



Coming Back from a Broken Relationship

Leaders Tips

April 27/28, 2013

Connect with Others (Choose One)

1. What has been the sweetest comeback you have had from a broken relationship?
2. What is an old pattern that you tend to fall into, when things don't go your way?

Commit to Growth

Read John 21

- 1. Read Luke 22:31-34; 54-62. What exactly is Peter's boast? What were the circumstances that led to a broken relationship between him and Jesus?**

Peter had an advantage that most of us don't have. Jesus warned him that his trial was coming and instructed Peter to pray so that he wouldn't fall into temptation. However, when the trial came, Peter failed miserably. Peter placed too much confidence in himself and didn't take time to listen to Jesus, thereby hurting the one whom he loved.

- 2. What does Peter's response to Jesus in John 21: 7 reveal about Peter and his relationship with Jesus?**

In spite of his failure and denial of Jesus, Peter still loved Jesus and wanted to be with him. Note that this is also the third time after the resurrection that Jesus appeared to his disciples. And as Pastor Rick noted, it seems from Luke 24:34 that Jesus appeared alone to Peter before this and had already dealt with this matter of forgiveness in private.

- 3. According to the text, what does Jesus do to restore the broken relationship between him and Peter?**

Jesus invited him to share a meal. In ancient times, an invitation to a meal was a peace gesture, because to eat together meant you had to lay down ones weapons. Jesus and Peter reaffirmed their love for each other and Jesus showed that he was willing to trust Peter and believe in him by giving him a job!

4. Why do you think Jesus repeated the same question and charge to Peter three times? How is Peter supposed to show his love and loyalty to Jesus now?

Most scholars tend to believe that the three questions allowed for Peter to publically declare his love for Jesus, counterbalancing his three denials. In his reinstatement of Peter, Jesus asks Peter to feed his lambs and take care of his sheep. He trusts Peter and in that gives us a beautiful portrait of God's grace.

5. What one insight from John 21 seems personally significant to you? Why?

There are no right answers to this question. Seek to allow the group to process this at a deeper level.

6. Are there any relationships in your life that need a comeback? If so, what steps will you take to restore them?

Help your group to be specific here. Perhaps it's a friend whom they have had a strained relationship with. Perhaps it might even be with God. Take time to pray for one another and for healing in these relationships.

Pray