



**SERIES: Tipping the Scales**

**Group Guide Week 3** (for the week of April 25th)

**SERIES OVERVIEW:**

There's a big difference between knowing about Jesus and actually knowing Jesus. What makes the difference? Experience. As unbelievable as it sounds, Jesus' desire is to be involved with us, to know us, to guide us, to care for us out of love for us. No one knew this better than a man named Peter. In our first series after Easter, we will take a deep dive into one day that settled a few things for Peter things that if left unresolved could have cost him everything. And, our hope is it will settle a few things for us as well. Join us as we investigate a little more about Jesus, the one who tips the scales.

**Big Idea:** Sometimes, Jesus takes us backward to move us forward.

**Scripture:** Matthew 17:24-27 , 1 Peter 5:7 (NLT), Proverbs 19:11 (ESV), Philippians 2:13

### **WEEK 3 RECAP:**

*If you missed Sunday's message here is WEEK THREE RECAP:*

When it comes to what God has planned to do in and through our life, we have a part to play. Certainly, God can accomplish what he wants without us, but he chooses to include us. Joining with him leads us to peace and purpose, a rare combination. Caringly, God often takes us to familiar places to help us learn how to accomplish unfamiliar things. Maturing is difficult, and it's also worth it. Following Jesus often means allowing him to tip the scales from caution to confidence.

### **GROUP DISCUSSION:**

1. In week 3 of Tipping the Scales, we dig in a little deeper to Peter's roll in Matthew 17:24-27 by remembering where Peter started. Peter is at the same sea and the same town he met Jesus for the first time.  
"God takes us backwards, to move us forward."  
"He brings us somewhere familiar to help us accomplish unfamiliar things."
  - a. Can you recall and share your first encounter with God?
  - b. What are some familiar places that you can recall truly "hearing from God?"
  - c. Where are some "comfortable places" that you know you can go to hear from him?
  - d. What stops you from going to these places?
2. Read Philippians 2:13  
Sometimes going to these "familiar places" don't feel great because we're reminded of possible pain we felt in the moment, before finding the purpose and promise. A prayer we derive from this passage is "God, hurt my feelings to make me better for you and your plan"
  - a. What familiar places are hard for you to go back to? (old towns, hometowns, family gatherings, relationships)
  - b. If you have been back to these difficult familiar places, can you now see what God was teaching you? Can you see what he was able to do through you and for you?
3. Proverbs 19:11  
Jesus was willing to offend in order to save. Our culture has created a generation of

offended people. We have to step up and share what we've learned from being in these comfortable places- regardless if they were good or bad places.

- a. Are you plugged into areas to serve the younger generation?
- b. Would you serve in our childrens ministry?
- c. Would you serve in our youth ministry?
- d. Peter had a part to play in his familiar place, and you do to- so how will you commit showing up and doing your part?

#### TAKE AWAY & ACTION ITEMS:

- **Jesus makes a habit of moving into our stories when he knows there is an issue that needs to be resolved or settled.**
- **Jesus wants us to engage in the right battles and disengage from the wrong ones.**
- **We are not here to obliterate offense. We are here to pursue purpose.**
- Listen closely to the instructions of Jesus and the obedience of Peter.
  - Go to the sea and cast a hook
  - Take the first fish that comes up
  - When you open its mouth you will find a shekel
  - Take that and give it to them for me and for yourself. Matthew 17:27 (ESV)
- **With Jesus, it's never over. With Jesus, nothing is wasted.**
- **Sometimes, Jesus will take us backward to move us forward.**
- **Peter had a part to play in the provision. We have a part to play, too.**
- **Jesus' message to Peter that day and to us today is this: I can take care of you.**
- **Obedience and belief are difficult to do. IF we want this community and ourselves to grow, we must keep showing. FAIL FORWARD.**

#### RESOURCES used on Sunday:

- "The main challenge to building a clear sense of purpose is that the world is cluttered with noise, distraction, and endless alternative purposes." *Daniel Coyle, Culture Code*
- When they came to Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax went up to Peter and said, "Does your teacher not pay the tax?" He said, "Yes." And when he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do kings of the earth take toll or tax? From their sons or from others?" And when he said, "From others," Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free. However, **not to give offense to them**, go to the sea and cast a hook and take the first fish that comes up, and when you open its mouth you will find a shekel. Take that and give it to them for me and for yourself." Matthew 17:24-27 (ESV)

- Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. 1 Peter 5:7 (NLT)
- Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.  
Proverbs 19:11 (ESV)