



SERIES: Tipping the Scales

Group Guide Week 4 (for the week of May 2nd)

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: Our response to Jesus should be to do what he's designed for us.

Scripture: Acts 2:22-24 (NLT) , Acts 2:32-33, & 36 (NLT) , Acts 2:38 (NLT)

WEEK 4 RECAP:

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

Does Jesus really have a plan for my life? How can I know, in the here and now, that he cares enough to have prepared a future for me? In the last week of our series Tipping the Scales, we will investigate these really big questions together. We will see, through the life of Peter, when given the time Jesus is the ultimate change agent. He inspires and empowers more than any other influence. Looking to tip the scales from your old ways to something better? Look no further than Jesus himself.

GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Where are you? Not geographically- but in life's journey.
 - a. Old Life: dealing with shame, unsure of relationship with Jesus, isolated
 - b. New Life: living freely, forgetting former ways, chasing after Jesus' will -
 - c. Congruent Life: ability to combine old life and new life to share about Jesus' work in your life with others.
2. Often times we are hit with something and stated "I should've been ready for this" - can you give a specific example of this? Are you now able to look back and understand how God used this unsettling experience to mature you?
3. Is where you are, where you want to be? If not, what's holding you back from getting there?
 - a. Spiritually
 - b. Financially
 - c. Physically
 - d. Mentally
4. Read Acts 2:22-24. Peter is explaining what happened, and why it had to happen. The people understand that they are the cause of Jesus dying, but *now what*?
 - a. What do you typically do when you realize you are the cause of damage in your story?
 - b. What do you typically do when you realize you are the cause of damage in your someone else's story?
 - c. What are some healthy and unhealthy ways you've reacted to this realization?
5. Acts 2:38 can you recall the action steps Jesus calls us to do when we've had the realization of the damage done?
(Repent → Return → Baptism → Receive the Holy Spirit)

- a. Did this seem easier when you went through the steps the first time receiving Jesus?
 - b. What do these steps look like for you now, in whichever stage of life you are in?
6. “Transformation Takes Time” was the biggest take away from this look at Peter’s walk with Jesus. Reminder: If it weren’t for Peter making TIME for Jesus to step into his boat and do a supernatural work with Fish, Peter wouldn’t have gone on YEARS later to catch “men” instead.
 - a. What are some ways you are, or want to, create time for Jesus to show up?
 - b. What does your time with Jesus look like?
 - c. How often are you spending time with Jesus?
 - d. How can we challenge each other to deepen our time with Jesus, so that he can do the supernatural works we desire?

TAKE AWAY & ACTION ITEMS:

- **God is calling you to mature in new ways.**
- **Just because the answer is “not yet- doesn’t mean its not on the way”**
- **Jesus is moving in to parts of your life that feel unsettled to show you his plan**
- **Transformation takes time**
- **The enemy uses our busy culture to make sure we have zero time for Jesus’ transformation in our lives.**

RESOURCES used on Sunday:

- “People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed **Jesus** the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through **him**, as you well know. But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when **Jesus** was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed **him** to a cross and killed **him**. But God released **him** from the horrors of death and raised **him** back to life, for death could not keep **him** in its grip. Acts 2:22-24 (NLT)
- God raised **Jesus** from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. Now **he** is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God’s right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave **him** the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today. So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this **Jesus**, whom you crucified, to be both **Lord** and **Messiah!** Acts 2:32-33, & 36 (NLT)
- Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38 (NLT)