

# Family Devotional

From April 17, 2016

**Play:** Go around the group and give each person at least one set of expressions. Then have them share it with the group. For example: You would say the words, "I'm so happy!" but your facial expressions and tone would tell the group, "I'm mad". They are supposed to be contradictory, which should lead to lots of laughs. If doing with older kids, you would write their voice/face set on a card and let everyone guess. If your group wants to do more, make up your own voice/face expressions!

Voice says: I'm so happy!

Face says: I'm mad.

Voice says: I'm so sad!

Face says: I'm surprised.

Voice says: I'm so excited!

Face says: I'm board.

Voice says: I'm so tired!

Face says: I'm tired.

Voice says: I'm so happy!

Face says: I'm mad.

As people were sharing their expressions, which did you find more convincing, the words they were saying or the message their face was telling you?

**Read/Reflect:** Let's read about a time Peter's words and actions didn't match. Have someone read Luke 22:31-34. What did Peter say with his words? Now let's see what his actions say, read Luke 22:59-62. What was Peter's response when he realized what he had done? What do you think his action in verse 62 revealed? At that point Peter probably thought this was the end of the story. He had denied Jesus when he needed him most and Peter would never get a chance to apologize.....BUT the good news is that was not the end!

God does not hold against us the things we have done in the past. He always offers us forgiveness and a clean start when we come to him with a repentant heart. After Jesus rose from the dead, he gave Peter a chance to show what was really in his heart. Read John 21:15-17:

- Why do you think Jesus asked Peter a similar question 3 times?
- How did Peter respond each time?
- What action was Jesus telling Peter would confirm the words Peter was saying?
- What do you think Jesus wanted Peter to do?
- What do you think Jesus wants us to do?

It's great to tell Jesus we love him, but it means so much more when our actions tell Jesus and others how much we love Him too!

**Remember:** Work together as a family to memorize/meditate on John 13:35 this week.

*"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

Ideas: Write this passage down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple of words each day until you can say it by memory.

**Respond:** "Dear Jesus, thank you for loving me. Thank you for forgiving me when my actions don't line up with your will. Help my words and actions reflect you to everyone I meet. Amen."