

Name: _____

Date: _____

PETER

“Then He said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ They immediately left their nets and followed Him.” (Matthew 4:19–20)

Objectives

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Knowledge of God’s Will | Peter transformed from a fisherman to a fisher of men. |
| Knowledge of God | God is loving and patient. |
| Good Work | Pray to be transformed through the power of the Holy Spirit. |

A. Jesus Calls Peter (Jn 1:40–42; Mt 4:17–20; Mk 1:16–18; Lk 5:3–11)

When Jesus met Simon, He gave him a new name: “Cephas,” or “Peter,” meaning “stone.” Jesus saw that Peter would become a stone and a pillar for the apostolic church.

B. Peter Lacks Spiritual Maturity (Mk 9:2–8; Mt 16:21–23; 26:31–35; Jn 13:5–9; 18:10–11)

Although Peter followed Jesus Christ, he lacked spiritual maturity and wisdom and reacted impulsively instead of meditating on God’s words. In the garden of Gethsemane, Peter simply could not understand why Jesus was willingly giving Himself over—nor did he understand that he himself had fear and doubt in his heart.

C. Peter Denies Jesus (Lk 22:56–60; cf. Mt 26:68–74; Mk 14:66–71; Jn 18:17–27)

It is easy to be bold when surrounded by your peers, but when you are alone, it becomes difficult to defend your faith. Peter saw now that his bold words had been empty. He saw his weakness clearly for the first time, and the shame of this realization caused him to weep bitterly.

D. Jesus Restores Peter (Jn 21:1–17)

Jesus’ disciples were greatly disheartened after He was crucified. A few of them, including Peter, returned to their old occupation because they had no direction.

- **Jesus asks Peter if he loves Him:** Just as Peter denied Jesus three times, Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him. But Peter responded to Jesus’ use of *agapaō*, a sacrificial love, with *phileō*, a brotherly love. After his failure, Peter understood his weakness. Nonetheless, Jesus wanted Peter to realize that to feed and tend His sheep, Peter’s *phileō* must transform into *agapaō*.

E. Peter Transforms into a Rock (Acts 2:41; 4:8; 5:40–42)

When the Holy Spirit descended, Peter was transformed by the Spirit. His words and actions became full of wisdom and a clear understanding of the Scriptures. He preached boldly and willingly suffered for Christ. Despite his many weaknesses and failures, Jesus Christ restored and empowered Peter, allowing him to transform into the “rock” of the church in accordance with his name.

Life Application: Transform Through Jesus’ Love and Power

1. **Understand the depth of Jesus’ love and patience:** Like Peter, we will encounter low points in our faith. Through these, we can understand our weaknesses and stand again through God’s love.
2. **God wants us to return to Him and strengthen our brethren:** God wants us to find the courage to return to Him, and to show our love for Him by feeding and tending His sheep.
3. **God can grant us power to stand up and serve Him:** The Holy Spirit can transform us, just as He transformed Peter, giving us the strength to overcome our weaknesses and the courage to speak boldly of our faith.

Name: _____

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Lesson 4 Homework Assignment

Peter

| | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Read | | | | | | | |
| Pray | | | | | | | |

Memory Verse (Matthew 4:19–20):

1. What can we learn from Peter and Andrew's reaction to Jesus' calling?
2. What was Peter's weakness? Name two examples.
3. Why did Jesus ask Peter three times if he loved Him?
4. What was the key difference in Peter and Jesus' word usage, and why?
5. How did the Holy Spirit transform Peter? Name two examples.
6. What is a weakness of yours that you think needs to be transformed? What are steps you can take to begin this transformation?