

### Children's Sunday School

Sunday's from 9:45 – 10:30am

Children's Sunday School with Kim Ridenour is offered in-person and virtually every Sunday from 9:45-10:45am for children ages 4-18. For more information, contact Kim Ridenour at [miskim@myactv.net](mailto:miskim@myactv.net) or the Church Office at 301.739.7244. Those wishing to participate virtually can join by Zoom by going to <https://zoom.us/join> or calling 301.715.8592, and when prompted, enter Meeting ID: **865 7471 1577** and Passcode: **YouthSS**.

### Children's Church

Available In-Person Only

Children's Church is available during worship for those worshipping in-person after the Children's Moment is over in Sunday Worship.



### Worship @ 11 am Sunday Mornings in-person at



Zion Reformed United Church of Christ  
201 N Potomac Street  
Hagerstown, MD 21740  
[www.ZionReformed.church](http://www.ZionReformed.church)

or virtually at <https://zionreformed.church/sermons>

## Hearing God's Word:



Today in church we celebrated World Communion Sunday, a time where we remember that we are united in Christ with believers worldwide. The UCC's Neighbors in Need special mission offering was also taken which this year goes to organizations focused on helping our homeless siblings. What better way to show God's love for others? Some of the scriptures we explored in church today included Isaiah 55:1-5; Job 1:1 and 2:1-10; and John 21:15-19.

## Love in Any Language

(John 21:15-19, *International Children's Bible*®, ©2015 by Tommy Nelson Inc)

When they finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John do you love me more than these?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my lambs." Again Jesus said, "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." A third time he said, "Simon son of John do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" Peter said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you!" He said to him, "Take care of my sheep. I tell you the truth. When you were younger, you tied your own belt and went where you wanted. But when you are old, you will put out your hands and someone else will tie them. They will take you where you don't want to go." (Jesus said this to show how Peter would die to give glory to God.) Then Jesus said to Peter, "Follow me!"



## Family Reflection:

A few years ago, there was a song that became very popular. The name of the song was "Love in Any Language." Can you say, "I love you" in any different languages? This morning we can learn at least three different ways to say, "I love you."

In German, you would say, "Ich liebe dich!" Can you say that?

In Spanish, you would say, "¡Te amo!" That is pretty easy -- try it.

In sign language, you would say, "I love you" like this:



You know, it is pretty easy to say, "I love you," but it is sometimes a lot harder to show it by our actions. That is what our Bible story is about today. After Jesus was raised from the dead, he appeared to his disciples several times. On the third time that Jesus appeared to his disciples, he was with them on the shore by the Sea of Galilee. He turned to Peter and said, "Peter, do you love me?" Peter answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Then, Jesus said to Peter, "Feed my lambs."

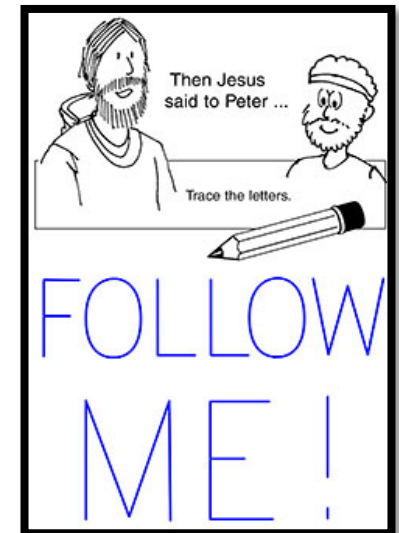
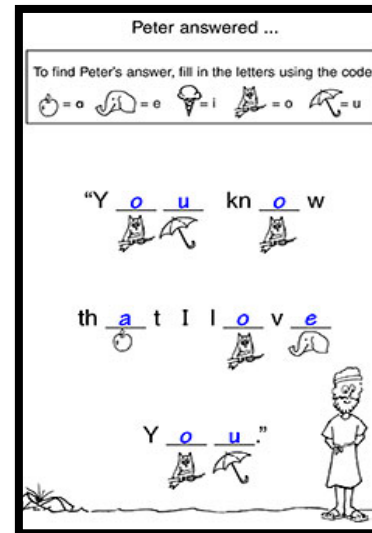
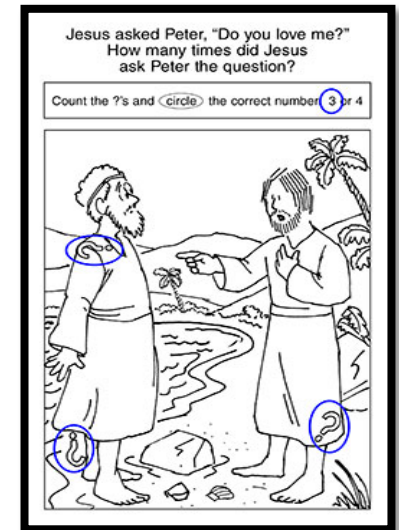
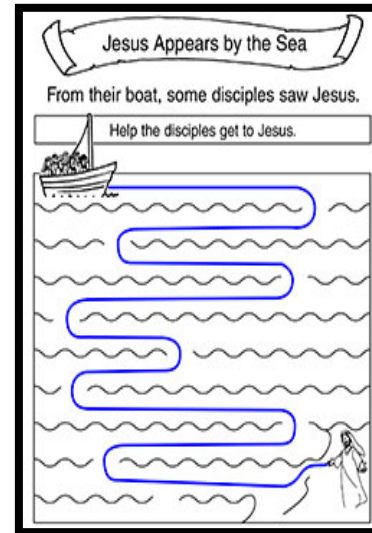
Jesus asked Peter again, "Do you love me?" Again, Peter answered, "Yes Lord, I love you." Jesus said to him, "Take care of my sheep."

A third time Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" Now Peter was very sad that Jesus asked him this question again, but he answered Jesus again, "Lord, you know all things, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

Why did Jesus ask Peter the same question three times? I think he wanted Peter to understand -- and he wanted you and me to understand -- that it isn't enough just to say, "I love you." We must show our love for Jesus by showing our love for one another and caring for one another.

Do you love Jesus? Then feed and take care of his sheep! Now, that is love that can be understood in any language.

## Answer Key:





**Steve**, age 78



**Naomi**, age 14



**Sonia**, age 32



**Tarisha**, age 29



**Ari**, age 32



**Mona**, age 58



**Bob**, age 83



**Orlando**, age 18



**Mike**, age 26



**Miguel**, Age 43



**Taj**, age 21



**Nikos**, age 56

### The Faces of Homelessness

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. John 15:12

### Family Discussion:

Jesus wanted us to remember that it isn't enough just to say, "I love you," but that we must show our love for Jesus by showing our love for one another and caring for one another.

#### A Question for Adults to ask Children:

*When did you experience unconditional love that let you know God loves you because of their actions?*

Jesus loves us so much and wants us to love him. He tells us to show his love we are to love one another in all of our actions but we often fail to do this. Talk about how those actions of love you experienced made you feel. How it changed you...

#### A Question for Children to ask Adults:

*How do you feel when someone acts in love towards you?  
(A friend who shared something with you possibly even though you didn't ask?)*

### A Prayer to Say Together:

Dear Jesus,

Help us to show our love for you by loving and caring for one another.

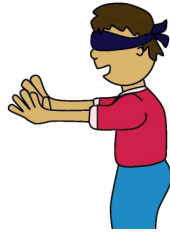
Amen.





## Family Activities

**Come to Me:** Jesus encouraged the children to come to him rather than be held back, and for us all to follow him. Play a fun 'come to me' challenge. The caller stands on one side of the room, the walker on the other with their eyes closed or wearing a blindfold. The caller should encourage them to 'come to me' and guide them across the room using only their voice. Make it more difficult by setting up an assault course!.



**Hearts to "Love You":** Draw 2 hearts on poster board or heavy construction paper. Then cut a slit in one heart about 3/4 way up the middle from the bottom of that heart and a small cut from the top of the other heart so the one heart can be slipped over the other in the middle and will look like 3D. Use glitter glue to decorate the hearts and write I LOVE YOU in a different language to remind you that God loves you and of your love for God (and to always love others).

**Share the Love Challenge:** We all have a part to play in sharing God's love with others in the world. Why not choose somebody that you would like to share God's love with this week.



Spend some time praying for them and asking God for boldness and wisdom. Then make time, if possible, to do some random act of kindness for them and let them know they are loved by God and you as a follower of God.



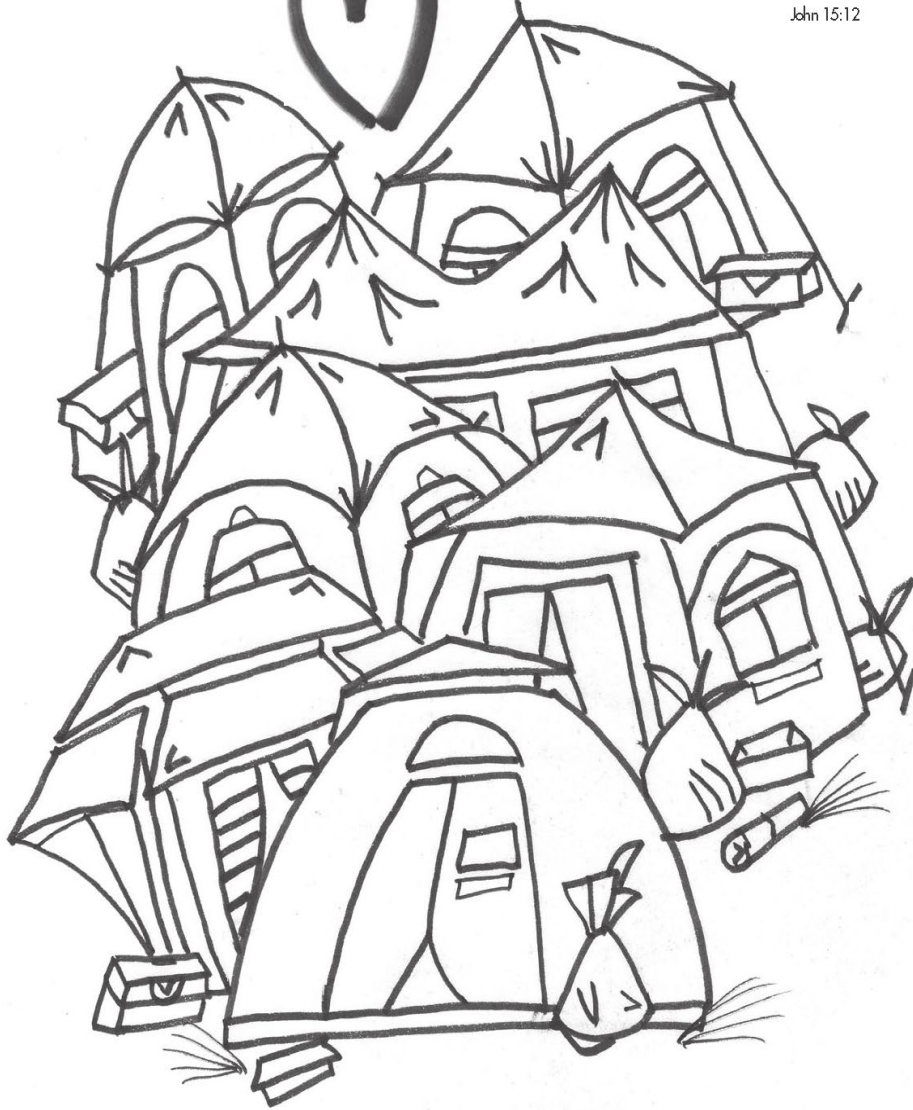
Did you know that approximately **17 people per 10,000** experience homelessness each day?

This is my commandment, that



you love one another as I have loved you.

John 15:12



The average life expectancy of a homeless person is just **50 years**.  
**39.8%** of homeless persons are African Americans.  
**61%** of homeless persons are men and boys.  
**20%** of homeless persons are kids.  
**42%** of street children identify as LGBT.

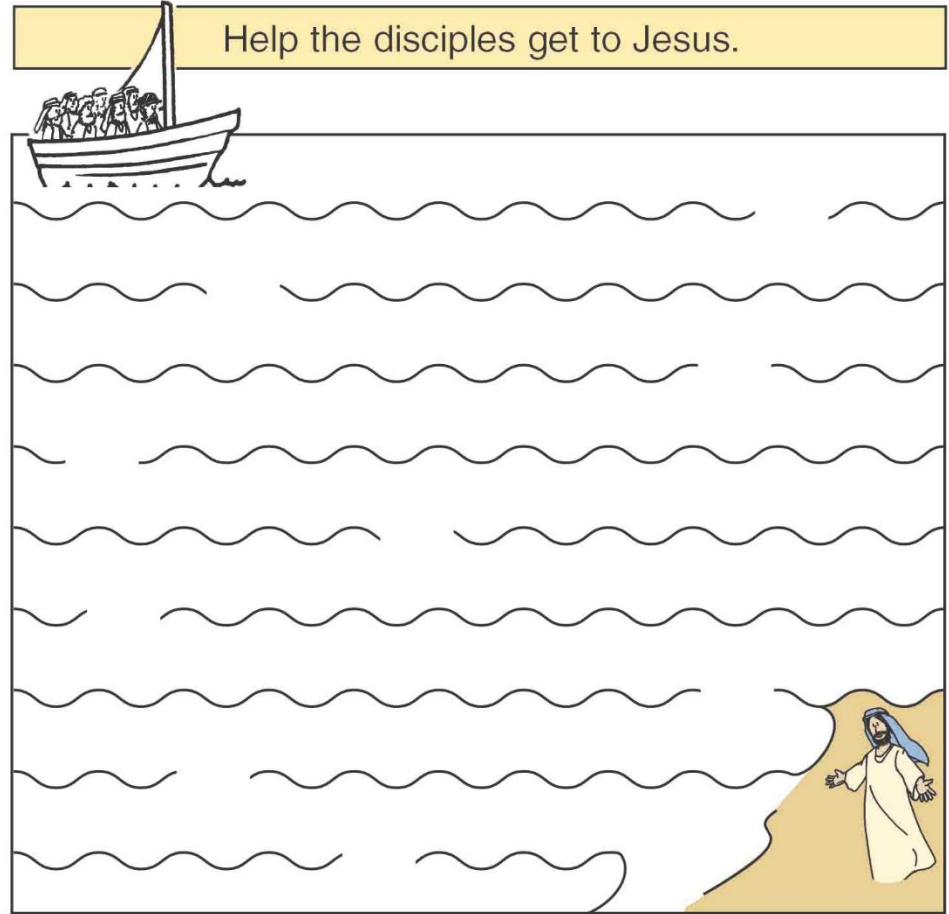
Ages 3+

October 3, 2021 • John 21:1-19

# Jesus Appears by the Sea

From their boat, some disciples saw Jesus.

Help the disciples get to Jesus.



Enter your **SECRET CODE** to unlock games @ [games.childrensbulletins.com](http://games.childrensbulletins.com)

**SECRET CODE!**  
**RG1246**



Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?"  
How many times did Jesus  
ask Peter the question?

Count the ?'s and circle the correct number. 3 or 4



**In a Just World,** UCC advocates  
fight for permanent shelters for those who are unhoused.



Today is a special day! It is World Communion Sunday. On this day, most churches in the world have communion. Some churches, like us, have communion every Sunday, some churches have communion once a month, and some churches have communion four times a year. This is a Sunday when almost all churches, all over the world, from many different cultures, will have communion.

That's pretty cool, right? It's cool to think that while we take communion today, people in churches all over the world are having communion, too! It's a reminder to us that we are all members of the Christian family.

Today, is a great opportunity to pull out a world map and pray for different regions of the world or check out UCC's Global Ministries to at [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org) to learn about mission opportunities in various countries of the world.



Praying for each other is a great way to care for one another. Let's pray together. God, thank you so much for World Communion Sunday.

Today, we pray especially for our friends around the world. Help us to remember that we are all your children and are loved by you. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.



## Peter answered ...

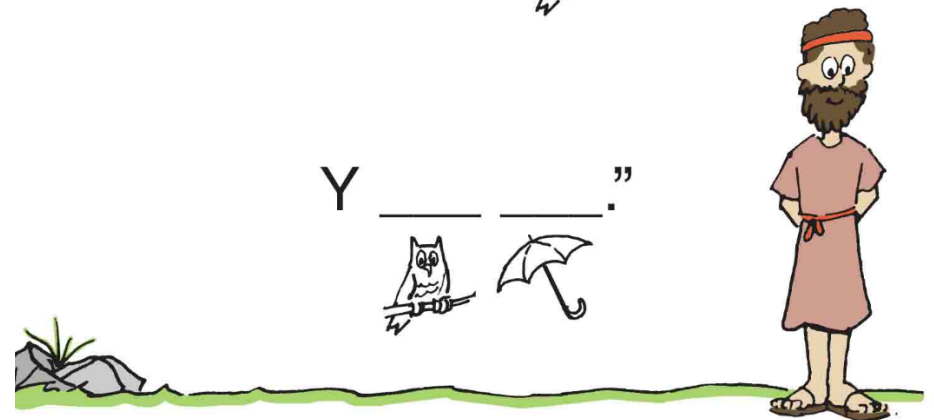
To find Peter's answer, fill in the letters using the code.

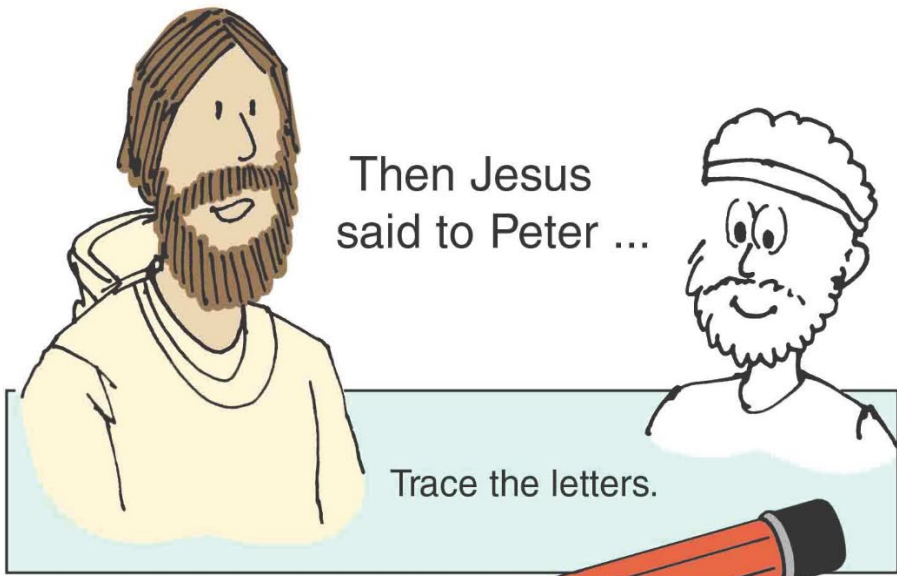


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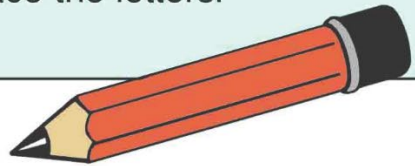
Y \_\_\_\_\_ ."  
 





Then Jesus said to Peter ...

Trace the letters.



FOLLOW

ME



“This is my command:  
Love each other as I have loved you.  
~ John 15:12 ~

