

Summer By The Sea

Week 6: Just Getting Started

Objective: To invite us to live on mission for Jesus in spite of past failures.

ICEBREAKER: Have you ever made a mistake that felt much bigger than it really was—or perhaps one that genuinely carried significant consequences?

- How did you respond?
- Did someone help you recover, or did you feel like you had to earn your way back?

1. When Failure Feels Final

The sermon began by asking whether we've ever done something that left us feeling "disqualified."

- Why does failure often feel like the end of the story?
- What lies do we tend to believe after we fail?
- Have you ever felt like God couldn't use you because of something you had done?

2. Going Back to What We Know

After denying Jesus, Peter says:

"I'm going out to fish."

- Why do you think Peter returned to fishing?
- Why do we often retreat to what is familiar after failure?
- Have you ever found yourself settling for what feels safe because you no longer believed God could use you?

3. Jesus Meets Peter Where He Is

Before confronting Peter, Jesus prepares breakfast and invites the disciples to eat.

- What does this scene reveal about Jesus' heart?
- Why do you think Jesus begins with hospitality rather than correction?
- How does this challenge the way we often imagine God responding to our failures?

4. Trying to Prove Our Worth

The sermon observed that Peter seemed to be overcompensating—jumping into the water, dragging the entire net ashore, and working overtime to prove he was still useful.

- Why do we often try to "make up" for our failures?
- What are some ways people try to earn God's approval?
- How does grace free us from having to prove ourselves?

5. "Do You Love Me?"

Three times Jesus asks Peter the same question:

"Do you love me?"

- Why didn't Jesus ask Peter to prove himself?
- Why do you think love—not performance—is the foundation of discipleship?
- How is Jesus' question still relevant to us today?

6. Restored for Purpose

The central truth of the sermon was:

Jesus doesn't simply restore us from failure. He restores us for purpose.

- What is the difference between being restored *from* failure and being restored *for* purpose?
- Why is it important that Jesus immediately gives Peter a renewed mission?
- How does this shape the way we think about our own failures?

7. Jesus Redeems Who Peter Already Is

The sermon pointed out that Jesus didn't erase Peter's personality—He redeemed it.

- Peter's boldness became courage.
- His leadership became service.
- His willingness to work became ministry.
- What strengths has God given you?
- How might He want to redeem or redirect those strengths for His Kingdom?
- Why is surrender necessary before our gifts can be fully used by God?

8. Personal Application

Bring it home personally.

- Is there a failure you've been carrying that still shapes how you see yourself?
- Have you been trying to prove your worth—or have you been hiding from your calling?
- What would it look like to receive Jesus' grace and step back into His purpose for your life?

FINAL THOUGHT

Peter believed his greatest failure had defined his future.

Jesus knew better.

He didn't ignore Peter's failure.

He didn't excuse it.

He redeemed it.

Then He reminded Peter of the calling that had always been there.

Jesus still does the same today.

He restores broken people—not merely so they can feel forgiven—but so they can once again participate in His mission.

Jesus doesn't simply restore us from failure. He restores us for purpose.

THIS WEEK – RETURN TO THE FIRE

This week, spend time reflecting on where Jesus may be inviting you to experience His restoring grace.

STOP

Stop trying to earn God's approval or prove your worth.

RECEIVE

Spend time thanking Jesus for His grace instead of dwelling on your failures.

SURRENDER

Ask God to show you how He wants to redeem your gifts, experiences, and even your failures for His purposes.

STEP FORWARD

Take one intentional step toward the purpose God has placed before you—whether it's serving, encouraging someone, reconciling a relationship, or simply saying "yes" to His call.

Ask yourself each day:

Am I allowing my failure to define me—or am I allowing Jesus to restore me for His purpose?