

the gospel of

# JOHN

all intents and purposes

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### **WEEK 15: THE INTENTIONAL AND PERSONAL LOVE OF JESUS**

#### **Read the Text**

#### **John 21:1-19**

9 When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. 10 Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” 11 So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. 14 This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” 16 He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” 17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. 18 Truly,

truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” 19 (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

## Main Point

As we reach the end of the Gospel of John, we see Jesus bring restoration to His disciples. It’s crazy to think that with the limited time He had back on earth, that He would be so intentional and personal with His relationships. But the truth of the matter is that **Jesus’ love is thoughtful, intentional, and caring**. While He could have been curing diseases, preaching to the masses, or performing miracles, He instead approached His disciples, provided for them, fed them, and lovingly encouraged them. What’s more is that the last interaction between Jesus before His crucifixion and Peter was when Peter denied Jesus three times. Despite that deep betrayal, Jesus not only forgives Peter, but restores Him. This good news applies to us as well! **Jesus not only forgives us, but He restores us as well**. This restoration isn’t an end in itself though. **The restoration that Jesus offers leads us to pursue the cosmic priorities that Jesus has for us**. We see this in the life of Peter! After his restoration, he goes on to lead the Church to the point of martyrdom. This restoration and call to Kingdom-purpose is offered to us as well. All we need to do is accept the love of Jesus and follow Him.

## Reflect Together

1. **Who is God?** Why do you think Jesus chose to pursue His disciples instead of doing larger-scale ministry during his time back on earth?
2. **What has He done?:** How has Jesus intentionally pursued you in large and small ways?

3. **Who are you?:** Do you ever struggle to believe that God is too big to be with you or that you're not worthy of His restoration of you? Why do you think that is? How can you go to Him to release your burden?
4. **What are you to do?:** We are loved and restored. And that love and restoration is meant to lead us to follow Jesus and make disciples. Where in your life would you like to grow in this calling? Is it pursuing a neighbor? Talking more openly about your faith? Serving in a ministry or community organization?

### **Abide Together**

Pray together about what came up during discussion. Pray for those who struggle to accept the love and restoration that Jesus offers them.

### **Mission Together**

Where in your life would you like to share the love of Jesus with others? What is one step you can take towards that this week? Is there anything your DNA or MC could do together?