

STUDY ON PETER

Unlikely

March 19, 2023

OPENING QUESTION

Who is someone that you “follow?” (This could be someone in a close relationship that you imitate, someone famous and wise, or someone you follow on social media!)

- What does it mean to be a “follower?”

Peter (also called Simon) has a prominent supporting role in the gospel narratives, giving us a view into how following Jesus and being filled with the Holy Spirit can completely transform a life. This week, we meet Peter as Jesus calls him to follow - leaving behind a sensible, predictable life to follow Jesus on His kingdom mission.

READ Luke 4:31-44

Assuming that Simon Peter was at the synagogue in Galilee (since Jesus seems to go home from there with him!), discuss all that Peter would have seen and known about Jesus from these verses.

- What things specifically set Jesus apart as unique and different from anyone else you (or Peter) know?
- Can you share a faith experience where Jesus has surprised you with who He is?

Imagine yourself into Simon Peter’s role – a regular guy with a regular job and family, who has just met this new teacher and healer.

- How would you have felt about the arrival of this traveler, Jesus, into your daily life?
- How has Jesus similarly interrupted your regular life and gotten your attention?

READ Luke 5:1-11

What do you notice about Jesus in this story? What do you see about His character and His actions?

- How do you interpret Simon Peter’s response to Jesus’ request in 5:5? Based on the circumstances, how would you have responded?

God interrupted Isaiah’s life as well. Compare Simon Peter’s response in 5:8 to Isaiah’s response in Isaiah 6:1-5.

- Who or what was Isaiah responding to?
- How does this passage add understanding to what Peter may have meant with his response?
- Peter specifically highlights his *sinfulness*; why do you think that is?
 - When or where are you most aware of your sin? Or perhaps, most troubled by your awareness of it?

FROM THE MESSAGE

As we considered the story of Jesus calling Peter to come and follow, we considered that Peter might have known *about* God before this, but now had the opportunity to *experience* Him. The same is true for us when we choose to follow Jesus, to say yes to the adventure of pursuing Him.

Are you more comfortable knowing about God, or knowing Him by experience? How would you describe the difference between these?

DAILY TIME

Mark 1
Mark 2
Mark 3
Mark 4
Mark 5
Mark 6

As you read each day, consider:
What is Jesus like, what’s His character?
What do I see about human behavior? What reminds me of myself?
How should I respond? (thanksgiving, confession, asking, praise, change, etc)

Eggfest!

April 9, after Worship

Join the Kids! Team!

[Encounterchurch.org/events](https://encounterchurch.org/events)

NOTES AND QUOTES

Notice how Jesus’ teaching and miracles are intentionally together: “His message of love is supported by His ministry of compassion.” (Bock, p 135)

Peter calls himself a “sinful” man here, but he’s not likely referring to a specific instance of sin. Rather, the Greek and Hebrew terms for sin carry the idea of missing the mark, of failing the goal. Broadly throughout the Bible, this is referring to the goal of living as an image of God (by loving God rightly, and loving and honoring others). You can learn more about this idea in [this video](#):



Isaiah 6:1,5

1In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; ... 5And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

- How do these two ways of knowing go hand in hand?
- How can you grow in knowing God by experience?

In Kevin's story, he described being a Christian but feeling far from God; have you ever experienced this feeling?

- Kevin talked about how in pursuing God, God has changed his life.
 - What are some practical ways we can deepen our pursuit of God?
- Joe mentioned that as we follow (or pursue) Jesus, we will experience Him as our provider, our savior, our comforter, the one who forgives us and offer us peace. What circumstances might lead you to experience God in this way?

EXTRA Read Romans 8:28-30; try it in a few different translations

What does this verse add to your understanding of our calling?

- Based on verse 30, what else does Peter get to look forward to in his story, now that he's been called? (Work together on what these words mean!)
- Of all the things mentioned in this verse – being conformed to the likeness of Christ, being Jesus' brother, being called, justified and glorified – which excites you the most?
 - Pray for one another to see the evidence of God at work in these ways in your lives!

CLOSE WITH PRAYER

Spend time in prayer for one another, about the needs in your lives, asking God to be at work forming you into an unlikely follower, transformed by Christ.

PRAYER AND CARE

Reminders for the week ahead:

Luke 4:31-44

31 And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, 32 and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. 33 And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, 34 "Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." 35 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. 36 And they were all amazed and said to one another, "What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!" 37 And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

38 And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. 39 And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

40 Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. 41 And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

42 And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, 43 but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose." 44 And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Luke 5:1-11

1 On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, 2 and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. 3 Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. 4 And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." 5 And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." 6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. 7 They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. 8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." 9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." 11 And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Romans 8:28-30

28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.