

A Breakfast Invitation

*Jesus said to [the disciples],
“Come and have breakfast.”
—John 21:12*

READ: John 21:1-19

REFLECT: New beginnings are one of the best things about teaching. After a summer of evaluation, preparing for new courses, and resting, I confidently believed each year would be the best yet, without the mistakes of the year before. Although I never had a perfect year, I always looked forward to new beginnings.

Shortly after his resurrection, Jesus meets seven of his disciples at the seashore. Not knowing what to do next, they have slipped back into a former way of life. However, Jesus has plans for them and invites them to a fresh start, a new beginning.

“Come and have breakfast,” he says. It is a new day, a time to look ahead and make plans. The miraculous catch of fish must have reminded them of their beginnings as disciples, as reported in Luke 5. After that earlier fishing miracle, Jesus called them to catch people. Here at the shore breakfast, he specifically commissions Peter to feed his sheep. Jesus renews the call, “Follow me.”

God likes new beginnings, and we all need them. We use the past and build on it as the disciples would recall and obey Jesus’ teaching. We also need times of evaluation, rest, and renewed commitment.

“Come and have breakfast,” Jesus says. In other words, “On this new day, let’s start all over again, forgiven and refreshed. I’ll help you know what I want you to do now. Just follow me.”

—Janet Gehman

RESPOND: *Lord, thanks for the invitation. I am glad to join you at breakfast, and I will follow you through this day.*