



Sermon-based small groups connect the week to the weekend!

Dig deeper into the talk each week, while getting connected, cared for and known. Challenge yourself to see how the message actually makes sense and applies to your everyday life and do it with people just like you to support you on your journey.

Message Info: Rise Up: Out of Your Comfortable Fallback, 4/30/23 - We love to be comfortable. Everyone's got things, people, or places they go to for comfort. They are blessings to be grateful for. But sometimes the pursuit of comfort turns into a goal; the be-all, end-all of existence...which is when we miss out on what God has for us. (Passages: John 21:1-14, 2 Corinthians 1:3, Psalm 94:12, Lamentations 3:23-24, Hebrews 12:2)

Discussion Questions: Take your time and dig into these questions.

What do you fallback on for comfort? What are your go-to things, food, places, etc? Do you ever use them to avoid something important but difficult? Does that have an impact on you? On your relationships?

Read John 21:1-14. What stands out to you in this passage? Why?

Were the disciples bored? Were they uncertain about the future, or feeling sentimental? Regardless of why, they'd hit their default. Not sure how to proceed, the disciples ran to what they knew. And as He always does, Jesus pursued them; not to lecture them or make them feel guilty. He returned to connect with and care for them. And He didn't just provide a meal, He brought the comfort they were truly seeking. How do they react when they realize the man is Jesus? What does this passage say about our own solutions compared to Jesus'?

It's healthy to have a safe-space to relax. But we've got to be cautious about what we're falling back to and why. Some fallbacks are unhealthy, even dangerous. If it's a space where we're avoiding God along with everything else, it will end empty. It will never provide the comfort we seeking. Can you think of an example of this from your own experiences?

Jesus doesn't want a distant, fair-weather relationship with you; He cares too deeply about you. He wants to have an encounter with you because He knows it will forever change your life. And you will find the greatest needs of your life met. Do you believe that? Or do you view Him as distant? Judgemental? Do you think you have to earn His love? No matter our struggles or mistakes Jesus pursues us on repeat. Fix your eyes on Him, and you won't lose hope or grow weary. Let your faith lead you.

Group Challenge: VBS is starting soon at Grace! Talk with a leader, and find out how you can help.