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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, May 5, 2019

Third Sunday of Easter

Lectionary Year C

**Scripture:** [John 21:1-19](#) [ **Summary:** *Feed My Sheep* ]

**Supplies Needed:** Lots of Q-tips (ear-swabs). At LEAST three per expected child - but I recommend bringing a whole box up front with you. You'll want to keep the Q-tips initially hidden, maybe in a paper bag or back pack.

**ASK** (a.k.a [The On-Ramp](#))

- Good morning!
- I have a question for you. Can you tell me what I am holding? [*Show one Q-tip to the group. Keep it separate from the other Q-Tips so that when you pull it out, the kids don't associate it with the bag that you have with you.*]
- That's right. It is a Q-Tip. And what do we use it for? (To keep our ears clean)
- That's also right! So I was thinking that the congregation could always use some more Q-tips. Not because their ears need cleaning, but because they keep their ears so clean, that means, at some point, they'll need *more* Q-tips.
- Wouldn't it be nice, then, if you went and gave them some Q-tips?
- Yes? Yes!
- OK then, go ahead. Go give the congregation some Q-tips.
- [*Pause for a child to hopefully complain/point out that they do not have any Q-Tips to give away. If no one complains, goad them on a little, maybe say "Is there a problem? Do you not want the congregation to have more Q-Tips?"*]
- [*Once a complaint is made...*] Oh! That's a good point. My suggestion that you give the congregation something that you don't have to give doesn't make very much sense, does it?
- Maybe, if I want you to give something away, then I should give it to you first, right?

## **TELL** (a.k.a. *The Freeway*)

- So – in today's scripture story, a similar thing happens.
- We see Jesus tell Peter to give something away.
- Jesus tells Peter to “Feed my sheep.”
- So what do you think: What would Peter have to receive before he could feed others?
- That’s right! He would need to receive some food to give away.
- And you know what? That’s exactly what Jesus gives Peter in this story.
- At the start of the story, Jesus helps the disciples catch lots of fish (153 of them, the story tells us)
- And then, the story says that Jesus made breakfast for Peter and the disciples.
- So when Jesus tells Peter to “Feed my sheep,” he’s telling Peter to give to others something that Jesus first gave to Peter.
- Now, when Jesus tells Peter to “Feed my sheep,” he is telling Peter to care for and love the people.
- And, for Peter to be able to care for and love the people, what do you think Peter has to first receive from Jesus?
- That’s right, Peter has to first receive the love Jesus offers to Peter.

## **SHARE the Good News** (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- Just like Jesus told Peter to care for and love the people, so too, does Jesus tell *us* to love one another.
- But, Jesus first offers that love to us, so that we then have it to share with others.
- And this is the Good News for today: The way we love one another is by first receiving the love that Jesus offers to us...
- ...just like the Q-tips I’m going to share with you so that you can share with the congregation...*after* we pray.
- [*After the prayer, give each child a handful of Q-tips to go pass out in the congregation*].
- Let’s pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

### **CLOSING Prayer**

**Dear God,**

**Dear God,**

**Thank you for the gift of Jesus.**

**Thank you for the gift of Jesus.**

**...who offers us...**

**...who offers us...**

**...your love, mercy and care...**

**...your love, mercy and care...**

**...so that we can then share...**

**...so that we can then share...**

**...your love mercy and care with others.**

**...your love mercy and care with others.**

**Thank you and Amen**