



Stretched but not Torn

Personal or group-based guide for additional study

Small Group Guide: Stretched, but not Torn

Opening Prayer

Key Scripture: John 21:11 - "Simon Peter went up and drew the net to the land full of large fish, 153. And although there were so many, *the net was not torn* (italics added for emphasis)."

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the image of the net being stretched but not torn represent in our lives as Christians?
2. The pastor mentioned several examples of "stretching" in life. Can you share a time when you felt stretched in your faith? How did you handle it?
3. Why is staying connected to the church crucial when we're going through difficult times?
4. How does staying connected to Christ help us survive stretching? What specific ways did the sermon mention?
5. The sermon talks about Jesus giving words of peace, purpose, help, and significance. Which of these resonates most with you right now and why?
6. How does showing love (charity) to others help us when we're being stretched?
7. What struck you most about the example of Jesus being stretched but not torn?

Key Takeaways:



1. We all experience stretching in our faith and life, but we can survive without being torn apart.
2. Staying connected to the church and to Christ is essential for surviving stretching.
3. God provides words of encouragement, purpose, and significance even in our struggles.
4. Showing love to others can help release tension when we're being stretched.
5. Jesus himself experienced stretching but was not torn, providing an example for us.

Practical Applications:

1. Identify an area in your life where you feel stretched. Commit to staying connected to the church and Christ through this challenge.
2. Reach out to someone in the church who might be going through a difficult time. Offer support and encouragement.
3. Practice showing love (charity) to someone who has wronged you or is difficult to love.
4. Spend time this week meditating on one of Jesus' words of encouragement mentioned in the sermon (peace, purpose, help, or significance).
5. Share your testimony of a time when you were stretched but not torn with someone who needs encouragement.

Closing Prayer

Encourage group members to support each other in prayer throughout the week, especially in areas where they feel stretched.