

**Peter's Restoration**

**John 20:1-10 (Luke 24:12); Mark 16:1-7; Luke 24:33-35;  
1 Corinthians 15:1-8; John 21:1-25**

**Memory Verse:** “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.” James 4:10 (ESV)

**Background Helps:**

This week's lesson is the post-resurrection story of Peter's recovery. His restoration occurred in several stages: (1) the announcement of Christ's resurrection sent by the angel through the women specially to Peter (Mark 16:7); (2) Peter's own inspection of the empty tomb (John 20:1-10; Luke 24:12); (3) Christ's personal post-resurrection appearance to Peter (Luke 24:34; 1 Cor. 15:5); and (4) Christ's public restoration of Peter by the Sea of Galilee (John 21). We do not know the details of Christ's personal post-resurrection appearance to Peter. It seems likely that during that encounter, Peter confessed his sin of denying the Lord and the Lord forgave him. But since we do not know the details of that meeting, it seems best to focus your lesson on the *public* restoration of Peter in John 21.

Jesus' prediction concerning Peter's future in John 21:18-19 has usually been interpreted as a reference to Peter's death (according to church tradition) by crucifixion.

**Lesson Helps:**

A possible lesson aim: My students will learn about the story of Peter's public restoration, so that, as needed, they will take steps to be restored to the Lord in their own lives and service.

Following up on last week's lesson about Peter's threefold denial, in *youth* and *adult* classes, this week's lesson also seems ideal for an in-depth Bible study. Briefly summarize the first three stages in Peter's restoration given under Background Helps above. Then concentrate your lesson on John 21, perhaps using *some* of the following discussion questions:

**John 21:1-14**

- (1) Why do you think Peter led these six other disciples in taking up their old lifework of fishing once again?
- (2) What lesson was Jesus teaching his disciples by the miraculous catch of fish (compare Luke 5:1-11)?
- (3) Are you ever tempted to revert back to old ways or patterns of life?

**John 21:15-17.**

- (4) Why did Jesus ask Peter “Do you love me” *three* times?
- (5) Why did Jesus address him as *Simon* rather than as *Peter*?
- (6) Compare John 21:9 with John 18:19: What significance do you seek in the similarity of the two settings?

- (7) Why did Jesus ask Peter the first time, “Do you truly love me *more than these* (see Mark 14:29)?
- (8) In his threefold response to Jesus, how does Peter show his humility?
- (9) What threefold commission does Jesus give to Peter, and how did he carry it out (see Luke 22:31-34; Acts 1–12, 15; and 1 and 2 Peter)?
- (10) Why was it necessary for Jesus to restore Peter *publicly* in the presence of these other disciples?
- (11) Do you need to be restored in your love and service to Christ? Do you need to make *public* confession of your love for Christ?

**John 21:18-23**

- (12) What prediction did Jesus make concerning Peter’s future (vv. 18-19)?
- (13) Why was Peter now ready to lay down his life for Jesus (compare John 13:36-38)?
- (14) What further lesson does Jesus teach Peter in John 21:20-23?
- (15) Are you ever tempted to compare your lifepath with the lifepath of others?

In *children’s* classes, once again an effective approach might be that of story-telling, with the teacher highlighting the stages by which Peter was restored from his fall. Then discuss the story, using some of the same *application* questions given above.

In all classes be sure to work the memory verse into your lesson (James 4:10).

**Home Assignment:**

-  Read Acts 1 and 2.
-  Memorize Acts 1:8.