SMITH FOR CHRIST · TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

GROUP WORKSHEET · OBSERVE · INTERPRET · APPLY

John 21

Breakfast on the Shore, Follow Me

NAME _____ DATE _____

KEY VERSE · JOHN 21:15 · NASB

"So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My lambs."

Seven disciples go fishing in Galilee and catch nothing. A Stranger on the beach changes everything. Then, at a charcoal fire, Jesus restores the man who denied Him and tells him to follow.

BEFORE YOU ANSWER

1. Read John 21 straight through, then a second time slowly with a pen.
2. Mark what you see: God · commands · repeated words · sin / warnings · promises · time / place.
3. Answer from the text first. Write the verse number beside every answer.

COUNT THE KEY WORDS

Find each word in John 21. Tally it and note the verses. What does John keep coming back to?

WORD	HOW MANY?	VERSES
fish		
love / loved / loves		
follow / following		
Simon Peter		
disciple		
sheep / lambs		

JOHN 21:1–8 The Empty Net

1 OBSERVE

What did Peter decide to do, who went with him, and how did the night go (21:2–3)?

2 OBSERVE

What did the Stranger on the beach ask and tell them, and what happened (21:5–6)?

3 OBSERVE

Who recognized Jesus first, and what did Peter do (21:7)?

4 INTERPRET

Read Luke 5:1–11. Why would this catch tell them who was on the shore?

5 APPLY

Guzik on the night of fishing: "Whether their motives were good or bad, that night they caught nothing." Where have you gone back to what you know and come up empty without Jesus?

JOHN 21:9–14 Breakfast

6 OBSERVE

What did they find on the shore, and what did Jesus invite them to do (21:9, 12)?

7 WEIGH THE TEACHERS

John counts 153 large fish, "and although there were so many, the net was not torn" (21:11). Guzik: "all we know for certain is that 153 represents the number of fish in the net." Spurgeon draws a picture from the unbroken net. Why might an eyewitness record the number?

JOHN 21:15–17 Restored

8 OBSERVE

Write down Jesus' three questions and three commands to Peter (21:15–17).

9 INTERPRET

John uses the word for "charcoal fire" only in 18:18 and 21:9. What happened at the first fire, and why three questions at the second?

10 INTERPRET

Why was Peter grieved (21:17)? Does the switch between two Greek words for love explain it?

11 WEIGH THE TEACHERS

What did Jesus mean by "more than these" (21:15)? Guzik: more than the other men love Me. Henry: more than "the delights of sense and all the profits of this world." Spurgeon notes Peter answered "not as to the quantity but as to the quality of his love." How would you answer?

12 APPLY

Jesus did not just forgive Peter; He gave him work to do. What sheep has Jesus given you to tend?

JOHN 21:18–23 Follow

13 OBSERVE

What did Jesus tell Peter about his old age, and what did it signify (21:18–19)?

14 OBSERVE

What did Peter ask about the beloved disciple, and how did Jesus answer (21:21–22)?

15 INTERPRET

What rumor did 21:23 correct?

16 APPLY

Whom do you compare your path with? Write what "You follow Me!" means for you this week.

JOHN 21:24–25 The Witness

17 OBSERVE

What does John say about his own testimony, and about everything Jesus did (21:24–25)?

WORD STUDY The Greek behind the English

18 WORD *anthrakia* · G439 · charcoal fire

Compare 18:18 and 21:9. Where were you standing at your own first fire, and how has Jesus met you since?

19 WORD *akoloutheō* · G190 · to follow

"Follow Me" is the first call (1:43) and the last command (21:19, 22). What does that tell you about the whole Christian life?

PUT IT TOGETHER The chapter as a whole

The theme. In one or two sentences of your own, what is John 21 about?

Jesus. What does this chapter show you about who Jesus is that you want to remember?

This week. What one thing will you do because of this chapter, and which brother will you tell?

Around the table. Prayer requests and what the other men saw that you missed.