

MAIN POINT

Despite our past sins and failures, Jesus loves us and wants to redeem and restore us to Himself.

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever had a “falling out” with a close friend or family member? How did you seek to restore the relationship?

How has conflict and restoration changed your personal relationships? How has this made your relationships stronger?

Peter had something of a “falling out” with Jesus. Despite his bold claims that he would rather die than turn away from Jesus, on the night of Jesus’ betrayal, Peter denied His Lord three times. Peter’s failure, however, did not stop Jesus from loving, pursuing, redeeming, and reconciling Peter. Peter’s relationship with Jesus is a picture of the relationship God offers every sinner through faith in the death and resurrection of His Son. By looking at Peter’s relationship with Jesus, we will see that our past sins and failures do not disqualify us from receiving Christ’s love and participating in His mission.

DISCUSSION

> **READ JOHN 21:1-19.**

Read Matthew 26:31 and Luke 22:56-62. In light of these events, why do you think Peter decided to go fishing at the beginning of John 21?

Read Matthew 4:19. What were Jesus’ disciples supposed to be doing?

What were the spiritual implications of their failure to catch fish this night?

Why did Jesus ask Peter three times if he loved Him? What do you think Peter was feeling by the third time?

What did Jesus mean by the phrase “feed my sheep/lambs”?

Why is it significant that Jesus gave this task to Peter and not one of the others?

If Jesus said to you today, “Feed my sheep” what specifically would that mean for you? Where would you start?

What about this story is most surprising to you? How have you experienced being surprised by God’s grace?

Where do you need a second chance in your life? How does Peter’s story speak to you about that?

APPLICATION

How might you use this story of Jesus and Peter to share the gospel with someone this week?