



That You May Believe: Jesus And Peter On The Beach

John Bodily – 19 April 2026 ([watch talk here](#))

In the concluding talk of this series, John Bodily focuses on the beautiful conversation between Jesus and his disciple Peter that takes place on the beach in John 21:9-19. Before unpacking the passage, John reminds us of the backstory to this encounter we read in the gospels (e.g., Matthew 26:31-35 and Mark 14:27-31). Before Jesus was arrested and crucified, he predicts Peter will deny him three times. Yet, true to character, Peter passionately protests, insisting he will never deny Jesus but follow him even to death! As the events unfold just as Jesus foretold, Peter is left weeping bitterly after the rooster crows following his third denial of knowing Jesus (Luke 22:60-62).

Returning to our key passage John invited us to pause to marvel at the way the resurrected Jesus approaches Peter following his denial, in their conversation on the shore of the Sea of Galilee (John 21:15-19). Mirroring Peter's three denials, Jesus asks Peter three times 'Do you love me?', offering three opportunities for Peter to humbly repent and confess his love for Jesus. Jesus responds with mercy and forgiveness assured by entrusting Peter with a task to serve him, 'Feed my lambs' (John 21:15), and an invitation to 'Follow me' (John 21:19), echoing Peter's first call to be his disciple.

Key verses:

Matthew 26:31-35 Luke 22:60-62 **John 21:9-19** Psalm 51:17

Reflect and discuss

Read John 21:9-19. In this restorative conversation we see a picture of how God responds to his children. When a contrite and humble heart comes before the Lord he offers grace and forgiveness evidenced by an invitation to serve and follow him.

- What strikes you about how Jesus restores his relationship with Peter?
- How is this different from some of the ways you might respond when feeling hurt, disappointed or betrayed?

Share & Pray

In God's eyes we are not defined by our mistakes and failures but released from the power of shame. He restores us, recommissions us and invites us once again to follow him.

In smaller groups, consider what this passage reveals about Jesus' response to us when we fall short. How do you respond when this happens? Do you feel ashamed or defined by your mistakes? Do you need reminding of Jesus' love, mercy and empowerment as you sincerely repent with a humble heart? Pray for one another.

Activate

John concluded this series, 'That You May Believe', by reiterating that belief is not just something that we *think*, it is something that we *do*. Jesus invites us to follow him both as we initially embark on our journey with him and as we continue on it, growing as disciples in trust and obedience. As you go through this week, reflect on the question 'Are you ready to follow Jesus?'.