



Week 3

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: JOHN 21:15 - 25

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." 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." 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. 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." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!" 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?") When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?" Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me." 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?" This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. 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.

ADULT DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. In John's Gospel, he typically refers to Simon as "Peter" at this point. Why? (See John 1:42). Here John refers to him as Simon Peter and when Jesus addresses him he calls him "Simon" instead of Peter. What's the significance of this? Why might Jesus call Peter by his birth name, Simon?
2. Jesus asks if Peter loves him "more than these". Though we don't know for sure, what might be the "these", Jesus is referring to? If Jesus is asking Peter whether he loves Jesus more than all the other disciples, what might Peter's answer to that be now? Read Matthew 26:30-33. How might Peter's answer have been different if he'd been asked the same question on the night Jesus was arrested? If "these" refers to the fish that had just been caught, what would be the significance of that? What would Jesus be asking Peter?
3. When Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love me?" He uses the word "agape" for love. Ancient Greeks may have had at least 8 words for love and each word represented a different aspect of love. Agape means unconditional love. It was the kind of selfless and universal love that was typically attributed to God. When Peter answers, "you know I love you." John records that Peter is using the word "philia" for love. Philia is a friendship type of love and it's why the city of Philadelphia means "brotherly love". The second time Jesus asks Peter whether he loves Jesus and Peter says he does, Jesus again uses the word "agape" and Peter again answers with the word "philia".

ADULT DISCUSSION GUIDE CONTINUED

Why would Peter answer with a different type of love than what Jesus had asked him about? What's the significance of this?

4. When Peter says he loves Jesus, Jesus responds by asking Peter to “feed” and then “tend” his sheep. Think of what you know about shepherds in the time of the bible. What would the challenge of being a shepherd mean for Peter? Jesus didn't own any literal sheep. What were the “sheep” that Jesus is referring to? Read Matthew 22:36-40. What does Jesus say are the greatest commandments? Jesus essentially tells Peter, if 1 (you love me) then 2 (love your neighbor as yourself). How is this command relevant today? With this is the criteria, are we doing a good job of showing our love for God?

5. Jesus asked Peter a third time if Peter loves him and Peter was “grieved” or “hurt” to be asked again. Have you ever been hurt when someone repeats the same instruction or question to you over and over? Why? What's the significance of Jesus asking Peter 3 times? This third time, Jesus uses the word “Philia” instead of “agape” when asking Peter if he loves Jesus. Why might Jesus have altered the question?

6. Jesus didn't try to shame or humiliate Peter. How might have Peter responded differently if Jesus had asked Peter to “say he was sorry and promise never to do it again” instead of challenging Peter to love?

7. It seems clear from the next few verses that at least some of the other disciples were around and this was not a private conversation between Jesus and Peter. What's the significance of Peter being restored in the presence of the other disciples?

8. Jesus asks Peter to follow him. Jesus has asked Peter to do this before. How is this circumstance different? How is it the same? Peter immediately looks back at John (the author of this gospel) and asks, “what about him?” Can you relate to Peter here? Jesus just gave Peter a pretty grim prophecy about the end of his life. Why would Peter be more concerned about John than his is about his own death?

9. Last week we discussed how John's gospel originally ended after Chapter 20, but John felt the need to add on to it. In fact, John tells us in his final verse that Jesus did many more things, but he couldn't write them all down. Why might John have felt the need to add this clarification Jesus didn't promise he wouldn't die?

John was the last living disciple and he'd survived several attempts on his life. There was a rumor among early Christians, that Jesus had said John wouldn't die.

STUDENTS DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Peter denied being a follower of Jesus three times during Jesus arrest. have you ever been pushed aside by a person or group of people? If so, what does it feel like? If not, what do you think it feels like? Also, how quickly would you be able to forgive that person or group of people? What does this tell you about who Jesus is because of how he receives peter in the story?
2. Jesus gives Peter an important job to do for the Kingdom despite the mistakes that he has made in the past. What does this tell you about who Jesus is? How does it make you feel knowing God still has a plan/job for you despite your mistakes?
3. Jesus tells Peter "follow me." In what ways or areas in your life do you feel like you can better follow Jesus?
4. Immediately after Peter decide follow Jesus he start worrying about what other people are doing. Jesus asks him, "what's it to you?" Jesus was convicting Peter that he was worrying about other people stayed more than his own. Do you find yourself worrying about other people more sometimes than yourself? If so how has this drug down? what can you do to change your focus?
5. We are all called to lead other people to faith, but not at the expense of losing our own. likewise, we cannot lead people to have faith that we do not have ourselves. Jesus was trying to help Peter understand this balance. Do you feel like you are in a good place spiritually to be able to share your faith why or why not? if not, what changes do you need to make in order to feel confident enough in the Lord using you for the growth of his Kingdom?

Here's Your Challenge:

- o This week we talked about Jesus giving Peter a second chance. often times, because of the mistakes that we make in our life, the enemy makes us feel like we aren't worthy of a second chance. Write down in a journal:
 1. Why do you feel like you aren't worthy of a second chance
 2. What do you feel like God is leading you to do with your infinite chances that he gives you

KIDS DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Peter messed up THREE times in the same way! But Jesus loved Him and gave Him a chance to continue trying to do the right thing. Have you ever messed up? Disobeyed? Not done something well? Lied about something? Talked back to your parents or teachers? Were you given a second chance to correct your behavior?
2. Think about the use of the number three:
 - "I'm going to count to three..."
 - "Three strikes and you're out"
 - "Third time's a charm."Three seems to be the number that says "ok that's it". Peter denied Jesus 3 times. But then Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him... maybe as a reminder to Peter? Is there something that you could remember about Jesus when you see or hear the number three?
3. What do you need everyday? Sleep? Shelter? Food? Water? A toothbrush? We learn in our story today that everyone needs the love of Jesus. But in order to share that love, we first have to receive that love from Jesus. Ask God to help you know and understand just how loved you are by Him!
4. Peter was worried about the other disciples and what Jesus' plan was for them and how they were going to serve. But His job was made clear to Him... Feed Jesus' sheep! If you're going to follow Jesus, how would you start? What do you know He has asked you to do?
5. John said that Jesus did many things not written in the Bible and that Jesus did SO MUCH that not even the whole world could hold those words. Find the biggest/longest book in you house. Thank God for everything that Jesus did while He was on earth!

Family Activities:

- o Elementary & Preschool: Find things in your house to make a sheep. This could be on paper or in statue form, or using a family member! Remember that we have a GOOD SHEPHERD!
- o Elementary: Make a list of all of the things that you know Jesus did while on earth. See how many you can list!