October 2, 2011

1. <u>ADMIT</u> THAT I AM <u>STUCK</u>.

John 21: 1-3, James 4:10

2. BE OPEN TO <u>GOD'S VOICE</u>.

John 21:4 – 6; Proverbs 14:12; Isaiah 55:8

3. <u>COMMIT</u> TO GOD'S PLAN.

John 21:7 – 12; Jeremiah 29:11

Definition of GETTING BETTER: Moving forward in my life because I am willing to give God <u>CONTROL</u>.

NEXT STEPS

Use these study questions to turn a message into a conversation.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. How many siblings do you have and what was your place in the birth order of your family? From your perspective, what are some of the advantages of your place in the birth order?

2. Have you ever talked to someone famous? If so, when, where and how did it happen?

3. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there a particular point, verse, or comment that caught your attention, challenged you, or raised a question?

Digging Deeper

Jesus appeared off and on to His disciples for forty days after the resurrection (Acts 1:3) John chose to record only one more of those appearances (20:30,21:25) to make several important points in closing his Gospel.

Read John 21:1-14 What was the significance of Peter's decision to return to fishing (vv. 1-3)?

What was Jesus trying to show the disciples by allowing them to catch such a large number of fish (vv. 4-6; see Luke 5:4-11)?

When Peter hears that "It is the Lord" (vv. 7-8) he jumps into the water and begins swimming ahead of the boat. What does this reveal about Peter and his relationship with Jesus? How would you have responded if you had denied the Lord only a few days earlier?

Giving God control in your life is how we get better. Read Acts 5:12-42. In this passage, we learn from the apostles that bold obedience often triggers opposition, releases God's miracles, and always requires faith.

How can you draw encouragement from the apostles' example of bold obedience in Acts 5?

What types of opposition have you faced when you've boldly obeyed God? How have you handled that opposition?

What miracles have you seen result from bold obedience?

What's one thing that God is asking you to do right now? What will be your next step in boldly obeying God?

What's keeping you from boldly obeying God in the way the apostles did in Acts 5? How will you go about removing these barriers?

Bold obedience always requires faith. What bold leap of faith do you need to take in your life?

5-Day Micro Devotional:

Ask God to show you exactly what He is calling you to do. Ask Him to show you the next steps you need to take.

Thank God for the miracles that you've witnessed that have resulted from your bold obedience.

Ask God to help you overcome the opposition you will face as you step out in bold obedience.

Tell God where your faith is lacking. Ask Him to help you renew your faith in Him.

Share with God what results you hope to see from your bold obedience. Ask Him to guide your next steps as you boldly obey Him.

Memory Verse:

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice -- the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask? Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is."

- Romans 12:1-2