

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of February 28-March 6, 2021

“HOW TO FOLLOW JESUS”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Can you think of a time when a mistake that you made affected other people? What happened?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read John 21:15-23.

1. Given Peter's bold proclamation that he would die before denying Christ (Matt. 26:35; John 13:36), how would you expect Jesus to confront him? How does Jesus interact with Peter in these verses? What does this tell us about him?
2. Why do you think Peter denied our Lord? What are some reasons or situations when a Christian would deny Christ?
3. How does Jesus address Peter in this dialogue? Are there other times when Jesus addresses Peter this way? (Read Matthew 16:13-17; Mark 14:32-38; and Luke 22:31-32.) What is significant about Simon's name change and the fact that Jesus in John 21 does not use the name that he has given to Simon?
4. Look again at the dialogue between Jesus and Peter. What did Jesus ask Peter to do? Based on what you know about Peter's life, how did he handle the task? In what ways are you encouraged by Jesus' conversation with Peter? In what ways are you like Peter in the way he responded to Jesus?
5. What question does Peter ask Jesus concerning John? Read John 21:21. Why would Peter ask this question or even be concerned about John? What is the crucial issue revealed in Jesus' response to Peter (v. 22)? How is this linked with verses 15-17?

6. How might remembering the resurrection of Jesus and the restoration of Peter change your perspective on your past failures? How might remembering these things empower you for ministry and service in the present?

7. When have you compared yourself with someone else and wondered why his/her life was the way it was? How did that affect your desire to serve God? How might you be more humble in your service for Christ?

8. [NEXT STEPS]

The question is not, “Are you serving Christ?” but, “Why do you serve him?”

- I will submit and obey to Jesus' call in my life.
- I will be careful to count the cost.
- I will not be defined by my failures but by the love of Christ.
- I will not compare myself with others.
- I will reconcile with _____.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.
- Commit 30 minutes a day for God's intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for a genuine heart to follow Jesus.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.