

## Compelling Portrait Part 11: Restoration

**Objective:** To challenge us to accept the forgiveness of Jesus and to offer forgiveness to others so that we can be a part of the restoration process in our world.

**Read together:**

*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."*

*16 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."*

*17 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. 18 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." 19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"*

**John 21:15-19**

[Some of the questions this week may be a bit personal so it's OK not to discuss them if you aren't comfortable with it.]

- How would you define forgiveness?
- Why is forgiveness so hard to offer and why can it be difficult to receive?
- Does forgiveness mean the relationship is automatically restored? Why or why not? If not, what is necessary for restoration?
- The Pastor said, "Forgiveness can happen in a moment, but restoration can take a lifetime." Has that been your experience? What happens when forgiveness takes more than a moment? How does that effect restoration?
- Have you ever had a relationship that needed to be restored? If so, was it restored and what was involved in the restoration process? How did the relationship change after the restoration process took place.
- What do you think about the idea that forgiveness always has the goal of restoration? The pastor also said, "If you can't pay and work towards restoration, you haven't fully forgiven." Do you agree or disagree with that? Why?
- How should the fact that when Jesus forgives us, he always has restoration in mind impact your relationship with him?

**Final Thought:** Jesus forgives us and calls us to forgive others. His goal is always to bring about restoration. That should be our goal as well.

**This Week:** Think about the forgiveness and restoration Jesus has offered you. Consider who you need to offer that same forgiveness and restoration too.

