

"God Never Said That"

"It's All Up To You (Easter)"

warm-up

Group Ice Breaker: Share your favorite memory of a time when you felt truly "alive." What were you doing? Who were you with? Where were you?

word & application

Read John 21:2-19 (MSG)

...Peter announced, "I'm going fishing." The rest of them replied, "We're going with you." They caught nothing that night. When the sun came up, Jesus was standing on the beach, but they didn't recognize him. Jesus spoke to them: "Good morning! Did you catch anything for breakfast?" They answered, "No." He said, "Throw the net off the right side of the boat and see what happens." They did what he said. All of a sudden there were so many fish in it, they weren't strong enough to pull it in. Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Master!" **When Simon Peter realized that it was the Master, he threw on some clothes, for he was stripped for work, and dove into the sea.** The other disciples came in by boat for they weren't far from land, a hundred yards or so, pulling along the net full of fish. When they got out of the boat, they saw a fire laid, with fish and bread cooking on it. Jesus said, "Bring some of the fish you've just caught." Simon Peter joined them and pulled the net to shore—153 big fish! And even with all those fish, the net didn't rip. Jesus said, "Breakfast is ready." Not one of the disciples dared ask, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Master. Jesus then took the bread and gave it to them. He did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus had shown himself alive to the disciples since being raised from the dead. Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Master, you know I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." He then asked a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Master, you know I love you." Jesus said, "Shepherd my sheep." Then he said it a third time: "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was upset that he asked for the third time, "Do you love me?" so he answered, "**Master, you know everything there is to know. You've got to know that I love you.**" Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. I'm telling you the very truth now: When you were young you dressed yourself and went wherever you wished, but when you get old you'll have to stretch out your hands while someone else dresses you and takes you where you don't want to go." He said this to hint at the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. **And then he commanded, "Follow me."**

Noteworthy:

Peter had denied his relationship with Jesus three times. Yet, Peter was so excited to see Jesus that he couldn't wait for the boat to reach shore. As Jesus engaged the disciples, he gave Peter three opportunities to profess his love. He never demanded an apology and did not lecture – he simply offered restoration.

Discussion & Application:

Who initiated this redemptive moment?

How do you think Peter felt after this conversation as he was walking with Jesus?

How does this help you comprehend the expanse of Jesus's love and acceptance?

Is there something Jesus has been "chasing" you about? How could an experience with Jesus restore life?

prayer

Pray over group requests. Also, pray for revelation of Jesus's perfect love and acceptance. Pray that we recognize the areas of "dryness" and "deadness" in our lives and that we ignore our fears and bring these to Jesus. Pray that we experience restoration and new life as we become transparent with Jesus.