

A Stephen Minister is...

Intentionally Available

A Good Listener

An Encourager

Testifies to God's Working

A Confidant

There until the end

A Call to Serve

Deadly Situation

John 19:**30** When Jesus therefore had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head, and gave up His Spirit. **33:** but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.

Grieving Thomas

John 20:**24** But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

Ministering Jesus

John 20:**26** After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." **27** Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." **28** Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

Regretful Peter

John 21:**2** Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. **3** Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will also come with you." They went out and got into the boat; and that night they caught nothing.

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Fisherman Jesus

John 21:4 Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. **5** So Jesus said to them, "Children, you do not have any fish, do you?" They answered Him, "No." **6** And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find a catch." So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish. **7** Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord."

Available Peter

John 21:7b So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on (for he was stripped for work), and threw himself into the sea.

First appointment between Peter and Jesus

John 21:15 So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My lambs." **16** He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Shepherd My sheep." **17** He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep."

Ministry Call

A call to Love.

John 13:34 " A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35** "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

A call to Grow.

Ephesians 4:14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; **15** but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, **16** from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

A call to Serve.

2 Corinthians 1:2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, **4** who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.