

Small Group – April 25, 2021 – Leader's Guide

Read John 21:15-25

1. Jesus prepared a charcoal fire for His disciples as a space of mealtime, welcome, safety, and relationship. How could we as the community of Little T prepare a similar space, even amidst COVID, for the rest of our city?

Preparing a "charcoal fire" amidst lockdown is tricky and will require creativity and also grace -- creativity to be mindful of safety and various comfort levels of people, and grace to be gracious of ourselves and others when plans and ideas don't come to fruition as we had envisioned. The principal purpose of a charcoal fire is to create a hospitable space where people can meet, share, chat, ask questions, and hopefully meet Jesus in the midst. Whether that would mean only through Zoom or having a picnic in the park, may our charcoal fires be embracing and welcoming of all.

2. We must each personally encounter the risen Jesus, especially as we carry our own sins, failures, and brokenness. Share with one another how you have encountered Jesus or have experienced His restoration and forgiveness.

Allow people to share as they feel comfortable. If not, lead by example as facilitators of the conversation by sharing your own stories or examples.

3. After Jesus restored Peter, He commissions him for pastoral vocation. While not all Christians are called to become pastors, we are called to tend the new creation that is around us, in the Church and the world. In what ways could we be better and faithful "pastors" or "tenders" of the new creation?

Christians should lead by example in society in regards to moral, intellectual, social, economic, and spiritual transformation, at least, in reform and repentance. We do what we can to become aware and knowledgeable of many issues in our city and the world; to be conscientious in our consumption and choices; to be morally upright and above reproach; to be diligent and considerate--all for the sake of being better witnesses and servants of the world, and even to serve our brothers and sisters in our faith community.

4. We are each called to our own particular post in life, just as Peter was called to be a pastor and a martyr, and John as an evangelist and an exile. How can we be supportive and encouraging of one another at Little T given the differences of our careers, stage in life, background, etc.?

We start by genuinely getting to know and listen to those who are different from us--if we are single, to listen and understand married couples and parents (and vice versa); if we are retired and aging, to learn and listen to younger people (and vice versa); if we are from multiple generations of Canadian settlers, to listen and learn from racialised or immigrant members of our parish (and vice versa). Then we exchange notes, expertise, resources, prayers, care and support--however much we can give and

receive--so that we would address every need in our community, and extend ourselves to the needs of others in our city. In all things, that Jesus may be proclaimed and seen.