

GOODNESS of GOD

The Goodness of God to Peter

September 7, 2025

WORSHIP (15 MINS)

Venue: Home gatherings

Sing one or two songs or play a song from You Tube.

Venue: Public place (school, café, park, etc.) or **Via Online,**

Testimonies: "What is your "high" or "your "low" this past week?"

Ask someone to do the opening prayer.

WELCOME (10 MINS)

Welcome guests/first-time visitors.

Ice-breaker Q: Have we ever done something against God or someone else that made you feel unworthy of a second chance?

WORD(30-45 MINS)

Main Text: John 21:1-19 NLT

Intro: Simon, once a fisherman in Galilee, was called by Jesus and renamed "Peter," symbolizing his foundational role in the future of God's plan- the Church. After a painful failure of denying knowing Jesus, John 21 reveals a powerful moment of Peter's restoration. It showed God's goodness pursuing Peter, healing him, and recommissioning him for a greater call. That encounter transformed Peter into a very bold apostle whose ministry spread the Gospel to countless lives, leaving a legacy for generations that still impacts the world even today. Let's learn more about God's goodness in his life together.

1. Jesus pursued Peter in his failure - Jesus came looking for him. Jesus didn't wait for Peter to come back overwhelmed in shame. He met Peter where He first found him - back at the Sea of Galilee, in the middle of disappointment, nets empty, heart empty, but still showing His love that doesn't give up on Peter.

Q: Where do you run when you feel like you've failed God? Do you withdraw, numb yourself, or go back to your old habits?

2. Jesus graciously repeated the miraculous catch of fish - Just like in Luke 5, He gave Peter another miraculous catch of fish, reminding him of the time He first called him. Jesus was willing to do anything to make Peter fully realize that He still highly values him and wants him back to be part of His team. Now, years later, after Peter's greatest failure, Jesus repeats the same miracle. Why? To remind Peter: **"I haven't changed My mind about you."** Jesus went out of His way to show Peter that His love is stubborn, His grace is relentless, and His call is not revoked because of our failures.

Q: Have you ever had God remind you of His love in a way that felt personal, like He was saying, "I still want you" back to serving me?"

3. Jesus Restored Peter with Love - Peter denied knowing the Lord three times, and in turn, Jesus asked him three times "Do you love Me?" This wasn't to shame Peter, but to restore him. Jesus gave Peter three opportunities to confess his love for Him, one for each denial. Instead of condemning Peter for his denials, He asked three times, "Do you love Me?" healing him from the shame brought by his denials, his failures.

Q: Were there times when you hear the voice of shame louder than the voice of Jesus? What would it take for you to be assured of Christ's healing love?

4. Jesus Renewed Peter's Call and entrusted him with a big responsibility - Jesus recommissioned Peter to "feed My sheep," proving He still trusted him with leadership and responsibility. When Jesus said, "Follow Me," He gave Peter a fresh start and clear direction for the Lord's original call. Jesus recommissioned the man who failed Him. In Peter's first preaching, three thousand people repented from their sins and followed Jesus. We will fail God many times in our lifetime of following Him, but His calling is irrevocable. **Read Romans 11:29**

Q: Was there a time in your life when you felt disqualified from God's call because of your past? Do you believe His call is still alive in your life?

5. Jesus Assured Peter He Would Finish Strong - After the Lord told Peter how he will suffer greatly for following Him, He prophesied that Peter will strongly finish the race. At the end of his life, Peter, not counting himself worthy to die in the same manner as his Lord, requested to be crucified upside down. When God saves us from our failures and calls us to make a difference in people's lives, He will make it sure that we will not just finish the race, but also finish strong, like Peter. **Read Philippians 1:6**

Q: What would change in our lives if we really believed that God Himself will carry us to the finish line?

Conclusion: Even Christ's closest disciple failed Him greatly, yet no one is ever beyond the reach of God's goodness. What amazes me most is how He transforms failures into champions for His glory and the sake of others. The goodness He pours into our lives is the same goodness He desires to extend to others through us.

Re-cap:

1. Jesus pursues us in our failures.
2. He reminds us of His love in personal ways.
3. He restores us, not with condemnation, but with grace.
4. He renews His call on our lives.
5. He assures us that if we follow Him, we will finish strong.

Practical Take-aways and Key Thoughts:

1. Even Christ's closest disciple failed Him but when Jesus restored him, he became a pillar of the Church. That's the goodness of God.
2. No matter how far we have fallen, no matter how badly we have failed we are not beyond His reach. Another display of the goodness of God!
3. God's goodness is greater than our failure. His mercy is deeper than our sin. His call is louder than your shame.

WORK(15 MINS)

Application

1. Find a partner. Ask what you can pray for him/her then pray for each other.
2. Pray and prepare a Hit List (max. of 5-10 names of family, relatives, friends, schoolmates, workmates, neighbors, etc.) of possible people you desire to invite in the next life group gathering.

What is your take-away from this lesson? Closing Prayer