Community Group Discussion Questions

**Below you will find a variety of questions on each point. While there is a logical flow between the questions, you may not be able to get through them all during your group time. Feel free to pick which ones that you think will be best for your group.**

**For questions that may be more difficult to answer, I have provided some explanatory notes in italics. These are for the leader in case your group gets stuck and not to be read aloud.**

Text: John 21:1-19

Point 1: Jesus reminds his disciples of what He has already done

1. Why do you think the disciples decided to go fishing?

2. What details in the text point to things that Jesus had already done with and for the disciples?

*a. The disciples were unable to catch fish until they followed Jesus instruction (cf. Luke 5:1-11.) This is where Jesus called them to follow him and made them fishers of men.*

*b. Fish and bread by the sea of Tiberias. This points back to Jn 6 when Jesus multiplied to the fish and bread at the same place.*

*c. The charcoal fire reminds Peter of his betrayal of Jesus (Jn 18:18).*

3. Why do you think that Jesus provided these reminders in this moment?

4. How have you experienced God reminding you of what you have done and what He has done for you? What effect does these reminders have on you?

(This is a great lead into the importance of gathering weekly to hear the preaching of the Word and to meet with others in community. Also, our own private reading of Scripture play a critical role here. All of these provide intentional opportunities to be reminded of both who we are and what God has done for us).

Point 2: Jesus restores His disciples to God’s purpose for them

1. Notice how Jesus gently restores Peter allowing him to affirm his love for Jesus three times to undo the three denials. How does this challenge or comfort you?

2. How have you experienced God’s restorative work in your life? When have you experienced God’s gracious commissioning in setting you apart for a specific task despite your past failure?

3. Do you think that God may be calling you to a specific purpose right now?

Theological Reflections

1. How does this text reveal that God is a God of process? How should this fact shape the way we view our past failures? How about our current challenges? How about future hopes or goals?

a. How do we balance acceptance of the reality of process with a passionate pursuit of holiness? How do we avoid condemning ourselves on one hand and making excuses or complacency on the other?

2. Why do you think that when Peter affirms his love for Jesus, the Lord tells him to care for His sheep? How is loving Jesus and loving his sheep connected?

a. Do you struggle more with loving God or loving God’s people?

b. Why is it easier for you to love one more than the other?

c. Why has it become popular and even Ok for a lot of Christians to say that they love Jesus but hate the church? What is the unbiblical misunderstanding behind this statement?