



Believe

JOHN

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Community Group Material:

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

Bible Reading: John 21:15-25

Sermon Summary:

It's a human impossibility to go through life & not disappoint or fail someone. It's no different as Christians. We fail Jesus so many times. And just like any other occasion of failure we feel the weight, guilt & shame of that failure. How does Jesus meet us where we are at with all the thoughts & feelings from our failure? John 21:15-19 gives us an inside look into how Jesus restored Peter after he denied him 3 times (Jn. 18:15-18, 25-27). But Jesus isn't only concerned with restoring us from our past failings. He also re-engages us in his mission to take care of people for him. That's right, there is a future for those who have failed! He asks us "*Do U love me?*" & we surely do. But that love can't just be lip service. It must be practiced by feeding & shepherding Jesus' sheep. I believe you love Jesus, but ask yourself, "*who am I caring for, for Jesus?*"

Discussion:

1. Describe in your own words how Peter must have felt & what his thoughts might have been about his denial of Jesus (Jn. 18:15-18, 25-27). To get a clearer picture, read Matt. 26:31, 33; Jn. 13:37-38. What kind of internal struggle did he face?
2. What are three reasons why we should not over interpret John's use of Greek words for love to Peter (agapao & phileo)?
3. When Jesus asked Peter, "*Do you love me more than these?*" What is "these"? And how does the answer help Peter in his restoration?
4. Is it surprising to you that after such a massive failure Jesus still wants Peter back on mission for him? What might we typically think when we've messed up?
5. Loving Jesus is not just lip service. What is the practicality of our love for Jesus in these verses? How do we carry out our love for Jesus at CIT?
6. Jesus made it clear that Peter's discipleship would end in martyrdom & John's would not. He would live a long life as a witness to Jesus. Each of us has a path to follow Jesus on. Why is it dangerous for us to compare our following to others'?
7. Talk about how Jesus has restored you after a failure. What did it take for you to return to serving & caring for others after your failure? What helped you restart?

End with Prayer.

- Pray for our love for Jesus to burn brightly within our hearts.
- Pray for one another's concerns.