



**OASIS: SHARE PURPOSE  
DONE IN SYNC WITH  
OUR "SHARE THIS" SERIES**  
The Passage – John 21:1-19

***Preface:** Welcome to our final LC Bible study in our sermon series "Share This: Encountering Jesus Encountering Others." These LC studies will complement the sermons, often using the same biblical texts, and will help your LC go deeper in personal understanding and application. These italicized portions are meant to resource and help you in leading and not to be distributed to the entire group (it limits conversation). Please also note that not all these questions are to be asked in a single night and some of these questions have been adapted from a previous study from last year. It's best to consider this a head-start and customize these studies to best fit your LC.*

**Study's BIG Idea: It's not until the follower of Jesus tries His way, recognizes his/her shortcomings, and commits his/her allegiance to Christ that purpose can be discovered.**

**John 21:1-19 (NIV © 2011)**

1 Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 3 "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

4 Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

5 He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"

"No," they answered.

6 He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. 8 The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. 9 When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." 11 So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14 This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

**Jesus Reinstates Peter**

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

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16 Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

17 The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. 18 Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” 19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

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**O** – This passage begins with Peter and the disciples having returned to fishing (vv. 21:1-3). What does this suggest?

**O** – The previous week Jesus appeared to the disciples in the Upper Room in Jerusalem. Why do you think Jesus chooses to appear to them here in Galilee?

**O** – Jesus’ suggestion of throwing their nets to the other side is not conventional advice. Why do you think these seasoned fishermen chose to listen to a random man on the beach?

*(Perhaps their time with Jesus led them to believe that anything was possible. Perhaps they remembered they had a miraculous catch happen similarly once before – Luke 5).*

**I** – Why do you think the disciples are unable to recognize risen Jesus? This also happens with Mary Magdalene who mistakes him for the gardener and the disciples walking to Emmaus. *(We can’t know for sure, but it seems one must look deeper to identify the risen Jesus—for instance, once Jesus does a great work or illuminates a needed truth. We could say that is true today as well.)*

**O** – What do you observe in the questions and responses between Jesus and Peter?

*(Jesus asks Peter 3 times, He calls him Simon originally, Jesus commanding Peter to take care of his sheep, Peter’s hurt after the third ask.)*

*Please Note: This next question is for experienced LC groups (and members) who have heard sermons mention the “agape/agapao”/“phileo” usage. It’s an interesting (and maybe fun) debate but do not let it distract from the overall point of the study.*

**I** – John does an interesting and much debated thing here. It’s important to note the use of the word “love” in this exchange. Jesus asks Peter twice if he loves him in the “agape/agapao” sense (this is understood as the “love of God”) and Peter responds in the “phileo” sense (the love between friends). Jesus matches Peter’s “phileo” in his third ask. Is Jesus questioning Peter’s love? Is He reminding Peter of the three denials? Is Peter really being reinstated? What do you interpret happening here?

*(There is a debate among interpreters that the different usages of “agapao” and “phileo” are used interchangeably throughout John which shifts the discussion to the number of times Peter is asked instead of the type of love.*

*Examples of the synonymous nature include: “the disciple whom Jesus loved,” the “agape” tense in 13:23 and the “phileo” tense in 20:2. God’s love for the disciples, “agape” in 14:23 and “phileo” in 16:27; even God’s love for Jesus is used interchangeably, “agape” in 10:17 and “phileo” in 5:20. Again, it seems John uses these two words for love—agape and phileo—as synonyms.*

*Further, it is likely that Jesus and Peter are speaking to each other in Aramaic, not the Greek in which John is writing. Note the same “love” distinctions do not exist in Aramaic (or even English), only in Greek.*

*John may be highlighting the greater love of God/Jesus versus fallen humanity but we cannot be sure. In any case, we can see Jesus’ call to Peter and all believers, that to love God is to love Him and to feed/love the flock.)*

*(This question would likely be redundant if you included the previous one to your study; therefore, you should consider omitting it.)*

**I – Why does Jesus ask the same question three times to Peter?**

**A –** Have you ever experienced a time when you sensed Jesus asking you if you truly loved Him? Describe the effect that it had on you.

**A –** It’s often not until we have come to terms with our failures and guilt that we can move forward and discover love, identity, and purpose. Describe your sense of calling from Jesus.

**A –** Of all the final instructions Jesus could have given to Peter, it’s the commands to “feed the sheep” and “follow me” that He leaves him with. What applications should we as present day followers of Jesus make of this and how should this shape us as a church?

**Key: O – Observation. I – Interpretation. A – Application**

- a. **Please note that not all these questions are to be asked in a single night.** Take some time and select and reword the questions that best fit your voice and your LIFE Community group. Certain questions work better for certain groups. You are encouraged to prayerfully discern what will serve your LC the best.
- b. Complement OIA questions with “process questions” (what else? what more? what do others think?).
- c. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. Wait. Take your time; don’t rush people but encourage their participation. And avoid answering your own questions!
- d. Timing/pacing: allocate your time and move forward gently, with a steady pace.
- e. Application: Pace the study to conclude with “difference making” application.
- f. Secondary texts—use other texts sparingly, even if they are relevant. Such texts will push you into “teaching,” rather than facilitating. It can cause people to feel distracted or de-powered.