

The Life and Letters of Peter

Lesson One: Peter Meets the Savior

<p>Peter meets Jesus <i>Read John 1:35-43</i> How did Peter meet Jesus? Where was Peter from? What nickname did Jesus give him?</p>	<p>(John 1:35-43)</p> <p>The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour. Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus.</p> <p>The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter). The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.</p>
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<p>Peter's Call <i>Compare Matthew 4:18-20 with Mark 1:14-18.</i> What was the timing of Peter's call? What was he doing? How did he respond?</p>	<p>(Mat 4:18-20)</p> <p>As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him.</p>	<p>(Mark 1:14-18)</p> <p>After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Peter and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him.</p>
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<p>Healing Peter's Mother-in-Law <i>Mark 1:29-39</i> <i>Luke 4:38-44</i></p> <p>Which disciples were involved?</p> <p>What happened to Peter's mother-in-law?</p> <p>What was the result?</p> <p>What did Jesus do the next day?</p> <p>What did Peter do?</p>	<p>(Mark 1:29-39)</p> <p>As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.</p> <p>That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else--to the nearby villages--so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.</p>	<p>(Luke 4: 38-44)</p> <p>Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.</p> <p>When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Christ. At daybreak Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. But he said, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.</p>
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<p>Jesus at Peter's Job <i>Luke 5:1-11</i></p> <p>How does Peter get involved in Jesus' teaching on this day?</p> <p>What does Jesus teach Peter?</p> <p>How does Peter respond?</p> <p>Is this the same event as the call in Matthew 4 and Mark 1?</p>	<p>(Luke 5:1-11)</p> <p>One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.</p> <p>When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.</p>
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<p>Selection of the Apostles Matt 10:2-4 Mark 3:16-19 Luke 6:13-16</p> <p>The naming of the 12 apostles appears in three gospels. Note the order.</p> <p>Who is always first?</p> <p>Who is always last?</p>	<p>(Matt 10:2-4)</p> <p>These are the names of the twelve apostles: first,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother ▪ Andrew; ▪ James son of Zebedee, and his brother ▪ John; ▪ Philip and ▪ Bartholomew; ▪ Thomas and ▪ Matthew the tax collector; ▪ James son of Alphaeus, and ▪ Thaddaeus; ▪ Simon the Zealot and ▪ Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. 	<p>(Mark 3:16-19)</p> <p>These are the twelve he appointed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); ▪ James son of Zebedee and his brother ▪ John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means Sons of Thunder); ▪ Andrew, ▪ Philip, ▪ Bartholomew, ▪ Matthew, ▪ Thomas, ▪ James son of Alphaeus, ▪ Thaddaeus, ▪ Simon the Zealot, and ▪ Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. 	<p>(Luke 6:13-16)</p> <p>When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother ▪ Andrew, ▪ James, ▪ John, ▪ Philip, ▪ Bartholomew, ▪ Matthew, ▪ Thomas, ▪ James son of Alphaeus, ▪ Simon who was called the Zealot, ▪ Judas son of James, and ▪ Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.
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<p>Peter Chooses to Stay <i>John 6:60-71</i> Jesus teaching has become harder to accept. Many turned away. He challenges the twelve about their commitment.</p> <p>What is Peter's answer?</p>	<p>(John 6:60-71)</p> <p>On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?" Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him."</p> <p>From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."</p> <p>Then Jesus replied, "Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!" (He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.)</p>
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LESSON FOR LIFE

More importantly, what is your answer? Do you want to leave Jesus when the going gets rough?

Who is Jesus to you?