

Peter – A Fresh Start



John 21:1-25



In this Bassline series, we continue to explore the different encounters Jesus had with his followers after his resurrection. Today's encounter involved a cooked breakfast on a beach, and the head chef was Jesus. That sounds like a pretty amazing breakfast! In this encounter, Simon Peter was able to put the past behind him and make a fresh start. With Jesus, we can do exactly the same.

You will need:

- Paper and felt-tips
- Food to share together during the Sound Check section



Beat

Leader's notes:

Provide the group with paper and felt-tips.

For the Beat activity, the young people will draw or list their perfect breakfast. It needs to be the most amazing breakfast in the world! In addition to considering the food, they also need to think about the location of their breakfast and who will cook and serve it to them. There are no limits to their amazing breakfast, so encourage the group to get creative.

When they've had time to draw/list their breakfast, they can share their ideas with the rest of the group.

Say:

In this Bassline series, we continue to explore the various encounters Jesus had with his followers after his resurrection. Today's encounter involved a cooked breakfast on a beach, and the head chef was Jesus. That sounds like a pretty amazing breakfast!



 **Bridge****Ask:**

Who would you invite to share your amazing breakfast? Explain your answer.

 **Amplify****Leader's notes:**

Briefly recap the encounters covered in this series so far and what the group has learned from them.

Say:

In our Scripture reading this week, we join the disciples in a period of uncertainty. What are they meant to do now? What does following Jesus look like now that he has risen from the dead? What does that even mean? Led by Simon Peter, several of the disciples returned to what they knew best: fishing. We join them at dawn, with empty nets, uncertain about what has gone wrong with the catch and even more uncertain about what the future might hold.

Read:

¹ Afterwards Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: ² Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³ 'I'm going out to fish,' Simon Peter told them, and they said, 'We'll go with you.' So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus.

⁵ He called out to them, 'Friends, haven't you any fish?'

'No,' they answered.

⁶ He said, 'Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.' When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, 'It is the Lord,' he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸ The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. ⁹ When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

¹⁰ Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.' ¹¹ So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of the disciples dared ask him, 'Who are you?' They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus

came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.'

– (John 21:1-14, *NIV*)

Ask:

- Why do you think the disciples returned to what they had done before?
- Why were they unable to catch any fish?
- Who made the difference in the amount of fish they could catch?
- Have you ever tried to accomplish something for God in your own strength? Share your experience.
- Why do you think we are so reluctant to rely on God's strength?

Say:

Jesus took time to share with the disciples, meeting them in their doubt and uncertainty. There was one person who must have felt particularly awkward.

Ask:

- Have you ever experienced letting someone down that you really love? What did it feel like?
- What was it like to see them the first few times after it happened?
- How do you think Peter felt when he saw Jesus, especially as he had denied ever knowing him?

Watch:

LUMO – Gospel of John Chapter 21:15-25 (LUMO)

<https://www.youtube.com/Watch?v=b5fQrUiYrJ4>

Ask:

- Why do you think Jesus asked Peter the same question three times?
- What simple command did Jesus give to Peter? How did it show Peter that he was forgiven?

Say:

In John 21:20-21, Peter spots that John, specifically named as the one Jesus loved, is following them and can probably hear their conversation. When Jesus was facing his death, John did not deny knowing him. John's presence during this moment with Jesus may have made Peter more aware of his own failure.

Ask:

- In what ways does comparing our faith with others cause us problems?
- What does Jesus tell Peter to do in verse 22?

Say:

Jesus says, 'Never mind what John is doing, I'm asking you to follow me!' For Peter, this was an opportunity to begin again. In this encounter, he was able to make a fresh start; and we can do the same, no matter what we have done in the past.

 **Bridge****Ask:**

What is your response to the following quote?

'Relying on God has to start all over everyday, as if nothing has yet been done.'

– CS Lewis

 **Sound Check****Leader's notes:**

For the Sound Check section today, create an opportunity for the group to share food together and discuss the themes that arose from the session. Jesus shared food with the disciples, and in this relaxed atmosphere they were able to discuss their faith freely. It led to a moment of revelation for Peter, allowing him to move forward with a new purpose. It would be great if the food could be connected in some way to the story.

- You could have ice cream together as you would at the seaside. A very famous ice cream company makes a fish-related ice cream!
- Taking all the safety precautions needed, you could share s'mores using an indoor kit and share food around the 'fire'.

 **Bridge****Ask:**

How can we create more opportunities to share together like this?

 **Selah****Watch:**

Peter's Denial and Why Jesus Offers Us a Second Chance – Biblical Context Explained (3:07)

<https://www.youtube.com/Watch?v=hDHJDjd7Sow>

Say:

Peter had let Jesus down, as many of us do on a regular basis. Regardless of what we have

done, there is always an opportunity for a fresh start. When we encounter Jesus in prayer, he asks the question, 'Do you love me?' If the answer is yes, then there is always an opportunity to begin again, just as Peter did.

We're going to take some time for quiet prayer and reflection. Reflect on the times you have let Jesus down. Acknowledge how you turned away from him. As you think about this moment, hear him ask, 'Do you love me?'

Leader's notes:

An optional song is provided to use during this time of reflection. When the young people have had time to pray and answer Jesus' question, pray with the whole group.

Watch:

Steffany Gretzinger - 'I Love You, Lord' (Official Lyric Video)

<https://www.youtube.com/Watch?v=FiddDiGJKAo>

**Say:**

In a piece of music, the coda brings the different aspects of the melody, harmonies and bassline to a conclusion. It pulls together the different themes and often, but not always, brings resolution to a piece of music.

Ask:

- As you reflect on everything you have learned today, what is your coda?
- What is the one thing you will take away from Jesus' encounter with Peter?

Leader's notes:

Give the young people a moment to think about your question and briefly share their coda with the group before the session comes to an end.

