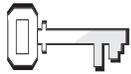


# Do You Love Me?



### References

John 21:1–17;  
*The Desire of Ages*,  
pp. 809–815



### Memory Verse

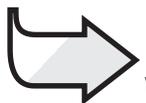
“Again Jesus said, . . .  
‘Do you love  
me? . . . Take care  
of my sheep’ ”  
(John 21:16, NIV).



### Objectives

The children will:  
**Know** that Jesus  
asks us to take  
care of others.

**Feel** willing to  
do what Jesus asks.  
**Respond** by finding  
ways to help others.



### The Message

We serve God when  
we take care of others.

### Monthly Theme

God wants us to show others how much He loves them.

### The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Jesus appears again to some of His disciples. They have fished all night but caught nothing. Jesus performs a miracle by supplying fish that overflow their nets. He then prepares breakfast for them. Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves Him. Peter answers each time that he does, thinking that Jesus doesn't believe him because he denied knowing Jesus. After each answer Peter gives, Jesus tells him to feed His sheep and lambs. Peter has repented and been humbled. He has a changed heart. He is a man that Jesus can now use.

### *This is a lesson about service.*

Jesus asks us to feed His flock too. He needs us to care for the young in the faith. He asks us to treat others as He did. Without the love of Jesus in our hearts, we cannot do as He requests.

### Teacher Enrichment

“The first work that Christ entrusted to Peter on restoring him to the ministry was to feed the lambs. This was a work in which Peter had little experience. It would require great care and tenderness, much patience and perseverance. It called him to minister to those who were young in the faith, to teach the ignorant, to open the Scriptures to them, and to educate them for usefulness in Christ's service” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 812).

“The Saviour's manner of dealing with Peter had a lesson for him and for his brethren. It taught them to meet the transgressor with patience, sympathy, and forgiving love. Although Peter had denied His Lord, the love which Jesus bore him never faltered. Just such love should the undershepherd feel for the sheep and lambs committed to his care. Remembering his own weakness and failure, Peter was to deal with his flock as tenderly as Christ had dealt with him.

“The question that Christ had put to Peter was significant. He mentioned only one condition of discipleship and service. ‘Lovest thou Me?’ He said. This is the essential qualification. Though Peter might possess every other, yet without the love of Christ he could not be a faithful shepherd over the Lord's flock. Knowledge, benevolence, eloquence, gratitude, and zeal are all aids in the good work; but without the love of Jesus in the heart, the work of the Christian minister is a failure” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 815).

## Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

<h2>Program Overview</h2>			
Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	
<b>1</b> Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Feed My Sheep</i>  B. <i>Jesus Asked Us To . . .</i>	wadded paper ball or beanbag whiteboard or chalkboard, chalk or marker
<b>Any Time</b> Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> offering container none
<b>2</b> Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	net, Bible-times costumes none Bibles
<b>3</b> Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Thumbs-up Scenarios</i>	Bibles
<b>4</b> Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Sheep Puppets</i>	sock for each child, markers

**\*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.**

# TEACHING THE LESSON

## Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been, what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week's memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



## Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

### You Need:

- wadded paper ball or beanbag

### A. Feed My Sheep

Ask the students to sit in a circle. Tell them they are to think of food that animals eat. The person who starts the game will toss the paper ball or beanbag as they name an animal. The person who catches the ball or beanbag must name one thing that animal eats. Then they name an animal and toss the ball or beanbag to someone else. Continue until all have had a turn.

### Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Was it easy or hard to think of a food that animals eat? Our Bible story today is about Jesus and Peter. Jesus tells Peter to feed and care for His sheep. Who are Jesus' sheep?** Allow time. **The memory verse is "Again Jesus said, . . . 'Do you love me? . . . Take care of my sheep' " John 21:16. Jesus wanted to impress something upon Peter. If Peter loved Jesus, he would act like it. He would care for others. Jesus wants us to do the same. Our message today is:**



**WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE TAKE CARE OF OTHERS.**

**Say that with me.**

### You Need:

- chalkboard or whiteboard
- chalk or marker

### B. Jesus Asked Us To . . .

Ask the children to think of things that Jesus asks us to do (love your enemies, love your neighbor, obey God, care for others, be ready for His coming, put God and His kingdom first, don't love this world, tell others about Him, etc.). Write their responses where all may see.

### Debriefing

Allow response time as you say: **You thought of some good things that Jesus asks us to do. Our Bible story today is about Jesus and Peter and taking care of Jesus' sheep. Who are Jesus' sheep?** Allow discussion time. **Today's memory verse is: "Again Jesus said, . . . 'Do you love me? . . . Take care of my sheep' " John 21:16. Jesus wanted Peter to know something very important. If he loved Jesus, he would act like it. And he would care for others. Jesus wants us to do that, too. Our message today is:**



**WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE TAKE CARE OF OTHERS.**

**Say that with me.**

# Prayer and Praise

Any  
Time



## Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review last week's memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



## Suggested Songs

- "God Made Our Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 57)
- "There Were Twelve Disciples" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 63)
- "Be Like Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 115)
- "Give Your Heart to Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 118)
- "I Will Make You Fishers of Men" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 135)
- "The Lord Is My Shepherd" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 48)



## Mission

Use *Children's Mission*. Emphasize how the person in the story who is sharing about Jesus does it because they love Him.



## Offering

Say: **Giving our offerings is one way that we can help take care of others as Jesus would want us to do.**

### You Need:

- offering container



## Prayer

Say: **Thank You, Jesus, for taking care of us. We love You and want to do what You want us to do. Amen.**

## 2

## Bible Lesson

### You Need:

- net
- Bible-times costumes

### Experiencing the Story

**Characters:** Jesus (dressed in white), Peter, six other disciples, other children may be fishermen in other boats

#### Setting the scene:

Say: **Jesus has appeared to His disciples and others after He rose from the dead. Peter still feels bad about denying Jesus three times before He was crucified.**

#### Read or tell the story.

Peter was restless. "I'm going fishing," he told the other disciples. At least fishing was doing something. It had been a while since Jesus had been crucified. He had appeared to the disciples twice since His resurrection. It was wonderful to see Him and to know that He was alive!

Jesus hadn't mentioned that Peter had denied Him three times. But Peter was still very embarrassed and ashamed of what he had done. He had asked God to forgive him. He may have thought that Jesus would no longer trust him. How much did the other disciples know about His denial of Jesus? Did they know how sorry he was?

Some of the other disciples decided to go fishing with Peter. So just as the sun was going down they got in Peter's boat and sailed across the water. They stayed out all night—but they caught nothing. *[Disciples pretend to be fishing with the net.]* What a waste of a night's work, Peter thought.

Early in the morning, just as the sun was coming up, they headed for shore—without any fish. As their boat got closer to shore, they noticed a man standing

on the beach. *[Jesus stands up.]* The man called out, "Have you caught any fish?"

The disciples replied: "No. None at all." *[Disciples shake their heads no.]*

The man called out again, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some."

Perhaps they wanted to please the man. Or perhaps they just wanted to try once more. Whatever the reason, they did as the man said.

Immediately, their nets were so full of fish that they couldn't even haul them into the boat! *[Act as if the nets are hard to handle and overflowing with fish.]*

Then John recognized Jesus and called to Peter, "It is the Lord!"

Peter was so happy to see Jesus again. They were very close to shore, so Peter decided not to wait. He jumped out of the boat and hurried to Jesus. *[Peter pretends to do so.]* The others followed him in the boat. *[Pretend to row.]* When they reached shore, they found that Jesus had made a fire. He was cooking some fish for them to eat together.

After they enjoyed the fish and some bread *[pretend to eat]*, Jesus turned to Peter and asked, "Do you love Me more than these?" *[Have "Jesus" repeat the question.]*

Peter immediately answered, "Yes, Lord, You know that I love You." *[Have Peter repeat the answer.]*

Jesus looked into Peter's eyes and said quietly, "Feed My lambs." *[Have Jesus repeat.]*

Again Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him. "Peter, do you love Me?" *[Repeat.]*

And Peter replied, "Yes, Lord, You know that I love You." *[Repeat.]*

Again Jesus said, "Take care of My sheep."

A third time Jesus asked, "Peter, do you love Me?" *[Repeat.]* Peter didn't know

what to think. Perhaps he wondered if Jesus didn't believe him. And why did Jesus ask that question three times? Was it because Peter had denied Jesus three times?

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him three times. With a heavy heart Peter answered, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." *[Repeat.]*

Again Jesus said, "Feed My sheep." Finally Jesus said to Peter, "Follow Me." *[Repeat.]*

Peter must have been relieved to realize that Jesus had forgiven him. He knew now that Jesus still wanted him to follow Him. Jesus asked Peter these questions while the other disciples watched. He wanted them to know that He had forgiven Peter. Jesus also wanted to teach Peter a lesson in patience, sympathy, and forgiveness. Peter would need to be patient, sympathetic, and forgiving as he would care for the many new believers of Jesus in the future.

Jesus also wanted us to know that there is only one thing we must do to follow and serve Him—love Him with all our hearts. And when we truly love Jesus, we will want to take care of others too.

### **Debriefing**

Allow response time as you ask:

**How did Jesus show His love for His disciples after they had fished all night? Why do you think Jesus prepared breakfast for the disciples?**

**What did Jesus ask Peter three times? How did Peter answer each time? What then did Jesus ask Peter to do?**

**Who are Jesus' sheep? Why did Jesus ask Peter three times?** (It was the same number of times Peter had denied Him and Jesus wanted to show that He

had forgiven Peter.) **Do you remember our message? Let's say it together:**



**WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE TAKE CARE OF OTHERS.**

### **Memory Verse**

Form three groups. Have the groups stand, forming a triangle. Teach the verse as a choral reading.

**First group:** "Again Jesus said, . . .

**Second group:** 'Do you love me? . . .'

**Third group:** 'Take care of my sheep.' "

**All:** John 21:16

Switch parts to the right, going around the triangle, and repeat. Continue until all know the verse.

### **Bible Study**

Have the students find Psalm 23 and take turns reading a verse. Adults assist as needed.

### **Debriefing**

Allow response time as you ask:

**Who is the Shepherd mentioned in this psalm?**

**How did the Shepherd care for His sheep? Who are His sheep?**

**What does this chapter say that you can do to care for others?**

**What other things can you do?** Allow response time. Try to have each child mention something they think they can do.

Say: **Remember our message? Let's say it again:**



**WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE TAKE CARE OF OTHERS.**

#### **You Need:**

- Bibles

## 3

## Applying the Lesson

**You Need:**

- Bibles

### Thumbs-up Scenarios

Have the children follow along as you read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 aloud.

Allow response time as you ask: **What are these verses talking about?**

(Someone having gifts or doing things for Jesus, but without loving Him.)

**Show me your thumbs-up signal.**

**Now show me your thumbs-down signal. I'm going to read you some scenarios. At the end of each, show me your thumbs-up signal if the person had love in their lives and were doing what Jesus wanted them to do. If they were "only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal," as the Bible verse says, show me your thumbs-down signal.**

1. Hunter goes to Sabbath School every week, and his family has worship with him almost every night. Hunter notices the driveway of the neighbor next door is scattered with old newspapers the neighbor hasn't picked up in several days. Hunter picks them up and piles them on the porch.

2. Sabrina attends an Adventist school, where she is in third grade. Bible is her favorite subject, and she always gets an A in it. A new student comes in the middle of the school year. He has never been in school before because his family homeschooled with him. Sabrina makes fun of him because he is unfamiliar with the school schedule, and he doesn't know how to play some of the games they play during recess.

3. Adam says he is a Christian and loves Jesus. His little brother, Eric, wants

to play with Adam and his older friends. Adam's friends tell Eric to go home and leave them alone. Adam sticks up for Eric even though his friends say they don't want Eric around. Adam goes home with Eric and plays with him for a while.

4. Melanie likes to help her Sabbath School teacher greet visitors at the door and collect the offering. But at home on Sunday she doesn't want to help her family clean the house or do yardwork. She whines and complains and doesn't do her best.

5. Jonah knows his memory verse every week in Sabbath School. He sits quietly in church and listens to the sermon. He also loves to go swimming at the local pool during the summer. One day he's playing water polo with a few other boys, and his team is losing. Jonah gets mad and pushes one of the boys under the water.

### Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

**How could you tell if the people in our scenarios truly had Jesus in their heart?**

**What must you have that makes a difference in the way you act toward others? (love)**

**Is it enough to say that you love Jesus? Why? Yes, you must act that way too.**

**When you give Jesus your whole heart, He will lead you to do things for Him. One of those things is to help take care of others. Let's say our message together again:**



**WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE TAKE CARE OF OTHERS.**

# 4

## Sharing the Lesson

### Sheep Puppets

Give each child a sock and marker and ask them to make a sheep sock puppet by putting the sock on one hand and drawing ears, eyes, nose, and a mouth on the sock.

### Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

**What did Jesus tell Peter to do?** (Feed My lambs.)

**Who are Jesus' sheep and lambs?**

**How can you help care for them?**

**Take your sock puppet home and share it with someone this week. Tell them about Jesus and Peter.**

**Also, look for ways this week to help care for others. Help them if you can. Remember:**



**WE SERVE GOD WHEN WE TAKE CARE OF OTHERS.**

### Closing

Have a short prayer. Ask Jesus to live in the children's hearts so all will serve Him and help take care of others.

#### You Need:

- sock for each child
- markers

## Do You Love Me?

### References

John 21:1–17;  
*The Desire of Ages*,  
pp. 809–815

### Memory Verse

“Again Jesus said, . . . ‘Do you love me? . . . Take care of my sheep’ ” (John 21:16, NIV).

### The Message

We serve God when we take care of others.

*Have you ever had someone ask you the same question over and over? “Didn’t they hear my answer the first time?” you may have thought. Three times Jesus asked Peter the same thing.*

Peter was restless. “I’m going fishing,” he told the other disciples. At least fishing was doing something. It had been a while since Jesus had been crucified. He had appeared to them twice since His resurrection. And it was wonderful to see Him and to know that He was alive.

Jesus hadn’t mentioned that Peter had denied Him three times. Peter was still so embarrassed. He was ashamed of what he had done. He had asked God to forgive him. But he may have thought that Jesus would no longer trust him. *How much do the other disciples know about it? he may have wondered. Do they know how sorry I am?*

Some of the other disciples decided to go fishing with Peter. So just as the sun was going down they stepped into Peter’s boat. The wind soon swept them across the water. They stayed out all night—but they caught nothing. *What a waste of a night’s work*, Peter probably thought.

Early in the morning, just as the sun was coming up, they returned to shore—without any fish.

As their boat drew closer to shore they noticed a man standing on the beach. The man called out, “Have you caught any fish?”



The disciples called back, “No, none at all.”

The man called out again. “Throw your net on the right side of the boat. You will find some.”

Perhaps they wanted to please the man. Or perhaps they just wanted to try once more. Whatever the reason, they did what the man said.

Immediately their nets were full of fish! They couldn’t even haul their nets into the boat!

Suddenly John recognized the man and called to Peter, “It is the Lord!”

Peter was so happy to see Jesus again! Jesus was waiting for them! The boat was very close to shore, so Peter decided not to wait. He jumped out of the boat and hurried through the water to Jesus. The others followed in the boat. When they reached shore, they found that Jesus had made a fire. He was cooking some fish for their breakfast. They soon enjoyed the fish and some bread.

After breakfast Jesus turned to Peter. “Do you truly love Me more than these?” He asked.

Peter immediately answered, “Yes, Lord, You know that I love You.”

Jesus looked into Peter’s eyes and said quietly, “Feed My lambs.”

Again Jesus asked, “Peter, do you truly love Me?”

And Peter replied, “Yes, Lord, You know that I love You.”

Jesus replied, “Take care of My sheep.”

A third time Jesus asked, “Peter, do you love Me?”

Peter didn’t know what to think. Perhaps he wondered if Jesus didn’t believe him. And why did Jesus ask three times? Was it because Peter had denied Jesus three times?

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him three times. With a heavy heart Peter answered, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.”

Jesus said again, "Take care of My sheep."

Finally Jesus said to Peter, "Follow Me."

Peter realized then that Jesus had forgiven him. Jesus still wanted Peter to follow Him.

Why did Jesus ask Peter these questions in front of the other disciples? So they would know that He had forgiven Peter.

Jesus also wanted to teach Peter a lesson in patience, sympathy, and forgiveness. Peter would need all of that in the future. He had a work to do for Jesus. He would lead and care for many new believers of Jesus during the rest of his life.

Jesus also wanted us to know something special. There is only one thing we must do to follow and serve Him—love Him with all our hearts. And when we really do, we will want to take care of others too.

## Daily Activities

### Sabbath

- With your family, read the lesson story. Talk about how you can take care of others.
- Teach your memory verse to your family. Divide them into two groups. One group says: "Again Jesus said, . . . 'Do you love me?'" The other group answers: "'Take care of my sheep.'" John 21:16.

### Sunday

- With your family read and discuss John 21:1–14. How did Jesus take care of His sheep?
- Jesus told Peter to "feed His sheep." Do you think Jesus was talking about food that we eat? If not, what did He mean? Discuss John 6:35 with your family; then list the ways that we can "feed the sheep."

### Monday

- Read and discuss John 21:15–17 during family worship. How many times did Jesus ask Peter if he loved Him? Why that many times?
- Share the sheep puppet you made in Sabbath School with someone this week. Tell them about Jesus and Peter. Ask them to help you look for ways to help care for others.
- Pray for the person you share with.

### Tuesday

- Read Psalm 23 with your family. What does our Good Shepherd (Jesus) do for us? What can we do to help other sheep and lambs?
- Get a book about an animal you would like to take care of. What does that animal eat? Do

you have to take care of its fur or skin in a special way? Where does it need to live? What else do you have to do for it?

- Thank Jesus for animals you enjoy.

### Wednesday

- During worship, have everyone sing "Be Like Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 115) or "Give Your Heart to Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 118) or "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 119). Ask your family, "Do you mean it?"
- Act out the Bible story with your family.
- Say the memory verse together before prayer.

### Thursday

- With your family, think of things that Jesus asked us to do. How many of them do you do regularly? sometimes? never?
- Read 1 Corinthians 13:1–3 together. Doing things for others without love is like . . . Draw a picture of what that means to you. Do you do things for others with or without real love for them? Tell Jesus about it. Ask Him to help you help others.

### Friday

- With your family, read and discuss John 1:29, Revelation 5:12, 13, and Revelation 7:9–17. Who is the "lamb" referred to in these texts? What has the Lamb done for you and your family? Where is the Lamb now? What is He doing there?
- Sing some praise songs. Then thank God for sending the Lamb to die for us. Praise God that He lives again and takes care of us.