# Gospel of John Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## John Chapter 21

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| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background:1. Resurrection (21:1-14)
	1. Back to fishing (vv.1-3)
	2. Jesus on the shore, miraculous catch (vv.4-8)
	3. Barbeque with the risen Jesus (vv.9-14)
		1. Jesus already had his own fish! (v.9)
2. Response (21:15-19)
	1. Deja vu: From denying Jesus to loving Jesus
		1. Denial: Charcoal fire and 3 questions (18:17,18 [fire], 25,27)... Deny Jesus
		2. Restoration: Charcoal fire and 3 questions (21:9 [fire], 15, 16, 17)... Love Jesus
	2. If you love Jesus... follow Jesus (21:19) [including when it is difficult]
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| Possible main point(s):* The cross is about death, the resurrection is about LIFE!
* Jesus rose from the dead to bring us back into a right relationship with him.
* Though we deny him, he defeats death, sets the table for us, and asks us if we love him and want to follow him.
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| What this shows us about Jesus:* Jesus is alive (v.1ff.)
* Jesus calls his followers “friends” (v. 5)
* Jesus can do miracles, he miraculously helps them catch a massive amount of fish (v.6)
* Jesus didn’t need the disciples’ fish, he already had some (v.9), but still invites us to do things which help us recognize him as Lord (v.7)
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| What this has to do with our life:* We are tempted to go back to our own ways, especially if our view of Jesus is “dead” (v.3)
* In this story the disciples experienced a miracle and recognized Jesus only after they obeyed his command (v.6)
* Jesus calls us to love him (vv.15-17)
* Jesus calls us to follow him, even if we will suffer (vv.18-19)
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| Relevant technical details:* Many of the disciples were experienced fishermen, and often the best fishing was done at night.
* The details of Peter’s outfit/nakedness are not clear, it is not significant to the main point of the story except to show that Peter was very eager and didn’t help with the boat (vv.7-8)
* The same Greek word used in 21:9 “fire of burning coals” is the same word used when Peter denied Jesus (Jn. 18:18).
* It is true that in the dialog between Jesus and Peter, Peter uses the Greek word for love “phileo”, while Jesus uses the Greek word for love “agape”, except in Jesus’ third question (v.17) Jesus then uses “phileo.” This may mean that Jesus was “coming down to Peter’s level,” but it may more likely be that these words are simply interchangeable (this is the modern scholarly consensus on John’s usage).
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| Possible illustrations:* Think about what you would need if you were a stage manager... Boat, fishing rods, nets, fire, fish/bread. You could use any of these to help get your listeners attention.
* One of my favorite ways to prove that God is alive is to have all the YL/WL leaders stand up and ask them things like: Is God working in your life right now? Do you have an active relationship with the living God. Emphasize God’s active work now... God is alive and works in Christians who follow him.
* A response to Jesus could include three elements in this passage: 1) Do you want to love God, as best as you are able (vv.15-17), 2) Do you know that it won’t always be easy, in fact you will likely suffer for following Jesus (v. 18), 3) Are you willing to follow Jesus as he leads you through life? (v.19) You could put these questions on a poster/Powerpoint/etc.
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*For more details see ylhelp.com*

John 21 (NIV84)

*Jesus and the Miraculous Catch of Fish*

**21** Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias. It happened this way: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 3 “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

4 Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

5 He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?”

“No,” they answered.

6 He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. 8 The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. 9 When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

10 Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.”

11 Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14 This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

*Jesus Reinstates Peter*

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

16 Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

17 The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. 18 I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” 19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

20 Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is going to betray you?”) 21 When Peter saw him, he asked, “Lord, what about him?”

22 Jesus answered, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.” 23 Because of this, the rumor spread among the brothers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?”

24 This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.

25 Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.