

Type: Truth in Motion
Theme: Restoration, Resurrection
Scripture: John

Scripture: John 21:1-14

Duration: 5 min

Actors: 2

Memorization: No

Characters

Reader/Narrator - Reads scripture and narrates Peter's emotional journey

Peter ("Sad" / later "Joy") - Acts out the transformation from sadness to joy

Optional: Other Disciples

SAD TO JOY

PURPOSE: This dramatic portrayal follows Peter's journey from grief after the crucifixion to joy when he meets the risen Jesus on the shore. It reminds us that true joy comes from knowing Jesus and sharing His love. (*John 21:1–17*)

Performance Notes

- The **Narrator** and **Peter** do not interact verbally; all spoken lines are directed to the audience.
 - **Eye focus:** Unless otherwise noted, actors face the audience; avoid turning your back.
 - **Pacing:** Speak slowly, clearly, and with expression. Allow intentional pauses.
 - Movements should be meaningful, not rushed; gestures should emphasize the emotional journey from sadness to joy.
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Cast

- **Narrator**
- **Peter** — “Sad” / later “Joy”
- Optional: Other Disciples (miming the “net scene.”)

Props

- Fishing Pole
 - “Sad” Sign
 - “Joy” Sign
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SCRIPT

Narrator

(Steps forward, calm and steady.)

Peter had followed Jesus for years. When Jesus was taken away to be crucified, Peter lingered behind at a distance. Three people recognized Peter as a “follower of Jesus.” However, Peter denied Jesus saying “I do not know Him.” When Peter recognized what he had done, he went out and “wept bitterly.”

(Pause.)

After Jesus was crucified he was sad, and didn’t know what to do with himself.

(Pause.)

His heart was heavy.

(Pause.)

So he went back to the only thing he knew.

Peter

(Enters slowly from behind a divider or upstage. Shoulders slumped, head down. Sign reads SAD. Holding fishing pole.)

I’m going fishing.

(Walks to center stage, casts fishing line slowly, reels it in, repeats.)

Narrator

(Gestures toward Peter.)

But after fishing all night... he caught nothing.

(Pause.)

Not a single fish.

(Pause.)

At dawn, a man stood on the shore...
(Pause.)

But they didn't realize it was Jesus.

Narrator (as Jesus, calling out)

"Friends! Have you caught any fish?"

Peter

(Shoulders drooping, speaks softly.)

No.

Narrator (as Jesus)

"Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you'll get some!"

Peter

(Looks confused, shrugs. Then throws imaginary net to his right with a sweeping motion.)

Narrator

Suddenly the net was full—so full he could barely pull it in. There were 153 large fish!

Peter

(Points toward shore, excited.)

It's the Lord!

Narrator

Jesus said, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught. Come and have some breakfast!"

Peter

(Eyes widen. Quickly removes **Sad** sign, drops it. Pantomimes jumping forward as if diving – lands lightly.)
(Runs in place toward shore, smiling.)

Narrator

Peter raced to Jesus!

(Pause.)

And on shore... breakfast was waiting. Fish cooking over a charcoal fire, and some bread.

(Pause.)

Bread and fish, prepared by Jesus Himself.

*(Narrator gently places a **JOY** sign around Peter's neck.)*

Jesus asked him,

(Pause.)

“Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?”

Peter

(Hand to heart, then extended as if to Jesus.)

Yes Lord... You know I love You.

Narrator

(Hand extended to residents.)

“Then feed My lambs.”

Jesus asked Peter again. “Do you love Me?”

Peter

Yes, Lord... You know I love You.

Narrator

(Hand extended to residents.)

“Then take care of My sheep.”

Jesus asked a third time. “Peter, do you love me?”

Peter

(Bit of pain, then tenderness.)

Lord... You know everything. You know that I love You.

Narrator

Jesus said, "Then feed My sheep."

Jesus continued, "I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don't want to go."

And with joy restored,
(Pause.)

Peter went out to tell the whole world about Jesus.

(Pause.)

Oh, what joy for those whose sins are forgiven! (*Romans 4:7*)

The End.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Lord, thank you for meeting us right here where we are. We can be sad at times, but Your truth bring us Joy. You love us. You forgive us. Thank You for Your love.

In Jesus name, Amen

Props

- Simple fishing pole
 - Two signs reading "Sad" (later "Joy")
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Staging

Reader and Peter do not interact verbally; lines directed to audience.

Slow pacing with intentional pauses.

Movements emphasize emotional journey from sadness to joy.