

# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

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## GOD BECAME MAN

# WEEK 29

April 18 & 19

## The Heart of Christ

*This sermon study is designed to be used the week after the sermon it supplements. Before using the study in your life group, it might be helpful to work through the questions on your own before your group meets. The purpose of this guide is to help facilitate discussion and to help your group, collectively and individually, grow closer to Jesus.*

### SERIES RECAP

Back in August, we started going through the gospel of John and left off in chapter 9. John's gospel is unique from Matthew, Mark and Luke in that John was one of Jesus' first followers and closest friends, and was written around A.D. 85. In his writing, John's primary aim is to persuade skeptics that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of God (20:30-31).

### SERMON SUMMARY

This week we're closing out our series through the gospel of John, finishing in chapter 21. In John 21, we see how Jesus deals with shame, and how the resurrection of Jesus changes the way we see failure and points us to the hope of the gospel.

### MAIN TEXT

John 21:1-25

### GETTING STARTED

What is an embarrassing story from your childhood that you can look back on and laugh about now?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read John 21 out loud as a group. How did Peter react when he realized that Jesus was on the shore? How did that compare to John's reaction? Who do you relate to more: Peter or John? Why?
2. Read Luke 5:8. In this verse, Peter seems ashamed to be in Jesus' presence, which is very different from his reaction we see in John 21. Why do you think his reaction varied so much? If you were in Peter's shoes, which situation would have brought you more anxiety about seeing Jesus?
3. This weekend, we learned that the resurrection of Jesus changes what we do with our shame. How do you handle shame or embarrassment now compared to before you were a Christian? Is it any different? What evidence of holding onto shame do you see in our culture?
4. Before we can be restored, we must first own our failures. Share with the group a time when you had to ask for someone's forgiveness before your relationship could be back to normal. Why do we neglect admitting or owning our failures?
5. After Jesus had restored Peter, He placed a call on his life. In fact, what was true for Peter is true of us, too: we are saved from something, for something. Why do you think you have been saved? How does your salvation change your everyday decisions?
6. Once Peter learned of the calling that Jesus had for him, he immediately asked, "What about this man?" in reference to John. How did Jesus respond? What can we learn from this exchange?

### NEXT STEPS

Now, take some time for self-reflection. Partner up with another person in your group and discuss these questions:

Have you let the resurrection wipe you clean of your shame?

If you are not living with a clear conscience, what holds you back from giving your shame to Jesus?

Is there anyone you need to seek forgiveness from? If so, what steps can you take this week toward reconciliation?

Pray together and ask God to reveal what He is calling you to do next.