

5 2 W E E K S
O F G R O W T H

Give it a Year
Week 05

WEEK 05

John 21:1-13

Afterward Jesus appeared again to His disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So, they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?”

“No,” they answered. He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards.

When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

Have you ever had a season of doubt or confusion in your life and wondered “What’s next?”. Or maybe you felt stuck in life and just desperately want to discover your purpose. Maybe you were so certain of your path and how your life would turn out and then circumstances happened that threw you onto a different path. Perhaps you are feeling that way right now. Well, you aren’t alone. This is exactly where the disciples were when they were on that fishing boat in John 21.

This event takes place after Jesus died and rose from the dead. In fact, it was most likely a couple weeks after The Resurrection. So, Jesus had died, been resurrected and the disciples had already seen Him resurrected before this episode in the fishing boat. They were excited that He was no longer dead. They were thrilled that they could now confirm with such certainty that Jesus is in fact the Messiah. They were so grateful that all the things had happened that Jesus said would happen. However, they also knew that Jesus needed to eventually leave again to return to The Father and sit at His right hand. And they were left with this doubt and confusion about, “What’s next?”

Do they carry on in this ministry without Him?
Does it just stop?
What's next for them?

They felt gratitude, but also felt lost and wanted to know their purpose for this life. They didn't know what to do so they returned to the path they were on before Jesus called them. They went fishing. Yet, now, even that wasn't working out for them. They couldn't catch any fish. Until Jesus showed up and a miracle happened. But it wasn't just a miracle of a massive catch, it was a miracle of restored purpose in their lives.

Once they shifted their focus from confusion and old habits to listening to the voice of Jesus...things began to change.

And notice this, after they catch these fish, they go and they sit on the shore with Jesus, and they have breakfast with Him. They just sit and spend time with Jesus. And the truth is, if you need direction for your life or want to discover your purpose, you have to spend time with God and listen to His voice for guidance. You can't just do this once and then High 5 Him and be on your way. You can't just go to church on Sunday and expect that to carry you through the rest of the week. Any relationship requires continual communication. And our communication with God comes through prayer. Our prayers are continual conversations with God throughout the day.

In order to discover our purpose (or to discover what's next for our lives), we need to connect to the source of where our purpose comes from. God's purpose for our life comes from Him. If it's His purpose for your life, then spend time discovering Him and you'll discover His purpose for you.

Begin to allow yourself to shift your focus from doubt and confusion to listening to His voice, His guidance, His focus and learning His character, His way, His path for life. And as you begin to shift your focus daily to Him, His peace and His direction will fill your life and create a beautiful new pathway that you didn't even know you needed.

READ: John 21: 1-14

REFLECT:

- Have you been experiencing feelings of doubt and concern for your future?
- How is your prayer life? Are you connecting with God daily?
- Is God the most important relationship in your life?
- Do you find yourself listening more to your family/friends or to God for guidance?

PRAYER:

God, we Thank You that You created us for a purpose. Lord, we ask that you strengthen our relationship with you. Show us how to connect with You more throughout the day. Give us the desire to seek You with all our hearts and minds in every area of our life. And reveal to us the direction that You want us to go according to Your Will for our lives. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen.