

A WALK WITH A RESURRECTED MAN JOHN 21

Most of us find it easier to forgive than to forget. We may be ready to forgive someone who has hurt us deeply, but we have a hard time trusting that person again.

GROUP DISCUSSION. *Tell the group about a broken relationship you tried to restore and what resulted from your effort.*

PERSONAL REFLECTION. *Describe how you feel when someone you have hurt refuses to forgive you.*

Peter failed Jesus miserably. He promised to give up his life if necessary to protect Jesus but then denied even knowing him a few hours later. Peter knew Jesus had forgiven him. The question that pressed on Peter's heart was, would Jesus trust him again? Could Jesus still use him to bring glory to God? Read John 21:1-14.

- 1. What is the significance of Peter's decision to return to fishing (vv. 1-3)*
- 2. What is Jesus trying to show the disciples by allowing them to catch such a large number of fish (vv. 4-6; see Luke 5:4-11)?*
- 3. When Peter hears that "it is the Lord" (vv. 7-8), he jumps into the water and begins swimming ahead of the boat. What does that response reveal about Peter and his relationship with Jesus?*
- 4. How would you have responded if you had denied Jesus just a few days earlier?*
- 5. Read John 21:15-25. What subtle differences do you notice in Jesus' three questions and Peter's responses (vv. 15-17)*

What do you think is the significance of those differences?

- 6. What can we learn from this passage about the steps involved in restoring a Christian who has sinned?*
- 7. Why do you think Jesus chooses this particular occasion to predict the kind of death Peter would die (vv. 18-19)?*
- 8. How does it help to know that you can still serve and glorify God no matter what your past failures have been?*
- 9. What does Jesus' rebuke to Peter (v. 22) reveal about the danger of comparing ourselves with other Christians?*
- 10. Picture Jesus saying these things to you. How would you respond, or what would the words mean in the context of your life? "Do you truly love me?" "Take care of my sheep." "You must follow me."*

Express your willingness to do whatever Jesus asks you to do.

Now or Later

As you have studied John's Gospel, what aspects of Jesus' character or ministry have impressed you most?

What responses have you made in your heart and life as a result of that deeper understanding?

These questions are from, John, The Way to True Life Study Guide by Douglas Connelly