

**Jesus Saves**  
**Small Group Questions | Week of 04/22/18**

**The Big Idea:** To restore Peter far beyond where he had fallen, Jesus addresses the three times Peter denied him. Though painful, the exchange was critical for Peter becoming the person God wanted him to be.

**Getting Started:**

Summer is coming. What are your vacation plans?

**Digging Deeper:** (*Read John 21:15-19*)

1) Jesus asks Peter, “Do you love me more than these?”

- a) What are the different things Jesus could have meant by “these” (e.g. Matthew 26:33)?
- b) Did Peter love Jesus more than “these”?
- c) What application would you make with Jesus’ question?

2) Jesus asks this question three times and Peter is “grieved” because of it. Read John 18:15-18; 25-27.

- a) What are some bad reasons people might have for bringing up someone’s past mistakes?
- b) What are some unhelpful consequences of ignoring someone’s past mistakes?
- c) Why do you think Jesus brings Peter’s past up?

3) Peter learned some painful things about himself when he denied Jesus. Sometimes we discover who we really are when we are caught off guard. Discuss the illustration given in the message of “Rats in the Basement.”

- a) How does the illustration apply to Peter, as well as Jesus’ plan to make him into a different person?
- b) Share an experience when you discovered more about who you were when ‘put on the spot.’

4) When Jesus asks the first two times, “Do you love me,” he uses a word that refers to the highest form of love (*agapao*). When Peter responds, “Yes, Lord; you know I love you,” he uses a word that refers to warm affection or friendship (*phileo*). The third time Jesus then asks, “Do you love (*phileo*) me?” Peter affirms that he does “love” (*phileo*) Jesus and is grieved.

- a) What is Jesus teaching Peter about the part each of them play in their relationship?
- b) How is this relevant for how we think of our relationship with God?

5) Peter might have thought that if he didn’t love God enough and wasn’t more committed, God couldn’t use him. And so he lied to himself about who he was. When Peter admits his inferior love, Jesus responds in a way that challenges what Peter thought.

- a) How so?
- b) What are some of the lessons from this for us, as well as other passages that may confirm this?

6) When Peter comes clean about who he really is, God begins to make him what he never could be on his own. How does Jesus’ prediction in verses 18-19 show this?

**Making It Real:**

Pray for a greater awareness of our sin, boldness to be honest about it with God and others, and God’s work of making us like Jesus through our transparency.