



INTRODUCTION

Our Easter message "Into the Water" emphasized Jesus is calling each of us to jump out of the boat and into the water, into a new life with Him. For each of us, the boat is something different, but it represents where we are settling, hiding in what has become too familiar or comfortable. This Easter, choose to jump out of the boat and into the water – for a new or renewed life with Him!

DISCUSSION

1. **Read John 21.** Peter and the other disciples went fishing. It was a task they had done many, many times. It was something they didn't have to think about while doing it. Are there tasks we fill our time with to feel safe and comfortable? Are they keeping each of us apart from Jesus?
2. The disciples caught no fish. Their net was empty as was Peter's heart. In that place of settled escape, the nets are always empty. The net will always be empty when we let shame, disappointment and mistakes determine our steps. Are we allowing those things to keep our net empty? What are they, and what steps do we need to take to fill our nets again?
3. Jesus was standing on the shore but He came to Peter. He didn't wait for Peter, and He doesn't wait for us to get our act together. God relentlessly pursues each of us. He is asking each of us the question, "Why are you settling for the escape boat?" Can you answer that question honestly? How is Jesus making us aware of our reality?
4. Finally, Peter jumps out of the boat. He decided to go to Jesus with everything, including his coat! He decided to not leave anything in the boat; there was no going back. Are we prepared to leave the boat – empty - and give everything to God? What areas of our lives do we need to give to Him?

THINK ABOUT IT

Like Peter, many of us have lives marked by mistakes which have kept us from peace with God through Jesus. For some of us, past mistakes fill us with regret or shame. For others, past sins against us, not our fault, still control us. Still others of us are living lives not pleasing to God and harmful to the people around us. Remember, the same Jesus who was on the shore waiting for Peter to jump in is the same Jesus who is waiting for you. He is waiting to restore you.

DO SOMETHING

1. Romans 8:31 says "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Have you asked Him for forgiveness? Jesus is the hope for you. If you have never asked Him to forgive you of your sins, the time is now to jump out of the boat and ask Him.
2. Have you already asked Jesus to forgive you of your sins? Is it time to recommit your life to Him? Have you been hiding in the boat – retreating, settling? If the answer is yes, then it's time to jump into the water again and bring everything to Jesus.
3. If you made a commitment to step over the Faith Line or have recommitted your life to Christ, find someone in your church or small group to share the news of "jumping out of the boat and into a new life with Christ."