SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

John

Chapter 21

Breakfast on the Shore, Follow Me

MEMORY VERSE · JOHN 21:17

"He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep.""

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in John 21

This week we stand on a beach with men who failed Jesus and went back to the boat. The risen Lord meets them there, cooks them breakfast, and asks Peter the one question that matters: “Do you love Me?” Let Him ask you too — and then hear what He tells you to do.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the John study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

A Night of Nothing

READ · JOHN 21:1–8

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the disciples do all night, what did they catch, and what did Jesus tell them to do at daybreak (vv. 3–6)?

REFLECT

Peter said, "I am going fishing" (v. 3). When I don't know what to do next, what old habit or old way of coping do I go back to?

REFLECT

John said, "It is the Lord," and Peter threw himself into the sea (v. 7). What keeps me from moving toward Jesus that fast when I realize He is near?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one place where you have been working hard and catching nothing. Tell Jesus about it in plain words today, and ask Him what to do.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 21:17)

DAY 2 OF 5

Breakfast from His Hands

READ · JOHN 21:9–14

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What was already on the shore when the disciples landed, and who served the bread and fish (vv. 9, 13)?

REFLECT

Jesus had the fire lit and the food cooking before they brought in their catch (vv. 9–10). Where have I acted as if God's care depends on what I bring Him?

REFLECT

Jesus fed these men before He had a hard conversation with Peter (vv. 12, 15). How has He shown me kindness before He corrected me?

RESPOND — TODAY

Before you eat a meal today, stop and thank Jesus by name for one specific way He has provided for you this month.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 21:17)

DAY 3 OF 5

Do You Love Me?

READ · JOHN 21:15–17

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How many times did Jesus ask, “Do you love Me?” and what did He say after each answer (vv. 15–17)?

REFLECT

Peter denied Jesus by one charcoal fire (18:18) and is asked three times by another (21:9). What failure do I keep replaying, and what would it mean to let Jesus meet me there?

REFLECT

Jesus asked, “Do you love Me more than these?” (v. 15). What are the “these” in my life that compete with Him right now?

RESPOND — TODAY

Answer Jesus in your own words: “Lord, You know …” Then write down one person He may be asking you to “tend.”

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 21:17)

DAY 4 OF 5

You Follow Me

READ · JOHN 21:18–23

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Jesus tell Peter about his death, and what did Peter ask about John (vv. 18–21)?

REFLECT

Jesus told Peter he would be led "where you do not wish to go" (v. 18), then said, "Follow Me!" (v. 19). Where is following Jesus taking me that I would not have chosen?

REFLECT

"Lord, and what about this man?" (v. 21). Whose life, sentence or recovery do I compare mine to, and how does that pull my eyes off Jesus?

RESPOND — TODAY

When you catch yourself comparing today, pray verse 22 back to Jesus: "You follow Me."

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 21:17)

DAY 5 OF 5

The Witness Is True

READ · JOHN 21:24–25

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does verse 24 say about the man who wrote this Gospel and about his testimony?

REFLECT

John says the world could not contain the books if everything Jesus did were written (v. 25). What has Jesus done in my life that I could testify to if someone asked?

REFLECT

John wrote "so that you may believe" (20:31). Looking back over this Gospel, what one thing about Jesus has become more real to me?

RESPOND — TODAY

Tell one person this week — a brother in the group, a family member, a cellmate — one true thing Jesus has done for you.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 21:17)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Peter jumped into the water while the others brought the boat in (vv. 7–8). Which one am I more like, and what does each way of coming to Jesus teach us?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Jesus called grown fishermen "Children" (v. 5). What does it do to a man to hear Jesus speak to him like that after a night of failure?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Peter was told how he would die and still followed (vv. 18–19). What would faithfulness to the end look like for each of us here?

MY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You know all things; You know where I have failed You, and today I want to tell You …

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · JOHN 21:17

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