, because Jesus redeems.

Days after Jesus rose, Peter decided to fish with the disciples on the Sea of Galilee. The Sea of Galilee was where Peter had been fishing the day Jesus first called him to be a disciple. This time, just like the first time, it was morning, and Peter and his friends had fished all night without catching anything. *(Peter not catching any fish Image)*. *Invite children to turn in their Bibles to John 21 and follow along as you read vv. 4-6.* Now, this sounds familiar. What happened the first time Peter met Jesus? Did he catch any fish? What did Jesus do? *Invite responses.*

This time, Peter already knew Jesus—and when Peter recognized Him, he felt overjoyed. *Ask a volunteer to read v. 7 while everyone follows along. (Peter swimming to Jesus Image)*. Wow! Peter hurried as fast as he could to his Lord. Have you ever been so excited to see someone that you ran really fast to meet him? *Invite responses.* This must have been an amazing moment for Peter.

When Peter got to the shore, Jesus invited him and the disciples to eat breakfast. After they ate, Jesus began to have a serious conversation with Peter. *Invite the children to follow along as you read John 21:15-17.* Jesus started the conversation by calling Peter by his old name, Simon. Who remembers when Jesus changed Peter's name? *Pause for responses. (Peter's name change Image)*. Jesus gave Simon the name "Peter," which means "the rock" (Matthew 16:17-18). Jesus planned for Peter to help build the church after Jesus returned to heaven.

Why do you think Jesus called Peter by his old name? *Encourage kids to answer.* Jesus probably called Peter by his old name to remind Peter about who he used to be before he met Jesus. Then, Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him. Each time, Peter said yes, of course he loved Jesus.

By the third time, Peter felt really sad that Jesus asked him this. Why do you think Jesus asked him three times? *Encourage kids to answer.* Jesus may have repeated the question three times because Peter had denied Jesus three times. Jesus gave Peter a second chance to declare his love for Jesus instead of denying that he knew Jesus. Then, Jesus told Peter to take care of His sheep. Who takes care of sheep? *Allow children to respond.* That's right.

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STORYTELLING (CONT.)

Shepherds take care of sheep. Jesus had an important mission for Peter's life: to be a shepherd to God's people. (*Peter's calling as a shepherd Image*) Although Peter had denied Jesus, Jesus still loved Peter and forgave him. He gave Peter another chance. Jesus redeemed Peter and reminded Peter of his identity as Jesus' follower. Jesus redeems!

Jesus loves each of us very much. Because He died on the cross, Jesus is able to redeem us from the sin in our lives and the mistakes we make. He claims us as His followers—as children of God. He will help us know the right way to live. He reminds us that we belong to Him, even when we turn away from Him or His ways, and that He has an important place for us in The Big God Story. Jesus redeems.