Week 5: "Do You Love Me?"

Big Idea: Knowing Jesus loves and accepts us leads us to love Him back.

Connect with God and each other. (*Note: leave extra time for the ending section this week*)

- Icebreaker: If you had to delete all but 3 apps from your smartphone, which ones would you keep?
- Thus far, how has God challenged or spoken to you during this series?
- How did it go praying with boldness and persistence over the area you mentioned last week?
- Have someone pray, welcoming what God has to say to us today.

Discover what God is saying to you.

Read John 21:15-19.

Context: Earlier, Peter had denied Jesus 3 times and was feeling low about it when once again, Jesus invited him to "follow me."

- On a scale from 1-10, how much do you live in touch with the reality that Jesus unconditionally loves and accepts you?
- Why do you think it can be difficult to accept and receive God's gift of unconditional love?
- The disciples had reverted to their old way of living, because it was safe and comfortable. What is your go to when it gets hard to follow Jesus?
- How have you seen God redeem your moments of weakness or pain for His purposes?
- What are the things that compete for your love of Jesus?

Go do it!

- Spend 2-3 minutes in silence to reflect and journal the following questions. The word "love" has different meanings in each of Jesus' questions. How would you respond if Jesus asked you:
 - o Do you truly love Me more than other people?
 - o Does your heart burn for Me?
 - o Do you have great affection for Me?
- Share what came up for you.
- Close with a time of worship and adoring Jesus.
 - o Choose a song to sing in worship. Recommended song: What a Beautiful Name.
 - o Thank Jesus for who He is and the ways you've seen Him work.
 - Take turns praising Jesus for the way He's been at work through those in your group.

Action step: Plan for the group to have fun or serve together, keeping in mind those you'd like to invite.