

Barbeque Breakfast on the Beach

John 21:1–17

Small Group Discussion Guide

Big Idea: Jesus uses our past for his purposes.

Henri Nouwen wrote that “that which is most personal is most universal.” This week’s sermon explored how that is true not only for the Apostle Peter, but for each of us — and how Jesus meets us in our most personal places to repurpose our past for his mission. Use the questions below to reflect and discuss together.

Discussion Questions

1. The sermon opened with the idea that “that which is most personal is most universal.” Have you found that to be true in your own experience — that sharing something vulnerable about yourself actually helped others feel more connected rather than less? What makes that easy or hard for you?
2. In John 21, Jesus recreates a fireside setting to meet Peter right in the place of his greatest shame — his three denials. Why do you think Jesus chose to restore Peter there, rather than simply moving past it? What does that tell us about how Jesus deals with our failures?
3. Jesus doesn’t just forgive Peter — he commissions him. “Feed my sheep.” How does it change your understanding of restoration to see that Jesus repurposes past pain rather than simply erasing it? Is there a difference between being forgiven and being re-missioned?
4. The sermon pointed to examples of people who have allowed Jesus to use their past. Can you identify a difficulty in your own story that Jesus may already be using, or that you sense he may want to use, for his purposes? What would it look like to offer that part of your story to him?
5. The closing line of the sermon was: “The one who is making the barbeque breakfast on the beach is the one that calls to be trusted as Lord and Saviour.” What would it look like practically — this week — to trust Jesus with a part of your past or present that feels unresolved?

Closing Prayer Direction

Close your time together in prayer. You may want to invite people to pray in response to one or more of the following:

- Thank Jesus that he restores and re-commissions rather than simply discarding the broken.
- Ask him to show you how he may want to use your story — including the painful parts — for his purposes and the good of others.