***Animated Faith:***

***More Than What You Have Become***

**June 4, 2023**

**Overarching Theme:** 2023 – Living the Dream

**Instructions:**

When using this material as teacher, feel free to pick and choose the point you want to emphasis in the lesson. The format of the curriculum is designed to have an abundance of information in which to refer as desired.

**Core Point: 2023 can be a year of *living* the dream of faithful discipleship as we take a next step forward in following Jesus Christ.**

**Reflect on this Scripture:** John 21:1-9; 13-17 *After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way.****2****Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+21%3A1-9%3B+13-17&version=NRSVUE;NIV;MSG" \l "fen-NRSVUE-26890a" \o "See footnote a)] Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples.****3****Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.****4****Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.****5****Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.”****6****He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish.****7****That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea.****8****But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.****9****When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread.****13****Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish.****14****This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.****15****When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.”****16****A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.”****17****He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.*

**Commentary:**   
in this post-Easter conclusion to the Gospel of John, we read that Peter turns back to the life he once knew. Perhaps in part to try to forget his recent 3-fold denial of Jesus, Peter leads a late-night fishing excursion, and seven of the eleven show up. This attempt to return to the way things were ignores the fact that the Risen Christ had given them a greater mission.

The writer presents this familiar activity as a distraction from their calling. Failing to move forward, these experienced, career fishermen failed to catch anything all night long. So their impatience and confusion is marred with disappointment. This makes John’s narrative allusion noteworthy. Failure in fishing brings back their failed mission they felt acutely on Good Friday.

This now allows for a conversation of great importance. Earlier, Peter denied Jesus three times (18:17, 25-27). And in this exchange, Jesus reinstates Peter into the fold by asking him three times to take care of his sheep (verse 15-17). Peter is called to step up from the failures of the past and join in leading Jesus’ ongoing mission.   
-Adapted from online commentary by Joy J. Moore and Karyn Wiseman

**Questions to Ponder for Accountability in the Group:**

1. Why do you think Peter wanted to go fishing?
2. Have you ever had an experience that temporarily derailed your life path? Did that lead to a “going fishing” experience (or, to quote Lion King, a “Hakuna Matata” season)? While that season may have been temporarily helpful, was there a juncture in which you realized it was not enough?
3. In The Lion King Simba heard the voice of Mufasa saying, *“Simba, you are more than what you have become. Remember who you are.”* In John 21:15-17, Jesus asked Peter three times to reaffirm his love. Why three times? What do you think Jesus was doing for Peter?
4. Jesus then called Peter to “*feed my lambs… tend by sheep…feed my sheep.”* What is Jesus doing for Peter at this point? How might Jesus be calling us to respond to disappointments/derailments?

**Activity for the Life of a Disciple:**

* 1. Remember to find encouragement for the day by reading the daily devotional from FUMCC.
  2. Ponder and pray on this scripture this week: ***17****He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. John 21:17*