

Conversation Starters

- How has your week been?
- Have you ever had an embarrassing moment or failure?

Discuss

Jesus' next question that can lead us to life-change comes during the life of the apostle Peter. His question: "Do you love me?"

Peter had one of the largest moral and spiritual failures possible – he denied knowing Jesus. This came even after Jesus told him he would and Peter vehemently declared he would never do such a thing. We all have had failures even after we say we will never fail in a particular area again. We have done something that we regretted, vow now to let it happen again, and then it does. Then, like Peter, we can end up going back to the life we had before, giving up and turning away from Jesus.

Meanwhile, as Simon Peter was standing by the fire warming himself, they asked him again, "You're not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it, saying, "No, I am not." But one of the household slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Didn't I see you out there in the olive grove with Jesus?" Again Peter denied it. And immediately a rooster crowed. (John 18:25-27 NLT)

- Can you relate to Peter's story?
- What do you do or where do you turn to after a failure?
- Do you have a foundation in your life to keep you strong after failure?

As we look at the rest of Peter's story with Jesus, we find that Jesus is far more interested in what is in his heart than his failure. Jesus never questioned Peter's failure; Jesus only wanted to know if Peter loved him. If Peter really wanted a relationship with him.

After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these? (John 21:15 NLT)

- What does this interaction with Peter tell you about Jesus?
- How does the forgiveness Jesus shows Peter change how you think about your failures?
- How does Jesus' forgiveness change how you think about forgiving others?

Wanting a relationship with Jesus means more than just knowing him, but actively loving him. This is what Jesus meant when he asked Peter if he loved him, and can be the same question we can ask ourselves. Like Peter, if we love Jesus, we are to follow him. We are to take Jesus' mission seriously, and take the steps we need to be part of that. And when we sin or fail, learn from them, and get back to following Jesus.

A third time he asked him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Then feed my sheep...Then Jesus told him, "Follow me." (John 21:17, 19b NLT)

- What can you learn from any past failures?
- Do you know Jesus? If so, what do you know about him?
- Do you love Jesus? If so, how do you show that?

Next Steps

We can see from the life of Jesus that he wants a relationship with us more than anything. Being the sin-prone people that we are, there will be times when we fail to reflect a relationship with Jesus. If we can say we still love him after a failure, then our role is to learn from it and get back to following him. What can you do to get back to following Jesus? If you are still checking out who Jesus is and what it means to follow him, check out these classes:

Foundations 101

When: Monday, January 28, 2019, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: North Charlotte Campus, [8335 Browne Road Charlotte, Charlotte, NC US 28269](#)

Register: <https://www.mecklenburg.org/event/1184312-2019-01-28-foundations-101/>

Conversations About Truth, Faith, and Life

When: Every Monday, from 02/25/2019 to 04/01/2019, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: North Charlotte Campus, [8335 Browne Road Charlotte, Charlotte, NC US 28269](#)

Register: <https://www.mecklenburg.org/event/1263934-2019-03-04-conversations-about-truth-faith-and-life/>

Further Reflection

See John 18:15-18, 25-27 and John 21:4-9, 15-17, 19b NLT.

Pray

God, thank you for the forgiveness that you offer us. Help us to see you in our failures, and the love and relationship that you desire from us. Give us direction for following you with every area of life.