

## STUDY GUIDE



# LET HOPE IN

## DUTCHTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH

LET HOPE IN

HOPE RENEWED

JOHN 18:15-27; 21:15-29

07/31/2016

### MAIN POINT

When you fail, Jesus will restore you.

### INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**Last week we talked about the danger of feeling entitled to things from God. How have you seen that sense of entitlement in yourself this week?**

**What are some ways you were able to make the choice of gratitude throughout the last week?**

**Was there anything specific that happened that prompted you to thank God for His goodness and faithfulness?**

Despite all we've seen about hope, we all know there are times in life when we fail in our relationship with God and with others. When that happens, we can feel the hope start to drain away. But when it comes to our relationship with God, hope can re-enter our lives even after our failures. That's because when you fail, Jesus will restore you.

### UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

**WATCH THE VIDEO SEGMENT FOR SESSION 5 FEATURING PETE WILSON.**

**This week, Pete talked about the fact that we need to be reminded of God's grace everyday because we are going to fail every day. What are some of the responses we might have when we fail?**

**How do you think God wants you to feel when you fail? Why?**

**What does that indicate about His character?**

Failure in life is inevitable. Fortunately, though, God is ready to renew our hope even when we fail. Pete lifted out Peter as an example of someone who knew what it means to fail.

**AS A GROUP, READ JOHN 18:15-27.**

**What are some of the emotions you think Peter went through during this night?**

**How do you think he felt when it was all over?**

**Have you ever felt like Peter? When? How did you respond when you felt that way?**

**Pete told us that after the resurrection of Jesus, Peter went back to fishing. Why do you think he went back to his old life? What might have been going on in his mind and heart?**

**AS A GROUP, READ JOHN 21:15-29.**

**How do you see Jesus restoring hope to Peter in these verses?**

**When is a time you have experienced Jesus restoring hope to you?**

**Pete shared the powerful story of Gary and Brenda and their road to restored hope. How can the choices we make result in renewed hope?**

Because the grace of God never ends, we can experience restored hope day by day. God is willing to restore us, just as He did Peter, so that we can know there is hope and a future in Him.

## **APPLICATION**

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**Are there any decisions, like Gary, that you need to make in order to have your hope restored?**

**Who is one person in your life who could use their hope restored right now? What can you do in order to help bring that about in them?**

**Pete talked about having a moment-by-moment dependence on Jesus. What are some patterns of behavior you can develop in your life that will help cultivate that sense of dependence?**

## **PRAY**

Pray to close your group. Thank God for the renewed hope in Jesus every day. Pray specifically for the people mentioned who need to have their hope restored.

**Visit [lifeway.com](http://lifeway.com) to purchase the Bible study book for more in-depth individual and group study.**

## COMMENTARY

### JOHN 21:15-29

21:15. Embarrassing as it must have been at the time, this tender exchange restored Peter to leadership—a role he exercised early in Acts. Throughout the history of the church, thousands have been scattered on the roadside of good intentions for ministry; they traded God’s call for something else—like fishing. For the next nine verses, John brought his Gospel to a close with the clear enunciation of Peter’s call to ministry. Jesus asked Peter almost the same question three times. This could reflect the three denials, but whether it did or not, the command was similar each time: “Feed My lambs Shepherd My sheep Feed My sheep.” A quick glance at 1 Peter lets us know the disciple never forgot this moment.

21:16. The shepherding call continued a second time as Jesus used Peter’s old name (Simon), reverting to “pebble” rather than “rock.” The flow of the text emphasizes humility and service rather than primacy over the other apostles.

21:17. At this point in the text there is a change of verb in Jesus’ question while the verb in Peter’s answer stays the same. We also learn that Peter was hurt by the third question. In Jesus’ first two questions He used the word “agapao;” hence the NIV translation “truly love.” In the third we find the word “phileo” and the NIV drops “truly.” Most interpreters find no significant difference in the words, particularly since the conversation took place in Aramaic. Nevertheless, John’s record in Greek did, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, adopt a different word. It seems difficult from the grammar of the text to argue that Peter’s hurt was brought about only by the connection of a third question with his three denials. We might conclude that Peter was hurt because the question had been asked three times. But one should not dismiss the possibility that his discomfort lay in Jesus’ use of a lesser word.

21:18-19. Having established the motivation for service, Jesus went on to describe the turns that Peter’s life would take. This brash, independent, vocal fisherman would one day be dependent, presumably a prisoner, and, many believe, a martyr. Only the Son of God could tell someone that following Him would lead to death and then immediately say, Follow Me! Stretch out your hands refers to crucifixion, where a person’s hands and arms are spread out and nailed to the crossbeam. Tradition says Peter chose to be crucified upside down because he felt himself unworthy of dying in the same exact manner as Jesus. The reference to signify by what kind of death he [Peter] would glorify God echoes the reference “to signify what kind of death He [Jesus] was about to die” in 12:33. This verse therefore establishes a connection between the deaths of Jesus and Peter. As God’s Lamb, Jesus died for the sins of the world (1:29,36); Peter died a martyr’s death, giving his life as a witness to his faith in Jesus.

21:21-23. Like the final chapter of Matthew, the closing verses of John’s Gospel dispel a rumor. Matthew denied that Jesus’ disciples stole His body (Mt 28:11-15; cp. Mt 27:62-66) while John sought to lay to rest the rumor that Christ had promised to return during John’s lifetime.

21:24. This is the disciple is a third-person authorial self-reference. Again, this is “the disciple Jesus loved” (cp. v. 7; see note at 13:23), one of the Twelve (cp. 21:20), John the son of Zebedee, the apostle John, who referred to himself by the epithet “the beloved disciple.” We know represents an instance of the authorial “we,” by which the author included himself along with his audience.

21:25. John acknowledged that he had to be selective, choosing from a vast amount of material about Jesus (specifically, the “signs”; cp. 20:30-31).