

## Life Group Questions October 28

**Generous Servants: Jesus and Peter**  
**Sermon Text: John 21**

### **Getting to Know Me**

What's something you do/know so well that you could teach a class on it?

### **Into the Bible (Asking Questions of the Text)**

Read Luke 15:11-32

This is the famous parable of the Prodigal Son and the Compassionate Father.

- What did the younger son do with his inheritance? What was the result of his decision?
- Why did he return home?
- What was his father's reaction?

### **Going Deeper (Letting the Text Ask Questions of Us)**

John 21: When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs."

A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep."

He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to

indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

After Jesus' death, Peter had returned to his old life, fishing in the Sea of Galilee. There are seasons in our faith journey where, when things are difficult, we rely on old habits that seemed to comfort us, or we return to worldly pursuits that distract us.

In this case, Peter was grieving the death of Jesus, as well as his own behavior in Christ's last hours - when asked if he knew Jesus, Peter had denied any affiliation with him. Sometimes we allow the baggage of our past to define us or characterize us.

In this passage at the end of John's Gospel we see Jesus calling Peter into new life, and we are called into the same. Just like Peter, we are freed from the mistakes of our past and called to "feed God's sheep," or generously serve those around us.

- Consider the parable of the prodigal son, and this interaction with Jesus and Peter. Where in your life have you experienced seasons of distance and then closeness to God?
  
- Where are you in your relationship with God today?

### **Last Week's Challenge**

Last week, we were asked to take time each day this week to write down things you are thankful for, and then find ways to express your gratitude to God. What did you take away from this challenge?

### **This Week's Challenge**

Take time to reflect on areas of your life where you might be distracting yourself instead of facing what God may be calling you to. Ask for the strength and courage to generously serve those around you.

As we approach Stewardship Sunday on November 4th, members of St. Peter's UMC are invited to prayerfully discern how God is leading you to give generously, out of celebration and gratitude for God's own goodness. Your family will be mailed a pledge card - be sure to open the envelope and consider the enclosed information. As you are led, fill out a pledge card and bring it with you on Sunday, November 4th.