

**THE SHORE** (Week of 10/10/21)  
**John 21:1-19**

**BREAKING GROUND**

1. (For this question everyone has to participate without repeating previous answers).  
Tell us something you can buy that costs a dollar or less.
2. As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

**DIGGING DEEPER**

The Sea of Galilee has many names in the Bible. In the Old Testament, its Hebrew name is the Sea of Kinnereth (Numbers 23:11). “Kinnereth” comes from the Hebrew word meaning “harp,” and the sea may have borne this name because its shoreline has a harp shape. The Romans also called it the Sea of Tiberias, named after the town of Tiberias on its southwestern shore (John 6:1). Some called it the Lake of Gennesaret, after the fertile area on its northwestern shore (Luke 5:1).

A general timeline of Simon Peter’s life (dates approximate)

- AD 30 – Simon leaves his career as a fisherman to follow Jesus.
- AD 30-33 – Simon becomes one of Jesus’ 12 disciples and follows him closely as  
He ministers in Galilee and Judea. During this time, Jesus gives Simon  
the name Peter.
- AD 33 – Jesus crucified, rises from the dead and ascends into Heaven.
- AD 33 – Peter preaches at Pentecost and 3,000 people profess faith in Christ  
and are baptized.
- AD 33-63 – Peter is a leader in the Jerusalem church and takes several missionary  
trips to other churches in the Mediterranean.
- AD 41-44 – Peter is imprisoned for preaching about Jesus.
- AD 63 – From the city of Rome, Peter writes 1 Peter to Roman provinces  
throughout the empire.
- AD 64-67 – From a prison in the city of Rome, Peter writes the book of 2 Peter. As  
indicated by Jesus’ words in John 21:18-19, and according to early  
church tradition, Peter is crucified in Rome for his faith in Jesus.

When Jesus first called Peter, He invited him to become a fisher of men (Luke 5:10). Later, when Christ reinstates Peter after his three denials, Jesus calls him to be a shepherd (John 21:16-17). Later in his life, as a leader in the early church, Peter passes on this calling, encouraging other pastors to “be shepherds of God’s flock” (1 Peter 5:2).

1. Read Luke 5:1-11 and John 21:1-4. Jesus called Peter out of the boat and said, “Don’t be afraid: from now on you will fish for people.” Why did Peter return to the boat in John 21?

What did his actions reveal about what he believed about Jesus?

2. In general, what are the places and rhythms of the past that people tend to run back to when they feel ashamed?

Read Micah 7:19, Ephesians 5:25-26, and John 14:1. What is the most difficult thing when people are trying to get back on track spiritually?

3. Read John 21:4-14. When Jesus offered Peter a meal beside the charcoal fire, He entered the place of Peter's shame and met His guilt with grace. What do you do when you've dropped the ball?

Read Isaiah 43:18-19. Where do you turn to experience God's forgiveness and grace?

4. Read Genesis 32:24-30 and Exodus 33:9-11. What would it look like for you to have a face-to-face encounter with Jesus today?

5. Read Psalm 27:4-6 and Philippians 3:12-14. Jesus wasn't done with Peter, and He's not done with you. What is Jesus calling you back into? How does Jesus' relentless pursuit of you influence your future?

6. Read Mark 16:2-7 and 2 Peter 3:9. How can we help others restore their relationship with the Lord?

## **GETTING GROWING**

1. This week pray specifically for someone that needs to reestablish his or her relationship with the Lord. Ask God to give you an opportunity to talk to and encourage that person.
2. Thank Jesus for the endless opportunities that He gives us every day. Write down the many blessings that you have received in the last months and thank God for each one in your list.