

# CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

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– COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE –

## Jesus Encounters Series “Jesus & Those Who Falter” – John 21:1-19

### FELLOWSHIP

“When all else fails...” How do you finish this sentence? For some it might be, “read the directions,” or “go for a run,” or “think about the universe,” or “get organized,” or “take a nap.” For Peter, the last three years of his life had potentially been a waste of time and commitment. He had failed the final exam, and wouldn’t be receiving his diploma to graduate into that senior level, executive leader position on the messiah’s dream team. The venture that this group had been a part of was apparently over; the movement, its excitement, and followers had dissipated. Personally, whatever skills or passion Peter might have thought he brought to the mission were apparently wiped out by the biggest blunder ever. After boasting that failure wasn’t in his DNA, his confidence dulled the seriousness of the warning about his pending collapse. Now he was a disappointment and a bum. Not seeing any way to redeem the relationships or the cause, it’s no wonder that Peter said, “I quit.” When all else fails, who can blame the person for returning back to what they knew worked? For Peter this was fishing. Growing up in San Clemente, I can remember more than a few times I said, “Forget it...see you at the beach.” Outside, in the elements, laboring, a man can burn off and forget his pain. There is no one around to say, “They told you so.” There are no investors looking to collect, or competitors who might mock and sneer. Isolation is tempting when we fail. One might make the mistake of avoiding life and reality as long as they can. But just when we’ve decided that wallowing in exile will be our lot for the rest of our lives, God appears on the shores and says, “Caught anything yet?”

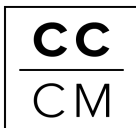
### READ & DISCUSS

Read out loud together as a group John 21:1-19 and discuss any observations that would be applicable today. Jesus knew that Peter and the other disciples had crashed hard from their failures. He loved them and took the time to restore the relationships and renew their sense of worth and purpose:

**John 21:17** *“He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.”*

- Jesus knew Peter was going to fail, but he also knew that he would be restored. Read Luke 22:31-32. *How does that make you feel that God has a plan to use you even though he knows we will sometimes fail? Thinking about the disciples in the boat, or on the road to Emmaus, or Mary in the garden: Why is it often hard to recognize God when we have experienced pain or failure? What was the moment that you realized God was there in the midst of your crises?*
- Repentance leads to restoration, but the process can often seem intimidating or burdensome. *Why does repenting sometimes seem so hard or intimidating? How would you define repentance? When John the Baptism was in the wilderness at the Jordon preaching repentance, the whole region lined up to enter the waters. Why do you think so many wanted to repent? What was happening?*
- Restoration is the renewing of discipleship and relationship. Jesus recast his invitation with Peter and the others at the same original place he first offered it by saying, “Follow me.” *When away from God, where is the best place to reconnect with him?* Read James 5:13-20. The body of Christ seems to be the way God has intended his sons and daughters to find restoration. *What has been your experience in helping someone find their way back to God? What were the things you did for them or together with them in the process?*

**PRAY** Why do we sometimes feel that we toil for God without any results? We all periodically need to return to Jesus for re-commissioning. He will renew our purpose and calling whether we are on the shore or at sea, whether we are on the beach or in the storm. Pray for one another so that we can share our burdens, confess, repent, and be restored. Some would call that revival.



**Community Group Discussion Guide**

*Based on Pastor Brian Brodersen’s message on July 30, 2017.*

*Watch: <https://cccm.com/teaching/jesus-encounters/video/jesus-and-those-who-falter/>*