

Facilitator:

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

CONNECT Group study questions for January 22, 2017

Title: Ejection Fraction

Miscellaneous:

Lost and found is currently in the hallway of the administration building. It will stay out until February 5th. Any items left after that will be donated.

Special needs buddy training, January 28, 10-11:00 a.m. See above notes for details! If interested, please email Christine Young at christine@crossroads-summerville.org

Children:

What heart condition does every human suffer from? (SIN!)

What are some everyday ways we deny Christ by choosing other things instead of obedience to Him?

In Sunday School we have heard how God sent His people into exile in Babylon for 70 years because they continued to worship other gods (they had a heart problem!). Sunday we learned that He brought them back home to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. How did God use their exile to change the hearts of His people?

General:

Read John 21:1-17

After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net on the

right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

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.” 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.” 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.

Question: Brainstorm some reasons why Christians drift away from the Lord.

Question: Why do you suppose Peter was struggling to answer Jesus’ question: “*Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?*” **Facilitator:** Perhaps thoughts of his betrayal of Jesus just before the crucifixion were on his mind. Also, Jesus had been with him 24/7, and now it was just Peter and the disciples.

Question: Two of the three times he asked Peter “Do you love me?” Jesus used the word ‘agape’ for love and Peter responded with the word ‘phileo,’ which is love for a brother. On the third try, Jesus used the word ‘phileo.’

What can we learn from this question-and-answer exchange? Did Jesus “lower the bar” on love to accommodate Peter? If Jesus’ command to us is to ‘agape’ love God and neighbor (and it is), would he ever make it easier and allow us to only ‘phileo?’ If your answer is no, what explanation can you give for Jesus changing to ‘phileo’ from ‘agape?’ **Facilitator:** Jesus forcefully pointed out Peter’s heart issue.

Read Luke 5:4-11

And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.” And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Question: In the John 21:1-17 passage, Jesus repeats the miracle found in Luke 5:4-11. Why would he do this? **Facilitator:** (hint—Revelation 2:4-5)

Question: What was Jesus referring to by “more than these?” What should we love Jesus more than? **Facilitator:** Have the group turn to Matthew 6:33 and recognize the similar “all these things.”

Question: What was the lesson Jesus was teaching Peter? Is it a lesson for us also?