

Explore It

FOR LEADERS



A NEW OPPORTUNITY

John 21:15-19 Jesus reinstates Peter

Each child will need:

→ A banana, scissors, sticky tape, wipes/towel

You will need:

→ A banana, scissors, sticky tape

Start It

Warning: this could get very messy!

Start with a challenge. Ask the children to peel their banana and chop it into pieces. Explain to children they now need to try and put their banana back together in its peel using the sticky tape and any other resources they want to use.

Ask the children to show their 'fixed' bananas. How do they feel about how successful they have been putting it back together? Give them time to share.

● **Say:** This banana has little hope of a second opportunity or being properly put back together, but that is not true for everything. Let's find out more from our story today.

Sing It

Let's put our faith and trust in God who is always with us, no matter what.

'As the World Shakes' by Hillsong Kids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcAG4PbNXaA>

Tell It

● **Say:** Over the last few weeks we have seen that Jesus rose from the dead, and that afterwards he visited his friends and other people several times. What stories have we heard about?

Another of those times we will be exploring today.

● **Say:** Today we will be looking at another story after Jesus had risen. This story is about the disciple Peter, who used to be called Simon.

● **Say:** When Jesus had been warning the disciples that difficult times were ahead, Peter had said he would always be true to Jesus. But after Jesus had been arrested, Peter had got scared and pretended he didn't know Jesus. The Bible tells us Peter said he didn't even know Jesus – he said it three times.

● **Say:** After the death of Jesus, Peter had gone back to being a fisherman. One day Peter and a few other disciples had been fishing all through the night but they had not caught a single fish. Then a man arrived on the shore and told them to throw their nets out on the other side of the boat. They did just that and were amazed by how many fish they caught! There were so many fish they were worried that the nets would break – but they didn't.

🗨️ **Say:** And then the disciples realised who the man on the shore was. It was Jesus. So they rushed to meet him. After getting back on dry land this is what happened next.

Watch the video *Jesus restores Peter* by Superbook
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MENWMTxW44M>

Read John 21:15-19

Discuss:

- ➔ What do you think Jesus meant when he said, 'Feed my lambs'?
- ➔ What do you think Jesus meant when he said, 'Take care of my sheep'?
- ➔ Why do you think Jesus asked Peter three times if Peter loved him?
- ➔ What is forgiveness? How did Jesus show forgiveness to Peter?
- ➔ Why do you think Peter chose to follow Jesus?
- ➔ Do you choose to follow Jesus? How do you do this?

Action It

- 🗨️ **Say:** Peter felt he had failed Jesus. When Jesus had been arrested, Peter denied knowing Jesus. When Jesus had died, Peter was having a difficult time knowing what to do next.
- 🗨️ **Say:** But Jesus had a very special job for Peter as he knew he would be good at it. He gave Peter another opportunity and asked him three times if he was ready, as he wanted Peter to really know he could do it. Jesus knew he was going to be leaving Earth and Peter could help teach others about God's love for the world.
- 🗨️ **Say:** God extends this same love to us even when we get things wrong. Even though we make mistakes, he forgives us and he has special plans for us. The Bible is full of stories of God using all kinds of people: rich, poor, strong, weak, old, young.

Ask: Can you think of some of the people God uses?

Invite the children to discuss how they can use their gifts from God to support those around them.

You could consider questions such as:

- ➔ Where are the places you go?
- ➔ What are the needs you see?
- ➔ In what ways could you help?
- ➔ What are the gifts God has given you?
- ➔ How could you use the gifts God has given you to help others?
- ➔ When you pray, do you ask God to guide you?

Pray It

From *Prayer Activations and Encounters* (River Kids 2nd Edition)

🗨️ **Say:**

I want you to imagine you are entering a house.
You walk through the hallway.
You go into a living room where you see Jesus standing and smiling!
He is at a dinner table with a feast for you.
What does the table look like?
What sort of food can you see?
Jesus invites you to sit and eat.
Jesus calls someone else's name and invites them to join you at the table.
You see them come through the door.
Who is it?
Do you want to ask them to sit?

Do you want to ask Jesus why he asked this person to join you?
What is he asking of you?

Close in prayer.

Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.