

I Introductions and announcements, joys and concerns.

II Prayer.

III Review: We are concluding a 22 unit study of the Gospel of St. John. It is a rich source of tradition, faith and liturgy. The outline is straightforward: C 1-11, The Seven Signs; Seven episodes from the ministry of Jesus selected by the evangelist to demonstrate Jesus as Messiah and as the one who reveals God to humans. C12-21, the Passion (suffering) of Jesus; the last week of Jesus' life constructed about, the last supper and farewell discourse, C 13-17. I encourage frequent review. Keep the study guides and your notes together and re-read John every year during Lent.

IV Overview: Most scholars agree that 20:30,31 was the original conclusion to the text of this gospel. In this passage, the writer states his editorial focus and purpose. Compare this with Luke's amiable introduction to his gospel, Lk 1:1-4. What is the difference in goals? John is making clear that "he is not giving a historically complete or biographic account."

C 21 is an epilogue to demonstrate the rehabilitation of Peter and to prepare the way for his important role in the early church.

After assessing C 21, we will ask class members to share some highlights of John that are important and memorable.

V There are three units in C 21: 1. Breakfast; 2.the commission of Peter and 3. Peter's curiosity about the other disciple.

VI: 21:1-14, a picnic breakfast on the beach. How many attended? What time of day was it? Menu? Who was impulsive? How many fish were caught? Is this a symbolic number? Note: the Sea of Galilee (Tiberious,Genneseret) is a fresh water lake about 7 by 12 miles at its greatest dimensions. Its surface is 700 ft. below sea level. It is part of the Great Rift Valley that extends from NE Africa into Syria. It is smaller now than in Jesus' day due to dams and irrigation projects upstream. The outflow, controlled by a low dam and gates, creates the Jordan River that ends in the Dead Sea, 70 mi.S. The Sea is fed by the upper Jordan river and smaller streams. The fish of this lake are an important commodity to this day. It is on the menu of local restaurants as "St. Peter's Fish."

VII v13-19. The Commission of Peter. O'Day, NIB: "The three fold pattern of the conversation between Jesus and Peter is intended to counter-balance Peter's three-fold denial of Jesus in 18:15-27."

Two of the Greek words for love and friendship are used here. They are:

	Jesus	Peter
v15	Agape me?	Philo se.
v16	Agape me?	Philo se.
v17	Philo me?	Philo se.

Although the words are sometimes used interchangeably, agape tends to refer to generous, giving love and philo to sincere friendship, i.e. a mutually rewarding relationship. Do you think Peter was reluctant to give the answer that Jesus wanted?

What is Peter's emotional response to the triple question?

Note: Roman Catholic scholars see this passage as reinforcing Mt 16:16-19, the Keys of the Kingdom, i.e.to establish the importance of Peter and the papacy in the church. O'Day interprets it as a command to all disciples

VIII v19-23. We accept from the Transfiguration and Resurrection accounts that Peter had difficulty in keeping his focus on the main issue. In v 21 Peter asks a simple inappropriate question. Jesus' love of giving enigmatic answers, v22, sometimes leads to problems, v23. How should Jesus have condensed his answer?