

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of May 28, 2017

John 21:15-17

These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.

Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ 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." ¹⁷ 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."

Common English Bible (CEB)

¹⁵ When they finished eating, Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" Simon replied, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ Jesus asked a second time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Simon replied, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you." Jesus said to him, "Take care of my sheep." ¹⁷ He asked a third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was sad that Jesus asked him a third time, "Do you love me?" He replied, "Lord, you know everything; you know I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

Connection Questions:

1. What were Peter's characteristics that made him a leader among the disciples?

2. What can we learn from Peter that can help with leadership development in the church today?

3. Give examples of where Peter acted before he thought through a situation.

4. How can acting before you think through the implications cause problems?

5. How can enthusiasm enhance responding to God's call upon your life? How can enthusiasm get in the way of your call?

6. In John 21:1-6, what causes these experienced fishermen to listen to the voice of a stranger? How do you discern God's voice speaking to you in life?

7. Read John 21:7-9. When Peter discerns that Jesus is speaking, he puts his clothes on and swims as fast as he can to get to Jesus on the shore. What, if any, dangers are there to responding to God too quickly? What are the dangers of responding to God with just your heart and not your head, and vice versa?

8. Jesus says as he picked Peter in John 1 to “follow him.” In our text, as Jesus gets ready to leave, he asks Peter three times, “Do you love me?” What do these two statements tell us about Jesus’ ministry?

9. Jesus gave Peter a second chance and he became a champion leader for the early church. What does this say to people who think their limitations get in the way of being responsive to God’s love?

10. Does the image of seeing Jesus as judge versus a host effect how we respond to God’s love? If so, how?