

GROWTH GUIDE MAY 4, 2025

3rd Sunday of Easter Scripture: John 21:1-19

AUTHOR

The Gospel of John was written by John, a fisherman, son of Zebedee, who along with his brother, James, became disciples of Jesus and were part of the original 12. John wrote his gospel around AD 85-90 to prove that Jesus is the Son of God and that all who believe in him will have eternal life.

CONTEXT

In the Gospel of John we read of Jesus appearing to his disciples following his Resurrection and of Thomas having doubts about Jesus' appearance in his absence. When Jesus appeared again to the disciples, Thomas was present, and Jesus showed Thomas his scars to prove it was him. Jesus now appears once again to some of his disciples who have gone to the Sea of Galilee (also known as The Sea of Tiberius). The disciples are still dealing with some confusion and what might take place in the future.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Read John 21:1-19. When Peter said he was going fishing, some of the others went with him. What do you think Peter's emotional state was at this time, having denied Jesus 3 times? Which disciples were present at the Sea of Galilee?
- 2. When Jesus told the disciples to throw their net off the right side of the boat and see what happens, they were obedient and did as he directed them. What happened in response to their obedience?

- 3. What has been your experience of Jesus' direction and provision?
- 4. Can you share a time when you trusted Jesus in a situation though you could not see the outcome?
- 5. In their grief, the disciples did not recognize Jesus at first. When John realized it was Jesus, Peter being Peter, who was often impulsive, dove into the sea and swam to shore. Have you ever felt led to act boldly, feeling called by Jesus?
- 6. Mother Teresa had a wonderful quote: "God does not call the equipped, He equips the called." Can you relate to this or have you experienced this?
- 7. Contrast Peter's 3 denials of Jesus in John 18:17, 25, and 27 with Jesus' questions to Peter in John 21:15,16, and 17. What does Jesus ask Peter to do?
- 8. Being a follower of Jesus is not easy. It may require giving up control, challenges, and sacrifice. Have you experienced any of these? If so, what was your experience like?
- 9. Has your faith cost you? If your answer is yes, how so?
- 10. Are you living out your own call to follow Jesus? If not, what is holding you back?
- 11. Do you feel that God is calling you to something new? Is God calling our church to something new? How might you discern this?
- 12. Read Acts 10:39-41. What does Peter talk about in his sermon?

Download additional worship resources at **MtTaborUMC.org/resources**