

# FRIENDSHIP

USING YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS

TO SHOW OTHERS YOU CARE.

WEEK **3**

## JESUS AND PETER

John 21:1-17 (John 18:1-27, supporting); Colossians 3:13

### MEMORY VERSE | Proverbs 17:17

**I**t was a quiet night. Peter had suggested that he and the other disciples go fishing.

But so far they had caught nothing. There wasn't much to do but sit in the boat and wait. While he waited, Peter allowed his mind to wander over all that had happened the past several days. He thought back to what Jesus had said the night He was betrayed.

Things like: *"Here is my command. Love one another, just as I have loved you." And, "No one has greater love than the one who gives their life for their friends."*

And Jesus had given His life, hadn't He? He had been arrested and tried, sentenced to death, and killed on a cross. And what had Peter done for his Friend? The memory still stung.

When Jesus was arrested, Peter ran. To protect his own life, Peter pretended he'd never known Jesus. Some friend he turned out to be.

Peter stirred as the sun peeked out over the horizon. A wasted night out in the boat with no fish to speak of. It was probably time to head back to shore—it didn't look like they were going to catch anything at this point.

Together, Peter, Thomas, and the others pulled their empty net into the boat.

A voice called from a distance, *"Friends, don't you have any fish?"*

Peter looked up and saw a figure calling from the beach, about a hundred yards away.

"Who is that?" Peter wondered aloud.

"Can't tell," Thomas responded. He called out to the Man. "Nope! No fish today!"

*"Throw your net on the right side of the boat. Then you will find some fish,"* the distant voice instructed.

Peter recalled another time years ago when he was told to cast his net out of the boat after a long night of catching nothing. And now that he thought about it, the Man's voice on the shoreline had a familiar ring to it . . .

"Throw the net one more time," Peter agreed.

The disciples cast their net on the right side of the boat like the man on the shore had suggested. Suddenly, fish practically started leaping out of the water trying to get into the net. The net quickly filled up.

***"It is the Lord!"  
one of the  
disciples exclaimed.***

In fact, it was so heavy with fish that they couldn't even pull the net into the boat. They'd have to tow the net to the shore!

Peter looked to the shore and saw the Man standing there. Now he knew exactly who the Man was.

*"It is the Lord!"* one of the disciples exclaimed.

Peter put his coat on and leapt into the water. He swam all the way to shore while the others followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish as they came. Peter climbed out of the water, soaking wet. He was surprised to find that Jesus had built a fire with fish already cooking.

*"Bring some of the fish you have just caught,"* Jesus called out.

"You bet!" responded Peter. As the boat neared the shore, Peter climbed back in and started dragging the net full of fish onto the beach. Though the net was full enough to burst, it stayed strong, carrying over 150 fish.

*"Come and have breakfast,"* Jesus called, and His disciples gathered around the fire to see their Friend. It was the third time they'd seen Him since He had come back from the dead, but they were still very much in awe.

Together, they shared bread and fish. Peter watched and ate, drying by the fire, wondering if Jesus knew how Peter had denied knowing Him three times. After they had finished eating, Jesus invited Peter to walk with Him.

*"Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these others do?"* Jesus asked Peter.

***"Simon,  
son of John,  
do you love me?"***

Peter winced. Jesus had called him by his full name. He must be in trouble.

*"Yes, Lord . . . You know that I love you,"* he responded.

*"Feed my lambs,"* Jesus said.

They walked on a bit further before Jesus asked again, *"Simon, son of John, do you love me?"*

*"Yes, Lord. You know that I love you,"* Peter again answered.

*"Take care of my sheep,"* Jesus said this time.

They walked further still, and then Jesus stopped. He placed a hand on Peter's shoulder and looked him in the eyes.

*"Simon, son of John, do you love me?"* He asked Peter a third time.

Peter was saddened. Jesus had asked him the same question three times.

*"Lord, you know all things. You know that I love you,"* Peter insisted.

*"Feed my sheep,"* Jesus replied.

Peter listened to what Jesus was telling him. *"Feed my lambs." "Take care of my sheep." "Feed my sheep."*

Jesus wasn't mad at Peter. He wanted Peter to help take care of his fellow believers. After all Peter had done, Jesus still loved him and forgave him. Soon, Jesus would be gone again, ascending into heaven. And Peter would devote the rest of his life spreading the good news of Jesus, teaching others to love and forgive, the way Jesus had also loved and forgiven him.



Let's  
Talk!

*Sometimes friends are going to make you mad.*

**You're going to get tripped up, messed up, gossiped about, argued with, made fun of, and laughed at. And your friends are going to do this because your friends are human beings, born to make mistakes. And you, believe it or not, are going to be a bad friend sometimes, too. So there are two ways we can handle this situation. Whenever a friend treats you badly, you can treat them badly right back. You can go back and forth being mean to one another until you're no longer friends. Or . . . you can forgive them, them just like God forgives you. Share with each other about a friend who you need to forgive—or who you need to apologize to and ask for their forgiveness. Ask God to give you the courage to step up and start the process of forgiveness and repairing the friendship.**