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**The Gospel of John: That You May Believe***"God's Trustworthy Word"**John 21:20-25*

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**Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:**

*"God speaks to us: not only to move us to do what he wants, but to enable us to know him so that we may love him. Therefore God sends his word to us in the character of both information and invitation. It comes to woo us as well as to instruct us; it not merely puts us in the picture of what God has done and is doing but also calls us into personal communion with the loving Lord himself." – JI Packer, Knowing God, 110.*

*"When a minister reads out of the Bible, I am sure that at least nine times out of ten the people who happen to be listening at all hear not what is really being read but only what they expect to be read. And I think that what most people expect to hear read from the Bible is an edifying story, an uplifting thought, a moral lesson—something elevating, obvious, and boring. So that is exactly what very often they do hear. Only that is too bad because if you really listen—and maybe you have to forget that it is the Bible being read and a minister who is reading it—there is no telling what you might hear."- Frederick Buechner*

*"The most precious part of each day for me is the 30-40 minutes I spend each morning before breakfast with the Bible. All the rest of the day I am bombarded with the stories the world is telling about itself. As I take time to immerse myself in the story the Bible tells, my vision is cleared, and I see things in another way. I see the day that lies ahead in its place in God's story." - Lesslie Newbigin*

**Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:**

What from the Scripture passage or the sermon made an impression upon you? Are there lingering questions to be answered? What is God showing you about Himself and yourself in this passage?

When you hear Scripture being read or you hold the Bible in your hands to read it yourself, do you expect to hear from God? Is this how you hear from God?

What has been your history with and approach to the trustworthiness of Scripture? Are there places of perceived struggle or desire to shore up your own knowledge?

How does John's claim that the unrecorded deeds of Jesus are too much to record strike you? Do you sense that what we do have is sufficient? What else do or others need?

What are some ways you are treasuring God's words? How would you like to grow in that regard?

How do you hear and understand JI Packer's description of God's word in the quotation above? How does Jesus' invitation to follow him personally stir you today?