

## **Tell His Disciples... and Peter** **Small Group Guide**

**Warm-up Question:** (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Do you have any nicknames?
2. Describe a time that you lied as a child. Did you feel guilty?

**Read the following passages:** Mark 16:1-8; John 21:15-19.

Mark records an interesting detail at the empty tomb. The angel's message for the women is not "Go, tell his disciples," but "Go, tell his disciples *and Peter*." Why does the angel specifically add the mention of Peter? We can't know for sure, but what we do know is that the last time we encountered Peter in Mark's Gospel he had just experienced the worst failure of his life: denying Jesus and calling down curses on himself! How did Peter get to that place? We learn a few things from Mark's Gospel. 1) Peter never really addressed his misguided expectations. 2) Peter struggled with self-awareness. 3) Peter tried to control the world around him. Generally speaking, it appears that Peter had trouble accepting reality!

Jesus didn't leave Peter on the outside, wallowing in failure. Jesus graciously restored Peter to a place of healthy relationship and called him back into mission. Jesus revisited the critical issues of expectations and control and gave Peter a fresh opportunity to respond to the fundamental call of discipleship: "Follow me."

**Questions for Discussion** (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. What would you say to someone who believes that the resurrection is a legend, perhaps developing slowly from a much more modest claim such as, "Jesus is still alive spiritually in our hearts?" How does Mark signal that he is reporting eyewitness testimony?
2. When Jesus clearly explained that he would suffer and die, Peter refused to adjust his expectations. What are some ways in which your expectations have impacted some of the following areas of your life?
  - Your family dynamic
  - Your friendships
  - Your work life
  - Your view of yourself
  - Your relationship with God
  - Your experience in the church
3. Author Pete Scazzero defines healthy expectations as those which are conscience, spoken, agreed upon, and realistic. What can you do to have healthier

expectations?

4. Peter was confident he would never fall away. What are some ways that a lack of self-awareness can negatively impact our lives? What is something you have learned about yourself over the past few years? How did you come to this realization?
5. Generally speaking, are you more prone to passivity or to over-functioning? Explain. How do we live responsible, connected lives without trying to control the world around us?
6. In John 21, why do you think Jesus asked Peter the same basic question three times?
7. Can you think of any areas in your life in which you still need healing? Explain.

**Pray**