

Talk About It

Small Group Discussion Guide

God Encounters

Peter

June 8-11, 2023

Start Talking

Pastor Jackson showed a funny Tik-Tok (video) during his teaching. Talk about what you thought of the video.

Main Idea

This week in our God Encounters Series, Pastor Jackson talked about one of the most important encounters in the Bible between two people who impacted the future of the Church: Peter and Jesus. Peter loved Jesus and said he would never deny Him but Peter did deny Jesus three times before Jesus' arrest. We can imagine the shame and guilt Peter felt after that. But after Jesus' resurrection, He continued to pursue Peter, met with him, didn't condemn him, offered him mercy, and Jesus reinstated Peter to go and live out his purpose.

Personalize It

1. God's mercy is a package deal that includes forgiveness and grace but also ownership, and responsibility. How have you experienced God's mercy in your life? What does each of the four parts of the "package deal" of mercy mean to you?
2. The evidence of a sincere heart transformation is changed behavior. Loving Jesus means having a two-way relationship with Him. It is not only about receiving from Him all the time but also giving to Him and doing what He wants us to do. Have you always thought of mercy this way? How does this impact you?
3. God's mercy is both personal and purposeful. Peter had a choice to make at the end of his conversation with Jesus. Peter doesn't get back into the boat and go back to his old way of life, he's changed because of God's mercy, and he goes on to fulfill his purpose, which included boldly preaching at the Day of Pentecost!
Here are two truths Peter believed. Do you believe them too?
Truth #1 - I believe God can really save me.
Truth #2 - I believe God can really use me.
Do you need to receive the truth and believe God can really save you or that God can really use you?

Let's Do It!

1. Identify an area of your life you either need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness or any area of your life you need to take ownership and responsibility.
2. Find time this week to thank God for all the times He has shown you mercy in your life.
3. Identify where God wants to use you to show His mercy to others. What's your next step to do this?

Take some time to talk about Baptism at Cypress on June 22 and 25. Is baptism the next step for someone in your group? Q&A, Videos, and Registration here: <https://cypresschurch.tv/baptism>
Is Getting Started the next step for someone in your group? Allowing God to work through you and joining a Difference Maker Team is an important next step. Complete Steps 1 & 2 online and then register for Step 3 in-person on June 25th. <https://gettingstarted.cypresschurch.tv/>

Pray Lord, Thank You for Who You are and thank You for this chance we get to meet. Thank You for the mercy and kindness You extend to us daily, even when we don't deserve it. God, if there is any area of our lives, in which we need to receive mercy and grace, we choose to receive that now. God, if there is any area of our life that we need to take ownership and responsibility, we ask for the courage to do so. Lord, help us identify the people You have put in our lives to extend Your mercy toward. We love You and praise You. In Jesus' name, we pray, AMEN.

Key Scriptures John 18:25-27 (NLT)
Meanwhile, as Simon Peter was standing by the fire warming himself, they asked him again, "You're not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it, saying, "No, I am not." But one of the household slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Didn't I see you out there in the olive grove with Jesus?" Again Peter denied it. And immediately a rooster crowed.

John 21:4-17 (NLT)
At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn't see who he was. He called out, "Fellows, have you caught any fish?" "No," they replied. Then he said, "Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you'll get some!" So they did, and they couldn't haul in the net because there were so many fish in it. Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his tunic (for he had stripped for work), jumped into the water, and headed to shore. The others stayed with the boat and pulled the loaded net to the shore, for they were only about a hundred yards from shore. When they got there, they found breakfast waiting for them—fish cooking over a charcoal fire, and some bread. "Bring some of the fish you've just caught," Jesus said. So Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore. There were 153 large fish, and yet the net hadn't torn. "Now come and have some breakfast!" Jesus said. None of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Then Jesus served them the bread and the fish. This was the third time Jesus had appeared to his disciples since he had been raised from the dead. After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," Peter replied, "you know I love you." "Then feed my lambs," Jesus told him. Jesus repeated the question: "Simon son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Lord," Peter said, "you know I love you." "Then take care of my sheep," Jesus said. A third time he asked him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Then feed my sheep."

Acts 2:36-38 (NLT)
"So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!" Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"

1 Peter 2: 9-10 (NLT)
But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. "Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy."

1 Peter 2:10 (NLT)
Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy.