SMITH FOR CHRIST · TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN · LEADER'S SHEET · THURSDAY APR 8

John **21** · week 21 of 21

Breakfast on the Shore, Follow Me · Answers and notes for Thursday

READ MONDAY – WEDNESDAY · MEET THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 8

Answers to every worksheet question, with the exact NASB key-word counts. Personal questions are marked "Personal."

THE WEEK

Monday	Read John 21 straight through, then again with a pen and mark it · Mon, Apr 5
Tuesday	Read the study notes; answer the Observe questions and count the key words · Tue, Apr 6
Wednesday	Interpret, Weigh the Teachers, the Word study and Apply · Wed, Apr 7
Thursday evening	Together: watch the John 21 part of the film, go through the worksheet, pray · Thu, Apr 8

KEY VERSE

> **JOHN 21:15 · NASB**
>
> *"So 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, "Tend My lambs."*

Seven disciples go fishing in Galilee and catch nothing. A Stranger on the beach changes everything. Then, at a charcoal fire, Jesus restores the man who denied Him and tells him to follow.

John 21 *Breakfast on the Shore, Follow Me*

KEY VERSE 21:15

Theme of the chapter. The risen Jesus meets His discouraged disciples in their ordinary work, provides more than they need, and feeds them. At a charcoal fire He restores Peter with three questions and three commands, calls him to shepherd His sheep and to follow Him even to death, and refuses to let him compare himself with another disciple. John's testimony is true.

KEY WORD COUNTS (NASB)

fish	**7**	vv. 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13
love / loved / loves	**9**	vv. 7, 15 (×2), 16 (×2), 17 (×3), 20
follow / following	**3**	vv. 19, 20, 22
Simon Peter	**5**	vv. 2, 3, 7, 11, 15
disciple	**4**	vv. 7, 20, 23, 24
sheep / lambs	**3**	vv. 15, 16, 17

JOHN 21:1–8 The Empty Net

1 OBSERVE *What did Peter decide to do, who went with him, and how did the night go (21:2–3)?*

> "I am going fishing." Thomas, Nathanael, the sons of Zebedee and two others went with him. "That night they caught nothing" (21:3).

2 OBSERVE *What did the Stranger on the beach ask and tell them, and what happened (21:5–6)?*

> "Children, you do not have any fish, do you?" "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find a catch." They "were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish" (21:6).

3 OBSERVE *Who recognized Jesus first, and what did Peter do (21:7)?*

> The disciple whom Jesus loved said, "It is the Lord." Peter put on his outer garment "and threw himself into the sea" (21:7).

4 INTERPRET *Read Luke 5:1–11. Why would this catch tell them who was on the shore?*

> It is the same kind of miracle as when Jesus first called them. Recognition came through the familiar sign.

5 APPLY *Guzik on the night of fishing: "Whether their motives were good or bad, that night they caught nothing." Where have you gone back to what you know and come up empty without Jesus?*

> Personal.

JOHN 21:9–14 Breakfast

6 OBSERVE *What did they find on the shore, and what did Jesus invite them to do (21:9, 12)?*

> "A charcoal fire already laid and fish placed on it, and bread" (21:9). "Come and have breakfast" (21:12).

7 WEIGH THE TEACHERS *John counts 153 large fish, "and although there were so many, the net was not torn" (21:11). Guzik: "all we know for certain is that 153 represents the number of fish in the net." Spurgeon draws a picture from the unbroken net. Why might an eyewitness record the number?*

> A fisherman counted the catch. The study holds the number as a fact and Spurgeon's picture as a picture.

JOHN 21:15–17 Restored

8 OBSERVE *Write down Jesus' three questions and three commands to Peter (21:15–17).*

> Each time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" The commands: "Tend My lambs," "Shepherd My sheep," "Tend My sheep."

9 INTERPRET *John uses the word for "charcoal fire" only in 18:18 and 21:9. What happened at the first fire, and why three questions at the second?*

> Peter denied Jesus three times at the first. Henry: the third question "put him in mind of his threefold denial of Christ, and was plainly designed to do so." Jesus restores him at the second.

10 INTERPRET *Why was Peter grieved (21:17)? Does the switch between two Greek words for love explain it?*

> "Because He said to him the third time." Some see a humbled Peter in the word change, but John uses both words interchangeably elsewhere. The text says the grief came from the third asking.

11 WEIGH THE TEACHERS *What did Jesus mean by "more than these" (21:15)? Guzik: more than the other men love Me. Henry: more than "the delights of sense and all the profits of this world." Spurgeon notes Peter answered "not as to the quantity but as to the quality of his love." How would you answer?*

> Peter had boasted he would lay down his life (13:37). Now he makes no comparison at all.

12 APPLY *Jesus did not just forgive Peter; He gave him work to do. What sheep has Jesus given you to tend?*

> Personal. The study's command: "Tend My lambs."

JOHN 21:18–23 Follow

13 OBSERVE *What did Jesus tell Peter about his old age, and what did it signify (21:18–19)?*

> "You will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go." It signified "by what kind of death he would glorify God" (21:19).

14 OBSERVE *What did Peter ask about the beloved disciple, and how did Jesus answer (21:21–22)?*

> "Lord, and what about this man?" Jesus: "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!" (21:22).

15 INTERPRET *What rumor did 21:23 correct?*

> That the disciple would not die. Jesus only said, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you?" Henry: "Let the words of Christ speak for themselves."

16 APPLY *Whom do you compare your path with? Write what "You follow Me!" means for you this week.*

> Personal. The study's command: "You follow Me!"

JOHN 21:24–25 The Witness

17 OBSERVE *What does John say about his own testimony, and about everything Jesus did (21:24–25)?*

> "We know that his testimony is true" (21:24). If all were written in detail, "even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written" (21:25).

WORD STUDY

18 WORD *anthrakia (G439), charcoal fire. Compare 18:18 and 21:9. Where were you standing at your own first fire, and how has Jesus met you since?*

> Personal. The study's confession: my own charcoal fire.

19 WORD *akoloutheō (G190), to follow. "Follow Me" is the first call (1:43) and the last command (21:19, 22). What does that tell you about the whole Christian life?*

> It begins and ends with following Jesus personally, not with comparing ourselves to others.

ACTS 17:11 The Chosen check

> ACTS 17:11 · NASB
> *"...examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."*

WATCH THIS WEEK

No episode in Seasons 1–5 covers John 21. Compare Season 1, Episode 4 (the Luke 5 catch of fish)

Answers and notes for the Chosen check. Let the group find the differences in the text before you give them.

C1 OBSERVE

Set Luke 5:1–11 (shown in Season 1, Episode 4) beside John 21:1–14. What is the same? What is different?

> Same: a night of catching nothing, a command to let down the net, a full net, Peter. Different: John 21 is after the resurrection, Jesus is on the shore, 153 fish, the net is not torn, and He makes them breakfast.

C2 OBSERVE

Read 21:9 and 18:18. Why does the charcoal fire matter? What does Jesus ask Peter three times?

> Peter denied Jesus three times by a charcoal fire; by a charcoal fire Jesus asks three times, "Do you love Me?" and restores him.

C3 INTERPRET

What did the episode add that John 21 does not say? Does the addition help you see the text, or does it change what the text means?

> Additions are not automatically wrong; they are not Scripture. The test is whether an addition changes what the text says about Jesus.

C4 APPLY

The Bereans received the word eagerly and examined the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11). Where are you most tempted to let a picture, a sermon or a feeling stand in for the text?

> Personal. Press for one concrete habit: reading the chapter before watching, and checking every scene against it.

The Chosen is a drama, not Scripture. God's Word is the truth; where the film differs, the Word wins.