

AMAZING LOVE 03: LUKE 22:54-62: JESUS AND PETER

As ever, please use (or discard!) these ideas as is most suitable for your group. Don't feel you have to use everything.

Introduction

1. Brainstorm what you know about Peter's relationship with Jesus up to this point in the gospel story (what they have said to one another, how they have interacted, etc). How would you sum up their relationship so far?

Please read Luke 22:54-62

2. How do you react on reading this story? Why?
3. What do you think motivated Peter to deny Jesus? How and when are you tempted to avoid being identified with Jesus or his cause? What is it you fear?
4. When Peter had denied knowing Jesus, Jesus could have betrayed Peter's guilty secret – but didn't. What do you think this silence cost Jesus at that moment of terrible isolation? How did seeing Jesus' love affect Peter? How does it affect you?
5. As the rest of the New Testament shows, after Jesus' resurrection He drew Peter back to Himself and enabled him to become a mighty witness and church leader. How do you respond to seeing God's love redeeming Peter's mistakes? What experience of this do you have in your own life?
6. What best motivates us to be bold for Christ:
 - psyching ourselves up to be brave?
 - being told we *should* be bold?
 - or seeing how much Christ loves us?Why?
7. Instead of criticizing others when they fail Jesus as Peter did, how can we encourage them with the gospel? Which truths about Jesus would you share with such a person?
8. How can your group pray for God to give you the strength to overcome these fears and worries?

In Closing

- Thank God for His amazing love! Pray for each other, that God's love for you will overcome any fear you have of being identified with Jesus.

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