

*AfterWords*  
***Bitter or Forgiven***  
**John 21:15-19**  
May 15, 2022

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to equip you to do the next right thing. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out the questions that will stir up conversation and action around your group.

### KEY POINT

Peter denied Jesus three times. It became the most defining moment of his life. He could have become bitter and ashamed by his denials. It easily could have become his identity. Jesus came to Peter and forgave him. It changed his identity forever. Will you live in the bitterness of your past or live forgiven?

### LAUNCH IT

- Has something from your past made you bitter? What happened?
- Do you carry any guilt around from your past that you can't seem to shake? What were the circumstances and how are you dealing with it now?

### EXPLORE IT

- Read **John 21:15-19**
  - Read the passage out loud. Pick a couple of different translations.
  - We are reading the Bible to learn to hear the voice of God.
- What jumped out at you about the passage? Words, names, people, location, verbs?
  - What do you think Peter was wrestling with as Jesus questioned him three times?
  - What scripture verses do you think Jesus was referencing by telling Peter to feed my sheep?
- Read **John 21:15-19** in one or two different translations. Have someone re-tell this story in their own words.
  - What do these verses say about God?
  - What do these verses say about people?
  - What do these verses say about obedience?

### APPLY IT

- Re-read **John 21:15-19** one more time.
- Have someone else re-tell this passage in their own words.
- In light of what we now know about this passage, what is God calling you to **do** this week?
  - Make it specific and be ready to share what you did next time.
- Who is the Holy Spirit prompting me to share these verses with?
  - Make it specific and be ready to share what you did next time.

### PRACTICE IT

- Now what?
  - What does it mean for you to feed Jesus' sheep?
  - Are you serving on a team at Charter Oak Church?
    - If so, what are you doing and how is it going?
    - If not, what will it take for you to create the margin in your life to join a serving team?