

Easter AT MESA

READING PLAN

FOR EASTER WEEK

Weekly Reading Plan

Week of April 6–12, 2026

Theme: The Comeback

Weekly Summary

Easter Sunday reminds us that Jesus is alive, but John 21 reminds us that the resurrection is not only a declaration about Jesus. It is also an invitation for us. The risen Christ does not simply conquer death and then disappear into glory. He comes to find wounded disciples, disappointed hearts, and people who do not know what to do with their failure. That is why John 21 matters so much. Peter had denied Jesus publicly. He had spoken boldly, failed painfully and publicly, and now found himself drawn back toward what was familiar. Yet the risen Jesus came looking for him.

This week's readings are built around that hopeful truth: because Jesus is risen, failure does not get the final word. The shore of Galilee becomes a place of grace. Breakfast is served before Peter is questioned. A charcoal fire becomes the setting not of humiliation but of healing. And three painful denials are answered by three opportunities to say, "Lord, you know that I love you." The story does not minimize Peter's sin, but it does reveal something greater than Peter's sin—the restoring grace of the risen Christ.

That is what makes this a post-Easter reading plan rather than merely a reading plan about failure. Resurrection means Jesus still comes for us. He still meets us on the other side of the worst thing we have done. He still redefines futures that shame tried to steal. And He still calls us forward again. As you read this week, let John 21 remind you that the comeback is not powered by your strength, your sincerity, or your ability to repair the damage. It is powered by the grace of the risen Jesus.

Memory Verse

John 21:17, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

DAY 1

Monday – April 6 When Failure Sends You Back

Read

John 21:1–3

Luke 5:1–11

Psalm 51:1–12

Proverbs 28:13

Galatians 6:1

Reflect

John tells us that Peter said, “I’m going out to fish.” The text does not explicitly say that Peter was fully abandoning Jesus, but it clearly shows him drifting back toward what was familiar. After public failure, Peter moved toward what he knew how to control. The boat, the nets, the water, the old rhythms of his former life—these were places he understood. Shame often works this way. It sends us backward. It makes the familiar feel safer than faith. It persuades us that retreat is easier than hope.

Luke 5 makes the scene even more powerful. Peter had once left his nets to follow Jesus. He had heard the call to a new kind of life. But now, after denial and disappointment, he is back in the boat. That does not necessarily mean rebellion. It does mean retreat. Many of us know that feeling. When we do not know what to do with our failure, we drift toward old patterns, old coping mechanisms, and old comforts. This passage invites us to be honest about that pull. The risen Jesus has not changed His mind because of your worst moment.

Questions

1. Where are you tempted to go backward when shame makes you want to hide?
2. What familiar pattern or place has become a retreat for you when life feels heavy?

DAY 2

Tuesday – April 7

Empty Nets and Honest Limits

Read

John 21:3

Psalm 127:1-2

Isaiah 55:8-9

John 15:4-5

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Reflect

The disciples fished all night and caught nothing. That detail matters. Peter goes back to what is familiar, but even there he comes up empty. The thing he knows how to do does not give him what he needs. There is a mercy in that. Sometimes God allows us to feel the emptiness of our own efforts so that we stop looking to them for meaning. Peter could still work a net. He could still go through the motions. But the night of empty nets proves that human effort cannot produce what only Jesus can provide.

This is not only about fishing. It is about the limits of self-reliance. We often return to what feels manageable because it helps us avoid the deeper ache in our hearts. But the old ways do not finally heal us. They exhaust us. They leave us tired, frustrated, and empty. John 21 reminds us that failure is not solved by frantic effort. The answer to Peter's emptiness is not found in trying harder on the water. It is found in listening for the voice on the shore.

Questions

1. Where in your life are you working hard but still coming up empty?
2. What emptiness might be exposing your need for Jesus more clearly?

DAY 3

Wednesday – April 8, The Voice on the Shore

Read

John 21:4–8
John 10:3–4, 14
Isaiah 43:1–2
Psalm 139:7–12
Hebrews 4:14–16

Reflect

Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore. Peter and the others did not recognize Him at first, but He was there before they saw Him. That is one of the most comforting realities in the chapter. Jesus does not wait for Peter to fix himself or find his own way back. He moves toward him. He comes near. He speaks into the disciples' exhaustion and directs them toward abundance. Resurrection grace does not stay distant. It comes looking for us.

This matters because many people assume Jesus is far away from them after they fail. They imagine Him standing at a distance with disappointment. John 21 shows the opposite. Jesus is already on the shore. He is closer than Peter knows. He is more gracious than Peter expects. He is still speaking, still guiding, and still pursuing. The voice of Jesus breaks into Peter's empty night and turns the entire scene. That is what the risen Christ still does. He meets His people in places of exhaustion, confusion, and retreat and calls them toward the new life He has for them.

Questions

1. Where do you need to remember that Jesus may be closer than you realize?
2. What would it look like to listen for the voice of Jesus in your exhaustion and emptiness?

DAY 4

Thursday – April 9 Grace Still Sets the Table

Read

John 21:9–14
Psalm 23
Exodus 16:11–18
Matthew 11:28–30
Romans 5:6–11

Reflect

When the disciples come ashore, they find a charcoal fire, fish on it, and bread. Before Peter says a word, breakfast is waiting. Before Jesus addresses the denial, He provides a meal. Before He confronts Peter's failure, He cares for Peter's need for hope. This is one of the most beautiful portraits of resurrection grace in the New Testament. Jesus does not begin with accusation. He begins with provision. Grace sets a table.

The charcoal fire is especially significant. Peter had denied Jesus around a charcoal fire in John 18. Now Jesus recreates the setting of Peter's failure, not to shame him, but to heal him. That is how Jesus works. He does not pretend our wounds and failures never happened. He meets us in them and transforms their meaning. The place of denial becomes the place of restoration. The fire that once marked Peter's collapse now becomes the setting for grace. The risen Christ has a way of taking the places that make us wince and turning them into places of mercy.

Questions

1. What does it mean to you that Jesus feeds Peter before confronting him?
2. Is there a painful place in your past that you need to invite Jesus to redeem rather than avoid?

DAY 5

Friday — April 10

Do You Love Me?

Read

John 21:15–17

Deuteronomy 6:4–5

Matthew 26:31–35, 69–75

1 Corinthians 13:1–7

1 John 4:7–10

Reflect

Three times Jesus asks Peter, “Do you love me?” The repetition is not accidental. It mirrors Peter’s three denials. But Jesus is not humiliating Peter. He is freeing him. He is taking Peter back through the scene of his failure so that grace can have the final word. Peter does not get to erase what happened, but he does get to encounter the risen Christ in the middle of it and hear his future spoken back over him. Jesus does not ask Peter for a polished speech or a promise of flawless faithfulness. He asks for love.

There is something deeply healing in this question. Jesus goes beneath Peter’s collapse and addresses Peter’s heart. Failure often tempts us to define ourselves by what we did wrong. Jesus moves deeper and asks about love, allegiance, and relationship. The goal is not merely that Peter would feel forgiven. The goal is that Peter would be restored in love. That is still how Jesus works with us. He is not interested only in behavior modification. He is after the heart. He wants to restore a relationship with us before He restores our assignment.

Questions

1. What does Jesus’ question reveal about the kind of relationship He wants with Peter?
2. How might Jesus be inviting you to move beyond regret and respond to Him in love?

DAY 6

Saturday – April 11

More Than Forgiven

Read

John 21:15–19

Jeremiah 29:11

Joel 2:25–27

Romans 8:28–30

Philippians 1:6

Reflect

Each time Peter answers Jesus, Jesus responds with a calling: feed my lambs, tend my sheep, feed my sheep. Peter is not merely forgiven; he is recommissioned. This is what makes John 21 such a powerful post-Easter text. The risen Jesus does not stop at removing guilt. He restores purpose. Failure tried to define Peter as unstable, ashamed, and disqualified. Jesus redefines Peter's future with words of calling and responsibility. Resurrection grace does not only erase what was wrong; it also speaks into what comes next.

This matters for every believer. Many of us can imagine God forgiving us in theory, but we struggle to believe He would still want to use us. Peter's story says otherwise. The same man who denied Jesus publicly is entrusted again with responsibility in the kingdom of God. That does not minimize Peter's failure. It magnifies Jesus' grace. God is able to write futures that are bigger than our worst moments. He is able to redeem what shame tried to bury. Jesus does more than forgive our failure. He redefines our future.

Questions

1. Where have you assumed your failure disqualified you from God's purposes?
2. What would it look like to let Jesus rewrite your story?

DAY 7

Sunday – April 12

Following Forward

Read

John 21:18–22, 25

Luke 9:23–24

Philippians 3:12–14

Hebrews 12:1–3

Revelation 21:1–5

Reflect

Jesus' final word to Peter in this passage is simple and direct: "Follow me." After the failure, after the breakfast, after the questions, after the restoration, Jesus does not leave Peter in reflection alone. He calls him forward. Restoration is not meant to trap us in endless self-analysis. It is meant to send us into renewed obedience. Peter cannot change the past, but he can follow Jesus into the future. That is the shape of resurrection life.

The same is true for us. The goal of grace is not just that we feel better about what happened. The goal is that we become free to follow Jesus again. Easter does not remove the reality of scars, but it does remove their final authority. Jesus is alive, and that means there is always a future for those who follow Him. John ends his Gospel by saying there is more that could be told about Jesus than the world could contain. In other words, the story is still bigger than what we can see. That is why we keep following Him. Not because we understand everything, but because the risen Christ is still worth following.

Questions

1. What is one step of renewed obedience Jesus may be calling you to take now?
2. How does Peter's restoration encourage you to follow Jesus forward instead of living trapped in the past?