

Our hope is that you were challenged by Sunday's message and would desire to take the study a little deeper. Whether for personal study, family study, or for a Home Group gathering, use this study to go deeper.

Open

April 15, 2018

Maybe you are a doubter, like Thomas. Your intellect, your skepticism, your lack of proof has put up a barrier of belief between you and God. You struggle to accept the resurrection, a dead Man walking, without seeing Him for yourself. Jesus says those who do believe without seeing find happiness! But doubt still affects some.

Failure affects everyone! We should all wonder if God can use broken tools like us. No one has escaped the fires of defeat. I am regularly asking God how many chances He will give me. My sin is too great. I fall into temptation too often. I have hidden it too long, and it has stolen my sense of hope, joy, purpose, or usefulness. I might as well just go back to fishing! How desperately do I need the resurrection?

Main Point

Before God, everyone is a failure. Sin is universal. The resurrection is needed to bring full redemption and restoration.

Read

John 21:1-19; Matthew 4:18-22; 14:22-33; Luke 5:1-11

Discuss

- Why do you think Peter (and a few other disciples) went fishing?
- Why do you think Jesus came to Peter on the beach? Why did John seem to highlight the similarities to previous encounters with Jesus?
- For Thomas, Jesus allowed him to touch His scars. What did Jesus do for Peter (and the others) to demonstrate it was Him in His full resurrected state?
- What role did Peter play among the other disciples? What is the significance of an additional commissioning?
- Take time (preferably with others, but also alone) to pray for a special occasion of confession. This is a great opportunity to open up about a deep rooted sin. Courage will obviously be a major factor. If you are an unbeliever, the greatest barrier is unbelief. Confess *that* and allow God to reveal His Son to you for the first time. If a believer, understand the impact of sin on your fellowship with the Father. Identify it. And afterward, reflect back on Peter's experience. Allow God to remind you of His promise to forgive (because of the cross), restore, and commission (as a result of His resurrection).