



Discussion Guide for April  
19th

## **Redo: Peter**

**John 21:1-17**

### Ice Breaker Questions:

- What is something that everyone loves that you don't like? (Food, Sports Team, Movie, etc.)

### **Read John 21:1-17**

### **Your past doesn't disqualify your future.**

**Vs 3-** Peter goes fishing all night. This indicates that he was running from his failure in denying Jesus and searching for a career change. Fishing was an easy and comfortable career, allowing him to avoid facing his mistake.

#### **-Why do you think Peter ran back to fishing?**

- It was familiar. He was isolated on a boat and didn't have to interact with a lot of people. He probably felt ashamed and unworthy of continuing in ministry.

#### **-What are some ways that you deal with shame/mistakes?**

- Take some time to be vulnerable here...do you isolate yourself or 'shutdown' emotionally? Do you make yourself busy? Do you immediately try to 'make-up' for your mistake?

**Vs 9-** Jesus is on the shore with a fire, fish and bread ready to eat. Chris mentioned in the sermon that Jesus didn't need Peter to catch fish, he already had it ready! Jesus doesn't need what we can bring to the table...He just needs us to come to the table.

#### **-Why do we often get caught up with what we can bring to the table? And how does our shame through our mistakes relate to this sense of pride?**

- We often think that God has given us a task or mission because of what we are able to do on our own. We think we have the skills and gifts to do it without the help of the Holy Spirit. But when we mess up or make mistakes, we also think we are unable to fulfill our calling because, in our minds, it is all dependent on our own abilities! We forget that we must operate through the Holy Spirit...In His power, grace and mercy. God does not call the equipped, He equips the called.

**Vs 15-17-** Jesus addresses Peter three times with the same question. Each time, Jesus challenges Peter to 'feed his sheep.' The address is symbolic of the three times Peter denied Jesus after his arrest.

#### **- Why was it important at this time for Jesus to confront Peter about his denial?**

- This is a time to admit that when we make mistakes, we must address them. We cannot simply ignore that they happened and move on with life. Addressing our mistakes leads to true repentance and forgiveness. It also allows us to grow by learning from our mistakes.

**- How does Jesus focus on redirecting Peter's future rather than condemning him for the mistake?**

- Jesus challenges Peter to feed his sheep...He is reminded Peter of his calling in Matthew 16:18 that Peter will be a vital part of building the Church. Rather than condemning him for his mistake in the past, Jesus reassures Peter of his future.

**- What is something you feel God has called you too, that you are avoiding because of past failure?**

- Use this question as a transition to prayer time. Also, take time to encourage those in your group to address the mistakes or failures they may be avoiding.

**Prayer Time:**

-Pray for members in the group that opened up about past failures and future callings!

-Continue to pray for people on the front lines of the corona virus fight and for the lives that have been directly impacted by the changes in society at this time.