

Small Group Questions for the Week of April 12, 2015

The following questions are taken from the book entitled John: 26 Studies for Individuals and Groups by N.T. Wright. Please do not feel compelled to ask every question that is listed below. You know your group better than the person writing the questions. Ask the questions that are best for your group, and questions that you yourself are comfortable answering.

1. Read John 21:1-25. John specifically mentions a “charcoal fire” in verse 9. Look at the last time we encountered a charcoal fire in John’s Gospel (see 18:18).

Why is this a significant detail here?

2. Why does Jesus ask Peter the same question 3 times? (vv. 15-17)?
3. Jesus goes to where the pain is, as he so often does. He takes Simon Peter away from the others. They are probably walking slowly along the shore. And he asks the question that goes to the heart of it all, “Do you love me?” The question is asked and answered; and even more, that answer earns not a pat on the back, not a “There, that’s all right then,” but a command. A fresh challenge. A new commission.

How does the new commission that Jesus gives Peter offer a concrete way of demonstrating he’s been forgiven and express hope for him?

4. How has Jesus specifically addressed the areas of your life that have needed forgiveness and healing?
5. Jesus tells Peter that he is going to have to follow him, not only in being a shepherd to the flock, but in glorifying God through dying as a martyr (vv. 18-19). It is the most natural thing in the world that he should ask Jesus whether John will share in this fate too.

Why does Jesus deny Peter the information he’s looking for?

6. Once the Word has become flesh, all the books in the world can’t do justice to it. Nothing less than flesh can now do justice to the meaning of the Word: your flesh, my flesh. Books can reach a small way out into the world. Our lives, in the power of the Spirit, can reach a lot further.

In what ways can your life become a living expression of the love of God for the world?