

Introduction

You can tell this story to your children any time you like. If you want to read it for yourself you can find it in John 21:1-17. If you want to read it online just go to the Bible Gateway website and type the passage into the search engine. There are also some ideas for things to do together as a family.

Jesus and Peter

After Jesus was alive again he saw his friends and showed them that he was alright. It had been an incredible few days. They'd seen Jesus captured and then he'd been put on the cross. His enemies thought they'd got rid of him for good, but then he came back to life! It was too amazing to understand and they were just so happy that he was alive again and alright.

But Peter had something on his mind that just wouldn't go away. He knew he had made Jesus a promise as his friend. He'd said that no matter what happened to Jesus he would never leave him and stop being his friend. He promised to stick up for Jesus no matter what and he was determined to keep his promise. But then Jesus' enemies came and Peter got scared. At first, he stuck around wanting to keep his promise, but then someone spotted him. They said, "This man knows who Jesus is." Peter straight away said, "No I don't." Then someone else said, "You are one of Jesus' friends." "No I'm not!" Peter said. Finally someone else said, "You definitely are one of Jesus' friends. We know you are because you don't live round here. You come from Galilee where Jesus spent lots of his time." Peter said, "Look I promise I don't know him!" At that very moment Jesus looked at Peter. Peter then realised what he had done. He ran off and cried and cried. He'd never cried so much in his life. He had broken his promise to his best friend. How could he ever hope to be Jesus' friend again?

Peter couldn't forget what had happened. He was so pleased to see Jesus again, but what he had done was always on his mind. He couldn't forget it. One day Peter and some friends of Jesus went out fishing all night. They didn't catch anything. When morning came, they were going back to the beach when they saw someone standing on the beach. The person called out, "Did you catch anything?" "No," they all yelled back. Then the person said "Throw the net over on the right hand side and you will." So they put their net in the water one last time to see what would happen. When they did they caught so many fish that they couldn't get the net in the boat. Then someone said to Peter "That person on the beach is Jesus!" As soon as Peter realised it was Jesus he jumped into the water and swam to meet him. The rest stayed in the boat and got it back safely.

They all had breakfast with Jesus who'd already made it for them. Afterwards, Jesus and Peter talked with each other. Jesus asked Peter a question, "Peter, do you love me?" Peter said, "Jesus you know everything, you know I love you." Jesus asked Peter the same question another 2 times. Peter felt sad because Jesus asked him the same question 3 times. He said, "Jesus, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Peter I want you to tell other people about me. You'll need to be brave,

but I will be with you as your friend always, just like I've always been your friend." Peter was so happy. Jesus had forgiven him for what he'd done and now he had given him a really special job. Peter was so happy. After all this, he went round doing exactly what Jesus asked him to do. He told everyone he could about his amazing friend and lots of people became friends with Jesus too.

What to do next

You could chat about your favourite part of the story.

You could pray together. Below are some suggestions for prayer:

- Thank Jesus that he always loves us no matter what
- Tell Jesus about anything you want to say sorry for. Remember Jesus never stops loving you
- Ask Jesus to help anyone who is feeling worried or upset at this time

Possible activities to do

- You could also re-create the story with lego or together as a family draw your version of it.
- Make a fish kite out of a plastic bag. Cut the open side into shreds, tie the bottom to a string, decorate and fly. This can be a reminder of the special meal Jesus and his friends had.
- Write down something you want to say sorry for. Then rip it up into small pieces to help you remember that Jesus forgives you.