

Misunderstood Messiah: The Gospel of John

Week of October 4, 2026

Misunderstood Mercy

JOHN 21:15-19

PRAYER

🕒 Spend about 20 minutes here.

- After having someone read the passage out loud, and sitting in silence for a few minutes to “let it land,” spend some time in prayer together as a group. Remember that the Word of God is living and active, so let the passage inform, shape and inspire your prayers.
- Are you convicted of sin? Confess it and ask for healing or transformation. (And thank him for the cross so you no longer have to fear condemnation!) Are you moved to worship by how God reveals himself? Praise him and thank him. Are you given a vision for your life or the life of your group or West? Pray for it!

HEAD to help us examine what the word shows and let in what’s true.

🕒 Spend about 40 minutes moving through all Head, Heart, Hands questions.

- Which detail of this account are you most drawn to in this passage?

HEART to help us wrestle with what we believe and be with each other in it.

- Peter is grieved by Jesus drawing his attention to his three-fold denial of him – a place of failure, of shame. But Jesus must take him to that place to restore him. Can you identify with this in your life?

HANDS to help us bring the truth into our lives and go out into the world with the Holy Spirit.

- Where is Jesus asking you to follow him right now? Maybe asking you to trust him in following him into a place where you expect suffering?
- Where is Jesus calling you to tend and feed his sheep and/or lambs?

LOVING THE WORLD TOGETHER

🕒 Spend about 10 minutes here.

- Let’s spend some time dreaming together about how we want to move out to love and serve the world and how we want to invite those who do not know Christ into “gospel hospitality” as a group this year. Do we want to serve with Napier? Do we want to do lawn care for an elderly neighbor? Do we want to invite our non-Christian friends to a happy hour with us? A Christmas party? Pray for creativity, desire and direction!

LEADER RESOURCES

NEXT WEEK’S PASSAGE

[Bible Project John Pt 2](#) • [Why The Gospel of John is Special](#) •
[Tim Keller John Podcasts](#)

GR^oUPS

JOHN 21:15-19

SCRIPTURE

18 Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” 19 (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

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DISCIPLESHIP GROUP GUIDELINES

- **Safe Group:** We strive for an environment where everyone can be open and honest about his or her struggles and victories.
- **Confidentiality:** What is said in the group stays in the group.
- **Listen:** We value one another by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond while someone is sharing.
- **Pause:** Allowing a pause in the conversation after someone shares gives them a true chance to finish. A Pause also gives the group an opportunity to consider before responding.
- **Silence:** Allowing silence in the group provides an opportunity for people to think deeply, gather their thoughts in order to share, and genuinely consider what others have shared.
- **One Conversation at a Time:** Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations.
- **No Fixing:** We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Give encouragement and ask questions, but try not to solve or fix one another.
- **No Rescuing:** When people are sharing something deeply personal, please resist the tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or their situation by providing immediate condolences. This will often cause people to stop sharing.
- **Be Curious:** By asking the next question, we communicate genuine interest. We keep the conversation moving forward while building relationships and intimacy.
- **Be Self-Aware:** Be mindful of how you are personally affecting the small group environment through your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. Be sensitive about the amount of time you share, whether too much (dominating) or not enough (hiding).
- **Use "I" Statements:** It is very easy to talk about other people's issues, but, for our purposes, we want to put ourselves on the table. Use "I" statements rather than "them", "the church", "people", "you", "us", "we", etc.
- **Resolve Conflict Biblically:** As a group we commit to extend grace to one another. Conflict is not bad, it's an opportunity for growth. We are all being transformed to be more like Jesus. Conflict and change are a part of that journey. (Matthew 18)
- **Manage Technology:** Let's respect one another by silencing alerts on our devices.

If you need childcare reimbursement please scan the QR code and follow the prompts. You must submit within 30 days of attending group.

