

DO YOU LOVE ME?

John 21:12–19

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NOTES

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Suggested Questions for Individual Study or Group Discussion*



- *Read John 21:12–19.* Why do you think the disciples didn't dare to ask Jesus' identity? Were they afraid of looking stupid in front of the other disciples? What do you imagine the resurrected Lord looked like on that beach in the third appearance after being raised from the dead?
- Put yourself in Peter's sandals. What are you feeling and thinking as Jesus is asking the question, "Do you love me?" In verse 17, it says that Peter was hurt because Jesus asked the question a third time. What was it about the third time that hurt Peter?
- How would you respond if Jesus asked you directly, "Do you love me more than these?" In your case, what might the "these" refer to?
- Who are the lambs or the sheep that Jesus is talking about? Why is it important to Jesus that Peter feed his sheep? What is the connection between Peter's love for Jesus and Jesus' command for Peter to take care of his sheep?
- In verse 18, Jesus declares, "...when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." Why do you think Jesus told him this before saying, "Follow me!" in verse 19? How has Peter grown in humility and maturity over the course of his relationship with Jesus? What does following Jesus entail in different seasons of our lives?
- Spend some time in prayer, using the prayer of Richard of Chichester (1197-1253): "Thanks be to you, my Lord Jesus, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. O most merciful Redeemer, Friend, and Brother, of you three things I pray: To see you more clearly, love you more dearly, follow you more nearly, day by day." Amen.

*Select or adapt questions to fit the needs and makeup of your group.