



Grades K-2 Resource Guide

WHO WAS PETER?

Who was Peter?

Simon was a fisherman by trade. Jesus asked Simon to come and follow him to learn how to bring others to God, His Father. He became one of Jesus' first and closest followers or disciples. He was also an Apostle. Jesus called Simon by the name "Peter," which means "rock" in the Greek language. Jesus said he would build his church on Peter, the "rock."

Where Did Peter Go in the World to Spread Jesus' Word?

Peter traveled from Jerusalem through Damascus, Antioch and Corinth, eventually ending up in Rome. During his travels, he spent much of his time speaking to Jewish people about Jesus.

Back in Peter's time, there were not physical church buildings to visit. People would gather to meet Peter in homes, fields and open areas to hear about Jesus. To keep them safe from those who would harm them, Christians looked for a sign of the fish that was carved in wooden doorways to know where to go to worship. The fish sign was a secret code to let people know where to gather. The Greek word for fish is "ichthus" and its letters form an acronym for the words "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior." Since St. Peter and some of the other Apostles were fishermen before Jesus called them, it seemed appropriate to use the fish as a Christian sign.

Scriptural References:

Matthew 4:18-20
Matthew 16:13-20
John 21:15-19
Acts 1-3
Acts 9: 31 - 43

Suggested Activities:

- Students can role play the calling of Peter and Andrew by Jesus.
- Students can cut out fish and glue different colored tissue paper squares on them to symbolize that Jesus' fish (which are His people) are made up of different cultures and nationalities.
- Students can create a sheep drawing using the directions found on <http://www.first-school.ws>. To access this activity, go to the animal link. Select the First Animals link, then the farm animal link, and finally the "handprint lamb or sheep craft" link. There are also sheep drawings on the coloring pages. (Variation: have the students glue a cotton ball onto a classroom sheep whenever they use "please" or "thank you" or when they have done a good deed.)
- Talk about keys and how they both open and close doors. Things can be locked in or locked out.
- Talk about the effect of the Holy Spirit on Peter at Pentecost. Peter had been a fisherman; now, he was to be a leader of men, a traveler and a public speaker.
- To find a picture of St. Peter and Jesus that relates to Matthew 4:18-20, click on this link: http://www.first-school.ws/t/cp_bible/fishers-of-men-t.htm
- For a song about being a follower of Jesus, go to http://www.dltk-bible.com/follower_of_jesus-song.htm.
- Print a map of the New Testament world during the time of Jesus. Have students trace and color Peter's travels in Acts of the Apostles.
- Draw a picture of a fish on the classroom door with chalk. Explain that the "secret password" to enter your classroom from now on is "fish." This activity may be modified with a symbol and word of your choosing.

Related Enrichment Resources:

- http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=5358
- <http://www.ewtn.com/library/MARY/PETER.htm>
- *Prayers, Themes and Guided Meditations for Children*, Bretherton, Barbara Ann, Twenty-third Publications, 1998. See page 34 for a meditation on "What's in a Name."