

## LifeGroup Questions

Based On: John 21:1-19, John 18:18

April 5, 2015

### Overview

Do you remember the first time you heard about Jesus? I am not talking about accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior, but I am referring to the first time you learned something about Jesus. For some who grew up in the church this might be a difficult task. They have always been surrounded by Bible stories. For others who didn't grow up in church they might be able to specifically describe the first time they heard the name of Jesus. The Apostle Peter would be able to describe everything that was going on when he first met Jesus. Peter and his brother, Andrew, were fishing on the Sea of Galilee when this new teacher named Jesus called them to leave their nets and follow Him (Matthew 4:18-22). After following Jesus for three years and watching Him crucified we now find Peter back where it all began. In John 21:1 Peter, along with 6 other disciples, were fishing on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus once again appears to them from the shore and calls out to them. Jesus directs them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat. They obey and catch a massive 153 fish. This affirms to the disciples that it was Jesus who was calling out to them. Peter immediately jumps into the water and comes to shore. What proceeds is one of the greatest question and answer dialogues in the Bible.

Jesus had prepared a meal of fish and bread over some hot coals on the shore. This was a very typical meal during this time. The hot coals must have brought back memories for Peter. The last time he saw Jesus around hot coals was when he denied Him three times (John 18:18; 25-27). Jesus proceeds to ask Peter three times if he loves Him, and three times Peter affirms his love. In Luke's account of Peter's denial he records that when the rooster crowed that Jesus looked directly at Peter. It is over these hot coals that Jesus is looking directly at Peter again. Instead of using the name Peter, Jesus calls him Simon son of John. This was Peter's official name before Jesus changed it as recorded in Matthew 16:18. It was Simon son of John who was a fisherman by the Sea of Galilee, but it was Peter who was to be the Rock on which Jesus would build the Church. In essence Jesus is asking Peter who he is going to be. Is he going to be a fisherman or a disciple? Peter failed in denying Jesus, but was restored in affirming his love. Failing, being restored and deciding to follow Jesus can describe all of our lives.

### Bible Study: John 21:1-19, John 18:18; 25-27

1. Peter went back to the Sea of Galilee to fish. Describe a time when life seemed crazy and you wanted to surround yourself with the familiar and go back to your comfort zone.
2. Fishing during this time was done by using large nets to surround schools of fish. Once the fish were surrounded the fishermen would cast nets over them and haul them in. Jesus is asking these fishermen to cast their nets on the opposite side of the boat. How does this single act resemble faith?
3. Take a few moments and remember a time when you completely failed Jesus. Why is it important to revisit that time and bring it before God to be restored? How can harboring past failures hinder future ministry?
4. Read Matthew 16:8. Discuss the significance of Jesus calling Peter by his formal name: Simon son of John.
5. If there were not resurrection then Peter might have just gone back to being a fisherman. In what ways does the resurrection impact your daily life?
6. Read John 21:15-17. Each affirmation of love is followed by a command. Describe a love without any action to support it versus a love that is demonstrated by action.

7. Catching a lot of fish is different than tenderly caring for a sheep. Why is it so important to not only lead people to Christ (cast the net), but to help them grow in Christ (tend the sheep)? Explain the difference.