

# Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

## The Making of an Apostle - Part 5 God of Another Chance

DALE STEPHENSON

### Introduction

Peter denied Jesus at His trial, despite his previous insistence that he was prepared to die for Jesus. At this point, Peter felt like a complete failure. His depth of despair made him feel disqualified from being able to serve Jesus at all. Even so, on a deserted beach, Jesus met Peter where he was at, calling him back and ultimately leading him to unimaginably greater things for the glory of God. God has a very high tolerance of our failures, and a very low tolerance of our disobedience. Every single one of us will fail, the question is what we do at that point. At our point of failure, Jesus calls us to draw closer to Him. He calls us to receive His forgiveness and restoration. Jesus can use our failures for His glory, no matter what we have done. Our part is to repent and come back to Him.

### Read

John 21:1-19

### Discuss

1. Read John 21:1-19 together as a group. What stands out to you in this text? How might you have felt if you were Peter?
2. Have you ever been at a point where you have felt that you have let Jesus down, or disqualified yourself as a disciple? What was your response? What helped you at this time? (Share if appropriate).
3. What was significant about Jesus' meeting Peter at the beach where he was fishing? What discipleship lessons can we learn from this example?
4. Read John 21:15-17. What is significant about this interaction between Jesus and Peter? What was Jesus looking to achieve? How did Peter respond? How is this relevant to us when we fail? What lessons can we learn from this?

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5. Jesus has a high tolerance of failure but a low tolerance of disobedience. What does this mean for us? How do you respond to this?
6. Read 1 John 1:9. When each of us fail (which we all will) we are called to repent and to be restored with Jesus. Why is this difficult to do? What may help us at this time? What is not helpful?

### **Respond**

Jesus met Peter at his point of failure in a place familiar to Peter. This place, where Jesus had originally called Peter to leave his fishing boat and follow Him, was also where Jesus called Peter back to be the Rock on which He would build His Church. Peter's part was to be willing to repent of his actions, and to accept Jesus' love and forgiveness.

In your own life, are there any areas where you feel disqualified to be a disciple of Jesus because of your sin? Take a moment now to silently confess this to Jesus, and then pray for each other.