International Fellowship of Christians
For Christ and His Kingdom · Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Home Fellowship Outline
WEEK 16 · 2026

2026 THEME
Transformed to Bear Much Fruit

THIS WEEK'S STUDY

Do You Love Me?

John 21:15–19

I Introduction

After the resurrection, Peter found himself carrying the heavy burden of failure. He had denied Jesus publicly after boldly declaring that he would never fall away. Many believers can relate to this experience. Though we may not deny Christ in dramatic ways, there are seasons when our spiritual fire grows dim, our confidence weakens, and we feel we have let the Lord down.

II From Failure to Restoration

1 The Unseen Battle Behind the Failure

Peter's fall did not begin in the courtyard where he denied Jesus. Jesus had already warned that Satan desired to sift all the disciples like wheat, but He specifically prayed for Peter, that when he turned back he would strengthen his brothers. Satan's attack was strategic, targeting one of the key leaders among the disciples. Yet Christ's response was also strategic: He interceded for Peter and planned his restoration before the failure even happened.

2 The Grace of Restoration

After the resurrection, the angel instructed the women to tell "His disciples **and Peter**" (Mark 16:7). This special mention showed that Peter had not been forgotten or disqualified. Though Peter had returned to fishing, as if the years with Jesus had been wasted, the Lord still sought him out. God's grace reaches believers even when they drift back into old patterns or feel their calling has been lost.

3 The Test of Love

Jesus restored Peter not through condemnation, but through love. Three times He asked, "Do you love Me?" and each time Peter responded with humility. The foundation of ministry is not talent, position, or activity, but genuine love for Him. Love is the key to restoration, renewed calling, and faithful service.

QUIET DRIFT

The same danger exists today. Spiritual drift can happen quietly. A leader, parent, worker, or young person may still function outwardly while inwardly losing their first love for Christ. When the heart drifts, others are affected too. Yet the good news is that the risen Saviour still stands on the shore, calling His people back to Himself.

Peter's story reminds us that failure is not the end for those who belong to Christ. Jesus knew Peter would fall, prayed for him in advance, and lovingly restored him afterward. In the same way, our mistakes, shame, or seasons of drift do not cancel God's purpose for our lives.

III Discussion Questions

1. Why do believers sometimes feel distant from God after failure, even when Christ has not rejected them?
2. What does Jesus' restoration of Peter teach us about grace and second chances?
3. How can spiritual drift happen quietly in a believer's life, family, or ministry?
4. Do you love Me more than "these"? What could "these" represent in your own experience, and in the life of Christians today?

MEMORY VERSE

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love Me more than these?"

JOHN 21:15

✷ ACTION POINT

Take time this week for honest reflection and prayer. Ask the Lord to reveal any areas of spiritual drift, loss of passion, or hidden shame. Reaffirm your love for Christ daily, and intentionally return to the practices that keep your heart close to Him.

Conclusion

The Lord still calls His people back: not first to activity, but to love. Before renewed service comes renewed affection for Christ. As we respond to His voice, He restores our hearts, rekindles our fire, and recommissions us to strengthen others. The Saviour still stands on the shore, asking each of us today: Do you love Me?