

Easter Encounters (3 of 5)
Small Group Discussion Questions

PUBLIC WORSHIP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The global pandemic COVID-19 has forced us to adjust and adapt how we do church and stay connected to one another as a congregation. We're not closed as a church, we're just doing church differently! So, please stay connected to the body at Grantham Church. Join our congregation for worship in-person with restrictions or online at 10:30 am each Sunday morning via our Grantham Church YouTube Channel. For more information, please go to the [Grantham Church Live](#) page at our website.

As usual, the sermons will be posted to the [recent sermons page](#) on our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, May 9th 2021



Sermon Title: Jesus Reinstates Peter

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:21; Luke 5:1-11; 24:34; John 21:1-19; Romans 2:4

Sermon Focus: The risen Jesus had breakfast with 7 disciples on the seashore, but he had a special word for Peter. It's not the first time Peter had met the risen Jesus, so it's significant what Jesus does there. Jesus forgives Peter, reinstates him, and encourages him to be a confident leader of the church. Listen as Pastor David invites us to believe in God's mercy, grace, and forgiveness as a way of empowering us to change.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person, by phone, or video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read John 21:1-19 together. What jumps out to you as being significant, interesting, puzzling, etc.? How does this passage speak to you in hearing it?
2. In all of the Easter encounters, we see that the resurrected body of Jesus is very different than our own. Jesus appears and disappears. He can be touched, yet he's not always recognized. And he eats with his disciples! Why do you think it matters so much that we continue to affirm the literal resurrection of Jesus? What significance does the risen Jesus have for us in the present *and* the future?
3. Pastor David began his message by referring to "cancel culture" today. He said that we often see how the call-out/cancel culture looks more like the work of Satan, the accuser, than that of Jesus, the healer and redeemer. How have you seen this to be true? And how should disciples of Jesus model a *third way* between saying or doing nothing and joining the cancel culture mob?
4. Peter had already met the risen Jesus privately, as Luke 24:34 tells us. Imagine what that first meeting must have been like following Peter's denial and his abandoning Jesus during his arrest, trial, and crucifixion. Now think about the conversation that occurs in front of the other disciples in John 21:15-19. Why is this public conversation significant? What does this say about Jesus? And what does this say about how we ought to practice forgiveness in the church?
5. Jesus uses the word "agape" (unconditional love) when asking Peter if he loves him. But Peter uses the word "phileo" (friendship) to describe his feelings toward Jesus. It's obvious that Peter has been humbled and isn't so confident about his faith and commitment to Jesus. Can you relate to Peter? How have you experienced this in your own life, or witnessed it in others? Also, how have you seen the Lord rebuilding the faith of those who have failed in the past?
6. Pastor David gave the following takeaways from the message. Discuss each of these with your group. How do we see each of these in the biblical story?
 1. Jesus wants us to see our need and be willing to obey, so that we might know his power in our lives.
 2. Jesus wants us to practice forgiveness and believe in his ability to redeem & restore us to himself and to community.
 3. Jesus commissions us all as his disciples, and he asks us, "Do you love me more than these?"