

Talk About It:

- Have you ever needed to ask someone for forgiveness? What did it feel like once you knew you were forgiven?
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Read About It:

Before Jesus died on the cross, he was arrested and questioned by the religious leaders. His disciples were very afraid. What if they got arrested too? What if they were asked a lot of questions about Jesus that they didn't know how to answer? After Jesus was arrested, his disciple, Peter, was following behind, watching to see what might happen next. It was nighttime, and Peter wanted to hide. Three different people asked him if he knew Jesus and Peter said, "NO!" each time. Three times he denied knowing his very special friend.

Three days after he died on the cross, Jesus was raised to life again. He appeared to his disciples many times. One day Jesus made breakfast on the beach for his friends. After this breakfast, Jesus took Peter aside to talk to him. Read about it from John 21:15-17:

Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love Me more than My other friends?"

"Yes, Lord. You know that I love You," Peter said.

"Feed My lambs," Jesus said.

Jesus asked Peter again, "Simon Peter, do you love Me?"

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

"Watch over My sheep," Jesus said. Jesus asked Peter one more time, "Do you love Me?"

Peter was sad that Jesus had asked him again. He said, "Lord, You know everything! You know that I love You."

"Feed My sheep," Jesus said.

Then Jesus said, "Follow Me!"

- How many times did Peter deny knowing Jesus before he died on the cross?
 - How many times did Jesus ask Peter if he loved him?
 - Why do you think Jesus asked Peter this same question so many times?
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Sing About It:

Peter denied knowing Jesus because he was afraid. But Jesus loved Peter and wanted to know he was forgiven. He gave Peter another chance to follow Jesus. Jesus forgives us and gives us another chance when we make mistakes, too. Sing about Jesus' forgiveness with this song on YouTube:

[You Forgive Me](#) (Lifetree Kids, Maker Fun Factory Music Video, Group Publishing)

Think About It:

- Why do you think Jesus wanted to have this special talk with Peter?
 - How do you think Peter felt after Jesus gave him another chance to follow him, even after he made such a big mistake?
 - Jesus told Peter to feed and take care of his “lambs.” Jesus wasn’t talking about baby sheep – he was talking about people! Jesus gave Peter the special job of teaching others and “feeding” them by telling them the good news about Jesus.
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Experience It:

You will need: a plate, water, black pepper, dish soap

Pour some water into your plate. Sprinkle a small amount of black pepper all over the water. The pepper will float on top of the water. Touch it with your fingertip. What happens?

Next, place a tiny amount of dish soap on the tip of your finger. Now touch the water with your fingertip. What happens?

Just like the soap clears away the pepper, when Jesus forgives us, our wrongs are cleared away and we can start over. In the same way, when we forgive others, we clear away the wrong they’ve done to us.

Do It:

Like Peter, we all make mistakes. But Jesus will always forgive us. Here are some ways to celebrate Jesus’ forgiveness:

- When you make a mistake this week, ask Jesus for forgiveness, then thank him for loving you so much.
 - When you do something wrong that hurts someone else, say you are sorry (really mean it!) and ask them to forgive you.
 - When someone does something wrong that hurts you, offer them forgiveness. Jesus wants us to forgive others the same way that he forgives us.
*If someone is hurting you in very wrong ways, it is important to tell someone you trust. Talk to a grownup and ask for their help.
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Pray About It:

Jesus, thank you for the way you love and forgive us. Forgive me for the mistakes I’ve made and make me stronger to follow and obey you. Amen.

Memorize It:

Forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. Matthew 6:12