



"Gone Fishing"

Cathy Burkholder // July 28-29, 2018

INTRODUCTION

God knows your every failure—past, present, and future. He knows every sin, every mistake, every moment that you wish you could have back. And He loves you just the same. Your failure is not final—because God isn't done with us yet.

WARMING UP

1. Where do you go to get away from it all? What's your happy place?

Read John 21:1-19

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Can you relate to Peter in this story? Talk about a time when you failed at something, big or small. (Have you ever blown it with God?) How did you come back from it? What did you learn from the experience? Where did you see God at work?
2. Have you ever kept silent instead of standing up for what you believe? What was the underlying fear that caused you to do that?
3. Peter went back to the Sea of Galilee to fish. Describe a time when life seemed crazy and you wanted to surround yourself with the familiar and go back to your comfort zone.
4. Read **Matthew 4:18-20**. Jesus called Peter, along with a few others, to come follow Him and begin working with Him. What calling has God placed on your life? Have you gotten out of the boat yet to join Him? In what ways are you living this call out?
5. Read **John 21:15-19**. Discuss the significance of Jesus calling Peter by his formal name: Simon, son of John, as He was reinstating Peter.
6. What is something in your life that you thought you'd never recover from—an illness, a broken relationship, a job loss, a death? How did that pain impact you? How have you seen redemption at work through that situation?

7. In verse 25, John ended his gospel by saying, "Jesus did many other things as well." As when he walked the earth, Jesus today does many unrecorded things. What good things is Jesus quietly doing in your life? How can you share those with others?

CHALLENGE

Because of Jesus, we can have hope that the best is yet to come. But in the midst of pain, doubt, and failure, it can be difficult to believe that. This week, write down a few things that you're looking forward to in the coming weeks and months—what you're excited about and what makes you feel hopeful. If nothing comes to mind, plan something that brings you joy.

COMMIT TO MEMORY

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him. **1 Corinthians 2:9**