

Fishing, Fruit, Forgiveness and Feeding
John 21:1-18

Warm Up

How do you like to unwind after a stressful day? Where is your happy place? What is your happy activity?

Background and context

John 21 is a passage that reveals so much more about human nature and about Jesus than just the reinstatement of Peter. After the trauma of witnessing Jesus' death and the confusion around His resurrection, the disciples retreat to Galilee, where they first met Jesus; to a place where the memories were better and they can indulge in familiar activities like fishing. But Jesus comes and reveals to them that life without Him is fruitless, and He offers them a fresh start, a new calling, a life of adventure away from their safe space with Him as their King.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



READ John 21:1-18. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. Read Matt 4:18, Mk 1:16, Matt 28:10, Mk 16:7. Why did Jesus choose Galilee as a place to meet up after the resurrection?
2. Peter and the others were expert fishermen. Why did they have no success that night?
3. Read v4-6. Why did Jesus arrive incognito and ask them a question He already knew the answer to?
4. What other clues does Jesus give to His identity? Why doesn't He just announce His arrival?
5. Jesus cooks them breakfast. What is Jesus' intent behind this meal? How does it differ from the last meal they shared?
6. Read v15-18. Peter was still feeling guilty over His denial of Jesus. How does Jesus initiate the possibility of forgiveness for Peter?
7. Psychologically, how do you think Peter was transformed by the forgiveness he received?
8. What new role does Jesus call Peter to do? What does it involve?
9. How does Jesus let Peter know that his future will not be safe and secure if he follows Jesus?

Discipleship and Application



10. What are the signs that someone is retreating into their 'safe space'?
11. How, as a church, can we help / support them out of it?
12. When we feel far from Jesus because of sin, what clues does Jesus often give us that He is near?
13. What does it mean to 'have breakfast with Jesus'? How often should we do this?



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.