



Date: April 14th
Series: Signs on Believers' Hwy
Spring Year 4, Lesson 50

Jesus Appears to His Disciples by the Lake

Take Home Point: *Even after mistakes, Jesus invites us to follow him. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: John 21:1-25

Key Verse: Romans 5:8, "Christ died for us while we were still sinners. This demonstrates God's love for us."

We will help kids know:

- God takes away the shame of our failures. He forgives us and invites us to try again.
- Peter denied Jesus three times. Jesus appeared to Peter and gave him three opportunities to express his love for him. And, three times, Jesus invited Peter to take care of his flock.
- Jesus is alive and we can follow him even if we can't see him.

We will help kids feel:




- Courage to follow Jesus.
- Comfort if they feel like a failure.

We will help kids do:

- Identify some of their own feelings when they think of past failures.
- Discuss how to give failures to God.
- Discuss the difference between failures and sins and learn that in both cases they can turn them over to God.
- Make a craft that reminds them of a fishing net and how they can show their love to Jesus as his disciples.

Kingdom Quest, Year 4 - Lesson 50 - 1

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Children talk about times they have made mistakes or let others down.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3" x 11" strips of paper (one per child) • markers
Large Group 	4 8 10 11 13	Overview Puppet Presentation: "Gordy...Still in Business"—Gordy passes on (or procrastinates) an opportunity to share his faith. Video: <i>Gospel of John</i> ---John 21:1-25 Signs on Believers' Highway Puppet Conclusion: "Gordy...Still in Business"—Gordy learns that he still has an opportunity to serve God even if he messed it up the first time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy • construction workers outfit • sign: on front says, "<i>When the stakes are great, because of the mistakes we make...</i>" (p. 16) and the back says, "<i>Don't turn and flee because _____ says, 'Follow _____.'</i>" (p.17) • two or four chairs • cardboard car front • video DVD <i>Gospel of John</i>, produced by Visual Bible International—order from www.visualbible.com • 6" x 11" paper • marker • transparent tape • scissors • appendix page with illustrations of activity (p.15)
Small Group Application 	5	Children make a craft that reminds them of God's love and acceptance despite their past mistakes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • papers from small group • markers or crayons • scissors • transparent tape • appendix page with illustrations of activity (p.15)

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Supplies: a piece of paper approximately 3' x 11" and a pen per child

Today we will talk about mistakes we have made. Maybe we could even call them failures. Let's agree that when we talk about them that no one will laugh or make fun of anyone else's past mistakes. Everyone makes mistakes and sometimes it can be very hard to leave them in the past and go on.

Let's start with a question that everyone can probably relate to. Think about a time your parents asked you to do something and you said you would do it. Unfortunately, you ended up forgetting and didn't do what you said you would. Who can think of a something like this happening to them?

Let kids each share.

How do you feel when you let someone down?

Would anyone share a story about something you did in the past that you wish you didn't do or would like to do over?

After one or more have shared, continue with:

Sometimes the things we feel badly about are failures. They are ways we have disappointed others and even disappointed God. There are other things that we've done in the past that we might feel bad about but weren't that serious. Maybe we just did something silly or foolish and we were embarrassed.

Today we will talk about Peter. He did something wrong in the past. He felt so bad about it, he wondered if Jesus would ever want to be his friend again. What did Peter do wrong? Yes, he denied Jesus three times.

Hand out paper and pens and say:

On one side of this paper draw some fish.

Continue discussion as kids draw.

Does anyone remember what Peter did for a living? Yes, he was a fisherman. One time Jesus told Peter that he would be a fisher of

men. Jesus told Peter to follow him and that is when Peter became a disciple.

Do you think Peter thought he could ever be a disciple again and be a follower of Jesus after his big mistake? He already saw Jesus alive from the dead, but he didn't know if Jesus would still want him to be a disciple.

Today we will find out what Jesus did when he met Peter fishing again. Remember, this event takes place after Peter denied Jesus and Jesus came back to life again. Today you will learn that **even after mistakes, Jesus invites us to follow him.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Puppet Presentation: “Gordy...Still in Business”—Gordy passes on (or procrastinates) an opportunity to share his faith.

Video: *Gospel of John*---John 21:1-25

Signs on Believers' Highway

Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy...Still in Business”— Gordy learns that he still has an opportunity to serve God even if he messed it up the first time.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened? / Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Have kids refer to John 21 in their Bibles.

Why do you think Peter returned to his fishing business? *(Maybe he felt disqualified to be in the disciple making business.)*

How long had Peter and the other disciples fished and caught nothing? *(John 21:3. All night.)*

What did Jesus, standing on the shore, tell them to do to catch fish? *(John 21:6. Throw the net out on the right side of the boat.)*

What happened when they did this? *(They had so many fish in their net they were unable to pull it in.)*

What can we learn from this about trying to fish for men? *(When we try on our own and are unsuccessful, we should listen to Jesus and do it his way. Then we will be successful beyond imagination.)*

Why do you think the disciples didn't recognize Jesus until after they caught the fish? *(Jesus wasn't constantly with them after he rose from the dead. This was only the third time he had appeared to them after his resurrection (John 21:14), and they probably weren't expecting him. They recognized him then because the same thing happened when he first called them to be his disciples as found in Luke 5:1-11.)*

What crazy thing did Peter do when he realized it was Jesus on the shore? *(John 21:7. He jumped in the water and swam to shore.)*

Why do you think he did this? *(He was so eager to be with Jesus and couldn't wait.)*

Why did Jesus ask three times the same question of Peter, “Do you love me?” *(Peter had denied Jesus three times, so Jesus gave him complete assurance he was forgiven.)*

Why do you think Peter felt sad that Jesus had asked him this question three times? *(Maybe it reminded him of the three times he denied Jesus. Maybe he wondered if Jesus really trusted him now.)*

What did Jesus do and say that let Peter know Jesus still wanted Peter to be a fisher of men? *(Jesus did the same miracle of filling the net with fish the first time he called Peter to be a disciple. Jesus asked Peter three times to feed his lambs and take care of his sheep, Jesus’ followers. Jesus told Peter again in John 21:22, “...Follow me!”)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

The key verse for today from Romans 5:8 says, “Christ died for us while we were still sinners. This demonstrates God’s love for us.”

How does today’s Bible event and Peter’s relationship demonstrate this truth? *(Jesus died for Peter even after Peter denied him.)*

How does this verse apply to us? *(Jesus loves us so much, he died for us even though he knew we would still sin. God loves and accepts us despite our past mistakes.)*

How does it make you feel that Jesus loves you this much?

Application Activity:

Supplies: paper from small group Warm-Up, scissors, transparent tape, appendix page with illustrations of craft

During large group, we showed you how to make this into something like a fisherman’s net.

Show kids how to make a loop with one twist in paper and tape the ends together. (See appendix page for pictures of the craft.)

Now, let’s cut down the middle of this loop.

Show kids how to cut the loop. Let them cut their loops as you demonstrate. Continue discussion while kids make craft.

What do you think is the difference between a failure and sin? *(A failure can be a mistake done unintentionally. A sin is something that is wrong.)*

You can give your failures to God just as you can give your sins to God. He will take your burdens and release you from them. Just like

he will forgive you of your sins, talk to him, tell him you are sorry and you want to do better with his help. Remember you have access to God's mighty power, the same power that conquered death, to change your life.

Just like we saw in large group, we now have an even bigger loop. How might this remind us of Jesus's love and acceptance? *(Jesus' love grows for us just like this loop gets bigger despite our failures.)*

Cut down the middle of the loop again. While doing so, continue with:

Now you will have two loops linked together to represent a net that's woven together. Jesus performed a miracle allowing the disciples to catch a lot of fish. This craft can remind you of a fishing net and how you can show your love to Jesus by being his disciples because just like Peter, **even after mistakes, Jesus invites us to follow him.*

Closing Prayer:

Encourage kids to pray for the failures or burdens they mentioned and give them to God. Thank God for the power that raised Jesus from the dead, and pray for victory in the areas that are causing trouble.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Signs on Believers' Highway

The Book of John points to miracles as signs and proof that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. The imagery of road construction signs will be used to exemplify the signs that Jesus did as told in the book of John. The road worked on is referred to as "Believers' Highway" to show we are all on a journey in our faith.

The presenter is dressed in an orange construction vest, hat and work boots and holds a different road sign each week that is fitting with the Bible event. Another important prop is the simulated car set-up with two or four chairs facing the audience and a cardboard car front (See lesson 34). Shepherds and children are both involved as observers on the highway. They are called up to drive the car and answer questions, give feedback and interact with or about the event.

This series uses, "The Gospel of John," DVD series as a visual to show the events of the Bible.

Supplies: construction worker outfit, sign on stick printed with: "When the stakes are great, because of the mistakes we make..." and printed on the back, "Don't turn and flee because _____ says, 'Follow _____.'" two or four chairs, cardboard car front, strip of paper 6" x 20", tape, scissors and marker, appendix page with illustrations of activity

Gordy...Still in Business

Puppet Presentation

The presenter enters wearing an orange construction vest, hat and work boots.

Presenter: Kids, shall we call out Gordy?

Kids call Gordy. Gordy... Gordy... Gordy.

Gordy: Hi, everybody. Wow, did we have an interesting small group just now.

Presenter: What did you talk about?

Gordy: We talked about some of our failures or ways we messed up.

Presenter: Yes, today, we will discuss Peter's failure and how Jesus responded.

Gordy: Do you want to hear my failure?

Presenter: I don't know. Kids, do you want to hear it? Okay, go ahead, Gordy.

Gordy: Well, last Christmas, I had this Christmas cookie and a glass of milk in my room.

Presenter: Wow. I didn't think you could eat cookies and milk in you room.

Gordy: I guess my mom didn't either. She hollered from the other room, "Gordy, you better not be eating cookies and milk in your room!"

Presenter: What did you say?

Gordy: I said, "I'm not, mom."

Presenter: Gordy, that was a lie.

Gordy: Not exactly, 'cause I did stop eating them before my mom came in.

Presenter: Well, did she find them?

Gordy: Not exactly, because I put them under the bed.

Presenter: Gordy, you were hiding the truth from your mom. That's wrong. Did you continue to keep it a secret from her?

Gordy: Not exactly. You see, when mom was hiding Easter eggs under my bed two weeks ago, do you know what she found?

Presenter: Don't tell me. The milk and Christmas cookie from Christmas.

Gordy: It wasn't exactly milk anymore. It was kinda this green fur and the cookie was kind of a cookie skeleton.

Presenter: Gordy, I bet you felt bad.

Gordy: I sure did especially since I wasn't allowed to have Easter cookies or candy for a week.

Presenter: That seems fair. But, your mom and dad still love you.

Gordy: Yeah, of course.

Presenter: But Gordy, let me ask you something about your relationship with God. Have you ever promised to do something for him and then didn't do it?

Gordy: Well, let me see. Once I made a promise that I would talk to Frankie Herkowitz at school because no one plays with him very much.

Presenter: Yeah.

Gordy: And I kinda felt God wanted me to be his friend and even invite him to church.

Presenter: That sounds like a wonderful idea.

Gordy: So, I even prayed about it and told God that I would.

Presenter: Well, what happened?

Gordy: Ah-h-h, I'm still waiting.

Presenter: How long have you been waiting?

Gordy: Since before Christmas.

Presenter: Uh, oh. It sounds like that Christmas cookie to me.

Gordy: Well, sometimes I'm not very good at that stuff.

Presenter: Gordy, watch the video today and see what happened to Peter. Remember, Peter denied Jesus how many times?

Gordy: Three times.

Presenter: Right. And, Peter was one of Jesus' closest friend.

Gordy: Yeah. He really goofed up.

Presenter: But, when Jesus rose from the dead, he appeared to the disciples by the lake. Peter was probably very worried that Jesus wouldn't want him to be a disciple anymore. But, Jesus said some things that made him know that even after his mistakes, Jesus wanted Peter to continue to follow him. Let's watch this video from John, chapter 21. Remember, Gordy **even after mistakes, Jesus invites us to follow him.*

Video

Show *The Gospel of John* DVD, produced by Visual Bible International, 2003. Show the clip covering John 21:1-25. Begin just after narrator says, *"But these have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God and that through your faith in him you may have life."* End the clip just after narrator says, *"Now, there are many other things that Jesus did. If they were all written down one by one, I suppose that the whole world could not hold the books that would be written."* The length of the clip is approximately 7:20.

Signs Along Believers' Highway

John 21:1-25

NOTE: Practice this cut-out activity in advance. (See appendix page with illustration of activity.) Have ready the long strip of paper, marker, scissors and tape, as well.

The presenter holds the rhyme sign, careful to only show the front for now, until the back is needed for guessing.

Presenter: I need some volunteers. I need two kids and a shepherd to come up, get in the car and get ready to drive.

Have volunteers come up onstage and arrange them so that kids are in front driving and the shepherd is in the back.

On "Believers' Highway" kids can drive just as well as adults because we are all growing in our spiritual journey, learning to trust Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. So buckle your seat belts, and let's go for a ride!

While I ask you some questions about today's Bible event, I will make something out of this strip of paper. First, I'm going to draw some fish on one side of it.

Draw fish on the prepared strip of paper while continuing with the following.



When Jesus first called his disciples, some of them were fishing. Jesus told them they would become fishers of men. This happened several years before. These disciples followed Jesus and his teachings and watched Jesus die on the cross. They had seen the empty tomb and knew he was alive again.

Ask the volunteers:

Jesus appeared again and met them while they were fishing. Jesus did a miracle that helped them recognize him. What was it? (He told them to put their nets on the side of their boat and they would catch a lot of fish.)

After drawing fish on strip of paper, make a loop with one twist in it and tape ends together. See page with illustration of activity.

Now I will make a loop by taping the ends of this paper together.

When Peter realized it was Jesus talking to them from the shore. He was very excited. To volunteers: What did Peter do? *(He jumped out of the boat and swam to Jesus.)*

Peter may have been very worried. He may have been wondering if Jesus would still want him to be a disciple since he had failed Jesus by denying him three times. Peter was probably worried he could not be a fisher of men anymore and even worse, he probably felt he was no longer Jesus' friend.

Begin cutting the strip of paper through the middle. While doing so, ask:

How many pieces of paper do you think I will end up with? *(Two.)* **That's what Peter was worried about that he would be cut off from Jesus and no longer be his disciple. But let's see what happened.**

Cut down the middle line all the way through the entire loop and you'll find that it doesn't separate into two but becomes one larger loop.

Wow! Look at this. Instead of two loops, we now have an even bigger loop.

Ask volunteers:

How many times had Peter denied Jesus? Yes, three times. When Jesus appeared, he asked Peter the question, "Do you love me?" How many times did he ask Peter this question? *(Three times.)*

Do you think this might have reminded Peter of the three times he denied him? Do you think Jesus was telling Peter it was okay now? *(Yes.)*

Also, Jesus told Peter three times to feed Jesus' sheep. What do you think he meant by that and who were the sheep? *(The sheep are followers of Jesus. Peter would be one of the people to take care of these followers.)*

Do you think Peter was still in business as a disciple? Do you think he was still a fisher of men? Let's see.

Cut the loop one more time down the middle and now you will have two loops linked together to represent a net that's woven together.

Now, you can think of these loops as a fishing net. Do you think Jesus would still let Peter serve him? *(Yes.)*

Now we have two loops, one for me and one for a friend. After this, Peter continued to tell others about Jesus and, therefore, continued to be a fisher of men. We, too, can show our love to Jesus by being his disciples. Remember that **even after mistakes, Jesus invites us to follow him.*

Now read the front of the sign. Then reveal the back of the sign and ask the volunteers to fill in the blanks to complete the riddle.

On the front of the sign it says, “When the stakes are great, because of the mistakes we make...” and the back says, “Don’t turn and flee because _____ says, ‘Follow _____.’” What words fit the Bible event and rhyme?

Take some time to get the answers. Then, share the answers: *“Don’t turn and flee because ‘Jesus says, Follow me.”*

Have volunteers return to their seats.

Gordy...Still in Business

Puppet Conclusion

Presenter: So, Gordy, what do you think?

Gordy: Well, Peter was a fisher of men before his big mistake. Now Jesus is alive again and he was *still* a fisher of men.

Presenter: Yes.

Gordy: He was still in business.

Presenter: That’s right.

Gordy: Even after his mistake.

Presenter: Absolutely.

Gordy: Well, then, that’s the truth for us.

Presenter: You’re right, Gordy. Jesus invites us to follow him even after our mistakes.

Gordy: Even if we try to hide our mistakes under the bed?

Presenter: Yes. And, more importantly even if we sometimes fail to show God's love to others and invite them to meet him. That's very important.

Gordy: But if we forget, we can still be in business.

Presenter: That's right, because Jesus invites us to follow him and even gives us other chances.

Gordy: Like with Frankie.

Presenter: Absolutely. Why don't you pray for that and all of us right now.

Gordy: Sure. Dear God, thank you for Jesus and making him alive and being with us today. Jesus, thank you for inviting us to follow you even after we make mistakes. Help me invite Frankie to church or talk to him about you. I don't want to make a mistake and forget all about telling others you are the true God. So help me do it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Appendix: Pictures of craft in a step by step process.



Step 1: Two strips of paper (8 ½" x 11" sheet cut in half vertically). Tape one end of each strip together to create one long strip

Step 2: Twist the strip once. Tape the remaining two ends together into a circle.

Step 3: With your scissors, cut in the middle of the strip all around the circle.



It will create one large circle.

Step 4: Cut this this circle in half again. It will result in two interlocking circles.



**When the stakes
are great, because
of the mistakes we
make...**

**Don't turn and flee
because _____
says, "Follow
_____"**