

Hey ClubE!

It's the end of September! We are wrapping up our month of learning about friendship. Today, we are looking at Jesus and one of his closest friends and what Jesus does when his friend hurts him. What are we supposed to do when friends hurt us or when we hurt another friend? Let's find out!

1. Watch my short [video](#) & introduction to the lesson today.
2. Sharing time. Our question today: Have you been hurt while playing with a friend?
3. Read the story together as a family (or listen to it [here](#)) & go through the discussion questions to talk about what you've learned.
4. Pray together as a family.
5. Optional: Do activity!

If you have questions or just want to share your learning, you can email me cas66852@gmail.com or text/call at 612-310-2363

Storytime!

This year has been full of unexpected surprises but we know that God is in control over it all. But, does that mean our lives are perfect? Not exactly. Unfortunately, there are times in life when all of us get hurt. When it's our HEARTS that get hurt, that may be the hardest thing of all. Maybe you don't get invited to a party and the rest of your friends did. Or maybe you said something mean to a friend without thinking. Now their heart is hurt, and you feel awful. What do you do? Well, just like bandages and medicine help heal our bodies, God has given us something we can use to heal the hurt of our hearts. He's given us the gift of forgiveness. God has a lot of experience with forgiveness—including the time it played a big part in the friendship between Jesus and Peter.

Peter was one of Jesus' disciples, and he was a brave follower of Jesus. Peter was also the kind of guy who said things without really thinking. Sometimes he made mistakes, just like we all do. The night before Jesus was put on trial and killed, Peter promised Jesus that he would follow Him anywhere. He even promised that he would give up his life for Jesus. But that very evening, when Jesus was arrested, Peter was so scared that he told people he didn't even KNOW Jesus. How many times do you think Peter said that he didn't know Jesus? Peter told three different people that he didn't know Jesus. I imagine that when Jesus died, Peter must have felt terrible. He had told Jesus that he would stand by Him no matter what. But then . . . when things got tough he turned his back on Jesus! But as you probably know, that wasn't the end of Jesus' story. Jesus came back to life and then He appeared to His friends to PROVE that He was alive! Peter must have been SO excited, but also a little nervous. He must have

wondered if Jesus was mad at him for what he had done. Was he still Jesus' friend? Did Jesus still love him?

Not long after Jesus came back to life, Peter and some friends went out fishing on the Sea of Galilee. They didn't catch anything all night. In the early morning hours, they saw someone standing on the shore. Who do you think they saw? It was Jesus! But the men didn't realize it was Him at first. Jesus called out to them with instructions. Listen to what He said. John 21:5-6 (NirV) says, "He called out to them, 'Friends, don't you have any fish?' 'No,' they answered. He said, 'Throw your net on the right side of the boat. There you will find some fish.'" "When the men did as the kind stranger instructed, the net was filled with so many fish that they couldn't pull it into the boat! "John realized that the man was Jesus, and he told Peter. Peter immediately put his coat on and jumped into the water! He quickly made his way to the shore and to Jesus. The other disciples followed in the boat, dragging the net full of fish. When they landed, they discovered that Jesus had started a fire and prepared breakfast for them. What do you think Jesus cooked for them? Jesus had prepared a tasty breakfast of fish and bread. Jesus also invited the men to share some of the fish they had caught. There were a LOT of them. In fact, John even wrote down how many fish there were. Read the question from the script. The men had caught 153 fish that morning, with Jesus' help. Jesus invited the men to come and eat breakfast with Him. The men sat, and Jesus gave His friends the bread and fish to eat.

After they finished eating, Jesus spoke to Peter. Peter was probably nervous since he'd said he didn't know Jesus—not once, not twice, but THREE times! John 21:15-17 (NirV) says, "[Jesus] asked, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these others do?' 'Yes, Lord,' he answered. 'You know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Feed my lambs.'" "Again Jesus asked, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' He answered, 'Yes, Lord. You know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Take care of my sheep.'" "Jesus spoke to him a third time. He asked, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt bad because Jesus asked him the third time, 'Do you love me?' He answered, 'Lord, you know all things. You know that I love you.'" "Jesus said, 'Feed my sheep.'

Jesus said, 'Feed my lambs,' and 'Feed my sheep.' Now, that might seem a little confusing, so let's talk about what Jesus meant. When Jesus said, 'Feed my lambs,' what was He talking about? By 'lambs,' Jesus meant His followers. He was asking Peter to take care of the people who were following Him. In fact, this was so important to Jesus that He asked Peter to do it three times.

Then Jesus told Peter what was coming—that Peter would dedicate his life to following Jesus. He told Peter, 'Follow me!' (John 21:19, NirV) "Jesus forgave Peter so completely that He trusted him with the big job of caring for all His followers—and for all the people who would soon learn about Jesus.

You see, when Jesus forgave Peter, He made sure that Peter knew that they were still friends. Peter didn't have to wonder if Jesus was mad at him. And Peter went on to become a leader of the early church! Just as Jesus forgave Peter, God wants US to forgive others. Friends forgive one another. Even though we love our friends, forgiving isn't always easy. It's hard to forgive when a friend has done something that hurt your feelings. But we can always ask God to help us.

Let's talk about it!

- How have you hurt yourself while playing with friends before?
- A scrape on our knee is one thing, but words and actions that another person does to us can hurt too. If you want, share a time where a friend's words or actions hurt you.
- What did Jesus do when his friend hurt him? What should we do?
- Why did Jesus forgive Peter? Is it ever okay to not forgive? Does forgiveness mean we still have to be their friend?

Pray

Dear God, thank You for the examples You've given us over and over again of forgiveness. From the way Jesus forgave Peter . . . to all the times You've forgiven each of us . . . we have seen incredible examples of how friends forgive one another. But still, it's not always easy. We need Your help to forgive. Please give us what we need to choose forgiveness, and help our friends to forgive us, too, when we mess up. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Game time!

TALK ABOUT OUR STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: ["True or False" Activity Page](#), painter's tape targets, colored paper

WHAT YOU DO:

- Get some paper and wad it up in a ball (if there's more than one of you guessing, you can have two different colored papers)
 - If you think the answer is true, toss the paper ball into the "T"
 - If you think the answer is false, toss the paper ball into the "F"
- Whichever team/person lands the most paper balls in the correct target for each question gets a point for that round.

It bothered Peter that he was not a good friend to Jesus. When your friend does something to hurt you, you can't actually erase what they did from your mind, but if you truly forgive them, you free yourself from having to always think about it and be angry about it. Forgiveness means you move on and show

that friend you trust them again, just like Jesus showed Peter that He trusted him again. Friends forgive one another.