

Deep in our hearts things keep stirring. O, for one who can “scratch where it itches”!

Jesus does and Jesus can, even when thoughts and questions are not voiced by the people he met. He seems to major on zeroing in, to the heart of the matter!

Wanna get deep? Meet Jesus through his encounters with these different ones. He shocks those who think they've got it together, yet is compassionate to the ordinary person in need.



FELLOWSHIP OF EVANGELICAL STUDENTS, MALAYSIA

Working amongst youth of college and university-going age, FES has many years of experience and many stories of young people who have grown and matured in the Lord. This series is just an extension of our ministry to encourage the encounter of God through the Word.

BREAKTHROUGH → SMALL GROUP SERIES

6 in the series for Individuals or Groups

“BREAKTHROUGH” based mainly on the Gospel of John, reveals Jesus at his most radical, bringing timely breakthroughs into lives and situations. In each encounter, he seems to scratch where people itch, revealing to them that God does not remain at a distance. Here we meet Jesus making outrageous claims about himself, though they do not seem so outrageous on closer examination. His life when it seemed to come to an end, merely signified a new beginning. He left behind a legacy of new hope and light for us to journey on, unravelling a new way to live!

1. Not From A Distance
2. Scratching Where It Itches
3. I AM 4 U
4. The End Or The Beginning?!
5. Light For The Journey
6. A Whole New World

ISBN 983-2393-01-9

SCRATCHING WHERE IT ITCHES

BREAKTHROUGH →
SMALL GROUP SERIES



RESOURCES

SCRATCHING WHERE IT ITCHES

By :



Fellowship of Evangelical Students, Malaysia

6 studies for Individuals or Groups

Contents

	page
The Journey ~ "BREAKTHROUGH"	ii-iii
Foreword	iv-v
Introduction	v
Using The Guide	vi
① From Skepticism To Appreciation John 1:43-51	1
② Chaos In The Temple Courts John 2:13-25	4
③ It's Not The Done Thing! John 4:1-30	7
④ The Plaything Of Circumstance John 5:1-15	10
⑤ Mercy Undeserved John 7:53-8:11	13
⑥ An Unexpected Offer John 21:15-23	16

ISBN 983-2393-01-9

Published in 2001 by Fellowship of Evangelical Students, Malaysia.

Fellowship of Evangelical Students (FES) Malaysia
386-B, Jalan 5/59, 46000 Petaling Jaya.
Selangor, Malaysia

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without written permission from FES Malaysia, P.O. Box 58, 46700 Petaling Jaya. Selangor, Malaysia.

Cover photograph : Meng Yew Choong
Cover scanning and final touch up : Kevin Thomas

Printed by Printmate Sdn. Bhd., 16 Jalan Industri P.B.P. 7, Taman Industri Pusat Bandar Puchong,
47100 Puchong. Selangor, Malaysia.

The Journey - "BREAKTHROUGH"

You must be wondering by now, why this series is called the "Breakthrough series" and what "Breakthrough" is all about. Well, "Breakthrough" is nothing more than our journey with the students in trying to bring the "euangelion" or Good News to our friends.

Challenges Open Doors To "BREAKTHROUGH"

We were stuck!

"What does FRIENDSHIP evangelism look like in real life? After friendships, what next? After sharing the Gospel outline, what next? How does one ease in to share the Gospel with a friend? It seems like nothing is happening!"

These were often heard complaints amongst the students we minister to. It began with the challenge of helping our students evangelise through friendships and making it intentional. What seemed a challenge then, opened doors to this "Breakthrough"! Hearing what our friends in the UK were doing gave us ideas to start our own.

Reaching Out Through Enriching Friendships

We did not want to treat people as targets, but rather persons whom God is interested in. Genuine, enriching friendships is one way we can "build highways" for the Lord to breakthrough into people's lives.

Thus, "Breakthrough" is a holistic endeavor focusing on FRIENDSHIPS, bearing the VOICE of the Gospel wherever God places us, and in sharing the MESSAGE of Jesus (through the gift copies of the Gospel of John). This also means that we are not in a hurry with our friends but are willing vessels in this process.

What Have We Here?

The "Breakthrough series" are Bible study guides intended as companions to the gift of the Gospel of John. Having given the gift, we hope to pray for opportunities for our friends to "investigate" this Jesus.

Our vision and prayer is that the guides become vehicles in order that

you may behold the Lamb of God!
you may see and believe!

The TEAM That Journeyed On

Yes, the team has journeyed on. We first mooted the idea in FES (*Fellowship of Evangelical Students*) in late 1999. When we felt that this was the way the Lord was leading us, we started work on getting the copyrights, working out campus strategies, writing the Bible study guides, etc. This has taken us more than one year in "brewing the stew"! We thank God for good partnership with both the UK and Malaysian Bible Societies. More than that, we thank God for each other in the FES team who have worked tirelessly just to see others given the opportunity to encounter the Word of life! The greatest glory and thanks goes to our very God Himself who moved mountains for us and brought in much needed resources.

"Breakthrough" - JOHN'S Gospel

1. Printing the John's Gospels in Malaysia - Mary Vergis
2. Anglicised Contemporary English Version of John - UK Bible Society
3. Malaysian Copyright Holder - Malaysian Bible Society

"Breakthrough" - Bible Study Series

1. Team of Writers - Annette Arulrajah, Audra Darshini, Chan Yoke Yee, Dan Fong Shin, Evelyn Wong, Kong Lee Ang, Loh Kim Cheng, Michael William
2. Layout for Guides - Dan Fong Shin & Evelyn Wong
3. Series Editors - Annette Arulrajah & Loh Kim Cheng
4. Proof Readers- Elisa Dass & Chan Yoke Yee

Bringing "Breakthrough" To The Campuses

1. Paper on Sharing The Idea With Leaders - Loh Kim Cheng
2. Campus Strategies - Annette, Darshini, Fong Shin, Evelyn, Lee Ang, Kim Cheng, Michael
3. Publicity Handbills - Paula Wong & Kevin Thomas (SU)
4. Preparation of Training Modules - Annette, Darshini, Yoke Yee

* All names mentioned above are fulltime FES staff during the period of our production.

Foreword

One never knows what the e-mail may bring - a delightful surprise or more work! A polite message from FES Malaysia was both. "Before you come to Malaysia in August would it be possible for you to pre-edit a series of Bible studies we have written?"

I knew it would take many hours and much effort if it were to be helpful to the writers. But I didn't even pray about it. I knew it was the right thing to do. It has been the passion of my life to encourage young student workers anywhere in the world to make Bible studies the foundation of their evangelistic and discipling ministry.

It's g-r-e-a-t when these young workers can train their students in Bible studies. I think it's even greater when churches ask them for help in this same area. Over the decades from country to country I have seen churches revitalized or planted by graduates who learned to take the Bible seriously when they were students.

Last month I was in Poland for training university students in evangelistic Bible studies. The president of a fast-growing biblical seminary asked if I could do the same course for his theology students. It was a privilege. But what equally delighted me was to discover that we had met some 23 years ago when he was a student. "It was in that inductive Bible study course (at a European leadership conference) where I first learned to study the Bible. I didn't know it could be so exciting. That excitement for God's Word keeps growing. I want our students to know the same excitement so they can pass it on."

At our church this morning I started a new class. I dared to call it "In-depth Gospel Studies", because I think that our church is typical. People sincerely believe Jesus but know him only in bits and pieces. At best they have an album of popular Jesus photos. They need to see the down-to-earth Jesus as in a video, a moving drama. With that title I didn't know if anybody would come. To my surprise they kept coming and coming. What hunger these longtime Christians expressed! One of them, a lawyer, expressed it as "I want to know God more deeply, not just have a good feeling when I'm singing praise songs with others." At the end of the study in Luke 1, Tony asked if he could bring his not-yet-Christian girlfriend next week, because "I think she will dig this kind of study."

That's what the Bible studies in this series are about - scratching people where they're itching. When I did get to Kuala Lumpur last August I sat down with the writers for oral editing. It was a pleasure to work with them. They were highly teachable. And industrious. The sessions were fruitful. After that they re-worked their studies and helped each other in further editing.

Nothing pleases me more than to commend these Bible studies for your individual or group use on campuses, in homes, in workplaces, and in Sunday classes. If Bible studies are authentic (objective yet warmly personal), anybody -- Christian or seeker -- will benefit. For each study takes the biblical text seriously in helping people to see what it really says (not what they have pre-concluded); to think carefully about its meaning and to consider honestly its practical implications.

May this labor of love for our Lord and His church bring fruit, much fruit.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Ada Lum
Honolulu, Hawaii
January, 2001*

Introduction

"Scratching Where It Itches"

Ever tried asking a question and getting a stupid answer?! Why bother asking at all? Often times we do not find a satisfactory answer to what we are seeking. The inner struggles and real questions are hidden from others. It's not surprising that many of us have learned to drown out these sounds.

John brings to life many of these unspoken questions and the One person who saw, who heard, who dared to break down barriers and cross boundaries. He alone is able to break through our cleverly disguised defenses, right to the core, touching people where their real need lies.

My friend, come and see. Discover for yourself this one man who's "most cool", more "chun" than anyone you've ever met! Learn from him. Grow in becoming persons who scratch where it itches, touching lives where it matters most. Our generation and time need more of this kind of people. People with a heart and the courage to act!

Using The Guide



Want to immerse yourself in the Word of God?



Want to leave the door open for SERENDIPITY (personal discovery) to take place?



*The Breakthrough Bible study guides are for you then!
Using the inductive approach, the process of O-I-A gives
you the opportunity for such happy encounters.*

O for Observation

To look at the text and pick up the facts (both obvious and hidden), searching for details. Asking questions of the text helps us see more facts.

I for Interpretation

To discover the implications and meanings of the facts, particularly to the original writer or hearers of the Bible. Knowing the background and context will sharpen the interpretation process.

A for Application

To find the meaning for us today, and see how we can put it to practice in our lives. We apply truth and principles that are timeless and universal.

Our format ...

This approach comes alive in our format and the phases we take you through.

Getting Started draws you into the study. Be free to share but do not spend too much time on this.

Come and See gets you to observe the text and see its implications. We have included background information which can help you see the context and understand the meaning of the passage.

What About You - A Breakthrough? helps toward making the study personal to your life. This is the most important part of the study, so please do not skip it.

ENJOY!

Study One

From Skepticism to Appreciation

John 1:43-51

Getting Started

1 Think of a time that you were in the midst of a group of people whom you were not comfortable with. What about this group caused you to feel discomfort? What were some feelings you found yourself struggling with?

Can anything good come out from that family? Who can blame you for doubting? Father's a drunk. Can't hold a job for long. Mother's busy making ends meet. No time to worry about the children. Look at the neighbourhood they're in! Can anyone growing up in such circumstances turn out to be anything good? Doubt, distrust, prejudice, skepticism. Many of these unspoken, yet ringing in our hearts, showing on our faces and in the way we relate with others.

When Jesus began his life's work, most of his own countrymen also lived in skepticism and hopelessness. But he had come to bring viable hope to Israel and the rest of the world. So, from day one he looked for disciples that he could train to work with him. We meet two of them now.

Come and See

② Imagine Philip's reaction when Jesus invited him to follow (vv.43-45). What can you learn about Philip from his response to Jesus?

③ Nathanael begins with skepticism of Philip's word about Jesus. Why then do you think he followed Philip? (v.46)

④ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him. Without any hesitation, he affirmed what he saw in Nathanael's heart. What do you think caused Nathanael to be surprised and thrown off guard?

⑤ Compare both Philip and Nathanael's initial responses and final conclusions about Jesus (vv.45, 49).

a) What about Jesus and his response drew them to their respective conclusions?

b) What about Jesus initially attracted you?

Notes

v.45 *This is probably a general statement that Jesus is the fulfillment of the whole Old Testament.*

v.46 *Nazareth, a rather obscure town, no where mentioned in the Old Testament. In Jesus' day, "Nazarene" had the same meaning as despised.*

v.48 *Fig tree - its shade was a favorite place for study and prayer in hot weather.*

v.49 *King of Israel. The use of this title and "Christ" (Messiah/Saviour) was often equated.*

What about you - a breakthrough?

⑥ What useful lessons about sharing good news can you learn from Philip?

⑦ Surprised by what Jesus saw in his heart, Nathanael could then appreciate Jesus for who he really is - the Son of God. What doubts do you have about God at this point in your life? These may include what you think God should do or cannot do.

⑧ As you approach God, your doubts can hinder your coming nearer. You can also choose to bring them with you to God Himself. Spend some time on your own in quiet.

a) Are there some things in your heart that you feel God cannot see or is not bothered with?

b) As you approach Jesus, what do you think he is saying to you?

c) How do you want to respond to Jesus?

Study Two

Chaos In The Temple Courts

John 2:13-25

Getting Started

① When was the last time you felt disturbed by some things happening around you? Describe the situation and the action you took. What effect did it have on you and others?

A bustling marketplace! You'll probably enjoy the sights and sounds of good bargains. An excellent place to exchange the latest news and gossip in town! The problem is this wasn't the regular market square or "*pasar malam*". All this is happening in the temple courts!!! In the midst of these noises - haggling over prices, cattle lowing, sheep bleating and doves cooing - anyone who may have come to the Temple for the purpose of prayer and worship would have found it most difficult to do so. Do the Temple leaders not care? How could they allow such things to carry on?

Jesus had come to Jerusalem to celebrate this very important festival, the Passover. The scene at the Temple was all too familiar. You see, he had been coming for such celebrations ever since he was old enough. This time, however, he decided to do something about it!

Come and See

② Put yourself in Jesus' sandals. Follow the sequence of his actions in verses 14-16.

a) What do you think motivated Jesus to act the way he did? What concerns was he expressing through his actions?

b) What would you have done if you were there?

③ Jews coming to celebrate the Passover needed to bring with them animals (sheep, doves, cattle) for the temple sacrifice. They would also need to exchange their currencies in order to make purchases and pay temple tax. In what ways would the temple traders aid them? In what ways had the traders gone wrong?

④ Look at the Jews' response to Jesus' action and words (vv.18-20).

a) Why do you think they demanded for a proof of Jesus' authority?

b) What do their responses show about them?

Notes

- v.13 *Passover was one of the annual festivals that all Jewish men were required to celebrate in Jerusalem. It commemorated the time when the angel of the Lord passed over the homes of the Hebrews rather than killing their firstborn sons as he did in the Egyptian homes.*
- v.18 *The Jews. Generally, John used it to refer to the Jewish leaders who were hostile to Jesus.*
- v.20 *Work on the Temple had been going on for 46 years. It was finally completed only in A.D. 64. Jesus' claims of being able to rebuild the temple in 3 days sound ridiculous in comparison.*

What about you - a breakthrough?

To the Jews, the Temple was a symbol of God's presence, and the sacrifices a means of entering into his presence. Yet, their activity had hindered worshippers from drawing near to God.

5 Many today are guilty of keeping to forms and rituals, rules and regulations, yet their hearts are far from God.

a) What are some things within your heart or outside, which may be hindering you from drawing near to God?

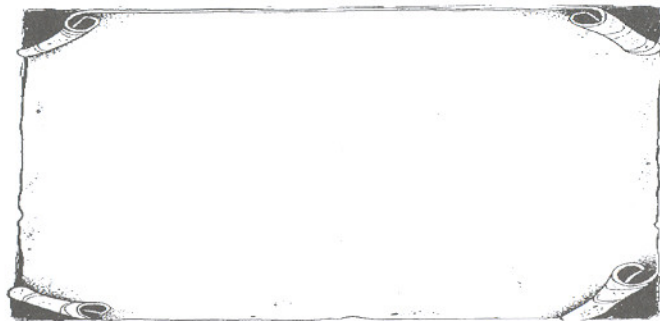
b) In what ways attitudes, actions, words, etc. could you have sidelined or hindered others from drawing near to God?

6 Jesus shows us two sides of the same coin - compassion and consuming passion for the right things. It gave him courage to act in order that God's house could be restored to its original purpose.

a) If Jesus were walking with you in your environment, what situations would move him to such compassion and passion?

b) How can you begin to respond to some of these situations?

7 Boldness or courage is not about acting foolishly or speaking up at the wrong time. Write a prayer to your Father for a listening heart and wisdom to do the right thing at the right time.



Study Three

It's Not The Done Thing!

John 4:1-30

Getting Started

1 When have you felt alone, rejected or misunderstood? What do you do in such times?

She had timed her trips to the well so perfectly, she knew she would be alone! After 5 husbands and presently living with another man, she was a hot item among the village gossips. It was easier to keep away from the crowds - who needs friends like that? Imagine her shock when she spotted a man, and a Jew at that (!), sitting by the well! Anyway, it's too late to turn back now and she really needs to get the water.

He was returning to Galilee, his home province. Most of his countrymen would have bypassed this region - taking a longer route home! Choosing to go through Samaria, he was nearing Sychar. It was noon and he was tired. His disciples had gone into town to buy food. He sat down by the well to rest. "Perhaps someone will come to draw water and I can ask for a drink."

Come and See

2 In speaking to the woman, Jesus broke away from the traditions of his day. Firstly, men do not talk to women in public. Secondly, she was a Samaritan! Jews considered Samaritans second class.

Knowing all these, why do you think Jesus still asked her for a drink? (vv. 7-9)

③ Jesus pointed the woman to himself as the source of living water (vv.10-16)? List down what he says about this living water.

④ Imagine yourself in the woman's shoes. Cornered by a man whom she didn't know into admitting the truth about her present situation (vv.17-20). How did she respond to this turn of event? What would you have done?

⑤ Jesus affirmed the woman's honesty in admitting her real situation (vv. 17-18) and continued to engage her by revealing the truth about God. Note the progression of the woman's response from "You, a Jew", to "Sir" to "Could this be the Christ?" (v. 29). What about Jesus do you think, touched this woman and brought about this response?

Notes

- v.4 *Samaritans were descendents of Israelites who intermarried with the Assyrians (non Jews) who conquered their land (722 BC). Their religion, already mixed with Canaanite religious practices became even more impure when mingled with Assyrian paganism. When the Samaritans' ancestors broke away from Jerusalem (925 BC), they built their own worship place on Mount Gerizim, where Jesus met the woman.*
- v.9 *A Jew becomes ceremonially unclean if he used a drinking vessel handled by a Samaritan, who is considered "unclean".*
- v.18 *Jews held that a woman might be divorced twice or at most 3 times. If Samaritans held the same standard, the woman would have been exceedingly immoral.*

What about you - a breakthrough?

Many barriers divided Jesus and this woman - racial, cultural, political, gender. Yet to him, this woman's need and thirst for true satisfaction moved him to break down all these barriers.

⑤ Think of your own circle of friends. Who are in and who are not. What barriers or prejudices exist in your relationships?

⑥ a) How do these prejudices prevent you from seeing the real needs of others?

b) What can you learn from Jesus about removing barriers and building bridges in these relationships? Where can you begin?

⑦ Identify the people in you know who may be different or sidelined. Being in their "territory" may not be the done thing. How can you or your cell group begin to build a bridge in these areas? Be specific.

⑧ End this time of study by praying together for genuine friendships. Pray that you may be able to build bridges and be able to share from this spring of living water!

Study Four

The Plaything of Circumstance

John 5:1-15

Getting Started

- ① "What should I do?" Does this question at times echo within you? Describe an instance when you felt trapped and helpless.

Viktor E. Frankl, a Jewish psychologist, was thrown into one of Hitler's death camps during the holocaust. He survived to write the book 'Man's Search for Meaning' and says "...there is always a decision to make, a decision which determines whether you would or would not submit to those powers which threatened to rob you of your very self, your inner freedom; which determined whether or not you would become the plaything of circumstance, renouncing freedom and dignity..."

Jesus once met someone who felt trapped in a most adverse of circumstance. Let's see how he progressively helped the man out of it.

Come and See

- ② John noted that there were many sick, blind, lame and crippled people lying close to the pool. Some had probably been there a

long time, trying to find an opportunity to get into the pool. Try imagining yourself a sick person crippled for 38 years and still there. What would your view of life probably be?

- ③ It is jolting to hear Jesus ask the man a seemingly insensitive question. "Do you want to be healed?" What does the crippled man's answer to Jesus express about his view about life and himself (vv. 6-7)?

- ④ Jesus chose to heal the sick man regardless of his answer. Not only that, he offered an unexpected way to healing. What does this reveal to you about the person of Jesus?

- ⑤ The VIPs in Jerusalem were on the alert for Jesus, the trouble-maker from Galilee. The last time he was at the Temple he defied their authority (2:13-22). Jesus was taking a risk by going to the temple and meeting up with the man again (vv. 14-15). Why do you think he did that?

Notes

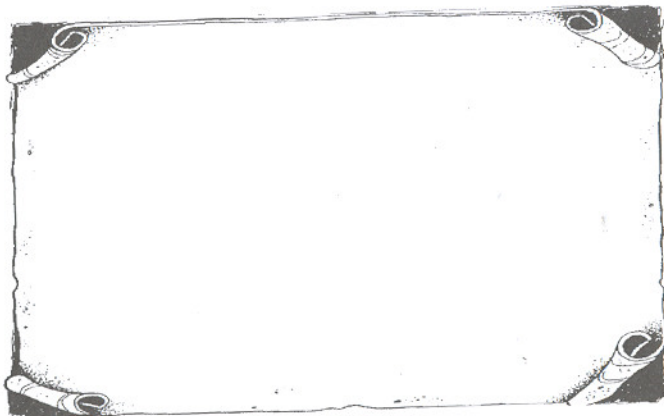
- v.1 *Probably one of the pilgrimage feasts to which all Jewish males were expected to go to Jerusalem.*
- v.10 *The Jewish understanding of Sabbath means rest. It is set apart for the Lord's service and as He wills it. No work shall be performed on that day (Exodus 20:8-11; Is. 58:13). The punishment for breaking the Sabbath law is to be stoned to death (Numbers 15:32-36). It was not the law of Moses but their traditional interpretation of it that prohibited carrying loads of any kind on the Sabbath (NIV Study Bible).*

What about you - a breakthrough?

⑥ Identify an area of life where you may feel paralysed. What steps can you take for a breakthrough?

⑦ Jesus is able! Jesus came into the life of the sick man in a groundbreaking way. He was no longer a plaything of circumstance. He was given a new way to live. What has this same Jesus got to offer you in your time of difficult circumstances?

Write a letter to Jesus, asking for new hope and openness to receive it.



Study Five

Mercy Undeserved

John 7: 53-8:11

Getting Started

① "Rohan, you're cheating in this exam. Come up here! We're going to hand you over to the Dean. You're sure to get it." What would be your feeling if you were Rohan, caught and exposed in front of your fellow coursemates?

In this study we will be looking at a woman who was caught in the sexual act with a man who wasn't her husband. Presumably this might not be her first time at it. What is your impression of her? "Padan Muka"? "Shame on you"? Yes, if we are honest with ourselves it is not difficult to identify the "tinge of despise" in us.

Let us now look at how Jesus responded to her in an astonishing way.

Come and See

② In verses 5-6, we know that the accusers came with ill intention. Obviously they were not there to consult him and the woman was just a pawn. They were bent on setting a trap for Jesus. They wanted to have a basis for accusing him.

a) What seems to be the trap?

b) There seems to be some discrepancy in the way the woman was brought before Jesus. What are some facts revealed here about the woman's accusers (cf. Deuteronomy 22:22-24)?

③ Jesus gave all those present an option to act by calling anyone without sin to cast the first stone (v.7). Why do you think they all left the scene one by one?

④ Jesus was eventually left alone with the woman. Though he was qualified to act, he chose to be just (both the accused need to be there). He chose mercy over condemnation. He did not condone sin either. How is this truth seen (vv.9-11)?

⑤ Try to picture the feeling of the woman from the moment she was caught until she was told 'I am not going to accuse you either'. No stoning, no death, no humiliating words. An entirely unexpected deliverance instead. In your view, what would be the impact on her life?

Notes

v. 1 *Teachers in the ancient world usually sat down to teach.*

v. 5 *The Romans did not allow the Jews to carry out death sentences (John 18:31)*

Deut. 22:22-24 "People of Israel, if a man is caught having sex with someone else's wife, you must put them both to death. That way, you will get rid of the evil they have done in Israel. If a man is caught in town having sex with an engaged woman who isn't screaming for help, they both must be put to death. The man is guilty of having sex with a married woman. And the woman is guilty because she didn't call for help, even though she was inside a town and people were nearby. Take them both to the town gate and stone them to death. You must get rid of the evil they brought into your community."

What about you - a breakthrough?

⑥ In a world that talks much about penalty and punishment, how does Jesus' way of passing judgment set us an example to follow?

⑦ What are some of the misdeeds that could have brought you shame and condemnation?

How does the encounter of the adulterous woman with Jesus provide you with powerful insights and comfort that Jesus will forgive?

⑧ If Jesus were to say to you 'You may go now, but don't sin anymore', what would be the 2-3 sins that he may be speaking to you about? Write them down on a piece of paper. Then, write "I AM NOT GOING TO ACCUSE YOU EITHER". Now, throw away the paper, thanking him for his grace and mercy, love and justice. With strength and boldness go now and sin no more.

Study Six

An Unexpected Offer

John 21: 15-23

Getting Started

① “You betrayed me. I’ll never trust you again!” Isn’t this what we are inclined to do if let down by those we call friends? Share about such an experience.

Introducing Simon son of John...

He made up Jesus’ inner circle of friends. He was named Peter or Cephas (Rock) by Jesus. It was certainly not for who he was but for who he would become by God’s grace. He is known for both his impulsive nature and, devoted heart to Christ (John 13:36-37; 18:10-11). Jesus predicted that Peter will deny him three times (John 13:38) and it happened! (John 18:15-27). The encounter in John 21 takes place after Jesus died and rose again. The disciples keep a date with him and went ahead to Galilee to wait for him.

Come and See

② That morning after breakfast seems to be the first time Peter had a face-to face talk with the Lord he had denied knowing . What do you think would be the dominating thoughts and feelings within Peter?

③ Of all the possible questions Jesus could ask, he asks Peter, ‘do you love me?’. What does Jesus want to bring forth in Peter?

④ John recorded that Jesus asked Peter the same question three times. Peter answers as honestly as he can. By the third time, he was hurt by the repeated question (vv. 15-17). What do you see in Peter’s answers and why do you think he was hurt?

⑤ Jesus asked Peter to take care of his flock each time after the questioning.
a) What does it tell you about trust in this seemingly broken relationship? What do you think was the impact on Peter?

b) What does it reveal to you about the person of Jesus?

What about you - a breakthrough?

- ⑥ Think of a recent failure or a continuing one that you keep struggling with. If Jesus were to ask you the soul searching question "do you love me?", how would you answer him?

- ⑦ Not only was Peter set free from guilt and shame, he was also strongly affirmed by Jesus as seen through the entrusted task. What are some new things you have learnt about Jesus that ministered to you?

- ⑧ The challenge to follow Jesus requires a personal response. At this point of your life, what does it mean to follow Jesus NO MATTER WHAT? Give specific situations or issues.

"You ask me what forgiveness means; it is the wonder of being trusted again by God in the place where I disgraced Him." Rita Snowden