

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Weathering the Storm

Week of March 29, 2020

Week 3: Crow Eater (Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

Text: John 21:1-19

We have been studying the drama surrounded the boat Peter sailed on the Sea of Galilee. In this third and final week, we studied Peter's failure and Christ's forgiveness. This truth is essential for us to understand, because as much as we'd like to endure our quarantine spotlessly, the unique stresses will cause us to crack at some point. We must understand Christ's heart toward our failure.

Kicking it off: There are upsides to living in quarantine. Can you see one? If so, tell the group what you have appreciated about this difficult season.

Discussion:

1. Reread *Mark 14:29-31* Peter declared, "Even if all fall away, I will not." "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows you yourself will disown me three times." But Peter insisted emphatically, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you."

We often, like Peter, expect to live a more victorious life than we end up living. Why do we fail to anticipate our failures?

2. Reread *Luke 22:60-62* to see what happened after Peter denied knowing Jesus. Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." He went outside and wept bitterly.

What makes Peter's sin so awful and his guilt so intense?

3. Reread *John 21:9* They saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

What did the "coals" remind Peter of? Why are we so good at remembering our own sin?

4. Reread *John 21:15* When they finished eating, Jesus asked Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Jesus asked Peter this same question three times. The threefold repetition reminded Peter of his threefold denial of Christ. Do you think Jesus is being mean in doing this? Why or why not?

5. Reread *John 21:19* Then Jesus said to Peter, "Follow me!"

Why was this simple command so precious to Peter?

6. Why do we struggle to believe that God has completely forgiven us of our failures?

Wrapping It Up: It's not enough to know we're forgiven; we must come to feel forgiven. Pray for God's forgiveness of our sin to reach our hearts.