

Do You Love Me?

John 21:1-17; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 809-815

Asante, do you have your hat?" Mom called. "I think so," Asante responded.

A few minutes later Mom asked Asante the same question. I thought I told her yes, he thought as he answered again. As he headed through the door, Mom again asked Asante if he had his hat. Trying not to let his impatience show, he once again told her that he had it.

Has someone ever asked you the same question over and over? They may have been trying to show the importance of what they were asking. In this story Jesus asked Peter the same question three times.

Peter was restless. "I'm going fishing," he told the other disciples. At least fishing was doing something. It had been awhile since Jesus had been crucified. He had appeared to them twice since His resurrection. It had been wonderful to see Him and to know that He was alive.

Jesus hadn't mentioned that Peter had denied Him three times. Peter was still so embarrassed. He was ashamed of what he had done. He may have asked God to forgive him. He may have thought that Jesus would no longer trust him. *How much do the other disciples know about it?* he may have wondered. *Do they know how sorry I am?*

Some of the other disciples decided to go fishing

with Peter. So just as the sun was going down they stepped into Peter's boat. The wind soon swept them across the water. They stayed out all night—but they caught nothing. *What a waste of a night's work*, Peter probably thought.

Early in the morning, just as the sun was coming up, they returned to shore—without any fish. As their boat drew closer to shore they noticed a man standing on the beach. The man called out, "Have you caught any fish?"

The disciples called back, "No, none at all."

The man called out again. "Throw your net on the right side of the boat. You will find some."

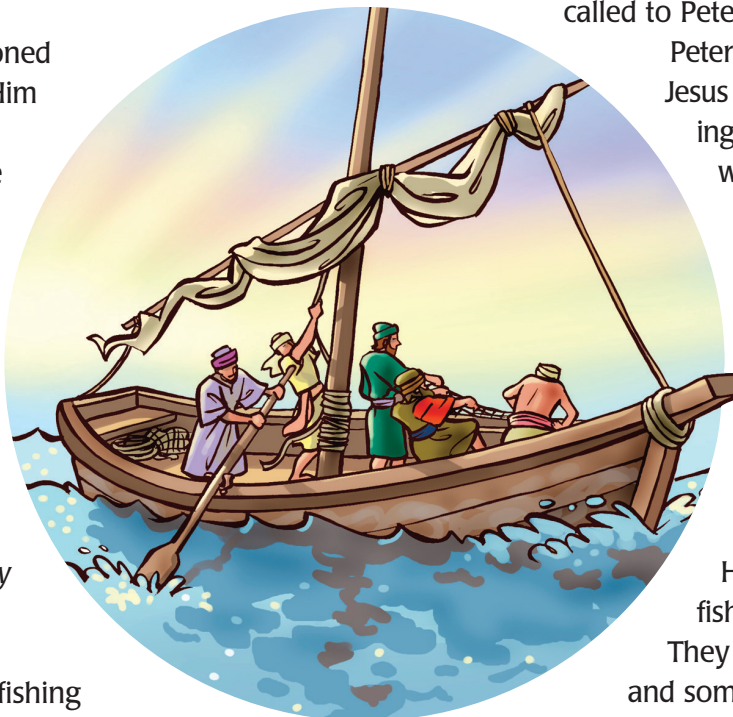
Perhaps they wanted to please the man. Or perhaps they just wanted to try once more. Whatever the reason, they did what the man said.

Immediately their nets were full of fish! They couldn't even haul their nets into the boat!

Suddenly John recognized the man and called to Peter, "It is the Lord!"

Peter was very happy to see Jesus again! Jesus was waiting for them! The boat was very close to shore, so Peter decided not to wait. He jumped out of the boat and hurried through the water to Jesus. The others followed in the boat. When they reached shore, they found that Jesus had made a fire.

He was cooking some fish for their breakfast. They soon enjoyed the fish and some bread.



The Message

We serve God when we take care of others.

Memory Verse

**“Again Jesus said,
... ‘Do you love me?’
... ‘Take care of my
sheep’ ”**

(John 21:16).

After breakfast Jesus turned to Peter. “Do you truly love Me more than these?” He asked.

Peter immediately answered, “Yes, Lord, You know that I love You.”

Jesus looked into Peter’s eyes and said quietly, “Feed My lambs.”

Again Jesus asked, “Peter, do you truly love Me?”

And Peter replied, “Yes, Lord, You know that I love You.”

Jesus replied, “Take care of My sheep.”

A third time Jesus asked, “Peter, do you love Me?”

Peter didn’t know what to think. Perhaps he wondered if Jesus didn’t believe him. And why did Jesus ask three times? Was it because Peter had denied Jesus three times?

Peter was hurt because Jesus had asked him

three times. With a heavy heart Peter answered, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.”

Jesus said again, “Take care of My sheep.”

Finally Jesus said to Peter, “Follow Me.”

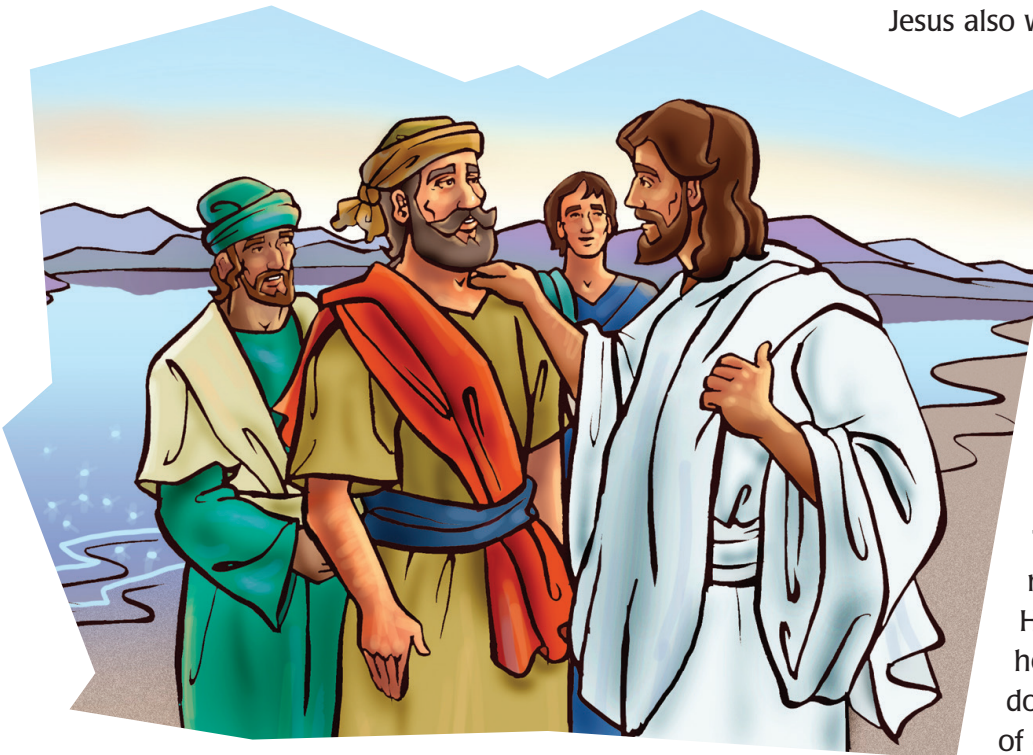
Peter realized then that Jesus had forgiven him. Jesus still wanted Peter to follow Him.

Why did Jesus ask Peter these questions in front of the other disciples? Perhaps it was so they would know that He had forgiven Peter.

Jesus also wanted to teach Peter a

lesson in patience, sympathy, and forgiveness. Peter would need all of that in the future. He had a work to do for Jesus. He would lead and care for many new believers of Jesus during the rest of his life.

Jesus also wants us to know something special. There is only one thing we must do to follow and serve Him—love Him with all our hearts. And when we really do, we will want to take care of others too.



S A B B A T H

READ

With your family, read the lesson story. Talk about how you can take care of others.

DO

Teach your memory verse to your family. Divide them into two groups.

One group says: "Again Jesus said, . . . 'Do you truly love me?'"

The other group answers: "'Take care of my sheep.'" John 21:16.

M O N D A Y

READ

Read and discuss John 21:15-17 during family worship. How many times did Jesus ask Peter if he loved Him? Why that many times?

DO

Share the sheep puppet you made in Sabbath School with someone this week. Tell them about Jesus and Peter. Ask them to help you look for ways to help care for others.

PRAY

Pray for the person you share with.

T U E S D A Y

READ

Read Psalm 23 with your family. What does our Good Shepherd (Jesus) do for us? What can we do to help other sheep and lambs?

READ

Get a book about an animal you would like to take care of. What does that animal eat? Do you have to take care of its fur or skin in a special way? Where does it need to live? What else do you have to do for it?

PRAY

Thank Jesus for animals you enjoy.

Peter and the disciples all needed to know that he was forgiven for denying Jesus three times. That's why Jesus questioned him three times.

W E D N E S D A Y

SING

During worship, have everyone sing "Be Like Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 115) or "Give Your Heart to Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 118) or "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 119). Ask your family, "Do you mean it?"

DO

Act out the Bible story with your family.

DO

Say the memory verse together before prayer.



T H U R S D A Y

THINK With your family, think of things that Jesus asked us to do. How many of them do you do regularly? sometimes? never?

READ Read

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 together. Doing things for others without love is like . . . Draw a picture of what that means to you. Do you do things for others with or without real love for them? Tell Jesus about it. Ask Him to help you help others.



F R I D A Y

READ

With your family, read and discuss John 1:29; Revelation 5:12, 13; and Revelation 7:9-17. Who is the "lamb" referred to in these texts? What has the Lamb done for you and your family? Where is the Lamb now? What is He doing there?

SING

Sing some praise songs. Then thank God for sending the Lamb to die for us. Praise God that He lives again and takes care of us.

Do You Love Me? PUZZLE

Directions: Number the pictures in the order in which they occurred in this week's lesson.

