***Sunday school materials: 10/05/2020***

***A WAY BACK***

***Footsteps.***

***Bible verse: John 21 :1-19 (or just read 15-19 if you like)***

We are looking at the same story as last week - that breakfast on the beach but we’re looking at what Jesus said to Peter - and all about Peter! Good old Peter! He is probably the disciple who most of us relate most closely to – the one who got it wrong time and time again, the one who kept putting his foot in it, and the one who, under pressure, failed!

Peter denied Jesus three times before His death. Imagine betraying a friend at such a time and how you must be feeling afterwards! But, in the verses prior to [John 21:15-18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+21&version=NIV), we see that Peter jumped out of a boat to swim to Jesus after His resurrection. After eating breakfast together, Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves Him. "Yes, yes, yes!" Peter replies. Jesus then tells Peter to look after His sheep and feed His lambs, which Peter went on to do.

What can we learn for ourselves from this encounter? Surely the greatest lesson of all – that God does not hold on to our sins and He does not let confessed and repented-of sin stand in the way of our future work for Him. When God forgives, He forgives utterly. When God restores, He restores fully. This was abundantly true in Peter’s life and it can be abundantly true for us as well. We might wallow in guilt – but Jesus can forgive us and help us to live for him in a stronger way than before!

***Craft activity if you want it : FISHY FISHY***

#### ***Equipment***

Plain flour, salt, water, vegetable oil, mixing bowls, rolling pins, knives (not sharp), googly eyes. Optional: glitter, food dye.

This activity will work well with the following Teaching Time activities: Amazing or A Way Back.

Make salt dough by mixing 2 cups plain flour, 1 cup of salt, 1 cup of water and 1 tablespoon of oil together. Knead the dough for 10 minutes. If you want to make this ahead of time, you can store it in cling film or an airtight container in the fridge for up to a week.

Ask the children what Peter did for a job before he met Jesus. He was a fisherman. Ask the children where fish appeared in today’s story/stories.

Let the children use salt dough to make a fish to remind them about what they’ve heard about Peter today. You can add food dye or glitter to the dough to make it more interesting. Scales and gills/fins can be added using a blunt knife or pencil. Give everyone a googly eye to add to their finished fish. Don’t forget to scratch initials on the back. The fish will dry out over several days or can be helped along in a cool over for a few hours.

If salt dough is too messy, you could do a similar activity with card and paper to collage on the top for scales.

The Point: A memory aid to the stories.

***A WAY BACK: Bible study.***

<https://youtu.be/Ppb9bKX1r7k>

Or you could use this one for older children (or watch both! My kids like to have a look at both and decide which they like best - like reading a couple of different translations of the Bible)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fkcx_ho66Nk>

Watch the clip all about Peter or/and read the account of the story from John 21: 1-19

Watch the clip and ask the children how Peter must have been feeling about what he’d done before Jesus died. How does Jesus treat Peter in this story? How must Peter have felt by the end of it. Why do you think Jesus asks Peter 3 times? How does Peter change?

Say that Peter went on to be a very important leader when the church started - because Jesus had asked him to. This meeting with Jesus changed Peter a lot - if it hadn’t have happened, Peter might have just gone back to being a fisherman and never been so important in starting the church - and then who knows what would have happened…

#### ***CLEAN AND NEW - God makes us clean and new when he forgives us.***

#### ***Equipment***

Old pennies, a large plastic bowl, mud, water, good quality tomato ketchup, napkins, facilities for hand washing.

Before the activity, put the dirt in the plastic bowl and add some water. Put the pennies in and mix them around so they are hidden by the sludge. There should be enough for one each.

When the activity starts, ask the children to look at the bowl. What can they see in it? Is anything in it worthwhile?

Say that Peter felt like this when he had denied Jesus – that anything good in him had been hidden by the bad thing he had done.

Ask the children to find the pennies in the mud – they should find one each.

Give each child a napkin to dry their penny, then squirt a little tomato ketchup onto each penny and ask the children to polish the ketchup into the penny – both sides! The acid in the ketchup will clean the pennies so they are bright and shiny again.

(Please note that you may want to experiment with the ketchup and pennies at home before you introduce it to the children. Very dirty/stained coins will be harder to clean and may take a bit more work than a newer coin. You may also want to give the children an old toothbrush or a washing up sponge to help with tougher stains.)

Look at the pennies again. Say that Jesus forgave Peter and helped him to start again. With the help of Jesus Peter was able to change completely and do amazing things for God.

Say that it is the same for us. We mess up and make mistakes, but God doesn’t give up on us! He can completely forgive us and make us clean and new so that we can start again – or carry on!

The Point: To illustrate the way that Jesus transforms us after we have messed up!

#### ***LORD, YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU.***

#### ***Equipment***

Printouts of PDF

Give each child a copy of the print out (attached PDF; [John 21:16](https://biblehub.com/john/21-16.htm)) to colour.

Although these are the words of Peter, ask the children to reflect on whether they would like to say those words to Jesus.

The Point: A reminder of the conversation between Peter and Jesus.

***Worship song - From LifeTree kids - YOU FORGIVE ME.***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LO-2fm7IKcU&list=PLwIDo4xxCqcjuiViV7pJIJRfe7gm-oOai&index=8>

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