



JESUS RESTORES PETER



JOHN 21:1-22



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This study explores the heartwarming narrative of Jesus restoring Peter in John 21:1-22. This passage is a vivid reminder of Jesus' unending grace, provision for our needs, and call to follow Him.

BIBLE READING: John 21:1-22

KEY VERSE: "Feed my lambs." John 21:15.

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY:

This passage takes place on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, where the disciples had returned to their former occupation as fishermen after Jesus' crucifixion. Having witnessed His death, they were likely discouraged and uncertain about the future.

The passage begins with the disciples having fished all night without catching anything. In the morning, a stranger on the shore instructed them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat. When they obeyed, their nets became overwhelmingly full. At this point, John recognized the stranger as the risen Lord Jesus.

Seeing this miracle reminds them of their earlier encounters with Jesus. Peter, overwhelmed with emotion, jumped into the water to reach Jesus on the shore. There, Jesus had prepared a charcoal fire with fish and bread.

The charcoal fire likely held deeper meaning for Peter, evoking memories of the night he had denied Jesus three times while warming himself by another fire in the courtyard during Jesus' trial. This powerful visual would have stirred Peter's conscience, reminding him of his failure and setting the stage for the conversation to come.

KEY POINTS:

1. JESUS' BODILY RESURRECTION WAS REAL - JOHN 21:14

Jesus' resurrection was completely real and physical. The disciples didn't see a ghost or have a hallucinogenic vision. They spent significant amounts of time seeing, hearing, and touching the risen Lord in tangible ways.

In John's gospel alone, we read about Jesus appearing suddenly in their midst while the disciples were behind locked doors (John 20:19). He invited doubting Thomas to physically touch the nail wounds in His hands and side (John 20:27). And as seen in this passage, Jesus was cooking breakfast and distributing food with His literal hands (John 21:13).

The resurrected Jesus could be seen, heard, and physically touched - evidence that He had indeed conquered death in a fully physical body. This is further confirmed in the Gospel of Luke, where the stunned disciples "were terrified, thinking they were seeing a ghost." But Jesus reassured them, "Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have" (Luke 24:37-39).

These resurrection accounts provide assurance that the eternal Son of God actually entered into human existence, died a substitutionary death, and then gloriously rose again.

2. JESUS MEETS US WHERE WE ARE - JOHN 21:6

In John 21:6, we find a wonderful example of Jesus meeting us exactly where we are, both physically and emotionally. The disciples are back in a boat, fishing on the Sea of Galilee. Despite their expertise and efforts, they catch nothing all night. At dawn, Jesus stands on the shore and calls out to them. During their return to normal life, Jesus appeared and showed His presence and provision unexpectedly.

Jesus often meets us in our routines, disappointments, and uncertainties. It reflects a pattern we see throughout the Gospels. Consider the woman at the well in John 4. Jesus goes out of His way, through Samaria, to meet a woman shunned by her community. He meets her in her daily routine, offering her living water and a new life. Or think about Zacchaeus in Luke 19, a tax collector despised by his community. Jesus looks up to him in a sycamore tree, calling him by name and inviting Himself to Zacchaeus' home, transforming his life with acceptance and love.

These stories, and many others, show Jesus seeking out individuals in their everyday contexts, offering them hope, acceptance, and a new direction. It's a powerful reminder that God doesn't wait for us to come to Him but comes to us, wherever we are, just as we are.

3. JESUS OFFERS RESTORATION - JOHN 21:15-17

Have you ever majorly messed up with a friend? Maybe you said something really hurtful, broke a promise, or let them down in a big way. It's easy to think you've blown it for good in those moments, and there's no repairing that relationship.

That's what makes Jesus' interaction with Peter after the resurrection so powerful and encouraging. Peter had denied even knowing Jesus, not just once, but three times when Jesus needed him most. It was the ultimate friend fail. Peter was probably feeling crushed with guilt and certainty that he'd wrecked everything.

But when the risen Jesus appeared to the disciples, He didn't disown Peter or write him off. Instead, He pursued Peter and gave him an incredibly gracious restart.

Instead of reproach, Jesus offers Peter a path back, a chance to affirm his love and commitment three times. Jesus doesn't ignore Peter's past failures but addresses them directly in a way that heals and empowers.

This passage and many others in the Bible remind us that our relationship with God isn't based on our perfection but on His grace. Just as Peter was restored and given a new purpose, we, too, are offered forgiveness and a fresh start, no matter our past mistakes.

4. PURSUE CLOSENESS, NOT COMPARISONS - JOHN 21:22

We've all been guilty of the comparison game at some point, sizing up our lives, our situations, our talents, and our callings against those around us. Maybe you've wondered why your friend seems to have it more together, or your sibling was given certain opportunities you weren't. The "what about them?" mentality can make us feel inadequate, bitter, or like God's being unfair.

Jesus redirects Peter's focus from comparing himself to John to concentrating on his own personal relationship with Christ. Jesus lovingly realigning Peter's priorities.

Comparisons distract us from the intimate closeness with Christ designed to be our highest calling.

Jesus wants us to have a personal relationship with Him and fulfil the purpose He has for our lives without comparing ourselves to others. Whenever we feel tempted to compare ourselves to others, we should remember what Jesus said to Peter: "What is that to you? You follow me!"

CONCLUSION

The beautiful encounter between Jesus and Peter on the shores of Galilee reminds us of our Lord's restorative grace, provision, and personal calling upon our lives. Despite our failures, Jesus meets us where we are with forgiveness, acceptance, and purpose.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

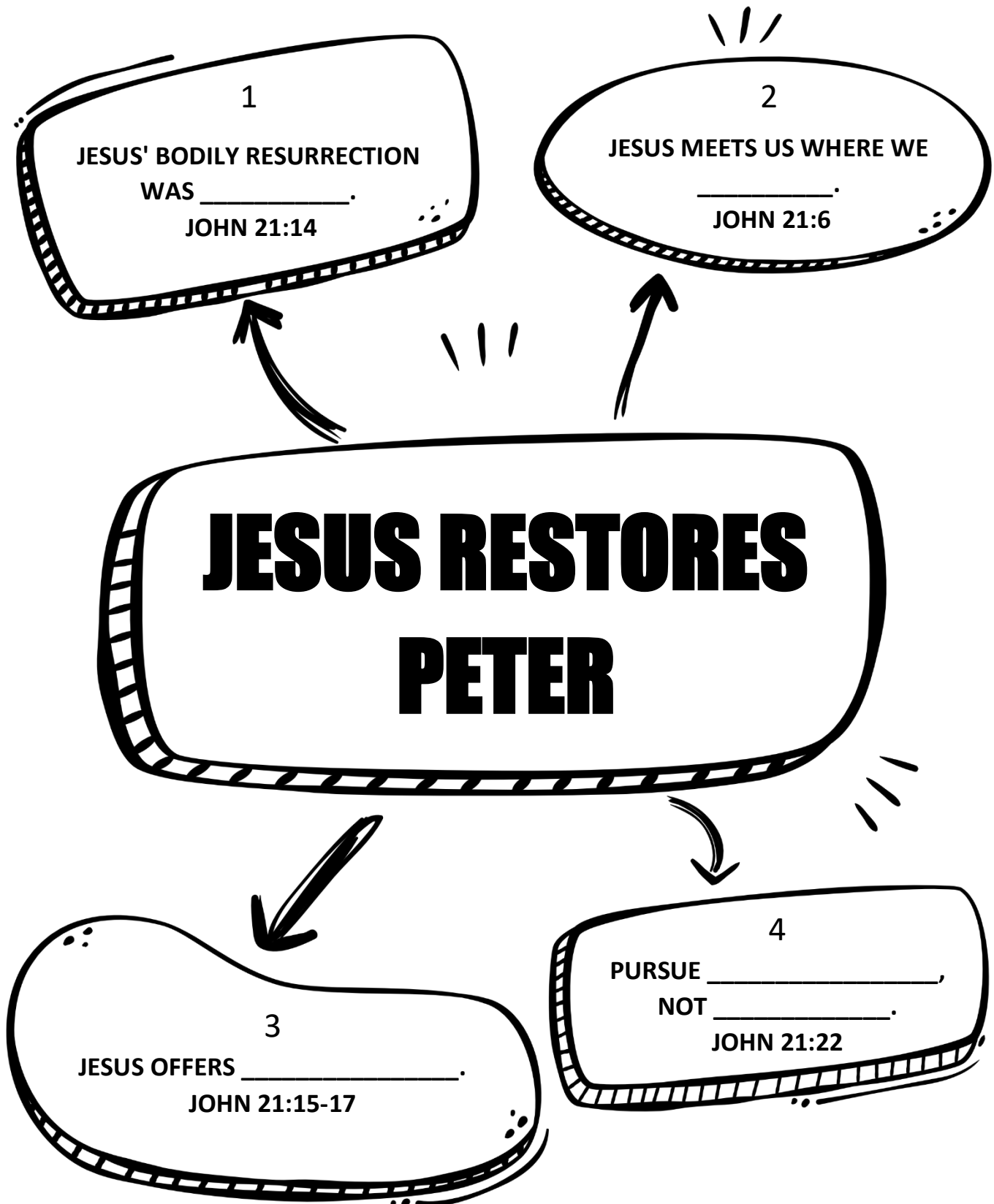
HOW WOULD YOU FEEL AS PETER, SEEING JESUS AFTER DENYING HIM?

WHY DOES JESUS EATING FISH WITH THE DISCIPLES MATTER?

WHY SHOULD WE AVOID COMPARING OUR TALENTS OR CALLINGS?

WHAT DOES FOLLOWING JESUS WHOLEHEARTEDLY LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?

STUDY NOTES MIND MAP



GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

CASTING THE NET

Materials needed: A large bedsheet, various small soft objects (balls, plush toys, bean bags, etc.)

Instructions:

1. Divide the group into team, with two people holding the sheet like a net, and the other standing a short distance away as the "caster."
2. On your signal, the caster must pick up the objects one by one and try to toss them into the net held by their partner.
3. The net-holders can move and adjust the net to try to catch the objects.
4. Any objects that hit the net but bounce out don't count. Only the objects that remain in the net at the end are scored.
5. After a set time limit, count how many objects each pair successfully caught in their net.

Discuss how Jesus called out to the disciples while fishing and recommissioned them after His resurrection in John 21.

FOLLOW THE LEADER CHALLENGE

Materials needed: None

Instructions:

1. Choose one person to be the leader and have the rest of the group line up behind them.
2. The leader performs various actions (hopping, jumping jacks, spinning, etc.), and the rest of the group must mimic their movements.
3. Change the leader, allowing others to take the front position.

Discuss how Jesus called Peter to "follow me" (John 21:19) and how, as His disciples, we are called to follow His example and teachings, just as the group followed the leader's actions.

CHARCOAL DRAWING CHALLENGE

Materials needed: Charcoal sticks, large sheets of paper

Instructions:

1. Assign each group a different image related to the story to draw using the charcoal sticks.

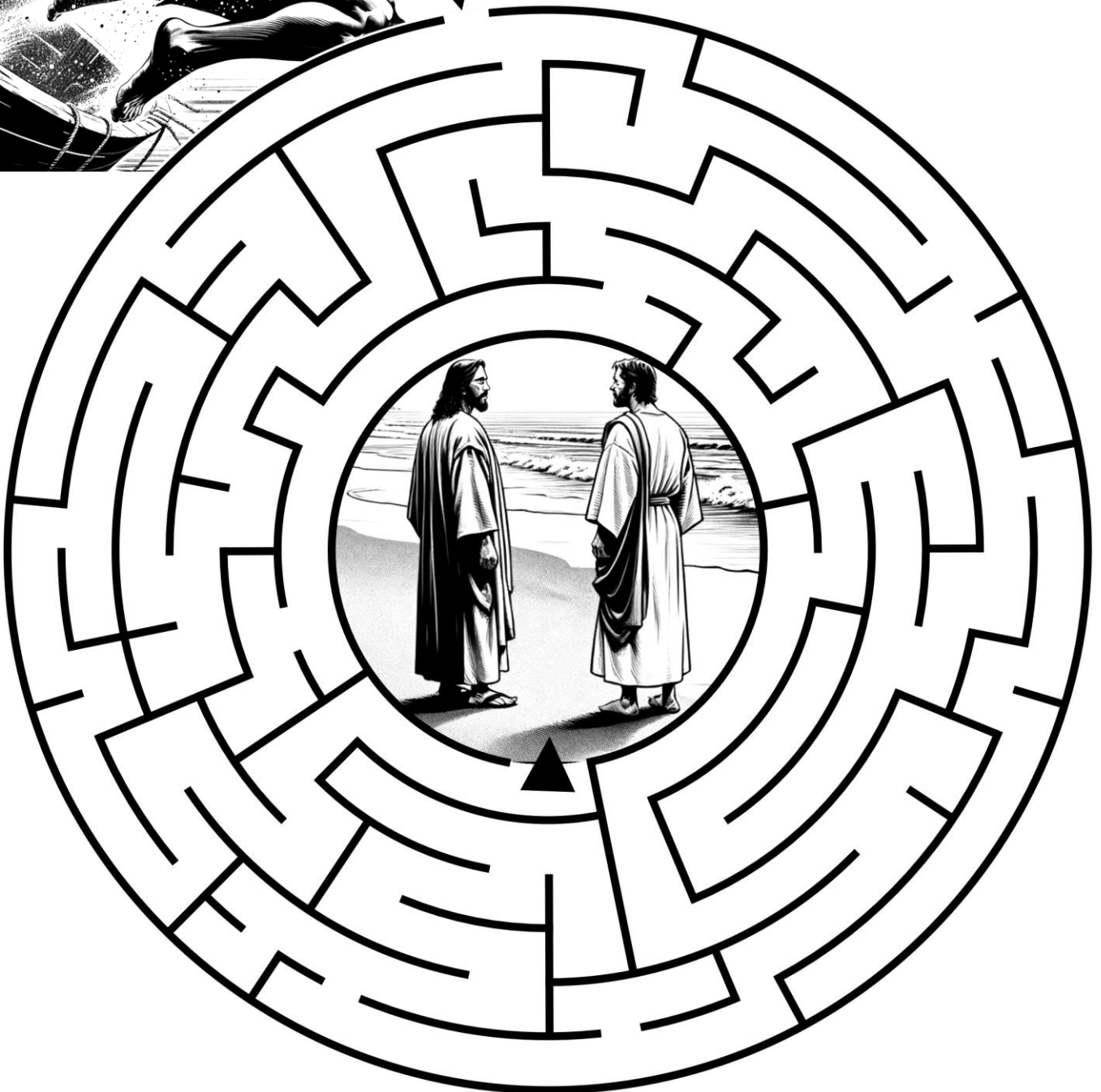
Talk about the charcoal fire that Jesus prepared to cook the food. Share how like creating art with charcoal, following Jesus requires us to embrace challenges of life, trusting that He is transforming us into beautiful reflections of His love and grace.

BREAKFAST ON THE BEACH

Draw or write a menu for your perfect breakfast on the beach.



MAZE – LEAD PETER TO JESUS



WORD SEARCH

N	K	P	E	T	E	R	T	R	T	Y
D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S	D	D
E	E	L	I	L	A	G	A	F	L	T
Z	L	G	K	H	L	F	C	I	T	W
R	F	F	N	F	K	C	M	S	G	H
W	E	N	S	A	I	L	R	H	R	F
Z	L	S	E	U	K	R	M	M	O	E
X	L	R	T	D	S	C	E	L	X	V
N	B	T	A	O	T	E	L	T	K	O
K	E	Q	O	K	R	O	J	P	L	L
N	R	L	B	T	W	E	H	N	B	N

BOAT
BREAKFAST
DISCIPLES
FIRE
FISH
FOLLOW
GALILEE
JESUS
LOVE
NET
PETER
RESTORE



THE COMPARISON TRAP

Read John 21:20-22. Describe in your own words Peter's question about John and Jesus' response.

Have you ever found yourself comparing your talents, experiences, or spiritual journey to someone else's? How did it make you feel?

Why do you think Jesus tells us to focus on following Him instead of looking at others?

List three ways you can focus on your personal relationship with Jesus this week, without comparing yourself to others.

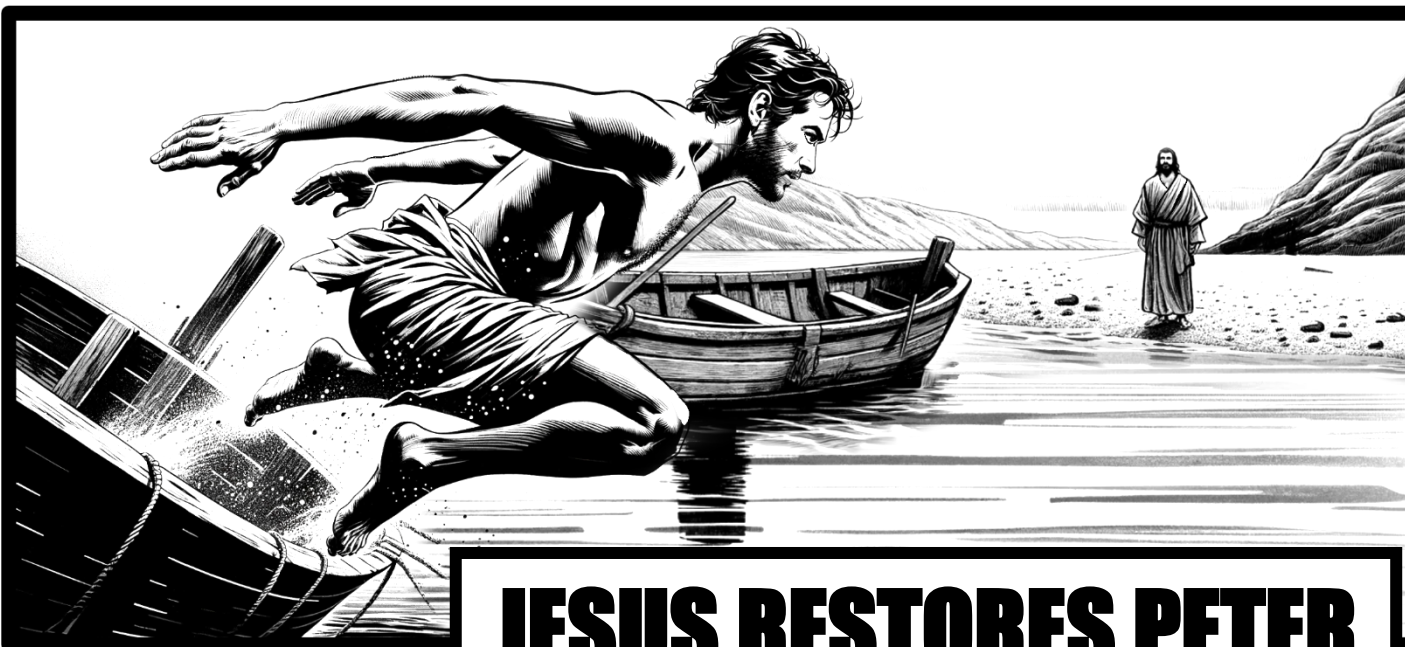
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WRITE THE STORY IN YOUR OWN WORDS





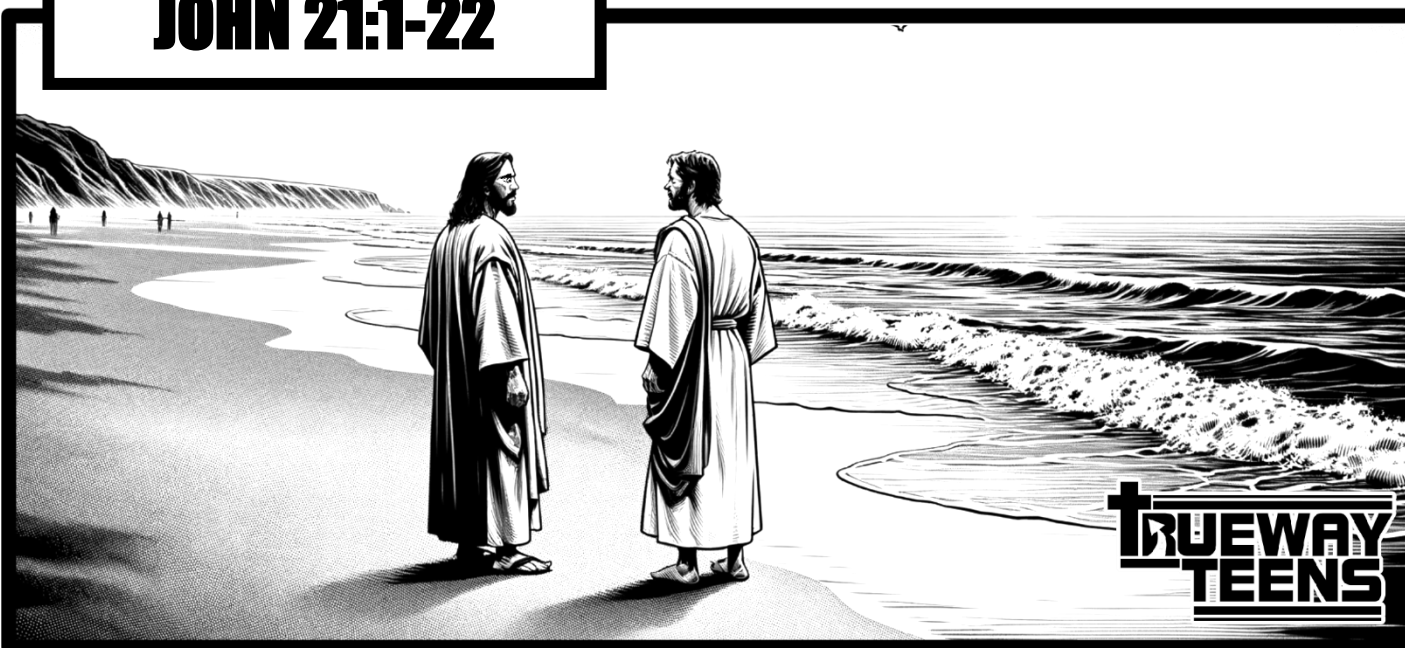




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JOHN 21:1-22



WRITE OUT THE MEMORY VERSE

John 21:15



**TRUEWAY
TEENS**

Answers

N K P E T E R T R T Y
D I S C I P L E S D D
E E L I L A G A F L T
Z L G K H L F C I T W
R F F N F K C M S G H
W E N S A I L R H R P
Z L S E U K R M M O E
X L R T D S C E L X V
N B T A O T E L T K O
K E Q O K R O J P L L
N R L B T W E H N B N