

Albion Park Uniting & Shellharbour City Regional Church

H2O Study/Reflection Questions

Week 7 - Drink

1. Read John 18:15-18, 25-27 and 21:15-19
How do you respond to Peter's situation?
How would you have felt seeing Jesus again after denying him?
2. What does this encounter between Peter and Jesus say about the need for *new beginnings* in every life?
 - *new beginnings* just a once only moment
 - *new beginnings* are only for really bad people
 - *new beginnings* are necessary for even the "best" of us
3. Roman says: "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23, NLT)
Which part of this statement do you most identify with?
Why?
4. Which response most reflects your response to God's free offer of forgiveness, a pardon and new life?
 - I don't believe it
 - I don't need it
 - I'll try to earn it
 - I don't understand it
 - I don't want it
 - I'll simply accept itIn your own words, how would you put your response to what Jesus offers?
5. How do you respond to the statement: "The place of your great fall can be the place of God's great call."
Do you **really** believe that God offers *new beginnings*?
If you do believe this to be true, what *new beginnings* do you need **right now**?
6. What difference would *new beginnings* make in your personal life if you lived as a person who understood what Romans 6:23 really meant?
What will this "cost" you?

The place of your great fall can be the place of God's great call.

7. How would our communities of faith be different if we genuinely lived as people who embraced and accepted the promise of *new beginnings* offered by Jesus? What will this “cost” us?

8. As Jesus forgives Peter, he also reveals a plan and a purpose for Peter’s life. Peter became one of the key leaders of the early Church (see Acts 2), wrote significant letters that became part of our Bible (1 and 2 Peter) outlining what it means to be a people who embrace hope in Jesus Christ even in the midst of persecution and great challenge, and finally was killed (martyred) for his faith in Jesus Christ and refusal to do anything other than declare Jesus as Lord.

This was the same man who denied Jesus (John 18)!

What do you think changed for Peter?

9. John Newton wrote perhaps the most famous song of all history in response his own experience of what Peter encountered in John 21 – *new beginnings*.

The words of the hymn, *Amazing Grace*, are reproduced here:

1. Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

2. T'was Grace that taught
my heart to fear.
And Grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed.

3. Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
'Tis Grace that brought me safe thus far
and Grace will lead me home.

4. When we've been there
ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.

Over the next week, take some time to reflect on the words of this wonderful declaration of faith and *new beginnings*.

If you have the chance, watch the movie, *Amazing Grace*, and/or the H2O video sermon (follow links from the web site).

What difference does the *new beginning* of God’s amazing grace make in your life?

Pray that all of our *gatherings* – public worship, and other mission expressions – will be opportunities for *new beginnings*.

Go to www.shellharbourcitychurch.org.au for more H2O resources.

