



## PRAYER

*Almighty and most merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have left undone what we ought to have done, and we have done what we ought not to have done. We have followed our own ways and the desires of our own hearts. We have broken your holy laws. Yet, good Lord, have mercy on us; restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to mankind in Jesus Christ our Lord. And grant, merciful Father, for his sake, that we may live a godly and obedient life, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.*

Australian Book of Common Prayer

## OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

Can you think of someone who experienced massive transformation in their lives that you personally know?



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## WORD

15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." 16 He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. 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."

### [John 21](#)

36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." 37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." 40 And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." 41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

### [Acts 2](#)

Throughout the Gospels, Peter's interactions with Jesus and the disciples reflect a leader who is impulsive, ambitious, self-assertive, and quick to commit without fully understanding the meaning of Jesus' words or actions. Peter exhibits the character of an outspoken leader of the disciples, willing to challenge Jesus actions and teachings (John 13:6). Although quick to commit to Jesus' challenges (John 13:9), he is unsteady in demonstrating his commitment during Jesus' time of suffering (John 18:15, 25). However, Peter is transformed in John 21 from the ambitious, self-motivated, impulsive, and inconsistent follower of Jesus, to the fully committed, charismatic leader of Christ's Church.

Peter jumps from his boat upon recognizing Jesus by the Sea of Tiberius in Galilee (John 21:7). He shares a breakfast of fish and bread with his teacher and is challenged by Jesus, having once denied Him in His critical time of suffering (John 18:15-19). Reflective of Peter's denial of Christ, Jesus asks Peter to respond three times to the question, "Do you love me?"<sup>4</sup> With each response, Jesus challenges Peter to care for His followers and to follow his Master stating, "Feed my lambs." (v.15), "Take care of my sheep." (v.16), "Feed my sheep." (v. 17), and finally, "Follow me!" (v.19). (NIV)

To follow Jesus meant more than forming a deep relationship for Peter. Following Jesus was a commitment to the "work of shepherding" and the works of Jesus.<sup>5</sup> The posture of "shepherding" most aligns Jesus' leadership challenge with our modern definition of servant leadership.<sup>6</sup> The posture of "following" keeps Peter and all leaders in close relationship with Christ.<sup>7</sup> Peter's commitment to serving others and following Jesus is evident in the changes we see in him after his transformation by the Sea of Tiberius. In the Book of Acts he begins to "take up the works" of Christ with charismatic flair, committed to teaching, healing, and converting new followers.

[A Study of Peter as a Model for Servant Leadership - Kevin Leahy \(Regent University\)](#)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1 to 10 (1 being never and 10 being always), how would you rate the capacity for people to see the transformation in your life over the last 5 years? Why would you rate yourself this way?
2. Peter moved from one who had denied Jesus after walking closely with him for 3 years in ministry, to being transformed into the catalyst that God uses to launch the first church of believers. Have you experienced this type of transformation in your life where God has taken you from where you once were in maturity, to now growing into the disciple who makes disciples? If not, would you like to?
3. Peter is told to feed the lambs/sheep if he loves Jesus. Do you have mentors that help you to grow and be fed in your spirit? Who are they? And who might be people around you that God is calling you to feed?
4. Peter's encouragement in Acts 2 is for the people who are searching for salvation to repent and be baptised and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Have you turned from sin and turned towards God in all areas? Have you been baptised? If not would you like to be?
5. Do you choose today to trust Jesus as the Ruler and sole source of fulfilment of your life by accepting His call for you to enter into relationship with Him? Please take this moment to pray with your group. Will you enable him to have all authority as the one who calls the shots in your life? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your lifegroup leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

**Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to be the master of my life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Saviour. I declare that I am Yours, and You are mine, In Jesus name, AMEN.**