

**Title:** “Fireside Chat: How Jesus Shows Up in Our Story” // **Scripture:** John 20:24-21:25

**ARRIVAL / SOCIAL TIME** 15-20 minutes

Spend the first 15 minutes or so of your time together catching up and socializing with one another.

**SERMON REVIEW** 5-10 minutes

This week we finished our initial journey through the book of John as we saw Jesus reveal Himself to His disciples, first with Thomas in the upper room and then with Peter around a charcoal fire. Each of these encounters shifted the future of those Jesus revealed Himself to. Thomas, tradition tells us, ended up bringing the gospel to India. Peter, tradition suggests, gave his life for Jesus by being crucified upside down. Here, in these stories, we see just how Jesus shows up in our story as well—by beginning our story with His *grace*, by filling our story with His *purpose*, and by freeing our story from comparison with others by making our story *unique*. In allowing Jesus’ story to impact our personal stories we find that the gospel means more than securing our existence after we die. Instead it shows us how to truly live and not simply exist.

**THE MAIN THOUGHT** *keep this in mind as you facilitate discussion*

“The gospel is not just about what happens when you die... it is about what might happen if you live.”

**SEE IT – Questions** 10-15 min

**Picture:** How did Peter’s story begin with grace? How did Jesus fill Peter’s life story with purpose? In what way did Jesus remind Peter that his story was unique? How did Jesus do these things with Thomas? How did you hear Jesus do this as Rafat (leader of our EPIC trips in the Middle East) shared his testimony during the gathering?

**Mirror:** What’s your story of grace? How has Jesus changed purpose for you? In what way is your story unique?

**Window:** What might it look like for you to be a person of grace as you interact with the story of others? What is one way you could do that this week? How could you help your family, your friends, and your co-workers find purpose? How might you take a proactive step to do that this week? How would it change your home life, work life and community life if you really believed everyone’s story was unique? Who is one person you could listen to this week—by asking them to share their unique story with you?

**BE IT – Practice**

**Change UP // Charcoal Fires** (15 minutes)

This week we saw how Jesus redeemed Peter’s story around a charcoal fire. The same word to describe the fire where Peter denies Christ, is now used to describe the fire around which Jesus re-instates Peter. This week let’s meet God around a charcoal fire. Use a fire pit if you have access to it (or make an imaginary fire pit in your living room with a trash can if you don’t). Then use sticks or paper as a symbol of either something you need provision for or something you need forgiveness of. Throw the sticks or paper into the fire as an act of receiving grace for your story.

**Change IN // One Word Story** (10 minutes)

Take a moment to celebrate the stories that God is writing in the lives of people in the group and the group as a whole. Have each person come up with 3 words: The first word should be used to describe their *own story* with God. The second word should describe the *story of their family* with God. The third word they choose should describe the story of *your group* and its story with God. Celebrate each person’s words as compliments (not comparisons) to your story.

**Change OUT // Future Focus** (5 minutes)

This week we heard Rafat’s story. Rafat helps lead our EPIC mission trip to the Middle East and reminds us of one of the ways that God has asked our church to share its story with the world—by our engagement with Muslims. Think about the way your group might engage with this part of our church’s story in the coming months. Maybe someone from your group might go on the EPIC mission trip? Maybe your group could be trained at our next JAQ? Or maybe this summer your group wants to make plans to spend at least one evening at Gen Salaam. Use the OUT time to think through how your group might join our church’s story in at least one way over the next year.

**CLOSING PRAYER** 5 minutes

Take a few minutes to gather any prayer requests and pray for each other to SEE IT and BE IT this week.