

Get Ready!

Peter

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Text

Matthew 16:12-19; Luke 5:1-10; Luke 22:54-62; John 21; Acts 5:15-16

Key Quest Verse

Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ Matthew 16:16

Bible Background

Simon Peter was a fisherman in Galilee and was introduced to Jesus by his brother Andrew. For the three years of Jesus public ministry, he was Jesus’ right hand man—traveling with Him, preaching, healing, and baptizing—all the while learning from the Master.

According to the books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, it was Peter who made the first declaration that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God—the long-awaited-for Messiah. He was also the one who successfully walked on water, and was the first to enter the empty tomb after learning of Jesus’ resurrection.

On the other hand, Peter was not perfect. He tried to persuade Jesus not to be crucified, disowned Jesus three times, and returned to fishing when he didn’t know what else to do.

Yet, it was Peter to whom Jesus commanded “Feed my sheep!” And Peter obeyed. The book of Acts tells of a sermon Peter preached in which 3,000 people were converted. Peter was the leader of the first church in Jerusalem. He later became a traveling preacher going from church to church to provide encouragement and support.

After extensive missionary travels, Peter probably died in Rome in AD 64 during Emperor Nero’s sadistic massacre of Christians after the great fire of Rome. According to 2nd century tradition, he was crucified upside down on the Appian Way.

Get Ready!**Lesson Quest**

What I want my students to:

Know: That Peter did great things for the church by following Jesus

Feel: That they can have a personal relationship with Jesus

Do: Discover things they can do to tell others about Jesus

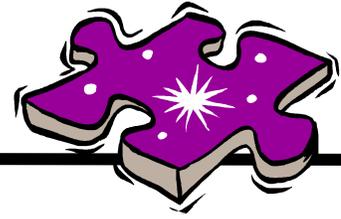
Leader's Devotion

There is a new television show called “Joan of Arcadia.” Joan, the main character, gets surprise visits from God in the form of different people. He often asks her to take on tasks that she really does not understand and definitely does not feel capable of doing. Joan often struggles and finds herself coming face-to-face with God to have to explain herself; like why she did not start her task, why she was walking away, or why she is questioning the job God gives her. To make it more complicated Joan often finds herself in situations where her task will never really be finished...at least not by her. As a teacher, we may find ourselves feeling much like Joan when we're asked to do a task we feel inadequate to do and then become frustrated because we never see the end result.

The fact is that as a teacher we often will never see the end result of our effort. We may just be the seed planters or maybe the one who provides water as Paul mentions in 1 Corinthians 3:6-8 *I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor.*

Many times students will pass through our class and we'll wonder if we did any good at all. But we cannot see in the future nor do we know the full plan of God. Something you say today will change a life in the future. All we can do is plant a seed, or continue to water the seeds already planted, and wait faithfully for God to make it grow.

Get Set!



Option A

MEMORY VERSE PUZZLE

Materials: Different colored sheets of construction paper, (one for each student or pair of students) with Matthew 16:16 printed in large letters on each full sheet (Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."), then cut into various puzzle shapes.

Procedure: Have the puzzle pieces on the table at the students' places to begin working on as they enter either as individuals or in pairs. Tell them that this statement that Peter made was very important since he was the first one to publicly state that Jesus was the Son of God.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B



QUIZ

Materials: Index cards or pieces of paper with the following words printed on them: ROCK, ANDREW, FISHERMAN, APOSTLES, CHRIST, THREE, WATER, PENTECOST, JERUSALEM, TWO.

Procedure: Pass out the answer cards and say, "Let's see how much we know about Peter." Read the following sentences and have them figure out the missing words from their answer cards to complete the statements.

1. Peter's name means (rock).
2. His brother's name was (Andrew).
3. His occupation was (fisherman).
4. He was chosen by Jesus to be one of the twelve (apostles).
5. He said that Jesus was the (Christ), the Son of the living God.
6. He denied Jesus (three) times.
7. He tried to go to meet Jesus when Jesus walked on the (water).
8. He preached the sermon on the Day of (Pentecost) when three thousand people accepted Jesus.
9. He became one of the leaders of the church at (Jerusalem).
10. In his later years, he wrote (two) books of the New Testament.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!**Bible Story**

Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles. How great it must have been to be with Jesus and to walk and talk with Him and to be His friend and disciple. Today we will look at the leader of the disciples. His name was Peter; he knew Jesus personally as the messiah and a friend.

PETER LEADS THE WAY:

In Matthew 16:13-18, Jesus asks His disciples who people thought that He was. After the other disciples gave answers like John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets, it was Peter who made the statement Jesus was looking for. Peter realized Jesus was the promised messiah that the people were waiting for. He said Jesus was “The Christ” which was another word for savior. After this declaration, Jesus changed this man’s name from Simon to Peter, which means “rock”. Jesus said that Peter would do great things for the Kingdom.

PETER’S PATH TO FINDING JESUS

Luke 5:1-11 tells us the way that Peter met Jesus. One day Jesus was teaching a crowd of people near the edge of a lake. Nearby there were four fishermen—Simon (Peter), Andrew, James, and John. They had been fishing all night, but had not caught any fish. Jesus came along and asked Peter to let him sit in his boat as He talked to the people on the shore. After He was done speaking, Jesus told Peter to put out the fishnets into deeper waters. Even though Peter doubted that it would help, he did what Jesus said. Immediately the nets were full and they pulled in so many fish it almost sank the boat. This made Peter realize who Jesus was and that he needed to serve Him. From that point on, the four fishermen left everything and followed Jesus.

PETER’S FAILURE

Peter was far from perfect. He tried his best, but sometimes just couldn’t do everything the way he knew he should. Just before Jesus’ crucifixion, Jesus warned Peter that he would say he did not know Jesus three times before the night was over. Peter did not believe he could do this and felt he would stay strong for his friend. But in Luke 22:54-62 we read that Peter did deny his friend not just once but all three times. After the third time Peter said that he did not know Jesus, Jesus looked directly at Peter. It was then that Peter realized his failure and that he had hurt Jesus. Luke 22:62 says that Peter wept bitterly.

Get Set!**Bible Story**

JESUS FORGIVES AND ENCOURAGES PETER

After Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, the disciples were confused about what they were to do next. In John 21:1-19, we read about Peter returning to his life before Jesus—he decides to go fishing. This is when Jesus shows up and reminds Peter he has a job to do. He wants Peter to take care of His people and to build the church.

PETER FOLLOWS THROUGH

Peter did just as Jesus commanded him. He “fed his sheep” by caring for the people and building up the church. Acts 5:12-16 tells us that the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people and that many people believed in the Lord because of their work. Peter continued to serve as Jesus had taught him. Verse 15 says that many people came to be healed just by having Peter's shadow fall across them.

These stories teach us a lot about Jesus' friend Peter. Peter became a great leader only because he realized he needed Jesus in his life. Peter was not perfect and there were times he failed Jesus; but Jesus forgave him and he went on to do great things for the church. Even though we may recognize Jesus and follow Him, like Peter, we can and will have failures in our lives. The important lesson we can learn from Peter is to continue serving Jesus in the best ways we can, letting Jesus' love show through us. When we have Jesus as our friend and savior, we can accomplish great things for Him.

Go!**Fishing With Jesus****BIBLE SEARCH**

Materials: Bibles, construction paper, markers, scissors

Quest Connection

Fish are often mentioned in the New Testament during Jesus' teachings. Have your students "go fishing" in their Bibles as they search for references of fish.

Procedure: Explain to your students that the early Christians chose the fish as a sign that they were followers of Jesus. Fish was a staple food, fishing was the occupation of at least seven of the Apostles, and Jesus used references to fish several times in His teachings. Instruct them to use a concordance to look up verses involving fish or fishing (or use the references listed below). Have them draw a large fish shape on a piece of construction paper, cut it out, and print the verse on their fish. These fish may then be used to decorate your room by hanging from the ceiling or bulletin board.

Matthew 12:40

Matthew 13:47-48

Matthew 14:17-20

Matthew 17:27

Mark 8:7-8

Luke 5:5-6

Luke 11:11

Luke 24:42

John 21:3-11

Close

Have them share their favorite verse.

Go!**Jesus, Peter, and the Disciples****DRAMA**

Materials: Bibles, video camera, costumes and props as desired

Quest Connection

Acting out Bible stories is an excellent way to imprint these lessons into our memories. Just hearing or reading the story is not nearly as affective as moving physically to re-enact the events.

Procedure: Have the students pick one of the texts from the Bible lesson or one of the following passages from Matthew involving Peter and the disciples to act out. Let them divide up in groups as desired, then give them a chance to rehearse a bit before presenting it. Let them present it to another class, or have a video camera set up to record their productions (you might be amazed at the talent and creativity you'll find in your class.)

Matthew 4:18-20	The calling of Peter and Andrew
Matthew 14:22-33	Peter walks on water
Matthew 17:1-8	The transfiguration
Matthew 26:36-54	The Garden of Gethsemane
Matthew 26: 69-75	Peter's denial

Close

Review your productions

Go!**Feed My Sheep****COMMUNITY SERVICE****Materials:** Bibles**Quest Connection**

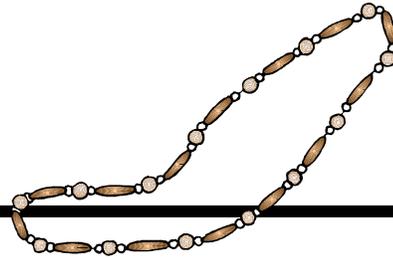
Jesus directed Peter to “Feed My Sheep.” Use this activity to encourage your students to follow this direction in their lives also.

Procedure: Begin by reading John 21:15-17 together, then discuss what Jesus means by “feed my sheep.” Students should know the setting of this discussion between Jesus and Peter. Peter had recently denied knowing Jesus three times. He and the other disciples had just witnessed Jesus’ traumatic crucifixion—they were confused, tired, discouraged, feeling lost and alone. They decided to get away and go fishing, that’s when Jesus appeared to them and ate breakfast with them. Jesus knew of Peter’s discouragement, confusion, and even his embarrassment about his denial. Jesus used this discussion to bring Peter back into action. He gave Peter three chances to respond to Jesus’ question of “Do you love me...then feed my sheep.” Jesus was telling Peter that he was forgiven for his denial, and that now he needed to move on into the ministry that he was trained for.

Talk to your students about what kind of action they can take to “Feed my sheep.” Maybe they literally can take part in a food service organization like a soup kitchen or canned food collection. (Our youth help with two different organizations here in our town.) But it doesn’t have to be about food, maybe there’s an elderly person in the neighborhood who needs help or even just a visit. Maybe there’s someone in the church who has small children that would appreciate a volunteer babysitter every once in a while. Let the students brainstorm about what kind of activities they could do to spread the love of Jesus around in their neighborhoods.

Close

Make a plan of action to follow through on some of these activities.

Go!**Statement of Faith Necklaces****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Materials: The Resource Page copied onto several different colors of printer paper, glue, scissors, pencils (one per student), yarn or string cut into 24” lengths for each student, optional beads.

Quest Connection

Peter was the first disciple to proclaim that he understood who Jesus was. Matthew 16:16 says, Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." This activity will give your students a reminder of Peter’s statement as well as give them the opportunity to tell others about Jesus.

Procedure: Have students cut out the strips on the dotted lines, one word per strip. Instruct them to make paper “beads” by tightly rolling the strips (face down) around a pencil. They will secure the end in place with a dot of glue, hold for a moment, and slide off of the pencil. They may use a variety of colors, or all one color, making a paper bead from each word. Next have them thread the bead onto yarn in the order of “I believe Jesus is the Son of God.” If desired, they may put spacer beads (blank plastic beads or colored straws cut in pieces) in between each word or on each end.

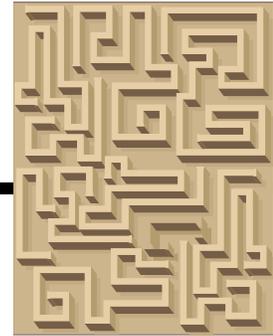
Close

Discuss ways that your students can tell others about their belief in Jesus.

Go!

A “maze’ing**LESSON REVIEW**

Materials: Copies of the two Resource Pages



Quest Connection

A review activity for the Bible lesson and memory verse.

Procedure: The students will unscramble the memory verse and find their way through the maze.

Close

Challenge your students to continue reading more about Jesus in their Bibles this coming week. Pray a prayer thanking God for the gift of His Word.

Go!**Peter the Rock****CREATIVE WRITING**

Materials: Markers or pencils, drawing paper

Quest Connection

Jesus changed Simon Peter's name to Peter, which means the Rock. Why do you think it would be good to be compared to a rock?

Procedure: What object would you compare yourself to? Have student draw a picture and then put their name on the object. Have students explain why they compare themselves to the object they have chosen.

Close

End the class with prayer.

Journal Page

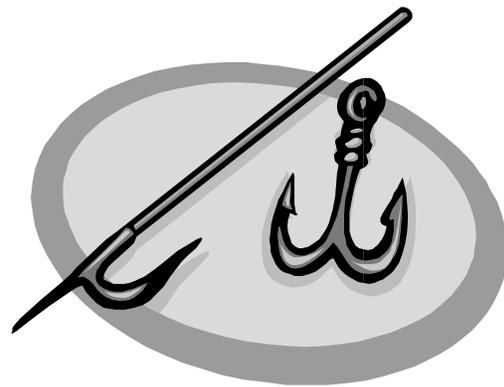
As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

At once they left their nets and followed him. Matthew 4:18-20

If Jesus was to come up to you today, where do you think he'd find you? Would you be willing to walk away from whatever you were doing and follow him?

Draw a picture of yourself as Jesus comes to you to ask you to follow him. What will you do?



Journal Page

Peter was a great leader in the early church, but he did not start out by being the “perfect” leader. He only became what he was by admitting that he needed Jesus in his life and by doing his best to learn everything he could from his Savior.

Do you ever think about what God has planned for your life?

Take a minute to imagine yourself as an adult working in the church—could you be the Sunday school teacher, or maybe the pastor? Would you be willing to serve by cleaning, cooking, or passing out bulletins? How about leading the songs during worship or playing the piano or drums? What about visiting the sick or working in a shelter or helping someone in need?

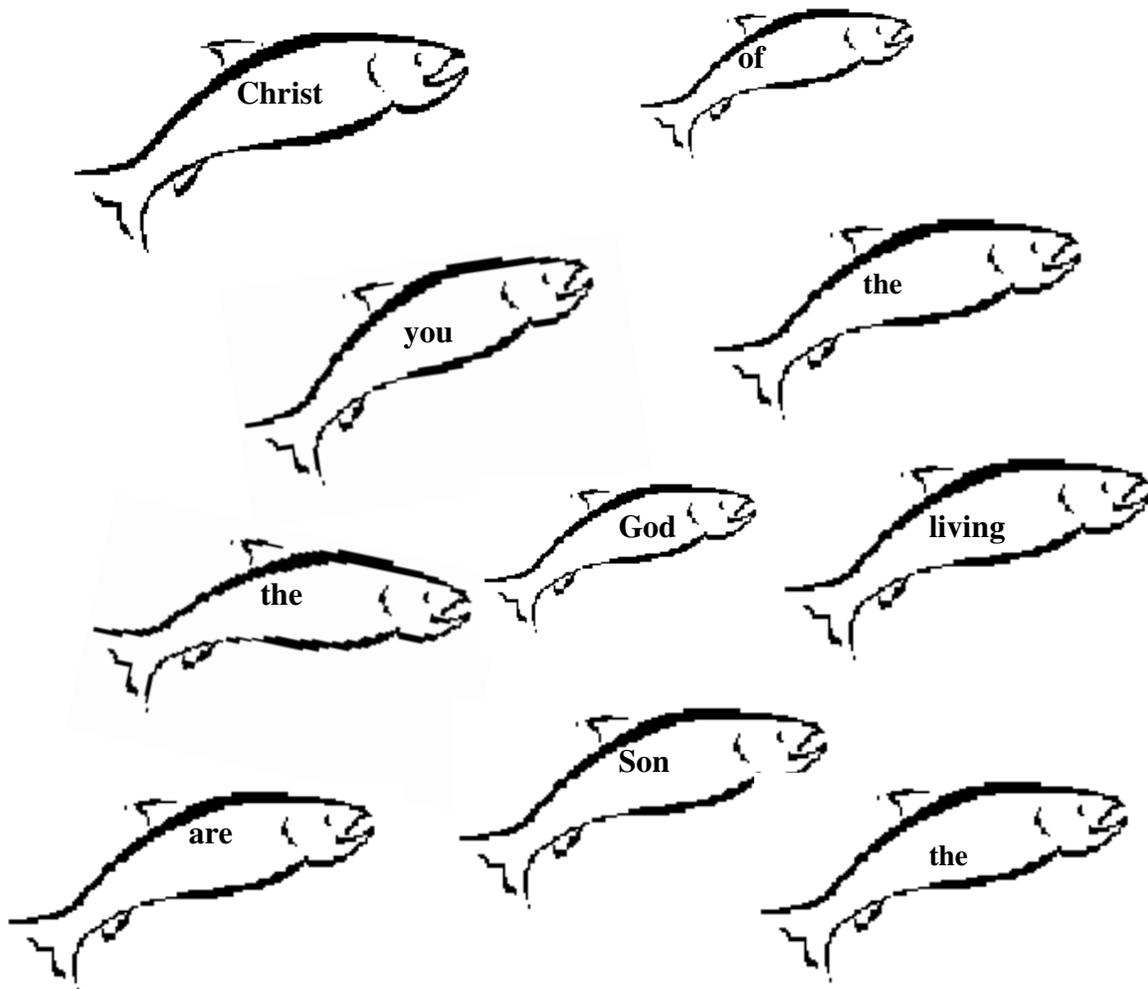
There is an endless list of ways that we can serve in our local churches, but you don’t have to wait until you’re an adult!

Make a list of things you can do now to help your church grow and spread God’s message of love and forgiveness. How can you tell others about Jesus today?

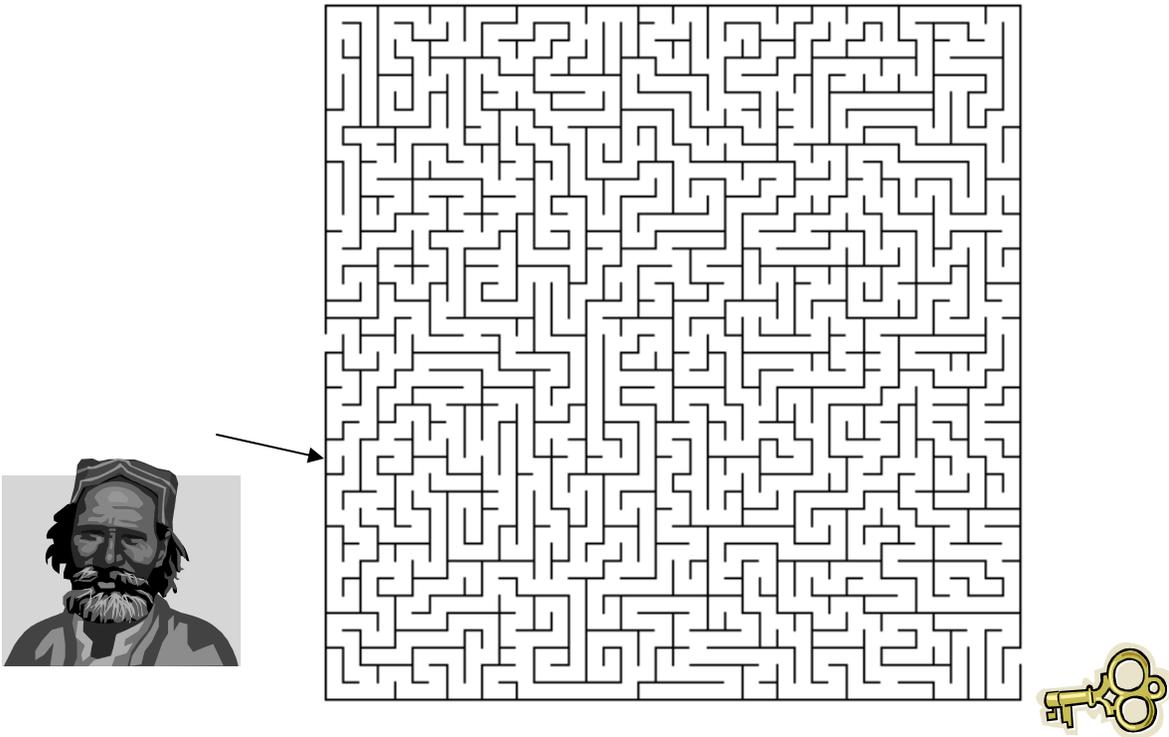
Write the words in the fish in the proper order to see Peter's statement about Jesus.



Matthew 16:16



Help Peter Find the Key to the Kingdom



Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Matthew 16:16-19

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Statement of Faith Necklace