

GROUPS DISCUSSION GUIDE

Get Into The Word



Week of Sunday, October 12, 2025

Table of Contents

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Discussion Questions
- 3 Application Questions
- 4 Question for Families, NT 260 Reading
- 5 Resources
- 7 Commentary
- 8 Sermon Notes

**Living out our God-given calling as
we follow Jesus and make
disciples every day.**

Introduction

Feeling burdened by past mistakes or failures can often lead us to question our worthiness in God's eyes. John 21 provides a powerful example in Peter, who, despite denying Jesus three times, is restored by Christ and called back to his mission. How does Jesus' unconditional love and forgiveness redefine our perspectives on failure and restoration? Consider how God might be inviting you to move past your regrets, embrace His forgiveness, and step into the unique calling He has for your life.

Disciple Measure

Force for Good: How can you use your story for His glory in the lives of those around you?

[illegible]

Have someone read aloud...

Discuss the following questions...

1. Why do you think Peter returned to fishing after Jesus' resurrection, and what does this decision reveal about his mindset at the time?
2. What is the significance of Jesus using the same setting and elements, like the charcoal fire and miraculous catch of fish, to engage with Peter?

3. How do the different Greek words for love, "agape" and "phileo," used in Jesus' conversation with Peter, influence our understanding of their exchange?
4. How does the restoration of Peter demonstrate the difference between worldly shame and God's grace?

Notes:

Discuss the following questions...

1. How can Peter's story of redemption and restoration after failure empower us to confront our own past mistakes and seek God's forgiveness?
2. When was a time you sensed Jesus asking you, "Do you love me more than these?" What are the "these" in your life, and how can you respond?

3. How have you seen God's calling in your life? How can this understanding encourage someone struggling with their purpose?

Force for Good: How can we practically remind others of their calling and purpose, especially when they feel discouraged by past mistakes or current challenges?

Thank God for His unconditional love and grace. Ask for the courage to accept His forgiveness and the strength to move forward in faith, allowing Him to use you despite past failures.

Questions for Families

Here are some questions you can discuss with the whole family.

John 21:1-14

What do you think this passage tells us about who Jesus is and what He can do?

For younger children, encourage them to think about Jesus' ability to forgive and help Peter catch fish. With older kids, discuss how Jesus knows our hearts and offers second chances.

How do you feel when you make a mistake, and how does this passage show us that it's okay to start again?

Guide small children to understand that everyone makes mistakes and Jesus is always ready to forgive and help us begin anew. Teens can delve deeper into the idea of personal growth and learning from mistakes.

What can we do to show we love Jesus, just like Peter did when he jumped out of the boat?

Suggest to younger kids that they can pray, be kind, or tell others about Jesus. Older children might explore volunteering, helping those in need, or studying the Bible to deepen their relationship with Jesus.

NT 260

WEEK: 42

- 1 John 4
- 1 John 5
- 2 John
- 3 John
- Jude

MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 7:7-8

Resources

Resources to Listen to

BEMA Discipleship Podcast: John – Do You Even Like Me?



Marty Solomon takes a look at [John 21](#) and Peter's restoration.
(41 min)

Resources to Watch

Bible Project Guide - The Book of John



See a collection of videos and articles to guide you through the book of [John](#).
(20 min)

Bible Project Guide - Books of 1-3 John



See a collection of videos and articles to guide you through the books of [1,2,3, John](#).
(20 min)

Life Group Resources

We have a variety of resources and are continually adding new ones. Some of our resources include group launch guides, on-demand training modules, and curriculum resources. To request a resource, reach out to us at groups@longhollow.com.

D-Group Resources

If you or someone you know would like to start a D-group, we have everything you need, including reading plans, journals, and a launch guide to walk you through the first four meetings.



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Commentary

Notes:

What's Going On?

In this passage from John 21, we witness a beautiful moment of restoration between Jesus and Peter. The scene unfolds after Jesus' resurrection, when He appears to His disciples by the Sea of Tiberias. This chapter marks an epilogue to the Gospel of John and addresses what happens to Peter after he denied knowing Jesus three times. The literary context focuses on how Jesus gently brings Peter back into fellowship. The story mirrors earlier events in the Gospel, recalling the moment when Jesus first called Peter to be a disciple, by the same sea, asking him to follow and become a "fisher of men."

The writing highlights themes of forgiveness and renewal as Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves Him, paralleling Peter's earlier three denials. By doing this, Jesus allows Peter to affirm his love and restore their relationship. The imagery of fishing, nets, and meals reinforces the idea of community and shared purpose among the disciples. John 21 showcases that even after failure, one can still find purpose and belonging through Christ, drawing readers to understand the depth of Jesus' forgiveness and the call to love and service.

Biblical Timeline



Notes:

A Bit of Background

The narrative occurs after Jesus’ resurrection, a pivotal event in Christian belief, which affirms His divine nature and the promise of new life for believers. During this time, Peter is wrestling with the shame of having denied Jesus for fear of persecution, a serious social and spiritual failing in first-century Jewish culture. To deny one’s teacher, especially in a community that valued honor and loyalty, meant severing ties with the group. After the resurrection, as the early Church began to form, Peter’s leadership was crucial.

Jesus’ act of publicly restoring Peter not only healed their relationship but also reestablished Peter’s role among the disciples. The setting by the Sea of Tiberias (also known as the Sea of Galilee) is itself significant. It symbolizes a return to beginnings, as Peter had once left this life of fishing to follow Jesus. Now, through this encounter, he is reaffirmed in his mission. The historical context underscores the radical nature of Jesus’ message, that failure doesn’t define one’s future, and that anyone can be restored and used for divine purposes.

John 21

Book of Revelation

Birth of
Christ

Crucifixion
and Resurrection

Sermon Notes

John 21:1-14 CSB

After this, Jesus revealed himself again to his disciples by the Sea of Tiberias. , He revealed himself in this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (called “Twin”), Nathanael from Cana of Galilee, Zebedee’s sons, and two others of his disciples were together. “I’m going fishing,” Simon Peter said to them. “We’re coming with you,” they told him. They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. When daybreak came, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not know it was Jesus. “Friends,” Jesus called to them, “you don’t have any fish, do you? ” “No,” they answered. “Cast the net on the right side of the boat,” he told them, “and you’ll find some.” So they did, and they were unable to haul it in because of the large number of fish. The disciple, the one Jesus loved, said to Peter, “It is the Lord! ” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he tied his outer clothing around him (for he had taken it off) and plunged into the sea. Since they were not far from land (about a hundred yards , away), the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish. When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish lying on it, and bread. “Bring some of the fish you’ve just caught,” Jesus told them. So Simon Peter climbed up and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish—153 of them. Even though there were so many, the net was not torn. “Come and have breakfast,” Jesus told them. None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you? ” because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread, and gave it to them. He did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared , to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

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Living out our God-given calling as we follow Jesus and make disciples every day.

Spirit-Led Follower

A disciple who walks with Jesus daily, anchoring their lives to God's Word and obediently following the Holy Spirit where He leads.

Intentional Friend

A disciple who is always looking for ways to care for others and meet their needs. This is a practical way to be present in the lives of those around us.

Humble Guide

A disciple who is a humble guide takes every opportunity to help people take their next step closer to Jesus. This is someone who is constantly looking for opportunities to have Gospel conversations and speak truth into someone's life.

Force For Good

When a disciple lives out their God-given calling, they naturally become a force for good where they live, work, and play. This type of person is looking for opportunities to meet needs, heal brokenness, and bring tangible hope to the people in their life and in their community.



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