

Sunday 1st May 2022

Easter 3



Today, our Gospel reading tells us about how Jesus forgave Peter after he made a mistake, and gave him a very important job to do. You could colour this picture while you listen to the story.

Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you find some fish.

John 21:6



For older children:

 Have you ever made a mistake? What do you do when you mess things up?

We all make mistakes! There is an old saying that the person who never made a mistake never made anything!

What is amazing is that God takes our mistakes and turns them into something new and full of meaning. The Bible is full of stories of people who made mistakes and were given the chance to put things right - often several times! In fact, the whole Bible is about this, in a sense, because we know that we all sin and mess things up, but Christ was sent to restore us! One of these people who made a mistake was Peter. Peter was a close friend of Jesus during his ministry, ready to do anything for his Lord, but on the night that Jesus was arrested, he predicted that Peter would deny him three times. Peter refused to believe such a thing was possible and claimed that he would never deny Jesus. But guess what? He did. He got nervous and pretended not to even know Jesus! Peter felt awful about it, but the story didn't end there...today we hear how Jesus forgave Peter.

After Jesus rose from the dead, he appeared to people for several weeks. On one occasion, Peter was out fishing with some of the other disciples. They hadn't caught anything, then Jesus appeared to them and suggested they try moving their nets. When they did, the disciples caught a huge load of fish! Even though they hadn't quite recognized him before, Peter realized it was Jesus on the shore calling to them. They came up, and Jesus cooked some of the fish for breakfast. Then he spoke to Peter, and asked if he loved him. Peter of course assured Jesus that he loved Him. But the Lord asked him again. In fact, three times in a row, Christ asked if Peter loved him, and three times he said yes. Jesus asked Peter to "feed my sheep" and "take care of my lambs."

What did this mean? Well, for one thing, Peter was getting another chance. He had denied Christ three times, but now he got to affirm his love three times. It sort of erased the previous mistakes. In addition, Jesus was giving Peter an important task. When he asked Peter to take care of his sheep, he was calling on him to spread the Gospel to others. Peter became a very influential person in the early church. He was no longer just a fisherman, but a true fisher of people. God used him in remarkable ways. He shared his faith and proclaimed Christ, even when it later cost him his life.

God can always turn our stories around. Even if we think that we have gone too far or don't think we can ever be forgiven, God wants to use us. He wants to turn our mess into success, and he will, if we let him! If we bring our mistakes and failures to the Lord, we will see what amazing things he can do!

 **A prayer for this week:**

**Dear God,
Thank you for giving us second chances,
even when we make mistakes.
Help us return to you, no matter what we do.
Thank you for loving us. We love you!
Amen.**

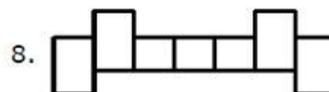
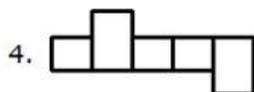
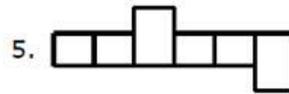
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Feed My Sheep

Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. John 21:17b-18a



Enter the correct words in the boxes based on the shape of the letters.



truth	follow	sheep	eating
glorify	lambs	feed	love

Feed My Sheep

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. John 21:17 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 21:15-19



W Z A D S E L W S A I D R C P
A O P X F E Q J A D N J K I E
E C C S I K B N V E D I E R F
P M U P R S Y Q D A T R U T H
J S G G L O R I F Y A T Z F R
E A N G B K J Z D C R D A E K
E A M X A E A T I N G S C E G
T T H I N G S J E S U S N D U
P E J R H U R T S R I U Q D B
Y E Y J L D N L O N F P R R L
B P T H A S N B A O E I A T E
M T N E X H L A H M H N Y W L
R O D L R E D O F T B X Q P W
V F R D E E P B V G S S N B J
T U I E F P E U T E A R O W R

EATING
SAID
SHEEP

JESUS
PETER
THINGS

TRUTH
HURT
LOVE

CARE
GLORIFY
THIRD

MORE
FEED
LAMBS



The disciples tried and tried to catch some fish. When they obeyed Jesus, they caught so many fish their nets almost broke!
JOHN 21:1-6