

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

## Easter Study

*The Story of Peter*

# The Story of Peter

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word

**Objective** This lesson will trace the Easter story from Peter's perspective through his boast, denial, visit to the tomb, and restoration.

## Key Verses

John 13:36-38  
John 18:1-11, 15-18, 25-27  
John 20:1-10, 19-23  
John 21:1-19  
Romans 3:23; 5:8; 10:9

## Memory Verse - Romans 5:8

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

## Hook

Ask the students to each think of their best friend or closest family member. Ask them if they would be willing to give up that friendship to avoid some sort of cost (having to pay \$5). Go through a series of costs, each increasing in intensity (e.g. extra homework, being grounded, going to jail, even death).

In today's story, Peter's love for Jesus was put to the test. Let's see how he did.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

## BOOK

The Gospel of John gives special attention to the journey of Peter during the crucifixion, resurrection, and post-resurrection sequences in Christ's life. It begins in 13:36-38, when Peter boasted that he would follow Christ even to the point of death. Jesus, however, rebuked him and said that he would deny Jesus three times that night. When the soldiers first came to arrest Jesus, Peter tried to fight them off, but Jesus told him to put his sword away. Later, while Jesus' trial was going on, three separate times someone asked Peter about Jesus, and just like Jesus predicted, Peter denied knowing Him (John 18:15-18, 25-27). This caused Peter great shame. After recording Jesus' crucifixion and burial, John tells us that Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early and found the stone had been rolled away. She told Peter, who ran to the tomb to find that His Lord had risen from the dead! Later that day, Jesus revealed Himself to the rest of the disciples. However, it seems that Peter was still ashamed of what He had done. Days later, while sitting by the sea eating some fish and bread, Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him. Peter responded yes each time, to which Jesus replied, "Feed my sheep." Just as Peter had denied Jesus three times, he was given a three-fold restoration.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

## LOOK

Peter's story during this sequence in John is a beautiful picture of the Gospel. At first, Peter's confidence was in himself. He thought, "Because *I* am so strong-willed and courageous, there is no way *I* could ever deny my Lord." Peter was his own hero, his own source of strength. He was in dramatic need of humility, and it was a dramatic humbling that he got!

Despite Peter's strong boast, when he had a chance to prove his courage, he failed miserably three times. Even before a young servant girl (John 18:17), he was unable to affirm his faith in Christ. Peter tried to claim that he was far stronger, bolder, and more faithful than all the other disciples, but instead he was utterly humiliated by his failure. Imagine how Peter must have felt knowing that he denied Jesus three times!

Peter obviously wanted to make things right, so when he heard about the stone being rolled away, he ran as fast as he could to see the tomb. When he saw the tomb was empty, he knew something had happened. Seeing Jesus later confirmed that he was alive. But Peter still needed to be restored after so great a failure.

# LOOK (Continued)

Jesus gave Peter the opportunity to make things right and responded to his three denials with three affirmations of love and faith. Peter had to be shown that alone, he could not follow Christ. He needed to come to the end of himself so that Christ could save him.

Just like Peter, many people today rely on themselves for salvation. They think that by being strong enough, smart enough, brave enough, or good enough, they can make it to heaven. Other religions teach that if we do enough good works, we can go to heaven (or achieve happiness or whatever the goal of that religion is). However, because we all have sin (Romans 3:23), none of us are good enough. None of us can make it into heaven on our own, no matter what we do. Just like Peter, even if we try our hardest, we will still fail. We cannot save ourselves.

God knew that we were helpless to save ourselves, which is why He sent Jesus to come into the world. He died on the cross to pay the just penalty for our sins and rose again to defeat sin and death. We couldn't help ourselves, so Jesus had to do everything for us. In fact, our memory verse (Romans 5:8) tells us that Jesus did this for us *while we were still sinners*. Jesus didn't use our sin as an excuse not to help us, but as the reason to come and save us. And just like Peter, Jesus did not simply leave us in our sin. Like Peter, in our sin we rejected Christ. We denied Him by living like He is not truly God. Jesus came to restore that broken relationship. If we will repent (turn from our sin ) and confess and believe that Jesus is the risen Lord, we too can be saved (Romans 10:9) and have that relationship with God restored.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life.

# TOOK

As a class, memorize Romans 5:8.

Present the Gospel message and give the students an opportunity to accept Christ as Lord and Savior.

**Pray:** Thank Jesus for His saving death and resurrection. Thank Him for any boys and girls who gave their lives to Him. Ask for help to rely on God rather than our own strength.

**Parent Question:** How did Jesus restore Peter after Peter denied Him?

# FURTHER STUDY

## Commentary on John 13, 18, & 21 by David Guzik

### *John 13*

4. (36-38) Peter's denial of Jesus is predicted.

Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, where are You going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward. " Peter said to Him, "Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake. " Jesus answered him, "Will you lay down your life for My sake? Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times."

a. **I will lay down my life for Your sake:** Poor Peter! He *would* have died for Jesus right then but he later failed because his devotion was based on emotion.

i. Emotion is vital to the Christian walk, but it can't be its power or foundation.

ii. We see a different Peter when his walk is no longer built on emotion, but on the work of Jesus on the cross and the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

b. **Till you have denied Me three times:** Poor Peter! He would have died for Jesus but he could not stand being laughed at for Jesus' sake. To him, a servant-girl's tongue was sharper than an executioner's sword.

### *Jesus' Arrest and Trial: John 18*

2. (15-18) Peter's first denial.

And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so *did* another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest. But Peter stood at the door outside. Then the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door, and brought Peter in. Then the servant girl who kept the door said to Peter, "You are not also *one* of this Man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not. " Now the servants and officers who had made a fire of coals stood there, for it was cold, and they warmed themselves. And Peter stood with them and warmed himself.

4. (25-27) Peter denies Jesus twice more.

Now Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. Therefore they said to him, "You are not also *one* of His disciples, are you?" He denied *it* and said, "I am not!" One of the servants of the high priest, a relative *of him* whose ear Peter cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?" Peter then denied again; and immediately a rooster crowed.

a. Notice that it is not Peter's faith that fails, but his courage. After his failure he weeps bitterly, because he really does love his Lord.

## *The Restoration of Peter*

A. A miraculous catch of fish.

1. (1-3) Peter and six other disciples return to fishing.

After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed *Himself*: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the *sons* of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing. " They said to him, "We are going with you also. " They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing.

a. **I am going fishing:** Was this a return to the old life or prudence? Only the attitude of their hearts could tell. If they wanted to give up on the business of serving Jesus, it was bad; if they were providing for themselves and those near to them until Jesus told them what to do next, it could be fine.

i. At the best, it shows they were uncertain. "The fishing expedition plainly reveals the uncertainty of the disciples, an uncertainty which contrasts sharply with their assured sense of purpose from the day of Pentecost on. " (Morris)

b. **That night they caught nothing:** No matter what their reason was for returning to their fishing boats, their own efforts were futile.

2. (4-6) Jesus directs their work.

But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?" They answered Him, "No. " And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find *some*. "So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

a. **Have you any food?** When you are unsuccessful at fishing, you don't welcome questions about your progress. Jesus asked anyway.

b. **Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some:** "There is no need to seek symbolical meanings for the right and left side. The difference is not between right and left, but between working with and without Divine guidance. " (Plummer)

3. (7-14) The disciples eat breakfast with Jesus.

Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on *his* outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught. " Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, "Come *and* eat breakfast. " Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?"; knowing that it was the Lord. Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish. This *is* now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

a. **Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?" - knowing that it was the Lord:** There seems something unusual about the appearance of Jesus after His resurrection. Possibly it was a result of the beatings He endured at the cross, the scars of which remained at least in part.



b. **Jesus then came and took the bread:** Jesus is often seen eating with His disciples after His resurrection. This is a picture of intimate, friendly fellowship.

c. **Full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three:** Why 153 fish? This number has been a field day for speculative interpretations of the Bible since the early church.

i. 153 is the sum of [numbers 1](#) to 17. Some (like Augustine) say that it is a number representing the number of commandments (10) added to the sevenfold gifts of the Spirit.

ii. 153 is the added numerical value of the Greek words "Peter" and "fish."

iii. Some ancient writers (such as Jerome) held that there were 153 different types of fish in the world; this represents a "full harvest" of all of the world.

iv. Some (like Cyril of Alexandria) say that 100 stands for the Gentiles, 50 for Israel and 3 for the Trinity.

v. The truth is that all we know for certain is that 153 stands for *the number of fish that they caught!* We must always be careful of manufacturing "hidden meanings" in the Word of God.

B. The public restoration of Peter.

1. (15-16) Jesus inquires about Peter's love.

So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You. " He said to him, "Feed My lambs. " He said to him again a second time, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You. " He said to him, "Tend My sheep."

a. Jesus met with Peter individually on the day of His resurrection, ([Luke 24:34](#)) but a public restoration was also needed.

b. **Do you love Me more than these:** Jesus strangely asks Peter to compare his love for Him with that of the other disciples.

i. It is possible that "these" refers to the fish and a fisherman's life. Jesus could be asking Peter if he is willing to give up fishing again to follow Him. But Peter *had* claimed a superior love ([Matthew 26:33](#)). Does he still have this proud estimation of his devotion?

c. **Do you love Me more than these ... You know that I love You:** Jesus asks about *agape* love (all giving, uncaused, unselfish love) and Peter answers with *phileo* love (reciprocal, friendly affection). Some translations have Peter answering "I am your friend."

i. Some commentators see no distinctions between the two different ancient Greek terms, but most say that Peter is now more reserved in his proclamation of devotion.

d. **Feed My lambs ... Tend My sheep:** For Peter to follow through with that love for Jesus, he must give himself to the service of God's people.

2. (17) Jesus asks Peter a third time: **Do you love Me?**

He said to him the third time, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, 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, "Feed My sheep.

a. **Do you love Me ... Lord, You know all things:** This time, Jesus asks if Peter does in fact have a friendly devotion (*phileo*) to Jesus. Peter leaves the question with Jesus' omniscience.

b. **Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time:** What really grieved Peter was the three-time repetition, because it was a plain reminder of his previous three-time denial.

i. Jesus restores us by causing us to face squarely our point of failure, then challenging us to set our eyes on the work ahead.

ii. Jesus *doesn't* ask "are you sorry?" nor "will you promise never to do that again?" "Jesus Christ asks each one of us, not for obedience primarily, not for repentance, not for vows, not for conduct, but for a *heart*; and that being given, all the rest will follow. " (Maclaren)

c. Jesus allowed Peter a three-fold public affirmation of love to replace a three-fold denial, and gave him a three-fold challenge to **feed My sheep**.