

SAC Small Groups Discussion Guide – Apr. 19th, 2026

This guide comes with the expectation that even if someone has missed the Sunday service, they have watched the sermon before coming to their small group.

Fellowship Time

Make sure to have time where people can chat and catch up. This section could include a dinner together, having a potluck, preparing snacks, etc. The key to this section is make people feel welcomed and seen.

Read the Scripture & Overview Aloud Together

This section contains the text and a brief summary of the sermon that was preached on Sunday. It will have the main point explained as a way to help those remember the sermon. This is not an in-depth overview because the expectation is that everyone will take the time to listen to the sermon. Make sure to read this aloud for everyone to hear.

Text

John 21:15-25

15 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!" 20 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?") 21 When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?" 22 Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me." 23 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?" 24 This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. 25 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.

Overview of Sermon

This week, we wrapped up our series in the Gospel of John by looking at an exchange between Peter and Jesus. Peter was one of Jesus' closest disciples and friends throughout Jesus' ministry. Peter declared in John 13:37, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Peter's declaration of loyalty and sacrifice was met with Jesus' prophetic word that Peter would

in fact do the opposite and deny Jesus three times. As Jesus was being questioned by the religious leaders, Peter does in fact deny Jesus three times just as Jesus predicted in John 18. After Jesus' death and resurrection, this is the first instance where we see Jesus and Peter alone together. Jesus asks Peter the same question three times, "Do you love me" with Peter responding, "Yes Lord, you know that I love you" and Jesus then charging Peter with feeding his sheep. In the Greek, Jesus is using the word agape (AH-GAHP-PE) and Peter is using the word, phileo (PHEE-LEE-OH). Agape is the love itself and finds its ultimate example in Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for the world. Phileo, storge, and eros are all forms or variants of the derived root, agape. Peter's response is not a lesser kind of love for Jesus, but rather the appropriate response to his relationship with Jesus as his friend and brother. Jesus is restoring Peter by asking him the same amount of times that Peter denied Jesus. Jesus then commissions Peter to feed, tend, and take care of his sheep. This commission is the extension of Peter's love for Jesus, to do as His rabbi taught him to do. Jesus was Peter's rabbi, he spent three years learning from Jesus, from the Good Shepherd himself, to now do all that Jesus had done.

Jesus then predicted Peter's death as a way to highlight that Peter would remain faithful to Jesus and that even his death would bring glory to God. Jesus having prophesied Peter's failure now prophesies Peter's future of discipleship. Peter's call is follow Jesus just as the beloved disciple is also called to follow Jesus. Peter then compares with this disciple to which Jesus essentially tells him that it's none of his business and the only discipleship journey he can control is his own. John concludes his gospel by noting that he did not include everything that Jesus did and that if he did, there would not be enough room in the world for all the books written. Jesus was full of agape love that would have even transformed how he did the little things or mundane things in his life. Todd Hall, a Christian psychologist, defined agape love as, "[it] is intrinsically about desiring and working toward what is objectively good for the other, according to God's design of human nature". Jesus' life was modelled on service, love, and compassion for those around him. To put Jesus at the centre means to have the love of Jesus that is given to us, reciprocated to God and others.

Discussion Questions

These questions are prompts to help the group have meaningful dialogue over the sermon this past weekend. Do not feel the need to ask all these questions. You are more than welcome to create your own questions or mix the questions together.

Connection to Other (Icebreaker/Light)

- What is one thing you regret quitting when you did or something you wish you had quit sooner?

Connection to Head (Study/Knowledge Questions)

- Read the passage in John again. What does this passage teach us about the character of Jesus?

Connection to Heart (Deeper Engagement)

- If agape love is defined as desiring and working toward what is objectively good for others according to God's design, how does this reshape the way we love those who are difficult or different from us?
- The sermon suggests that falling off the path does not disqualify us from getting back on. What lies or shame might be keeping you from returning to declare your love for Jesus and receive His forgiveness?
- When Jesus redirects Peter's attention from John's path back to his own discipleship with 'what is that to you,' how does comparison with other believers distract us from our unique calling?

Reflect and Discuss the Practice and Prayer.

This is an opportunity for accountability and formation in your group. Accountability to ensure people are practicing the practices and formation because we believe that these practices will shape and form us into the people that God intended us to be. Take time to practice this together and reflect on each person's experience of these practices.

Practice: Surrender to Jesus, declare your love for Jesus, and be sent out by Jesus.

- Take time to pray in pairs or triads. Share what you feel like God is calling you to surrender.
- Have the others in your pairs or triads place their hand on your shoulder and intercede on your behalf to Jesus.
- At the end of the prayer, the person being prayed for can ask God to fill them with His love and joy.
- Repeat for everyone who wants to be prayed for.

Prayer: Lord, here I am. I yield myself to you. May your will be my delight. May your love be the pattern of my being and of my living. Jesus. My saviour, my friend, and my God would you fill me anew with the Holy Spirit and take what is broken in my life. I pray this in your name, Amen.

Prayer Together.

Take some time to pray with each other. This is not a time for gossip or to be cynical, this is an opportunity to share with each other our burdens, to celebrate and praise God together, and to pray expectantly that God would move.