

Small Group Discussion Questions—Week of June 4, 2017
Life and Light: Following Jesus Part 34: The Restoration of Peter

CONNECT

- In what area of your life do you have a tendency to compare yourself to others?
- Where do you go to get away from it all? Do you generally experience Jesus meeting you in that place?

SCRIPTURE STUDY

- Read the Key Idea and the Key Passage aloud. What caught your attention in this week's scripture or message?
- What do you see in the miracle of the fish? What would it have felt like to go from catching nothing to abundance? In what way can you apply this passage to the work we set out to accomplish?
- How did they know it was Jesus standing on the shore? What helps you recognize Jesus' presence in your everyday life?
- What are the disciples being asked to believe or do in order to follow Jesus?
- John wrote this at the end of the first century when Christians' were experiencing severe persecution. Why do you think John included these last few stories in his gospel? What hope does this offer the church today?
- In what way can your life become a living expression of Jesus' love for the world?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE—Celebrating

Reflecting back on our small group study of the Gospel of John:

- What have you appreciated most about our small group this year?
- How has your understanding of the gospel deepened or expanded over the course of this study and small group experience?
- What insight or practice has deepened your relationship with Jesus this year?
- Is there an image or verse in John that has been especially meaningful for you this year?
- How is your life different as a result of studying John? What changes have you seen in yourself (a new attitude, behavior or desire) that reflects your spiritual growth?

NEXT STEPS FOR OUR GROUP

- Do we want to gather in an informal way over the summer (consider attending an event, sharing a meal, reading a book together, finding a service project, other ideas)?
- Who is someone you wish could have the same experience you have had in small group?
- What new thing could this small group do to make room for these people to experience small groups?

PRAYER & BENEDICTION

- As you reflect on the past year, spend time praising God for the gifts you have received, the ways you have been nourished, or how you have grown in your relationship with Jesus and one another.
- Close by reading John 1:16: "From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another." Amen.

John 21:1-25 (NIV)

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: ² Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³ "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. ⁴ Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. ⁵ He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. ⁶ He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. ⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸ The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. ⁹ When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead. ¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ 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." ¹⁷ The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." ¹⁹ Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!" ²⁰ Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?") ²¹ When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?" ²² Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me." ²³ Because of this, the rumor spread among the believers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?" ²⁴ This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. ²⁵ Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

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Key Idea: Jesus restores us and calls us to follow him.

Key Verse: "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." **John 21:15**

1. Jesus feeds us. (v. 12)

Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast."

Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed... He did the same with the fish. **John 6:11**

2. Jesus redeems us. (v. 17b)

He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

John 10:10-11

3. Jesus calls us. (v. 19b)

"Follow me!"

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter). The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." **John 1:42-43**