



Grace and Truth: The Beach Version

God doesn't size you up and write you off—and neither should you. In God's eyes, you're invited to move forward, not remain stuck in the past.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever sized someone up and written them off based on an event, an interaction, or a decision they made?
2. Why do you think it's so hard for us to see past someone's worst moment?
3. Have you ever struggled with the thought that perhaps something you've done caused God to write you off as well? If so, how did you move past that?
4. Read **Matthew 26:69–75** aloud.

Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said.

But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said.

Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."

He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!"

After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away."

Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!"

Immediately a rooster crowed. 75 Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Can you relate to Peter's regret after his failure? Why or why not?

5. Read **John 21:15–19** aloud.

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

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

What stands out to you about Jesus' interaction with Peter after Peter's failure?

6. What would you say to someone who wonders where they stand with God because of something in their past?