

Close Encounters: On The Beach

Life Group Questions For Sunday 28 April 2024

Does it surprise you that Peter suggests fishing? Is fishing ever a bad idea?

This isn't the first time following the resurrection that Jesus' closest followers fail to recognise Him (see Jn 20:15; Lk 24:15-16, 30-31). Why do you think that was?

This isn't the first time Jesus gives some fishing tips (see Lk 5:1-11). What strikes you as interesting or noteworthy about this "caught any fish yet?" exchange in verses 6-7?

Why do you think Peter jumps into the water to swim—and not wait for the boat to be rowed the 100 yards to shore (v. 7)?

What do you make of the fact that Jesus already had a fire going, complete with fried fish and loaves of bread (v. 9)?

Do you think John recounts this story to remind us of the very first time Jesus meets these men (Lk 5:1-11)? What does Jesus tell them they will be fishing for?

Why do you think John tells us there were 153 fish (v. 11)? Any deeper meaning?

Read John 21:15-25

Jesus now turns His attention directly to Peter and John—specifically Peter (v. 15). He asks Peter a simple question: "Do you love me more than these?". Why do you think Jesus asks Peter if he loves Him? Who are the "these" that He mentions?

Jesus shifts from the “fisherman” metaphor—to the “shepherd” metaphor. What’s the difference?

How do you feed lambs (v. 15)?

Most Biblical experts connect these three questions with Peter’s three denials. Do you agree?

What do John 18:18 & John 21:9 have in common might there be a reason John points this out?

Do you think Peter “got it” in the moment? What do you think it might have meant to him later in life?

Back in John 10:11, Jesus describes what a good shepherd must be willing to do for the sheep. Is this what Jesus is calling Peter to?

What do you love about verse 25?

Application:

Do you love Jesus? What are you doing to show Jesus how much you love Him?

Be honest—are you truly “fishing for others” with your life?

Are you feeding sheep...or are you the sheep being fed?

Shepherds are willing to lay down their lives for their sheep...what sacrifices are you willing to make?