

## 18th Sunday after Pentecost, Sept 22, Study Guide

### *Faith Opens Doors to the Future*



### Key Themes

*Don't obsess, confess:* When we've done something wrong, our options are avoidance or confession. But avoidance is actually just private obsession. Instead, confess your wrongdoing and work toward reconciliation

*Use failure as a springboard to success:* Faith opens the door to forgiveness and redemption — transforming our failures into successes.

### Scripture Reading

John 21:3-19

1 John 1:9

Romans 8:28

### Discussion Questions

- *Why do you think Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved him? What might this repetition signify in the context of Peter's previous denial?*
- *How does the act of confession, as described in 1 John 1:9, contribute to personal healing and reconciliation with God?*
- *In what ways can Romans 8:28 provide comfort and hope when facing fears about the future or dealing with past failures?*

### Reflection

- *Reflect on a time when you felt overwhelmed by fear about the future. How did your faith help you navigate that period? If it didn't, what could you have done differently?*
- *Is there something you need to confess to God, yourself, or another person? What steps can you take this week to begin that process of confession and reconciliation?*
- *Think about a failure or mistake in your life. How can you reframe that experience as a springboard for future growth and success, similar to Peter's transformation?*
- *How can you practice self-compassion in your daily life, especially when you are tempted to be overly critical of yourself?*
- *Identify one area in your life where you feel God's compassion is needed. How can you open yourself up to receive and embrace that compassion?*
- *What does it mean to you to be an apprentice of Jesus? How can you actively shape your life to reflect his teachings and love this week?*
- *Consider the fears you have about global issues like climate change or political instability. How can your faith help you confront these fears and find peace?*