

## 7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)

**Lesson Plan:** Jesus' Resurrection (Peter)

**Learning Goals:** Students will compare Jesus' post-resurrection response to Peter to Peter's denial of Jesus leading up to his crucifixion.

**Question:** How do you think God responds to our failures?

Prayer.

Discuss question on board. (5 minutes)

## Read John 21

In the same way that the Gospel of John begins with a Prologue (1:1-18), it ends with an Epilogue (21:1-25).

### What happened to Peter? How does he go from denier to leader in the church?

- Even after the resurrection appearances of Jesus, the disciples go back to “business as usual,” back to their old way of life as fishermen.
  - Where? Sea of Galilee (Tiberias)
  - Who? Peter, Sons of Zebedee (James and John), Thomas, Nathanael, 2 other disciples
  - Why? It's what they knew best, it was a place of comfort, something they had “control” over in the midst of uncertainty
- Jesus comes to them on the shore (about 100 yards away). He knows that they haven't caught anything, but asks them to make them admit their own weakness.
- Jesus' suggestion of throwing the net on the other side of the boat must have sounded absurd - it's only about 7-8 ft. away. If you're not catching fish on one side, you're not gonna get any on the other side. The amount of fish is miraculous.
  - Lesson: obedience brings blessing

### Recognizing Jesus

- John is the first one to recognize Jesus. (He is quick to perceive)
- Peter is the first one to do something about it - stripping his clothes and jumping into the water. (He is quick to act)
- The mention of the number of fish (153) sounds like an eyewitness account. There is no other reason to be that specific.
- Jesus invites the disciples to eat with him (he is not a spirit or a ghost, but a resurrected body).
- When else have we seen Jesus feed with fish and bread? (Connection to Feeding of the 5,000 in John 6:5-15.)

### Jesus restores Peter

- Jesus makes the first move to bring things up to Peter. (see connection to John 4:19 - we love because he first loved us)
- Peter denied Jesus 3 times (John 18:15-18, 25-27).
- Jesus asks Peter 3 times if Peter loves Jesus. Each one of these is, in essence, a way of restoring him from his denial. He does this publicly so that all of the other disciples hear it, restoring Peter's authority as well.
- What does it mean for Jesus to ask Peter, “Do you love me more than these?” Three possibilities:
  1. Does Peter love Jesus more than any of the other disciples do?

2. Is Peter's love for Jesus greater than his love for the other disciples?
  3. Is Peter's love for Jesus greater than his love for his old way of life - fishing (boats, nets, fish, etc.)?
  4. Maybe all three - "Peter, do you love me more than anything?"
- Jesus charges Peter to care for his sheep/lambs. This connects to Jesus' statement that he is the Good Shepherd (John 10). Peter is to continue the ministry that Jesus began. He is to get involved in the ministry of taking care of others.

### **The Call to Follow**

- Jesus' final call to Peter is the same as his first call: "Follow me!"
- He tells Peter not to worry about anyone else (in this case, John) but to focus on following Jesus.
- We must do the same thing - we can't focus on what God calls other people to do. That is not our responsibility. Our responsibility is to follow Jesus with everything that we are. "Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength."

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### **Lesson Summary/Review:**

Students should review and highlight the following vocabulary terms and concepts from this lesson in their notes:

- Peter
- How does Jesus restore Peter?