



## Life and Faith After Easter

### DEVOTIONAL | WEEK 2 | MAY 4

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#### RECEIVE

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Jesus healed the sick and raised the dead. He also challenged the false piety of the religious elite. Then He was crucified and raised to life. And now, Jesus makes you breakfast. As you prayerfully read John 21:15–25, reflect on the complex mix of emotions the disciples must have felt in this moment with the risen Christ.

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#### REFLECT

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#### **Peter's Restoration | John 21:15–17**

1. This wasn't the first time Jesus had seen Peter since His resurrection (Luke 24:34). Why do you think Jesus repeatedly asks Peter if he loves Him while the other disciples are present?
2. Jesus makes it clear that, though Peter is tasked with the feeding and the tending, the sheep belong to Jesus. How does this knowledge affect the way you view and serve others?
3. At Christ Church, we feed Christ's sheep by relieving suffering, transforming communities, lifting women and children, multiplying churches and disciples and developing leaders. Which of these areas are you most drawn to? Why?

4. How can you take action to feed Christ's sheep at work, at school, or in your neighborhood? How can you serve and care for Jesus' sheep as you go about your week?

### **Follow Me! | John 21:18–25**

5. Jesus tells Peter to "Follow Me"—the same words He used when He first called the disciples in John 1. When He uses them again in John 21, they probably sound a lot different to Peter. How has your understanding of following Jesus evolved as you've learned more about who He is and what He calls us to?
6. Jesus gives Peter the hard news that though he loves the Lord and is charged with caring for His sheep, Peter will walk a hard path. This is not the only occasion where Jesus warns that we will face trouble. What perspective can we gain from John 16:33?
7. We don't typically think of death as something that can glorify God. Yet Peter is told that his death will do just that. What stirs in you when you hear that a person's death can bring glory to God? How would you react if you were told that your death would glorify God?
8. In verse 21, Peter asks Jesus about John's future. Have you ever been tempted to compare your journey with Jesus to someone else's? Why do you think Jesus discourages this?

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## RESPOND

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Modeling after the prayer of Jesus in chapter 17, consider structuring your prayers similarly this week. When you pray, begin with a heart that looks heavenward. This means a posture that honors God and submits all that you will pray to the God of heaven and earth. After your posture of submission, pray for your own needs, what do you want God to do for you? What pain and pressure do you want Him to ease? From there, pray for those close to you. Thank God for those in your community and pray for God's wisdom and grace to be upon them. And finally, ask God to be with all those who believe and those who have yet to believe. Ask for God's presence and power to be with them and for the love Christ has for us to be felt and experienced by others.

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## BLESSING

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Jesus, You bring restoration to our lives and our relationships. Help us to be agents that bring Your love and Your restoration power to the broken world around us. Give us opportunities to show our love for You by feeding Your sheep. Help us to follow You wherever You lead. Amen.