

Hope Presbyterian Church
Sermon-Based Bible Study

December 28, 2025

“Begin Again: A Fresh Start in Christ”

Scripture Texts (NIV)

John 21:15-19, Isaiah 42:9



1. At the beginning of a new year, many of us make earnest resolutions - to exercise more, eat healthier, buy less, save more, and many other intentions to live better - to *begin again*.
 - What prompts us to want to make New Year’s resolutions?
 - If you’ve made resolutions for change, what has been your process to decide to do so?

2. **Read John 21: 15-17.**

The risen Jesus has come to visit Peter, who has returned home resuming his familiar pursuits of fishing, and Jesus asks him the same question three times: *Do you love me?*

 - How is Jesus’ three-question encounter with Peter importantly connected with Peter’s earlier denial before Jesus’ arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane?
 - What does this exchange between Jesus and Peter teach us about the process of restoration in light of past failures?

3. **Read John 21: 18-19.**

Jesus’ final words to Peter were, “Follow Me,” the same invitation he extended to Peter at their first meeting - the invitation remained the same despite Peter’s earlier denial that he knew Jesus.

 - How does this encounter between Jesus and Peter help you think about the idea that *restoration is not erasure?*
 - Where might Jesus be inviting you to *begin again?*

4. **Read Isaiah 42:9.**

The Psalmist reminds us that we are not defined by our worst moments, and we are not beyond the reach of grace - with God, it’s possible to *begin again*.

Consider the story of John Newton, the author of the now-iconic hymn “Amazing Grace,” who was a slave ship captain before he had a spiritual encounter during a storm at sea, in which he came to understand that, with God, his life could begin again in pursuit of faith and justice.

Wishing you peace, love, and opportunities to *Begin Again* in 2026!

5. How can we pray for you?