

Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!

Open

As we finish up our *Unexpected Messiah* series this week, Pastor Don walks us through Chapter 21 of the book of John. In this chapter, John describes one of the last appearances of Jesus after He rose from the dead, and it begins with seven of the disciples fishing from a boat on the Sea of Galilee. So to get your group started today, let everyone share their favorite fishing, hunting, or camping story...

BIG THOUGHT

Even through all of our failures and faults, Jesus wants to be in a loving relationship with us.

1. Read John 21:1-3. To understand why these seven disciples are now 90 miles from Jerusalem, read Mark 16:7 - why are they there? What do you think their conversations were on the way? What do you hear in Peter's decision (v. 3) - boredom? Frustration? Confusion? Something else? How would you have felt after catching nothing all night?
2. Now read v. 4-5. How long do you think Jesus stood on the shore before He called out to them? Why? What do you think made it difficult to recognize Jesus after He came back from the dead? (see also 20:14-16) How annoyed would you have been after not catching anything to have some guy question your fishing skills from the shore?

3. Read v. 6. What happens? Now read Luke 5:1-11 - why do you think Jesus chose to reveal Himself again in this way at this point to the disciples? Is there a certain way that Jesus consistently seems to reveal Himself to you? Share with the group if you can...
4. Read v. 7-9. Who was the first one to realize it was Jesus? And the second? How is this similar to John 20:1-9? Do you think that some people are naturally more ready to respond to Jesus than others? How would you describe yourself? Explain.
5. Now read v. 10-14. Why do you think John wanted us to know the exact number of fish they caught? What do you think was going through the disciples' minds when the first thing Jesus told them was to simply come and eat breakfast - what would you have been thinking? And again, what do you think was different about Jesus' appearance? (v. 12). Why is it important to know that Jesus physically ate the food with them? (v. 13, 15)

Take it Further

With this simple breakfast, Jesus demonstrates to the disciples that their failures haven't changed His love for them. And by reminding them of the first time He called them to follow Him (by repeating the miracle of the fish), He re-energizes their sense of mission. Talk with God about the failures you need to move past, and ask Him to remind you right now of the good things He has planned for you.

Daily Verse Readings

Day 1: Ephesians 2:4-5

Day 4: Romans 8:38-39

Day 2: Romans 5:8

Day 5: Psalm 86:5

Day 3: Psalm 126:3

Day 6: John 3:17

Memory Verses: John 21:4



1651 Dutch Fork Rd. Irmo, SC
www.gatewaybc.com