

Dear Life Group Leaders,

This week we have come to the end of our journey through John's Gospel. For some it may have seemed a long journey, whilst others would have loved to abide in some of the passages we have skated across for multiple weeks. In your Life Group meetings I would love you to spend some time looking back and reviewing our time in John, and some time looking forward and praying into advent and Christmas. Spend some time looking at John 21 and using these questions to help your discussion, but also make some time for people to reflect on one or two things that God has said to them this year as we have been working through the gospel together.

God bless and happy Christmas!

Simon

(This week's Life Group Guide was prepared by Simon Elliott, who is lead elder of Everyday Church)

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

John 25:1-25

This week's BIG IDEA: the physicality of the resurrection and a gospel overview in how Jesus restores Peter.

Please read John 21:1-6

1. Why do these verses sound familiar? Where else have you come across them in the New Testament??

[Leaders note: Luke 5:1-11.]

2. Who are the key characters in both accounts?
3. What is similar?
4. What is different?

Please read John 21:7-14

5. What do these verses reveal to us about Jesus resurrection body?
 6. Why might that be important?
 7. Why do you think John includes details like the fact that there were 153 fish?
 8. What might be the significance of phrase "This was now the third time...."?
- [Leaders note: Deuteronomy 19:15 might help.]*

Please read John 21:15-25

9. Why do you think Jesus asks Peter a similar question 3 times?
10. Why does Jesus refer to Peter as Simon son of John?
11. In what ways does Peter's restoration by Jesus point us to the gospel and our own salvation?
12. Have you done something in the past that still plagues your conscience? How could this reinstatement of Peter lead you to be reinstated in your relationship with Christ and with Christ's purpose reinstated in your life?
13. Why do you think John includes verses 22-24, and what application might we draw from Jesus' reply to Peter?

Prayer and Worship: As we head into Advent spend some time in worship thanking God for the gift of Jesus at Christmas. You could find your favourite carol and use it to provoke prayers of thanks.

Spend some time thinking about and praying for those you could invite to one of the advent Sundays or Carol Services in your venue.