

**Summary of this week's teaching:** Before diving into our extended study of the book of Acts, this week we examined John 21. This powerful passage takes place on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, during the 40 days between Jesus' resurrection and ascension. It is the last of these encounters before Jesus meets His disciples to commission them and ascend into glory. But before this happens, there is important work to be done - Jesus must publicly restore Simon Peter and teach him some very valuable lessons.

**Connect:** Relational questions to get conversations started.

1. What is your favorite part of spring, and why?

**Seed:** The Bible, God's inspired Word, is very much like a seed- it contains everything we need to experience life. Please read the following passages of scripture as a group: (perhaps in two different translations) John 21:1-25, and Luke 5:1-11.

1. Do you think that it was wrong for the disciples to go fishing during this period of waiting? Why or why not?
2. How do these two miraculous hauls of fish compare and contrast to one another? What lessons do these two miracles teach us?

**Roots:** Like subterranean tree roots which extend in all directions searching out water, each believer needs to grow and develop spiritual roots that allow us to make personal connections with our God.

1. Jesus met the disciples where they were, made them breakfast, ate with them, and publicly restored and commissioned Peter. What does this teach us about the character of Jesus?
2. We often incorrectly feel like the burden of connecting with God falls solely on us. Like Jesus in John 21, how does God meet you where you are in life? In what ways does He connect with you?

**Trunk:** Without trunks, plants may be large, useful, and beautiful but they are not trees. The same is true for our faith - without it we are not saved and cannot please God. These questions will help us grow our faith in Him.

1. Please read John 18:15-18, 25-27 and Luke 22:54-62. Despite Peter's denial of Jesus, He still loved Peter, forgave him, and used him. How have you seen God do the same in your life, and how does this affect your faith in Him?

**Crown:** Crowns are the glory of a tree; the culmination of the roots and trunk working in harmony and can be seen for miles around. The crown of a tree represents the visible portion of our faithlife. These questions will encourage us to apply these principles into our everyday lives.

1. Peter seems more concerned with John's story than his own. Have you ever struggled to live your own story? (Through comparison, envy, etc.?) Jesus responds by telling Peter to "follow me." What changes can you make to live your own story as you follow Christ?

