

Feed my sheep

Read [John 21:15-19](#)

Bible Story Reflection

In John 21:15-19, we find a poignant exchange between Jesus and His disciple Peter. After His resurrection, Jesus appears to His disciples while they are fishing. As they gather around a fire on the shore, Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves Him. Each time, Peter responds with a resounding "Yes." Jesus then follows with the command, "Feed my sheep." This interaction carries a profound message about the intersection of our calling, our love for God, and our service to others.

Peter's journey as a disciple had been marked by ups and downs. He had boldly declared his devotion to Jesus, yet he also denied Him three times during His trial. In this moment, Jesus not only restores Peter's faith but also reveals his calling and purpose. The repetition of Jesus' question, along with the command to feed His sheep, emphasizes the importance of love and service in fulfilling our calling.

The message of this passage extends beyond Peter's specific situation. It speaks to all, reminding us that our calling is not merely about fulfilling our needs, but also about meeting the needs of others. When our love for God is genuine and our hearts are aligned with God's, our calling will naturally flow into acts of service and care for those around us. Just as a shepherd tends to their flock, we are called to nourish, guide, and protect those entrusted to our care.

This passage challenges us to reflect on our own calling and how it aligns with the needs of others. It reminds us that true fulfillment comes when our calling becomes a conduit for love and service. As we seek to follow Jesus, may we echo the words of Peter, saying, "Yes, Lord, I love You," and may His response resound in our hearts, "Then feed my sheep." In this, we find purpose, meaning, and the abundant life that comes from serving others in the name of Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. How would you describe the connection between our love for God and our ability to fulfill our calling? How does love motivate and empower us to serve others?
2. In what ways do you think Peter's commission to "feed my sheep" extends beyond literal feeding and encompasses a broader call to care for and guide others? How can we practically apply this command in our own lives and communities today?
3. How does serving others become an expression of our love for God? How can we cultivate a heart that genuinely cares for the well-being of others?
4. How do you think Peter would tell his own story?
5. What does it feel like when someone cares for you?
6. Where do you see parallels between your story and Peter's story?
7. How can we navigate the tension between personal fulfillment and meeting the needs of others in our pursuit of our calling?
8. How does the concept of "feeding the sheep" challenge our understanding of calling? How can we discern whether our calling is aligned with both our own passions and the needs of those around us?

Activity Suggestions

Create an art piece that represents your spiritual journey and the themes discussed in John 21:15-19. Express your experiences of affirmation, failure, restoration, and calling through colors, symbols, and imagery.

Organize or participate in a service project that allows participants to practically apply the command to "feed my sheep" in their community. Collaborate with a local food pantry or homeless shelter to volunteer and provide meals for those in need.

Participate in a Lectio Divina centered around the questions and themes derived from John 21:15-19. See where it is speaking to you. What stands out?

Prayer Concerns

Those who are living with food insecurity, those who serve others, and those around us who need to be loved and served.

Closing Prayer

Guide me, O God, to do your work in my everyday life. In the name of +Jesus, Amen.

