

“I Am the Resurrection and the Life”

The Gospel of John

John 21:15–25

Read John 21:15–25.

1. When Jesus first called “Simon son of John” to be a disciple, he gave him the new name “Peter” (Jn. 1:42). Why do you think Jesus uses Peter’s old name to address him in this passage?

2. Peter is probably still damp from his early morning swim (Jn. 21:7) when he takes a walk with Jesus after breakfast. Fill in the chart below to begin your own observations of this passage.

	Jesus’ question	Peter’s answer	Jesus’ call
v. 15			
v. 16			
v. 17			

3. What “these” could Jesus be referring to in verse 15? (Review vv. 1–14. You may have more than one answer.)

4. John is the only gospel writer to include this conversation between Jesus and Peter.
 - a. What do you think Jesus’ three questions here in John 21 would have reminded Peter of?

 - b. Read Matthew 26:31–35. How is the way Peter interacts with Jesus in today’s passage different from the way he interacted with him before his denial?

5. Peter may have thought that his public denial of Jesus disqualified him from being included in Jesus’ kingdom, never mind being made a leader in it.
 - a. Jesus “know[s] all things” (v. 17). What had he said just before and just after he predicted Peter's denial? (Lk. 22:28–32)

- b. In John 10:11, Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” What does the good shepherd, who has made the ultimate sacrifice for his sheep, now commission Peter to do? (vv. 15–17)
 - c. This commission puts to rest Peter’s fears that he has been disqualified. What does this tell us about the kind of people God uses to build his kingdom?
6. What are some ways Peter fulfilled Jesus’ call? (Acts 2:38–41; 1 Pet. 5:12; 2 Pet. 1:12–15)
7. What more does Jesus say about Peter’s calling? (vv. 18–19; compare Jn. 13:36)
8. Jesus has just instructed Peter, “Follow me” (v. 19), yet where does Peter’s focus quickly turn? (vv. 20–21)

How does Jesus address Peter’s concern? (v. 22)

9. Both Peter and John are to follow Jesus, but what that looks like is significantly different. How does this help you as you consider Jesus’ call on your life?
10. In writing his gospel, John’s purpose was not to record everything Jesus said and did (v. 25; Jn. 20:30).
- a. What great word picture does John use to describe what he left unrecorded in his gospel? (v. 25)
 - b. John is bringing his account of Jesus to a close. What final words of instruction does John record in verse 22b?

***SPOILER ALERT:** These final words lead beautifully into our study of the book of Acts next year. We will witness an amazing transformation in Peter and the other disciples and also see how the kingdom of God extends from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth!*

11. As for this week, review the things that have impressed you during the study of John this year. Consider sharing with the group one highlight from your study of the life, works, and words of Jesus. What effect has looking into John’s gospel had on your life?