



SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS, 2022

Week 7: John 21

OPENING DISCUSSION

Highs and Lows, >10 minutes

In one or two sentences, have each group member share one good moment and one difficult moment from your past week.

Responses from Sunday Worship, >10 minutes

Before we begin our discussion about the Scripture reading, is there any part of this past Sunday's worship service about stewardship and the call to faithfully hold our resources and exclaim, "Yours, God!" instead of "Mine!"?

Upcoming Events

Special Thanksgiving Worship Service: Tuesday, November 22 at 7pm in the Sanctuary

Women's Advent Breakfast: Saturday, December 3 at 9am in Fellowship Hall (register closed)

PHC on Ice at South Park Ice Rink: Sunday, December 18 at 6:30pm (registration opens Sunday, 11/27)

A READING AND QUIET MEDITATION ON GOD'S WORD

As you prepare to discuss personal reflections about God's presence in your lives, use the following passage of Scripture to focus your hearts and minds on Christ.

Have one person from the group read the passage slowly, then allow time for meditation and prayer.

Repeat this process three times, then continue to the discussion questions that follow.

John 21:1-7a (NIV)

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"

"No," they answered.

He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!"

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ABOUT GOD'S PRESENCE IN OUR LIVES

Reflections from Weekly Scripture Reading and Prayer

1. As these words from John 21 were read today, what words or phrases from the passage stand out to you? Why?

Other sections in John 21 to consider for discussion:

John 21:7-14 Jesus, now raised from the dead, shares a seaside meal with his disciples.

John 21:15-19 Jesus asks Peter three times, "Do you love me?"

John 21:20-23 A note about rumors that had spread about this Gospel's author.

John 21:24-25 Concluding sentences from the author's disciples (using "we" language).

2. In what ways did you encounter Christ in your reading of the Scripture since our last meeting?
 - a. What other specific words or sections of this chapter of the Bible that stood out to you?
 - b. What do you think is the meaning of these portions of the chapter?
 - c. How have these portions of Scripture shaped the way you think and live?
 - d. What fresh insights have you gained about God, yourself, other people, or our world?
 - e. What questions do you still have about this content?

Good Questions for Further Consideration

- Why is sharing a meal with Jesus important for the disciples?
 - Remember the questions raised by the disciples (especially Thomas) in chapter 20?
- Why does the meal include bread and fish? Does this remind you of another miracle?
- Why would Jesus ask Peter *three* times, "Do you love me?"
- Read Jesus' ominous prediction about Peter in John 20:18-19, and discuss how you would feel if this kind of prediction (and command to *follow Jesus*) was made about you.

Encountering God's Presence in Daily Life

1. Group Discussion (if time permits):

Practice gratitude. Have each group member share something for which they are thankful.

CLOSING PRAYER

Take prayer requests and close in prayer. Allow time for small group members to pray aloud.

Read the following passage of Scripture to open your time of prayer.

John 21:25

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.