

Standing in the True Grace of God


Peter's Life, Letters and Lord

Peter's Transformation

Peter spent three years as an intimate follower and friend of Jesus. And yet at the most crucial time in Jesus' life, Peter denied that he even knew him. Review this lowest point in Peter's life by reading Luke 22:54-62 before taking a look at how his life and heart changed following Jesus' death and resurrection.

Peter Is Returned to the Fold

Read John 21:1-8, 14-19.

1. What is significant about the number of times Jesus questions Peter? (Hint: Remember Peter's denials.)
2. What instruction does Jesus give Peter each time he answers the question? (vv. 15c, 16c, 17c;  * Lk. 22:31-32)

What does this suggest about Peter's future ministry?

3. What command does Jesus give Peter at the end of their conversation? (v. 19b)

This is the same command Jesus gave when he first called Peter (Mt. 4:18-20). Why do you think he says it again here?

4. What encouragement can you draw from the way Jesus purposefully gives Peter a new start?

Pentecost


Read Acts 2:1-41.

5. Focus on verses 1-4. What do the believers, including Peter, hear? (v. 2)

see? (v. 3)

experience? (v. 4)



do? (v. 4)
6. The heart of Peter's Pentecost message is Jesus. What facts does Peter want the crowd to know about Jesus? (vv. 22, 23b, 24 and 31-32, 33a, 33b, 36)

*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.

7. Peter had previously rebuked Jesus for predicting his suffering, death and resurrection (Mt. 16:21-23). Peter's speech at Pentecost shows that he's gained a whole new understanding of what Jesus came to do. Now who does Peter confidently proclaim is behind each of these events in Jesus' life? (vv. 22, 23a, 24a, 32a, 33, 36b)
8. What does Peter say this faithful God promises to those who repent? (v. 38)

How have you experienced the fulfillment of these promises in your life?

After the Coming of the Holy Spirit

9. What miracles is the Apostle Peter able to perform once the Holy Spirit has been poured out on him? (Acts 3:1-8; 9:32-42;  * 5:12-16)
10. Before the coming of the Holy Spirit, Peter was so afraid of what the authorities could do to him that he swore he didn't even know Jesus. How does the Holy Spirit change him? (Acts 4:5-13, 18-20; 5:27-32, 41-42;  * Mt. 10:17-20)
11. What connection do you think Peter would have seen between the miracles he performed and the message he preached? (Consider Acts 2:22.)
12. Through the Holy Spirit, the very fallible Peter becomes bolder and more powerful, but he is not suddenly perfect. With what sin does Peter continue to struggle? (Gal. 2:11-14)

Peter and Cornelius

Read Acts 10:1-48. ( * Acts 11:1-18; 15:5-21)

13. Who is Cornelius and what kind of person is he? (vv. 1-2, 22)
14. Describe the vision Peter sees. (vv. 11-14) How does this vision turn Peter's worldview upside down? (v. 28)
15. What happens to confirm that the Gentiles are part of God's plan? (vv. 44-46)
16. Peter will later write to believers scattered around the Gentile provinces of Asia Minor. Look back over this week's lesson and note a few ways God prepared Peter for this wider ministry.