

Bible Study: A Man Called Peter

Purpose: To take a look at the life of the disciple Peter and draw inspiration from how he followed Christ. By learning from his example, we can better learn from His example. What can we learn from his shortcomings? What were his strengths?

Brief Intro: Ask the group if they've ever been skiing or snowboarding. Ask if anyone knows how to ice skate. Ask if anyone there knows how to surf or water ski. Then ask if anyone has ever been barefoot water skiing. Then ask if anyone's ever done it without a boat. Use this to lead into how Peter walked on water with Jesus.

MATTHEW 14:22-33 – Jesus walks on water.

Q: Why were the disciples afraid?

Q: Did they have any reason for fear?

Q: Are you ever like this, fearing the presence of God?

Q: In what instances have you been afraid of Him?

Q: Why does Peter ask to go out to Jesus?

Q: What happens when Peter focuses on his fear?

MATTHEW 16:13-20 – Jesus questions the disciples on His identity.

Q: Why does Jesus ask who people say He is? Is he insecure?

Q: Peter was the first to answer, why do you think this is?

Q: Isn't it easier to believe when you've experienced it?

Q: What promises does Jesus give to Peter because of his faith?

Q: Why does Jesus not want His disciples to reveal that He is the Messiah?

MATTHEW 16:21-23 – Jesus rebukes Peter.

Q: Why was Jesus telling the disciples of his upcoming death?

Q: Why did Peter doubt his words?

Q: Jesus had just promised him the keys to heaven, and in the next paragraph calls him Satan. What caused this dramatic change in events?

Q: What then, are we to do in order to remain in the correct mindset?

MATTHEW 17:1-13 – The Transfiguration.

Q: What is the significance of the Transfiguration?

Q: Why does Peter suggest that they make three buildings?

Q: What was God's response to this?

Q: Why didn't Jesus reveal this to all the disciples?

MATTHEW 18:21-22 – A question of forgiveness.

Q: Why do you think Peter is asking about forgiveness?

Q: Does Jesus literally mean there's a numerical value on forgiveness?

Q: What then, does this short passage mean?

Q: Aren't you glad that God doesn't put a limit on His grace and forgiveness?

MATTHEW 26:31-35 – Peter’s denial foretold.

Q: Still Peter doesn’t believe Jesus, why not?

Q: How can we learn from this, what can we specifically improve upon?

JOHN 18:1-11 – Jesus captured in the garden.

Q: Why does Peter draw his sword?

Q: Why does Jesus rebuke Peter again?

Q: Why is Peter still trying to do things his own way?

MATTHEW 26:69-75 – Peter denies Jesus 3 times.

Q: Why does Peter deny Jesus?

Q: But Jesus had foretold it, is he justified?

Q: Can you identify with Peter’s fear?

Q: What can we learn from his failure?

ACTS 3:1-10 – Peter heals a cripple.

Q: Was Peter’s denial the end of his effectiveness for God?

Q: Do you think that Peter believes in the promises of Jesus now?

Q: So, what can we learn from this success?

Conclusion: Even though Peter had denied Him, Jesus did not deny Peter. He continued to work in and through him for the Kingdom of God. Peter became an amazing instrument for the Holy Spirit. He went forth, baptizing people in the Spirit, and as is written in Acts, a mighty rushing wind came down from heaven and filled people with the power of speaking in tongues. Peter was a man of extreme highs and extreme lows. When he was in the presence of Jesus, he walked on water like God. Yet, when he was prideful and arrogant, he was at his worst. In the end, his sweet spirit prevailed and his heart for the Lord was clearly evident.