

## **Week 12: John 21:15-25**

### **Key Theme: Jesus' Restoration of Peter**

#### **SEE my Life: Life Map & Fasting Reflection Icebreaker (15 mins)**

Share briefly how your time of fasting and reflection with your life map has gone. What is God reminding you of or teaching you through this experience? What parts of this practice would you like to continue?

**Option:** Share a time when you missed an opportunity and experienced regret. Maybe it was a job or financial opportunity, maybe it was with a relationship. Whatever the case, how do you feel about that experience now?

#### **SEE Jesus: John 21:15-25 (30 mins)**

Our focus for the discussion will be on verses 15-25, but it would be helpful to review verses 1-14 for the context of the conversation. Jesus' appearance to his disciples, and specifically his interaction with Peter, stands as one of the most powerful dialogues in all of scripture. For in this short passage, we see the centrality of Jesus' core teaching on love acted out in his restoration of Peter, after he had denied Jesus three times. The passage invites us to look back at our regrets and look forward to our mission through the lens of Jesus' love for us and our love for him now.

1. What stands out to you from the text? What word or phrase seems significant to you? What questions do you have about the text?
2. If you were on the boat yourself, what would you think of Peter? What do you think is going through his mind as he dives into the water?
3. Why do you think Jesus doesn't simply say to Peter, "You are forgiven"?
4. What is significant about Jesus' repetition of his question to Peter? Why does this approach "grieve" Peter?
5. What does Jesus mean when he says, "Feed my sheep"?
6. How does Jesus connect Peter's past to his future?
7. What does Jesus mean when he says to Peter, "Follow me"?
8. What purpose does the question about John in verses 20-24 serve?
9. As you take a closer look at Jesus through this story, what aspects of his character draw you to him?

#### **SEE my Life: Regret and Restoration (30 mins)**

As you reflect on this scene, think about the conflict between your past regrets and the mission God has for you in the future. Consider one or more of the following sets of questions.

1. Can you think of a season during your life that you genuinely regret? Maybe it was a season of rebellion against God, and you would like a do-over on some of the decisions you made. How does Jesus' treatment of Peter help you think through your past?
2. Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love me more than these?" At some level, God asks us the same question. What are the "these" in your life, that Jesus would reference by asking, "Do you love me more than \_\_\_\_\_?" How do you know that to be true?

3. Jesus commissions Peter back into ministry, and at the same time calls him to a life of sacrifice. As you think about your own life and the work that God is leading you to do, how do you feel about it? Are you excited, eager, unsure, fearful, or something else? How might Jesus' work in Peter's life encourage you today?

**SEE the practices of Jesus: Fasting and Reflection (15 mins to explain and close in prayer)**

Spend some time this week—whether you're continuing to fast or not—reflecting on what God has been teaching you through your time in the Gospel of John and your time of self-reflection with your life map. Spend some time thanking Jesus for revealing himself to you more clearly. In light of that process, ask him to help you take the next right step as he works in you and through you.

Close in prayer with a focus on your one person you have been praying for.