

WORSHIP HELPS

DON'T QUIT

JOHN 21

This can be done individually or in a group setting:

STARTER

Can you think of something that you have nearly given up on but persevered? How did it make you feel to keep on going? What changed your mind and motivated you to not quit?

Today we're going back to the breakfast on the beach scene again. The scene starts off with some of the disciples who were on the brink of giving up – of quitting. Peter is the leader in all of this. As I read through the account, I picked up some of the questions and attitudes we can have which may contribute to us giving up. We also see how Jesus turns that around.

READ JOHN 21

1. Have you ever gone back to place you used to live? How did it make you feel?
In all my moving around, I have found that going back to the places I have lived is never the same. Although there is a sense of security with the familiar, life moves on for both you and the people and places you left and so the thing that was secure suddenly is not quite so secure anymore.
2. Why do you think Peter and the other disciples start going fishing again?
Perhaps they were missing what life was like beforehand as fishermen – the familiarity of it, even the security of it. But they didn't catch anything all night. These were expert fishermen. They knew the spots. They knew the techniques. There were just no fish around. It just wasn't the same anymore.
3. What do you think Jesus teaches Peter and the others about going back by asking them to throw their nets on the other side and catching a huge haul?
When Jesus told them to cast on the right side of the boat suddenly there was a mass of fish! If we are to be obedient follower of Jesus he doesn't want us to go back to our old lives. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:17 'anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!' When we live life in this way, we can expect even more than we had before – things will just be done in a different way.
4. What motivates you in your service? Are you motivated by love for Christ? What will keep you serving the Lord when the going gets tough?
Although you may be sensitive to the needs of others, that alone isn't enough. Nor should we be driven by a need that we have like a desire to be appreciated or loved by others – a 'what's in it for me' attitude. Our needs are

deep, and only God can satisfy them. The more we try to satisfy them with anything else—even God's work—the more dissatisfied we will become. In short, even love for God's people, His sheep, won't keep us going, because "sheep" can often be unlovable and insufferable, and we may come to resent them. Oswald Chambers wrote "If we are devoted to the cause of humanity, we shall soon be crushed and broken hearted... but if our motive is to love of Christ, no ingratitude can hinder us from serving our fellowmen."

Love is the power of obedience. Love is the power of duty. Love is the power of service. Love is the power of sacrifice. Love is the power of worship. Love is the power of fellowship. Love is everything.

5. Do you often compare yourself to others?

Aren't we all a lot like Peter in Jn 21:21 asking "What about him?" It is so easy to let our relationship with the Lord be overly influenced by the behaviour and experiences of others. But we must not be concerned with what God has planned for anyone else. Through the conflicting voices that surround us, we must keep hearing the Saviour's clear command: "You follow Me."

Are you fixing your eyes on Jesus or on His work in and through others? The former focus will assure a race well done, while the latter focus often leads to frustration, envy, jealousy, and failure to finish your (own, not someone else's) race.

Resentment comes from looking at others. Contentment comes from looking to Jesus.

DO

Spend some time just in adoration to God. It might help you to find a psalm or play one of the songs listed below (I Love You Lord) to help show that adoration. Let's renew/restore our love, our motivation and relationship with the Lord in these moments.

JUST THINK

About 20 years ago I had just started work at The Salvation Army's Territorial Headquarters in London. Just as I arrived, the Territorial Commander – the then Commissioner John Gowans – was elected as the general and had just left to go to work at IHQ (incidentally so did his Private Secretary Adrian Allman – our meeting was not to be until about 5 years later!) So, in my second week into this new job we were welcoming the new TC – Commissioner Alex Hughes. Each department was asked to do their own welcome and as the newest employee of the Evangelism Department I was nominated to give the welcome on behalf of them. I was handed a card that had beautiful words on it which the person who gave it to me thought might be of help in my welcome. They were absolutely perfect words for the TC just starting a new role and they were absolutely perfect words for me in my new job as well. I have treasured those words ever since. Whenever I feel like quitting, whenever I wonder what in the world I am doing, whenever I am about to start a new chapter of my life and whenever I want to encourage someone else on their faith journey I get these words out. It is like a bit of a pep talk. Jesus was saying the essence of these

words to Peter on the beach. He was giving him a bit of a pep talk and getting him moving forward, sorting out his motivation and telling him that he was enough for his plan.

Today, If you're on the brink of something new; if you're on the brink of quitting, if you're just keeping on plodding on in your service of love to the Lord – I pray that the words just allow you motivate you moving forward.

Just think,

You're not here by chance, but by God's choosing you.

His hand formed you, He made you the person you are.

He compares you to no one else – you are one of a kind.

You lack nothing His grace can't give you.

He has allowed you to be here at this time in history

to fulfil His special purpose for this generation.

(Roy Lessin)

MUSIC SELECTION

I Love You Lord (SASB 369)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ndSlc8jRdc>

Lord You Know That We Love You (SASB 506)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DetpctUGA0Q>

Lord Thou Art Questioning (SASB 607)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aq5tSGep0k4>

Will You Come and Follow Me (SASB 695)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o469PRLdbHU>