

## TALK IT OVER

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

**BIG IDEA:** Real love involves duty and devotion to God.

**With your Bible, read John 21:15-25.** The story of Peter's denial and Jesus' reinstatement is one of the most beautiful in the New Testament. Even after personal failures, God is able to use us in the service of others. The central issues in our relationship with Jesus remain do we love Him, and will we follow Him alone? (see v. 19) The heart of serving Jesus is still caring for His sheep. And in it all we are to concentrate on our own commitment to Christ as Lord, not be distracted by worrying about others.

Break into teams of three to four. Each team is to identify as many personal applications of this passage to our Christian lives as they can.

Come together and work up a combined list of personal applications. Then, go around the circle. Ask each person to share which application is most important to him or to her, and share why.

### Questions for gospel transformation:

1. Where in my life can others see that I am following Jesus more closely?
2. How is it clear that I am operating in my "sweet spot" according to my spiritual gift?
3. Am I finding joy in serving my church in a meaningful way? Why?
4. Would I want everyone I know to pray and study the Bible like me?
5. Do I have 2-3 people outside and inside of my family that I am helping to grow spiritually?
6. What have I done lately to "build a bridge" for the purpose of sharing the gospel?

**Use these prayer tips to talk it over with God and to expand your conversations both in person and online:**

- In prayer, confess those areas of your life where you have been self reliant and self dependent. Ask Him for His peace and purpose.
- Commit to God in prayer that you will strive to depend on Christ and the gospel, especially during dark times.
- Pray for someone you know who's dealing with a tragedy or going hard times. Ask God to comfort them.

### NEXT STEPS

Here are some specific things you can do this week to help you better understand why we endure difficult times and how you can build your trust in God.

#### Link to Life: Children

Boys and girls are able to make a heart response to Jesus as Savior. We cannot "program" this response. And we should not manipulate children into a "profession of faith" that they do not understand. What can we do then? We can share the story of Jesus, His death, and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins. And then we can give each child a chance to pray, thanking God for forgiveness, saying thank You for the gift of eternal life. Let each child, in his own way, express appreciation for and trust in the Savior.

#### Link to Life: Adults

Go deeper into the Bible this week read Matthew 4:18-19, Matthew 16: 24, Matthew 22:39 & Galatians 6:2 this series. Go to our Facebook page and read through the daily posts that explore the ideas from this message in other parts of the Bible. Leave a comment to share how the crucified and risen Christ brings peace into your life:

**Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking It over online.**

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