



Grades 3-5 Resource Guide

WHO WAS PETER?

Who was Peter?

Simon, who Jesus later called Peter was a fisherman when called by Jesus to be his follower. Jesus asked Peter to become a “fisher of men”. Jesus wanted Simon to help Him lead others to God, His Father. Jesus said he would build his Church on Simon, whom he called Peter meaning, the “rock”.

Peter was often very impulsive and emotional. Examples of this can be found in the stories of the transfiguration, the garden of Gethsemane, the denying that he knew of Jesus, and Peter crying after he denied Jesus.

Yet through the power of the Holy Spirit, Peter went on to be first among the apostles and the first Pope. . He became a tremendous leader of the Church after learning to follow Jesus’s way. He acted as the Vicar of Christ on earth and eventually died in Rome as a martyr.

Scriptural Passages:

- Simon is called by Jesus: Mt 4:18-20
- Peter walking on the water: Mt 14:28-33
- Peter’s confession about Jesus: Mt. 16:13-18
- Jesus declares Peter “the rock” and gives him “the keys”: Mt 16:18-20
- Peter’s denial of Jesus foretold: Mk 14:27-31
- Peter’s denial of Jesus: Mk 14:66-72
- Washing of the disciples’ feet: Jn 13:1-15
- “Feed my sheep” Peter with Jesus: Jn 21:15-19
- Choosing Judas’s replacement: Acts 1:15-26
- Peter’s preaching: Acts 3:11-26
- Peter’s escape from prison: Acts 12:6-19

Suggested Activities:

- Read the scriptural passages related to Peter and make a collage of the symbols associated with him (e.g., fish, boat, rock, net).
- Role-play or perform a skit of a gospel story involving Peter.
- Make a "St. Peter" trading card. On one side, draw a picture of Peter or symbols to represent him. On the other, list the major "stats" of Peter's life.
- Discuss with students how at important times in one's life the event is marked by a change in name. (Examples: Abram became Abraham, Saul became Paul, Karol Wojtyla became John Paul II, and Jorge Mario Bergoglio became Francis; at Confirmation we choose a saint's name.) Have the students consider their own name, and investigate how they were named.
- Discuss with students achievements in their own lives. Have they become a cub scout, a brownie, a violinist? What changed in their lives with this achievement?

Related Enrichment Resources:

- <http://www.ewtn.com/library/MARY/PETER.htm>

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