

# John 21

## ENGAGE FELLOWSHIP

*"I, John, am that disciple who has written these things to testify of the truth, and we know that what I've documented is accurate."*

*(John 21:24)*

## MY JOURNAL

**T**he apostle John “knows” this gospel story is true because he was there!—for the teaching and miracles, the crucifixion, empty tomb and confirming appearances.

Pause with a partner or small group to consider the impact of the “truth” that John experienced.

Imagine Jesus' agony on the cross. He was prepared to take upon Himself the sins of the world. Jesus sensed that His own Father had turned His back on Him. He cried out with a voice that conveyed a feeling of utter abandonment: *"MY God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (Mark 15:34)*. Yet there He hung upon a cross, startling people with Him love. He was dying, yet He was thinking of those around Him...the soldier, the thief, His mother. Jesus was giving up His life, yet He was giving life to others—so that they might know His love.

That is the startling love of Christ. We can share in that love and then share that love with others.

For whom did Christ do all of this? For whom did He suffer and die? Listen as the Spirit whispers, “He did it for you!” If He did not need to die for anyone else, He would have done it just for you! Allow this wondrous truth to motivate you to share with others the hope of His love.

And now would you join in receiving His startling love through a bold declaration of faith: “*He did it for me.*” Whisper it again. “*He did it for me.*” Let’s pause, be still and give Him thanks for the startling love of Jesus and the privilege of making Him known to others:

*“Holy Spirit, fill me with your constraining love and with a grateful heart I yield to be a faithful witness of Jesus who I also have experienced as true.”*

# John 21 *ENCOUNTER JESUS*

*"This was the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after his resurrection." (John 21:14)*

## MY JOURNAL

**J**esus is still making himself known today! He may not be revealing Himself with nets full of fish, but His presence and witness are clearly being made known.

He can reveal Himself through Scripture or He can reveal Himself through a testimony, the beauty of a summer day, or even in still and quiet moments. Think about the moment when you surrendered to Jesus Christ. How did God reveal Jesus to you? Was it through the example of a family member or a friend? Was it in a sermon or through the Scriptures? Was it through a testimony? Did He meet you and reveal Himself directly? How did you “hear” Him and come to know Him?

- God revealed Jesus to me through \_\_\_\_\_.
- My yielding to Christ involved \_\_\_\_\_.

Pause quietly to give Him thanks: Lord Jesus, receive the gladness of my heart as an expression of my love.

The disciples yielded to Christ's words to "*cast the net on the right side*" (*John 20:6*)... and similarly this is the role of each Christ follower: Christ "reveals" and His followers are to "yield."

Now with a partner or small group, reflect on your own yielding to the revelation of Jesus: Holy Spirit, prompt and empower my walk of yieldedness.

## EXPERIENCE SCRIPTURE

*“And then he said, “Peter, follow me.” (John 21:19)*

## MY JOURNAL

**T**wo powerful, simple words that change everything: “Follow Me.” To follow Him is to avoid a *broad road* that many travel leading to destruction; choosing instead a *narrow road* leading to life (Matthew 7:13-14).

Consider the blessing that Christ has invited you to follow Him; to “partner” with Him in Kingdom purposes.

Pause to consider that God's ultimate purpose for your life is to follow Him so that you can express His glory, which...

- Allows you to receive of God's abundant blessings.
- Enables you to bless others with His love.
- Blesses God and brings Him pleasure.

What do these truths do to your heart? Might you be touched to offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to God, confident that such an offering honors and glorifies Him?

“He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me” (Psalm 50:23).

Share with Him your response to the following:

*Jesus, as I consider the wonder that my "following" you actually blesses You and others around me, my heart is filled with\_\_\_\_\_.* (For example: My heart is filled with praise, awe, wonder, gratitude, love, joy. I cannot get over how much You love me, and I hope I never do!)

Pause to pray with your partner or small group, giving God honor through your praise and thanksgiving that He's inviting you to follow...you have the privilege of joining Him in an eternal calling.

*“Lord Jesus, from a grateful heart, lead me by your Spirit as I champion You as people’s only hope”*

## This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.