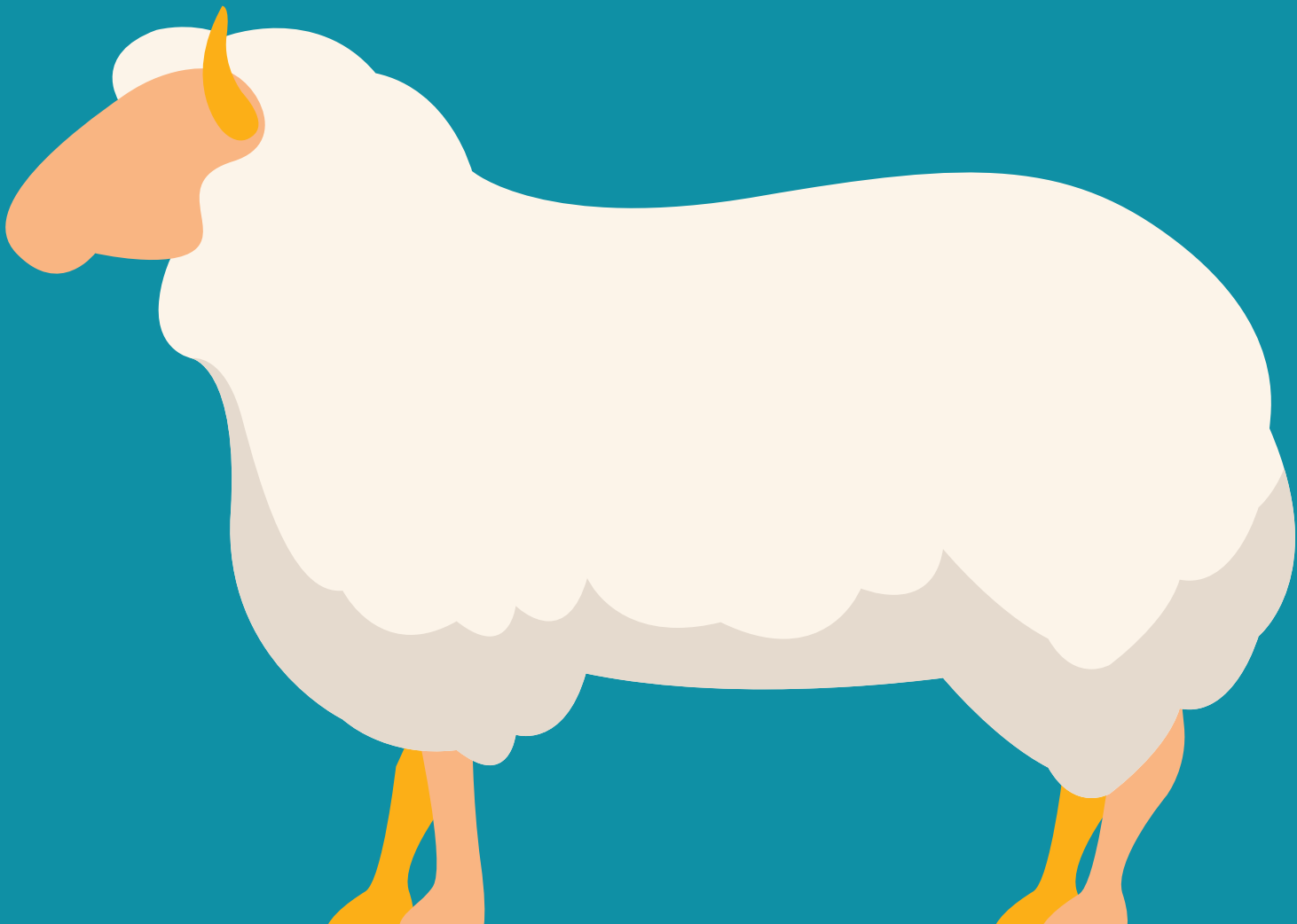


# I Can Serve Jesus Christ

An Easter Bible Study for Kids by

Every Generation  
MINISTRIES



Every Generation Ministries helps churches in 15 countries minister to children. This lesson is an example of the life-changing resources our national ministries offer in Argentina, Belarus, Chile, DR Congo, Egypt, Hungary, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Mexico, Peru, Poland, Romania, Uganda and Ukraine.

We ask that you prayerfully consider a suggested donation of any amount to support global children's ministry. Make a donation at [egmworld.org/give](https://egmworld.org/give)

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## Lesson Aim

God can use me to do His work.

## Basic Idea

Peter and Jesus had a conversation about Peter's love of Christ. Peter's recent memory of denying Christ must still have been on his mind. He was hesitant at first to proclaim his love for Christ, yet Jesus knew that Peter would be one of the key founders for the Church. Peter needed to believe that Christ had called him to be a leader.

## Scripture

John 21:15-19

## Devotional

Every Generation Ministries believes that transformation in the life of your child begins with transformation in your life. Before you teach this lesson to your children, take a moment to reflect on this lesson aim in your own life. Read this devotional and ask yourself if you really believe that, "God can use me to do His work."

Today so many boys and girls feel conditional love and some ambiguity in their relationships with parents, siblings, friends, teachers etc. In fact, many boys and girls feel conditionally loved in every relationship in their life. The challenge for each of us in our families is to show unconditional love to our children. The story of Peter and Jesus is a glorious vision and challenge for each parent today.

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Will we show our children that there is no sin that is greater than the loving grace of God?

Will we labor to create a safe home where our children would feel loved, accepted and welcomed?

Will we manage our home and discipline children all the while making them know that we may not like their behavior, but we love them and are eager and willing to forgive them as Jesus was with Peter?

## Bible Background

When Jesus was arrested, the shock experienced by the disciples must have been severe. Having seen Jesus control nature, raise people for the dead, cast out demons and exercise transcendent power, they must have experienced confusion, fear, depression and extreme anxiety. It was in this setting that Peter denied Jesus Christ.

The denial account in Mark 14, shows the emotional state that Peter is experiencing. As the inquiries grow more persistent, his response escalates until at the third denial, he is cursing and denying his relationship with Jesus Christ.

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When we stop and ponder the depth and profound nature of Peter's actions, we can only imagine the tremendous sense of guilt that he must have felt. Jesus was his closest friend over the previous three years. He had been the most outspoken follower of Christ and on several occasions had boisterously promised to defend Jesus. Yet, in the moment of truth, Peter did exactly the opposite. While his best friend was arrested and falsely accused, he did nothing to help Him. He turned his back on Jesus.

What could only have made matters worse for Peter was the subsequent resurrection of Jesus Christ. In rising from the dead, He was vindicated and established as the Messiah of Israel and the Son of God. When Peter encountered Jesus after the resurrection, there is no mention of the denial issue. It would be hard to imagine the anxiety and ambiguity that Peter must have felt leading up to this scene in John 21. Was his relationship with Jesus to be forever tainted by Peter's treachery? Had Jesus forgiven him? What was his status with Jesus after such a glaring failure and moral collapse? Could Jesus ever truly love Peter again? It is this situation that is the backdrop for John 21.

Jesus, in asking the three questions of Peter, communicates to Peter that He has forgiven Peter and has restored Peter to ministry. Peter's sinful behavior will not be a permanent barrier in their relationship. Peter is forgiven.

## Lesson Aim Note

The Lesson Aim is mentioned many times throughout the course of this lesson. To make it noticeable, it is **bold**. It is critical to repeat and explain it numerous times. The goal is for the children to not only learn the Lesson Aim but to understand it well enough to be able to apply it to their daily lives.

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## Supplies Needed

This is a comprehensive list of all supplies you will need to complete this lesson.

- Large rubber ball
- Blank notecards
- Envelopes
- Crayons, colored pencils or markers
- Stickers or other embellishments
- Pencils
- Breakfast food: (choose one and get ingredients and supplies listed)

**Note: If it is too hard to get these items, just provide a simple pre-made snack or juice boxes to share.**

- Cold cereal with milk (cereal, milk, small bowls and plastic spoons)
  - Fresh squeezed orange juice (oranges, juicing appliance, plastic cups)
  - Pancakes (pancake mix, water, mixing bowl, large spoon, electric griddle, butter, syrup, plates, plastic forks)
  - Trail Mix (Peanuts, raisins and M&Ms in separate baggies, a large bowl, small plastic bags or cups)
  - Props (optional): Make a campfire by placing wood, unused coals and tissue paper or cellophane in red, yellow and orange onto a square flat piece of wood or cardboard.
  - Room environment: If possible, set up the room so that children can sit on the floor around an imaginary campfire, watching as you and your teaching partner tell the story and prepare the meal.
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## Relationship

Every Generation Ministries believes that a relationship that reflects the love of God is a crucial element of transformational ministry. The life of Christ, particularly His love, flows through our relationship with our children (Deuteronomy 6:5-6). Relational activities can be fun, sincere, humorous... The purpose is to learn something about each other and to grow in relationship.

### **Supplies Needed:**

- Large rubber ball

Stand in a big circle. Give a big rubber ball to one of the children. The child must try to name a person that believes in Jesus and does God's work. If the child has trouble thinking of someone, suggest an idea, such as "Name someone that works at our church," or "Name someone you know that helps you learn more about Jesus," or "Name someone at home or school that loves the Lord."

When the child has shared a name, he/she should call out the name of another person in the circle and throw the ball to that person. Then the one who catches the ball should name another person that does God's work. Continue playing until everyone has had a turn to catch the ball or until the time is up.

## Experience

Every Generation Ministries believes that experience is a key element of learning. Transformation is not just a cognitive school exercise. We learn by integrating God's Word into the everyday "experiences" of life (Deuteronomy 6:7).

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## **Supplies Needed:**

- Blank notecards
- Envelopes
- Crayons, colored markers or colored pencils
- Stickers or other embellishments
- Pencils

Children will work together under the parent's direction to make colorful notecards to use later. During the Response Time, they will write encouraging notes to send to people in a hospital, orphanage or others in need.

**Parent Says:** Today you are going to make some colorful cards. Cards are fun to make and display. It would be fun to make them to put in your home. How much more fun would it be if your colorful cards could be used for God's work? Your card could be given to people who need encouragement and love, such as people in the hospital or children living in an orphanage. Perhaps you could encourage others to make colorful cards, too.

## **Connecting Questions:**

1. Can you think of people you could make cards for so you could send them a note of encouragement?
2. How did you feel today while you were making cards for others?

## **Connecting Statement:**

Today we will learn what happens when Peter spends time with Jesus after the Lord's resurrection. After Jesus' death, there were times when Peter felt discouraged, sad and afraid even though he believed that Jesus had risen. He had seen the empty tomb with his own eyes!

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Yet, Jesus knew that Peter needed encouragement, hope and power to become a leader. Now, because Peter believed in Jesus' resurrection, God started using him to do His work.

## Truth

Every Generation Ministries believes that the Word of God needs to be “impressed” on our children. It is the Bible truth that we are teaching and is the core of the lesson. (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)

**Parent Note:** It’s important that the children understand that the story you are about to teach is from God’s Word, the Bible. We want them to understand that the stories are all true and they help us to understand who God is and how He wants us to live. We recommend having a Bible in hand.

### Supplies Needed:

- Breakfast food: (choose one and get ingredients and supplies listed)

**Note: If it is too hard to get these items, just provide a simple pre-made snack or juice boxes to share.**

- Cold cereal with milk (cereal, milk, small bowls and plastic spoons)
- Fresh squeezed orange juice (oranges, juicing appliance, plastic cups)
- Pancakes (pancake mix, water, mixing bowl, large spoon, electric griddle, butter, syrup, plates, plastic forks)
- Trail Mix (Peanuts, raisins and M&Ms in separate baggies, a large bowl, small plastic bags or cups)
- Props (optional): Make a campfire by placing wood, coals and tissue paper or cellophane in red, yellow and orange onto a square flat piece of wood or cardboard.
- Room environment: If possible, set up the room so that children can sit on the floor around an imaginary campfire, watching as you and your teaching partner tell the story and prepare the meal.

Parent prepares and serves breakfast while telling the story of Jesus and Peter. Additional family members may sit among the children, help with preparations and model the role playing and imaginative thinking that your children are being asked to do.

As children sit down around the “fire” begin preparing and serving breakfast to them. Tell Part 1, and then stop to pray over the food, and then serve the food as you tell Part 2. Everyone may eat as you finish telling the story.

## **Part 1:**

**Parent Says:** Today we are going to imagine that we are disciples of the Lord sitting around a campfire prepared by Jesus on the shore of the Sea of Tiberias. Imagine that you have been with Peter. You are exhausted from a whole night of fishing. Some of you are wet and all of you are cold. So, gather around the fire here and warm yourselves.

(Point to other family members or imaginary people in your group) There’s Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James and John, the sons of Zebedee and two other disciples. You thought the day was going to be a complete waste because you hadn’t caught a single fish all night, but then someone on the shore yelled out to you to cast your net on the right side of the boat.

So, you did what he said, and suddenly, you netted a huge catch of fish. You couldn’t really see the face of the man who yelled to you, but you were so amazed that the net was suddenly filled with more fish than you could count.

It was almost morning and it was starting to get light. Look to the right. Do you see the water, and do you hear the waves lapping on the shore? Do you see the fishing boats pulled up onto the sand? Now look what is next to Peter’s boat. Do you see the net full of fish?

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About three years ago, Jesus had told all of you disciples to cast your net on the other side of the boat and you had caught a boat-load of fish then, too. There were so many fish that the net broke and the boat was sinking. But today, you had caught so many fish and yet the net wasn't broken! Most of you were so amazed by your incredible catch of fish that you probably weren't yet thinking about the name of the man standing on the shore telling you to cast your nets on the other side.

Suddenly, Peter realized that it was *Jesus* standing on the shore!

"It is the Lord!" Peter exclaimed. Jesus is truly alive! Peter and the other disciples had watched him die on the cross. But now Jesus was calling to Peter and the others to come to shore. And Jesus had used the word, "Friend," when He called out to them. He had said, "Friends, have you caught any fish?" Peter was overjoyed to see Jesus on the shore.

Peter didn't wait for his boat to get to the sand. He put on his outer garment and jumped into the water and swam to meet Jesus. He was so happy to see the risen Lord.

But then Peter remembered in shame how he had denied Jesus three times and the rooster had crowed the night before Jesus was crucified. How could he have done such a terrible thing? How could he have lied and betrayed his friend and Lord? Peter lowered his head, realizing what a sinner he was.

Meanwhile, the other disciples had landed, and everyone noticed a fire of burning coals before them with fish on it and some bread.

Then Jesus had said to some of you, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught."

So, Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish (153!) but even with so many the net was not torn.

Jesus then said to you, "Come and have breakfast." None of you disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" All of you disciples knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to you and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

(Pray to thank the Lord for the delicious breakfast you are about to enjoy.)

## **Part 2:**

So here we are, sitting around this warm fire, eating breakfast together with Jesus. Isn't this an amazing time? What a wonderful, loving Lord we have. And Jesus is alive! He has risen from the dead!

As we finish up eating, we can hear Jesus speaking to Simon Peter,

"Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," Peter says, "you know that I love you."

Jesus says, "Feed my lambs."

Again, Jesus says, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?"

Peter answers, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus says, "Take care of my sheep."

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The third time he says to him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?"

Peter is feeling hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He says, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus says, "Feed my sheep." Then he says to him, "Follow me!"

In having this heart-to-heart talk with Jesus, the Lord was giving Simon Peter the chance to tell Him he loved Him three times! Before the crucifixion, Simon Peter had denied Jesus three times. Now, Jesus was showing Peter that He forgave him. Now, he was being given the chance to become a follower of Jesus Christ once again. Jesus commissioned Peter to do God's work. That means that He gave Peter a very special job as leader of the Church.

From that time on, Peter would become "the Rock" on which the Lord would build His Church. Jesus had told him that his name, Peter, means "the Rock." Jesus was giving Peter the opportunity to live up to his name and do the Lord's work for the rest of his life. **When we believe in the power of the Resurrection, God can use us to do His work.**

## Discussion

Every Generation Ministries makes a big deal out of "talk about them," believing that it is crucial to talk about the Bible Truth above and connect it to the real lives of children. Talk about how to connect God's Word to your child's real life (Deuteronomy 6:7).

1. Why had Peter and some of the disciples gone fishing that day? (They didn't know what else to do and they were sad and discouraged.)

2. How many times had Peter already seen the risen Lord before this meeting? (Twice - John 20:19 and John 20:26.) Did Peter believe in the resurrection?
3. Why did Peter feel sad, ashamed and without clear purpose in life? (He had sinned by denying Jesus three times.)
4. What did Jesus do to change Peter's direction back to following God and doing His work? (He gave Peter instructions (commissioning). He lovingly asked Peter if he loves him and then told him, "Feed my sheep," meaning to love and help others.)
5. Can you think of a time you felt sad, ashamed or without clear purpose like Peter?
6. How did Jesus reassure you that you can do God's work?
7. In what way does Jesus want you to "feed his sheep?"

## Response

Every Generation Ministries believes that responding to God from a transformed heart is the ultimate goal of our time here on earth. Children are encouraged to respond to God's Word in thought and action, immediately and on into the future (Deuteronomy 6:8-9).

### Supplies Needed:

- Note cards made by the children during the experience activity
  - Envelopes
  - Pencils
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## **Respond Now:**

**Parent Says:** Today we are going to do some of God's important work by writing to some people to cheer them up. Earlier you made some beautiful notecards. Now you will write a personal message to send encouragement, hope and love. You may write to someone you know at a hospital or to a neighbor or extended family member who needs cheering up and we can mail the cards.

Give children cards, envelopes and pencils and help them write notes to people that are in need of encouragement.

## **Keep Responding:**

Mail the notes and follow up with family members asking how you can pray for them.