

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 4 • Unit 3 • Week 2

SPIRITUAL CREATION - PETER THE APOSTLE

OBJECTIVE:

Even though Peter was just a man with human failings, Jesus had an important job for Peter. We will see how Peter became a different person when God became involved in his life.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Prepare in advance: Fill a kiddie pool or a large dishpan with several inches of water.

Ask: Would you, could you, walk on water? Who walked on water? Who walked across the water to meet Jesus?

Do: Let those children who want to try walking on water do so—no shoes please. Tell them of the enthusiasm of Peter who was the only disciple there who asked to walk on water and had the nerve to get out of the boat and try. The rest of the disciples probably watched in amazement with their mouths hanging open. Peter walked on water for a few strides, and then began to sink, but Jesus reached out His hand to help.

BIBLE LESSON:

Do: Read Luke 5:1-11 with enthusiasm. Use props where you can—a fish net, boats, a rooster, a toy lamb.

“So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, ‘Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.’ But Simon answered and said to Him,

'Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.'

"And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!' For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.' So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him."

Ask: How did Jesus know there would be fish in the net this time? Why did Peter fall at Jesus' knees and say "Go away, I'm just a sinful man"? Do you think Peter suspected who Jesus was? Who called Simon Peter to be a disciple? Who taught and trained him?

Do: Read Matthew 16:13-16. "When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, 'Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?' So they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'"

Say: Peter was saying "You are the Messiah, the one we have been waiting for!"

Ask: Who told Peter that Jesus was the Messiah?

Do: Read Matthew 16:17-18. "Jesus answered and said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.'"

Say: Peter said that he would never deny Christ, that he would die first. Before Jesus died on the cross He predicted that Peter would deny that he followed Christ three times before the rooster crowed the next morning. It happened. Peter denied he followed Christ and even denied he knew Jesus. After the third time Peter denied and the rooster crowed, Peter remembered, and the Lord, who was under arrest, waiting to be crucified, turned to look at Peter.

Ask: How would Peter have felt?

Say: In a few days Peter's enthusiasm returned and he was among the first to run to the empty tomb where Jesus body had been laid. After Jesus' resurrection Jesus and Peter talked again. Jesus made breakfast for the disciples, and He had a job for Peter.

Do: Read John 21:15-17. "So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?' He said to Him, 'Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.' He said to him, 'Feed My lambs.' He said to him again a second time, 'Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?' He said to Him, 'Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.' He said to him, 'Tend My sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?' Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, 'Do you love Me?' And he said to Him, 'Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed My sheep.'"

Ask: What did Jesus mean? Who are the lambs? Who are the sheep? And what is the food? Do you think that Jesus wanted Peter to know that Jesus forgave him for running away and denying Him? And that He still had important work for Peter to do? What was the important job Jesus wanted Peter to do?

Say: Peter became the apostle (a person sent forth by God) to the Jews (Galatians 2:7-8). He became a new man.

Do: Read 1 Peter 1:3-4. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you."

Ask: Who was the writer of this book? What did Peter mean by the term "begotten" again to a lively hope?

Do: Explain how our first conception and birth results in this physical life which does fade away like a flower. But when God, through Christ, gives us His Spirit like He did Peter, we begin a spiritual creation and we won't ever die. And Christ will bring God's reward from heaven with Him when He returns to earth. Peter had experienced this new way of life. He became a new man who regained his courage. He healed a crippled man at the temple, then when he was taken into custody and threatened, Peter spoke with power, wisdom and courage as he gave Jesus Christ the credit.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Bring small rounded river rocks and poster paints or latex or acrylic paints. Paint faces on rocks. Paint eyes, nose and mouth on a rock—a new face on a new man in Jesus. Peter was just a little rock, but on a boulder, a foundation stone, Jesus said He would build His Church.

Music:

Sing "The Church's One Foundation," page 150 of the United Church of God hymnal.

MEMORY VERSE:

Matthew 16:15-16 "Jesus said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'"

family activity

THE POINT:

Jesus Christ had an important job for Peter and he changed, becoming a new person.

ASK ME...

- How does it feel to walk on water?
- Who in the Bible walked on water? Name them both.
- What was Peter's job before he became a disciple?
- What important job did Jesus give to Peter?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Talk about the important jobs God has for you and everyone in your family.

The next time you go swimming try to work on your water-walking technique.

Go fishing and remember: Jesus chose a lot of fishermen to be His disciples. He promised to make them fishers of men.

Fill in the missing words:

John 21:17 "He said to him the third time, 'Simon, son of _____, do you love Me?' Peter was _____ because He said to him the _____ time, 'Do you _____ Me?' And he said to Him, 'Lord, _____ all things; You know that I _____ You.' Jesus said to him, ' _____ My _____.'"

Ephesians 4:23-24 "And be renewed in the _____ of your _____, and that you put on the _____ which was _____ according to God, in true righteousness and _____."

MEMORY VERSE:

Matthew 16:15-16 "He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'"