

## Small Group Discussion Guide

**\*\*Sermon: "The Fires of Confidence"\*\***

**\*Easter Sunday - John 18 & 21\***

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### ## Opening Prayer

Begin by thanking Jesus for His resurrection and asking Him to speak to your group about areas where you need His restoration.

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### ## Icebreaker

Share about a time when you were overly confident about something and it didn't turn out the way you expected. What did you learn?

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### ## Key Scripture Passages

- **\*\*John 18:3-11\*\*** - Peter cuts off Malchus's ear
- **\*\*John 18:15-18, 25-27\*\*** - Peter denies Jesus by the fire
- **\*\*John 21:1-19\*\*** - Jesus restores Peter by another fire

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### ## Discussion Questions

#### ### 1. **\*\*Misplaced Confidence\*\***

**\*\*"You can be willing and ready to fight for Jesus, but not ready to follow Jesus."\*\***

- What's the difference between fighting *for* Jesus and following Him?
- In what area of your life are you most tempted to do things "your way" instead of trusting God's way? (relationships, career, finances, habits, etc.)
- How does misplaced confidence sometimes put us in opposition to God's will?

#### ### 2. **\*\*The Downward Spiral\*\***

**\*\*"Discouragement can lead to distance. Distance can lead to denial. Denial can lead to drift and decline."\*\***

- Walk through Peter's journey: bold confidence → discouragement → distance →

denial → drift. Which stage resonates most with where you've been (or are now)?

- What "fires" have you been standing by—situations, relationships, or habits where you're just trying to stay comfortable while your heart grows cold toward God?
- Have you ever found yourself "going fishing"—returning to old patterns or identities after failing God?

### ### 3. \*\*The Fire of Denial vs. The Fire of Restoration\*\*

"Jesus recreates the moment so He can recreate Peter. Jesus recreates the moment so He can rewrite your story."

- Why do you think Jesus built another fire for Peter in John 21? What does this tell us about how Jesus approaches our failures?
- Jesus asked Peter three times "Do you love me?" instead of "Why did you fail me?" How does this change the way you think about confession and restoration?
- What does it mean that "grace always goes where guilt wants to avoid"?

### ### 4. \*\*What About Them?\*\*

"Jesus answered, 'If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.'"

- Why do we deflect to others ("What about them?") when Jesus is trying to have a deep conversation with us?
- What would change if you stopped comparing your journey to others and simply focused on following Jesus?

### ### 5. \*\*The Difference Is Jesus\*\*

"The difference between those two fires is not Peter. The difference is Jesus."

- How does the resurrection make restoration possible?
- Where do you need Jesus to rewrite your story? What conversation have you been avoiding with Him?
- Jesus restored Peter before reassigning him to "feed my sheep." What does this teach us about God's grace and our calling?

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## ## Personal Reflection

Take 2-3 minutes of silence for each person to ask themselves:

- What fire am I standing by right now?
- What is Jesus inviting me to talk to Him about?

- What would it look like for me to say "Yes" to following Him today?

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## ## Prayer Time

- **Confession**: Create space for people to confess (silently or aloud) where they've been doing things their way instead of God's way
- **Restoration**: Pray for anyone experiencing discouragement, distance, or denial—that they would encounter Jesus by a new fire
- **Commitment**: Pray for courage to follow Jesus regardless of past failures

Pray specifically for anyone who gave their life to Christ during the sermon.

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## ## This Week's Challenge

**Choose One.**

1. **Have the conversation** - Stop avoiding that conversation with Jesus. Set aside 30 minutes this week to pray specifically about the area where you've been doing things your way.
2. **Stop fishing** - Identify one old pattern or identity you've drifted back to and take one concrete step to follow Jesus instead.
3. **Influence intentionally** - Remember: "You have influence." Especially if you have kids, co-workers, or friends watching your life—recommit to showing them what following Jesus looks like after failure.

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## ## Closing

**"Will you come follow me? You don't have to prove anything. You don't have to earn your way back in. You don't have to work your way back into good graces."**

Close by reading John 21:19 together: **"Then he said to him, 'Follow me!'"**