

Jesus Loves Me John 21:1-19

1. Introduce yourselves to others at the table. Briefly share a favorite memory of yours that took place around a campfire.
2. Our story tonight is found in John 21:1-19. Before we read, glance over the headings for chapters 18-20. Summarize what has taken place before our story in chapter 21.
3. Read 21:1-3. What do the disciples decide to do at the beginning of this chapter?

Given the context of what the disciples have just experienced, why do you think they choose to do this?

4. Read 21:4-6. We know that Jesus, the Son of God, knows all things perfectly. In verse 5, why do you think he asks a question to which he already knows the answer?
5. Read 21:7-8. John, son of Zebedee, and writer of the gospel of John, refers to himself as “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” What does he realize in verse 7?

Why do you think Peter jumps into the water at John’s statement?

6. Read 21:9-14. When the disciples get to the land, who and what is waiting for them?

What about this scene might have been particularly potent for Peter? Read John 18:15-18, 25-27 for insight.

What might you have been thinking or feeling if you were one of the disciples onshore?

7. Read 21:15-17. How many times does Jesus ask if Peter loves him?

How many times does Peter insist on his love for Jesus?

Look again at John 18:15-18, 25-27. How many times does Peter deny Jesus?

Considering these verses, why is this exchange between Peter and Jesus significant?

8. Read 21:18-19. Summarize what Jesus tells Peter.

What stands out to you about this “turn” in conversation?

9. Jesus shows Peter incredible mercy. Share a time when the Lord showed you mercy and gave you a blessing you did not deserve.

Jesus Loves Me

John 21:1-19

The Resurrected Jesus Pursues the Disciples

21:1-14

- The disciples, perhaps unsure of what to do after Jesus' resurrection, go back home and go fishing.
- John discerns that it is Jesus standing on the shore and calls Him Lord.
- True to character, Peter throws himself into the sea and swims to shore to get to Jesus.
- Jesus is the provider of both the immediate sustenance the disciples need (fish on the fire), and the fruits of their labor (fish in the net).
- Jesus does not withhold love, but lovingly provides for His disciples.

Look for the ways the love of Christ _____ you.

_____ in the power and kindness of God to provide for you.

The Resurrected Jesus Restores Peter

21:15-19

- Jesus gives Peter the opportunity to publicly affirm his love for Jesus after publicly denying Him.
- Jesus is not heaping shame on Peter, but exposing Peter's brokenness so that Jesus can restore him.
- Peter experiences the mercy of Jesus as He reinstates him.
- Jesus commissions Peter to work as a shepherd of the flock of God—a job that will come at a great cost to Peter.
- Peter, whose name means "little rock," can rest safely on Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone and Chief Shepherd.

_____ the cost of following Jesus.

Follow Jesus wholeheartedly, confident that He is _____ of your whole life.

Key: pursues, Trust, Count, worthy

Our Favorite Stories – Jesus Loves Me
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1 PETER 2:6 For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

GALATIANS 2:20a I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.

1 PETER 2:9-10 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.