



# The Life & Letters of the Apostle Peter



This is a character study of the life of the Apostle Peter based upon the accounts of his life found in the four Gospel records and his two epistles. Emphasis is given to the aspects of his life and writings that have practical application for the present-day believer.

# The Life & Letters of Peter

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# The Life of Peter

**Lesson One:** *The Man Known as Peter*

**Lesson Aim:** Gather as many facts as possible about the man known as Peter.

**Lesson Text:** John 1:19-44

**Background Texts:** Matthew 4:18; 8:14,15; 10:2; 16:17; 17:1; 26:37; Mark 1:16-18; 5:22,23, 35-43; Luke 5:1-11; John 21:18-24; 1 Corinthians 9:5; 1 Peter 5:1; 2 Peter 1:13-18

## Questions About Peter

1. What does *Peter* mean? Describe the circumstances under which Simon received this name. What is the significance of Jesus giving this appellation to Simon?

2. Tell as much as you can about Peter's family life and background:

Father's name \_\_\_\_\_

Brother's name \_\_\_\_\_

Home town \_\_\_\_\_

Principal place of residence \_\_\_\_\_

Education \_\_\_\_\_

Marital status \_\_\_\_\_

Children \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Closest family and friends \_\_\_\_\_

3. How came Peter to be a disciple of Jesus? What lessons are there for you in Peter's conversion?

4. Locate those places that were significant in the life of the Apostle Peter on the attached map. Site the Scriptures which describe Peter's association with these places

Bethsaida \_\_\_\_\_

Capernaum \_\_\_\_\_

Jerusalem \_\_\_\_\_

Joppa \_\_\_\_\_

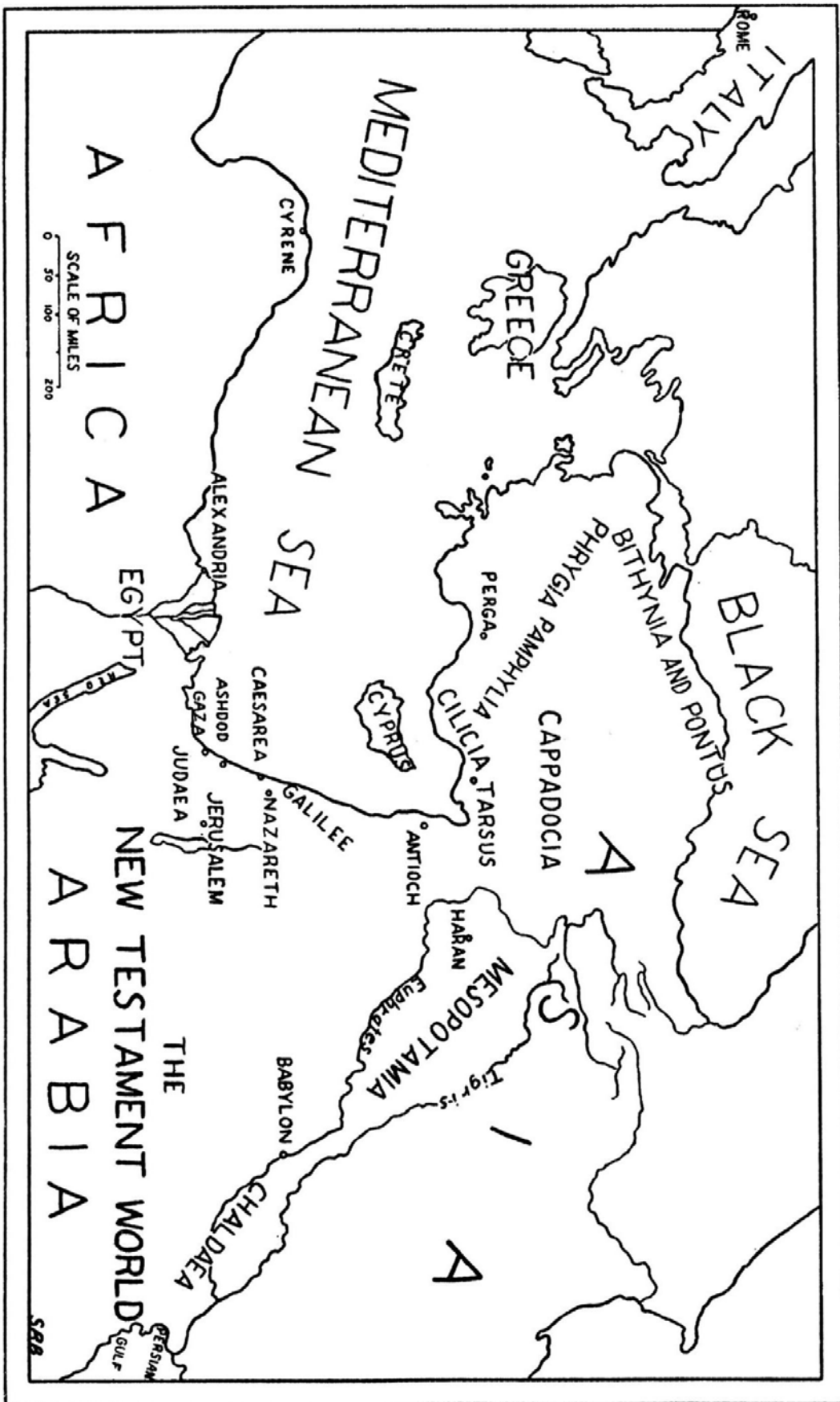
Caesarea \_\_\_\_\_

Antioch in Syria \_\_\_\_\_

Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia \_\_\_\_\_

Babylon \_\_\_\_\_

5. What were the circumstances of Peter's death?



# The Letters of Peter

**Lesson Two:** *Peter's Description of a Christian*

**Lesson Aim:** Consider the various terms the Apostle uses to describe the Christian and his relationship to God through Jesus Christ and the Gospel.

**Lesson Text:** 1 Peter 1:1-25

## Questions About This Chapter

1. In the following passages how does Peter describe the relationship between Christ and the believer?

1 Peter 1:1 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:7, 21 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:2 (three) \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:9 \_\_\_\_\_

(Also in 1:14 & 22) \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:10, 13 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:3, 23 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:11,12 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:4 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:14,15 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:5 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:17 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:6, 8 (two) \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:18-20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:22 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Define "election." Where do the Scriptures teach us about when, where, why and how this election was determined?

3. Define "sanctification." By whom and through what means are believers sanctified?

4. Describe the nature of the faith by which the believer is kept?

5. List five incentives by which Peter urges the Galatian Christians unto holiness:

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

(4) \_\_\_\_\_

(5) \_\_\_\_\_

## Make A Life Application

What did you learn in this study that encouraged you to live a life set apart for Jesus Christ? (Be specific and complete in your answer. Use the back of this sheet in order to write out your response.

# The Life of Peter

**Lesson Three:** *Peter Becomes a Fisher of Men*

**Lesson Aim:** See Peter answer the call to follow, the call to preach and the call to witness.

**Lesson Text:** Luke 5:1-11

**Background Texts:** Matthew 4:18-22; 10:1-7; Mark 1:14-20; 3:13-19; Luke 6:13-16

## Questions About Peter

1. Describe the miracle that Jesus wrought that led Peter to make the good confession?
2. As a result of this miracle what does Peter confess concerning Christ?
3. What was Peter's attitude when Jesus asked him to let out the net one more time? Prepare to discuss what there is in Peter's attitude that is essential for every disciple of Christ?
4. Why does Peter describe himself as a "sinful man"?
5. What was the process by which Peter and his companions were brought to the point where they accepted the call to be fishers of men?
6. What does it mean to follow Christ? What was Peter's view of following the Christ? (See: 1 Peter 2:20-25; 3:9,17,18; 4:1-5, 12-19)
7. How does one "catch men"? Compare fishing for fish and "fishing" for men? Is it possible for every disciple to become a fisher of men? What would be the result if we all went "fishing"?

# The Letters of Peter

**Lesson Four:** *The Salvation of Your Souls*

**Lesson Aim:** Understand Peter's concept of our salvation that was wrought out by Jesus Christ.

**Lesson Text:** 1 Peter 1:2-19

## Questions About This Epistle

1. What is Peter's view of our salvation in the following texts?

1 Peter 1:2 (two) \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:3 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:4 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:5 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:7 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:9 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:10 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:11 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:13 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:18 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:20 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:22 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:23 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 2:24 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 3:18 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the meaning of "*redemption*"? How has Christ redeemed us by His death on the cross?

3. What is the meaning of "*purification*"? In what sense are we purified by the death of Christ? (See: 1:2)

4. What has the resurrection of Jesus to do with our possessing a "*living hope*"?

5. What is the "*inheritance*" which the Christian has reserved in heaven?

## Make A Life Application

What may you do on a daily basis that will be found by Christ at His coming to be worthy of praise, honor and glory?

# The Life of Peter

**Lesson Five:** *Peter Learns to Trust Jesus*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn with Peter that in order to walk on the water you must keep your eyes on Jesus.

**Lesson Text:** Matthew 14:22-33

**Background Texts:** Mark 6:46-56; John 6:1-21; 1 Corinthians 10:12

## Questions About Peter

1. Do some background research concerning the Sea of Galilee and the storms typical of it.
2. How came Peter and the other Disciples to be on the sea when this storm arose?
3. How does mark describe the Disciple's night on the sea?
4. Where was Jesus while the Disciples were on the sea?
5. What did Peter ask of the Lord when he knew it was Jesus approaching them walking on the water?
6. What does Peter's request reveal about him?
7. What happened when Peter stepped out of the boat? What happened when he saw the wind?
8. Why do you think the Lord bid that Peter come to him?
9. What principle of steadfastness was the Lord seeking to teach Peter?
10. What was it that caused Peter to be unable to "walk on the water"? What lessons can you derive from his experience that would be helpful to every disciple today?



# The Letters of Peter

**Lesson Six:** *Christ and the Church*

**Lesson Aim:** Acquaint us with the some of the various figures used to describe Jesus and His relationship to the Church, which he purchased with His own blood.

**Lesson Text:** 1 Peter 2:1-11

## Questions About This Epistle

1. What Old Testament text does Peter quote as he begins his discussion of Christ and the Church?
2. How does Peter describe Jesus in 1 Peter 2:1-25?
  - (a) 1 Peter 2:4,6-8 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (b) 1 Peter 2:5 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (c) 1 Peter 2:7 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (d) 1 Peter 2:8 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (e) 1 Peter 2:22-24 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (f) 1 Peter 2:25 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (g) 1 Peter 2:25 \_\_\_\_\_
3. How does Peter describe the Church in that same text?
  - (a) 1 Peter 2:5 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (b) 1 Peter 2:5 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (c) 1 Peter 2:9 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (d) 1 Peter 2:9 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (e) 1 Peter 2:9 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (f) 1 Peter 2:9 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (g) 1 Peter 2:11 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (h) 1 Peter 2:16 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Where else in the New Testament is the Church described as a “house” or “temple”?
5. Where else in the New Testament is Jesus described as being like a stone? What function does he serve in that descriptive figure?

## Make A Life Application

What is the deterring factor in our relationship to Christ as the *Stone* that the Father has laid in Zion (see: 1 Peter 2:7,8)? Which is He to you, *Precious* or a *Rock of Offence*?

# The Life of Peter

**Lesson Seven:** *Peter Makes the Good Confession*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn what it means to confess Christ and why this confession is essential to salvation.

**Lesson Text:** Matthew 16:13-28

**Background Texts:** Mark 8:27-38; Luke 9:18-27; Matthew 10:32-42; Romans 10: 1-17

## Questions About Peter

1. What was the first question that Jesus put to His Disciples? What was the answer?
2. What was the next question? Who was first to answer this question? What was his answer?
3. By what means was he able to make this confession?
4. What did Jesus promise to build on Peter's confession?
5. How do you reconcile Peter's confession, Jesus' approval of it and His subsequent suppression of any further declarations of it? (See: Matthew 16:20)
6. Why do you think that Peter rebuked the Lord as he did? In what sense did Peter "savor" the things that are of men?
7. How does Peter's rebuke compare with Satan's temptation in Matthew 4:1-11?
8. After Peter's rebuke from the Lord, what do you think of his confession? How should that cause us to evaluate our own confession?
9. In Matthew 16:24-28 how does Jesus construe the idea of confessing him in order to be a disciple?
10. Why conclude that Peter is not the foundation of the church?

# The Letters of Peter

**Lesson Eight:** *Our Duties in Christ According to Peter*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn what special obligations Christians have in their various relationships to men.

**Lesson Text:** 1 Peter 2:11-3:12

## Questions About This Epistle

1. What is our duty to civil government? For what purpose?
  
2. What is the duty of the servant toward his master? What application of this principle can we make to ourselves?
  
3. What is the duty of a believing wife to her unbelieving husband?
  
4. How is the husband to treat his wife?
  
5. How are we to treat our brethren? (Define each of these terms)
  - (a) compassion \_\_\_\_\_
  - (b) love \_\_\_\_\_
  - (c) pitiful \_\_\_\_\_
  - (d) courteous \_\_\_\_\_
  - (e) evil \_\_\_\_\_
  - (f) railing \_\_\_\_\_
  - (g) blessing \_\_\_\_\_
  - (h) guile \_\_\_\_\_
  - (i) good \_\_\_\_\_
  - (j) peace \_\_\_\_\_

## Make A Life Application

What does Peter mean when he exhorts Christians in 3:8 to “be ye all of one mind?” How shall we accomplish this in the local Church?

# The Life of Peter

**Lesson Nine:** *Peter Learns About Jesus' Authority*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn with Peter that Jesus, and Jesus only, is our authority in religion.

**Lesson Text:** Matthew 17:1-13

**Background Texts:** Luke 9:28-36; Mark 9:2-10; 2 Peter 1:16-21

## Questions About Peter

1. Whom did Jesus take up on a high mountain apart from the multitudes? Why?
2. Describe Jesus' appearance on this occasion. Describe the appearance of the others that appeared with Him there.
3. What event did Moses and Elijah discuss with Jesus?
4. What were Peter and the others doing while Jesus was praying?
5. What does Peter propose be done when he sees what has happened? When was this?
6. How does Luke describe Peter's suggestion? What does he mean by that expression? Is this an experience you have had? How can we avoid that kind of mistake?
7. What happened when Peter made this proposal?
8. What did the voice from heaven say? What does this saying mean concerning Jesus? What application does Peter make of these words in 2 Peter 1:16-21?
9. What important lesson of practical importance do we learn from Peter's mistake on the Mount of Transfiguration?
10. What did Peter learn from his experience upon the Mount of Transfiguration?

# The Letters of Peter

**Lesson Ten:** *Peter Comforts the Suffering Saint*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn the place and purpose of suffering in the life of the Christian.

**Lesson Text:** 1 Peter 3:13-4:6

## Questions About This Epistle

1. What sustains the child of God in his trials and sufferings? (1 Peter 1:3-7) How is this accomplished?
2. What example does Jesus set for us in suffering? (1 Peter 2:20-25)
3. What place does baptism have in helping the believer overcome his sufferings? (1 Peter 3:12-4:6)
4. What limitations does Peter put upon the sufferings that the Christian may experience that cause us to rejoice? (1 Peter 4:12-19)
5. What is God able to do with those of us that endure sufferings as a Christian? (1 Peter 5:8-10)

## Make A Life Application

Name three things that should give each of us confidence in enduring suffering. How does each of these give us the assurance we need to overcome and succeed?

# The Life of Peter

**Lesson Eleven:** *Peter Learns About True Greatness*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn from Peter what constitutes true greatness in the Kingdom of Heaven.

**Lesson Text:** John 13:1-38

**Background Texts:** Luke 22:21-27; 9:44-50; Mark 9:30-40; Matthew 18:1-4; 23:1-12

## Questions About Peter

1. What had the Apostles argued among themselves at some point during the Last Supper? (Luke 22:24)
2. Who did Jesus say would be the greatest? How did he exemplify this truth? (Luke 22:26,27)
3. When Jesus came to Peter in order to wash his feet, what did he say? (John 13:6-8)
4. How does Jesus answer Peter's rebuke? (John 13:8)
5. For what does Peter then ask the Lord to do? What does this say to you about Peter? (John 13:9)
6. What did Jesus tell Peter in response to his new request? What did Jesus mean by this? (John 13:8-10)
7. What was the example that Jesus gave to His Disciples that they should follow? (John 13:12-17)
8. After Jesus washed the Disciples' feet what did He reveal to them? (John 13:18-33)
9. What question did Peter asked Jesus after this? (John 13:36-37)
10. What does Jesus reveal to Peter at this point? (John 13:38)

# The Letters of Peter

**Lesson Twelve:** *Our Faith and the Faith*

**Lesson Aim:** Observe Peter's recognition of a distinction between subjective belief and objective truth while learning the significance and importance of that distinction.

**Lesson Text:** 1 Peter 1:22-25

## Questions About This Epistle

1. List the passages in 1 & 2 Peter where Peter identifies our subjective, that is, personal belief as the grounds of our salvation. (How does Peter describe our belief in each of these texts?)

1 Peter 1:5 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 2:7 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:7,9 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 3:5 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 5:12 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:21 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Peter 1:2 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 2:6 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Peter 1:5 \_\_\_\_\_

2. By what means did these Gentiles to whom Peter wrote obtain this faith? (How does Peter describe the source of our faith in each of these texts?)

1 Peter 1:12,25 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Peter 1:1 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:22 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Peter 1:3 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:23 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Peter 1:12 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 1:25 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Peter 1:19-21 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 2:2 and 3:1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Peter 2:2 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 4:6 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Peter 2:15 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 4:11 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Peter 2:21 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 4:17 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Peter 3:2 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 5:9 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Peter 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_

3. On the reverse of this page list the passages in Peter's two epistles that describe the character or nature of our personal faith in relation to the system of faith.

## Make A Life Application

What is the reward for having faith described as "being much more precious than gold that perisheth."

# The Life of Peter

**Lesson Thirteen:** *Satan Seeks to Sift Simon*

**Lesson Aim:** Watch Peter react to the Lord's warning against Satan's temptations to forsake Jesus. See Peter fail to take heed and prepare against a fall.

**Lesson Text:** Luke 22:31-38

**Background Text:** Matthew 26:30-35; Mark 14:26-31; 1 Peter 1:3-9; 2 Peter 3:9-15

## Questions About Peter

1. What does Jesus mean when he says Satan wants to "sift" Peter like wheat?
2. What had Jesus done on Peter's part to help him in the approaching trial? What comfort is there in this for the believer today?
3. List on the back of this sheet as many things as you can think of that contribute to a failing faith.
4. What would happen if Peter's faith failed?
5. What did Peter write in his first epistle about the relationship between our faith and our security? How is this accomplished?
6. Jesus told Peter to strengthen his brethren when he was converted. Why say that to someone who was a child of God?
7. To what was Jesus specifically referring when He said Satan wanted to sift Simon as wheat? (see: Mark 14:26-31; Matthew 26:30-35)
8. What did the Lord say Peter would do?
9. How did Peter react to this charge? What does this say about Peter's faith and trust in Jesus?
10. Did Peter's faith fail?



# The Letters of Peter

**Lesson Fourteen:** *Peter's Theology*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn about the nature of God as revealed in the inspired texts of 1 & 2 Peter

**Lesson Text:** 1 Peter 1:15

## Questions About This Epistle

1. Make a list of the characteristics, privileges, powers and preogatives which Peter attributes to Deity in his two letters to the saints in Asia Minor.

- (a) 1 Peter 1:2 \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) 1 Peter 1:3 \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) 1 Peter 1:15 \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) 1 Peter 1:17 \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) 1 Peter 1:21 \_\_\_\_\_
- (f) 1 Peter 2:5 \_\_\_\_\_
- (g) 1 Peter 3:4 \_\_\_\_\_
- (h) 1 Peter 3:12 \_\_\_\_\_
- (i) 1 Peter 3:22 \_\_\_\_\_
- (j) 1 Peter 4:19 \_\_\_\_\_
- (k) 1 Peter 5:6 \_\_\_\_\_
- (l) 1 Peter 5:7 \_\_\_\_\_
- (m) 1 Peter 5:10 \_\_\_\_\_
- (n) 1 Peter 5:11 \_\_\_\_\_
- (o) 2 Peter 1:3,4 \_\_\_\_\_
- (p) 2 Peter 1:16,17 \_\_\_\_\_
- (q) 2 Peter 2:4 \_\_\_\_\_
- (r) 2 Peter 2:9 \_\_\_\_\_
- (s) 2 Peter 3:5 \_\_\_\_\_
- (t) 2 Peter 3:8 \_\_\_\_\_
- (u) 2 Peter 3:9,15 \_\_\_\_\_

## Make A Life Application

What comfort does the Christian have in knowing that God is a "faithful Creator" that judges "without respect of persons"?

# The Life of Peter

**Lesson Fifteen:** *Peter in the Garden of Gethsemane*

**Lesson Aim:** Observe Peter's behaviour in the Garden of Gethsemane with Jesus as the Lord prays and is betrayed into the hands of the Jews.

**Lesson Text:** Mark 14:32-52

**Background Text:** Matthew 26:36-56; Luke 22:31-53; John 18:1-12

## Questions About Peter

1. What request did Jesus make of Peter, James and John after He brought them into the Garden of Gethsemane? Why would Jesus ask them to do this? How did they disappoint Jesus?
2. What did Jesus mean when He said to Peter, "The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Have these words ever described you? If so, how?
3. What was the exhortation which Jesus gave to Peter concerning the weakness of his flesh? What does this exhortation mean to you when you find yourself in similar circumstances?
4. What does Jesus mean when He says to the Disciples, "Sleep on now, and take your rest: it is enough, the hour is come"? (See: NIV or NKJV) What do you learn from this rebuke of Jesus?
5. Why did Peter have a sword in the garden? Had he misunderstood Jesus in Luke 22:36 ?
6. Why did Peter cut off Malchus' right ear? What did Jesus command Peter to do? Why?
7. What prevented Jesus from calling twelve legions of angels down from heaven?
8. What did Jesus do that precipitated the Disciples' flight?
9. Was Peter insincere when he spoke the words of Matthew 26:35? Did he do anything in the garden that indicated that he was unwilling to fulfill that pledge?
10. From where did Peter follow the Lord upon His arrest? What does this indicate about Peter?

# The Letters of Peter

**Lesson Sixteen:** *The New Man in Christ According to Peter*

**Lesson Aim:** Understand the concept of being born again unto a new life in Christ as taught by the Apostle Peter in his two letters to the saints of Asia Minor.

**Lesson Text:** 1 Peter 4:1-6

## Questions About This Epistle

1. According to 1 Peter 1:13-2:3 by what means were we born again and to what end did that birth occur?
2. Having been born again what are we to do? (2 Peter 1:3-11; 3:15)
3. What does Peter see as the chief aim of the born again one? (1 Peter 1:22)
4. What place does baptism have in the new birth? (1 Peter 3:18-22)
5. What is the mind of Christ with which the we are to arm ourselves? (1 Peter 4:1-6)
6. How does our conduct differ once we are born again from “the time past of our life”?
7. What expectation of treatment from former comrades does the believer have?
8. How does Peter describe born again ones that return to the world in 2 Peter 2:18-22?

## Make A Life Application

Find other passages in the New Testament that compliment what you have studied in 1 & 2 Peter concerning the new man in Christ which affirm his complete separation from the pollutions of the world.

# The Life of Peter

**Lesson Seventeen:** *Before the Cock Crows*

**Lesson Aim:** See Peter deny Jesus three times before the cock crows on Friday morning of Jesus' last week of ministry.

**Lesson Text:** Matthew 26:31-35,57-75

**Background Text:** Mark 14:53-72; Luke 22:31-34,54-62; John 18:15-17,25-27

## Questions About Peter

1. What did Jesus tell Peter he would do before the cock crowed two times?
2. What did Peter say in response to that?
3. Give an account of Peter's three denials of the Lord:
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Compare and contrast Peter and Judas in their betrayals of the Lord?
5. Jesus had prayed that Peter's faith not "fail". We see that it did not. It is reasonable to conclude that the Father answered Jesus' request. What means do the Scriptures reveal that God used to keep Peter through the power of God by faith? (see: 1 Peter 1:5)
6. Compare and contrast the behaviors of Peter and John in the house of Caiaphas.
7. Compare and contrast the behavior of Peter with that of the remaining nine Apostles.

# The Letters of Peter

**Lesson Eighteen:** *The Work of the Holy Spirit as Taught by Peter*

**Lesson Aim:** Understand how the Holy Spirit works in revelation, inspiration and in the conviction, conversion and sanctification of men.

**Lesson Text:** 1 Peter 1:2

## Questions About This Epistle

1. What works does Peter attribute to the Holy Spirit in each of these texts?
  - (a) 1 Peter 1:2 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (b) 1 Peter 1:11 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (c) 1 Peter 1:12 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (d) 1 Peter 1:22 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (e) 1 Peter 3:18,19 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (f) 2 Peter 1:21 \_\_\_\_\_
2. How does the Holy Spirit sanctify anyone? (Give a biblical example of the “sanctification of the Spirit” involving the Apostle Peter.)
3. What was the relationship between the Holy Spirit and the Old Testament prophets? What other New Testament passages inform us about the Holy Spirit’s role in revealing the will of God?
4. Explain how Christ preached to the men of the ante-diluvian period? (1 Peter 3:18-22) How does Christ speak to us today?
5. What does Peter mean when he writes, “No prophecy of Scripture is of private interpretation”?
6. According to 1 Peter 3:18, what specific role did the Holy Spirit play in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead? What other New Testament passages affirm this truth?

## Make A Life Application

What comfort and assurance does knowing the Scriptures are inspired by the Holy Spirit give to the Christian?

# The Life of Peter

**Lesson Nineteen:** *Peter on the Road to Spiritual Maturity*

**Lesson Aim:** See the Lord compel Peter to deal with the weakness of his faith by reminding him of that for which he was originally called to do, namely, be a fisher of men.

**Lesson Text:** John 21:1-25

**Background Texts:** John 20:1-31; Luke 24:34; Mark 16:1-8; Matthew 28:16-20; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

## Questions About Peter

1. After the first appearance of Jesus, where did Peter and six other Disciples go?
2. Who appeared to them there? What instructions did He give them?
3. What miracle occurred at this time?
4. What conclusion did the miracle cause John to reach? When Peter heard this what did he do?
5. What did the Disciples find when they reached the shore? What did they all do?
6. What two questions did Jesus ask Peter? (Check the margin of your New Testament or a Bible dictionary for the meanings of the words Jesus used in 21:15-17).
7. How did Peter answer these questions? Why was Peter disturbed when Jesus asked the third time?
8. What command did Jesus give to Peter each time he answered His question?
9. What would happen to Peter when he was old? What did this signify?
10. What final command did Jesus give Peter? What question did Peter ask concerning John upon receiving this command? How did Jesus answer Peter?

# The Letters of Peter

**Lesson Twenty:** *The True Grace of God*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn what the true grace of God is and how it is that men come to stand in that grace.

**Lesson Text:** 1 Peter 5:12

## Questions About This Epistle

1. Define *grace*.
2. How does Peter use the word *grace* in the following texts?
  - (a) 1 Peter 1:2 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (b) 1 Peter 1:10 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (c) 1 Peter 1:13 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (d) 1 Peter 3:7 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (e) 1 Peter 4:10 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (f) 1 Peter 5:5 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (g) 1 Peter 5:10 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (h) 1 Peter 5:12 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (i) 2 Peter 1:2 \_\_\_\_\_
  - (j) 2 Peter 3:18 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Does Peter believe that *grace* necessarily excludes any and all works? (Please substantiate your answer with specific statements from Peter's epistles or sermons.)
4. What does Peter necessarily imply when he speaks of the "true grace of God"?
5. How does one come to stand in the "true grace of God"?

## Make A Life Application

What does it mean to be a "good steward of the manifold grace of God"? What specific things could and should one do in order to be such a steward of that grace?

# The Life of Peter

**Lesson Twenty-One:** *Peter Obey God Rather than Men*

**Lesson Aim:** See Peter demonstrate the courage to defy civil authority when that authority is in conflict with the will of Heaven.

**Lesson Text:** Acts 5:17-32

**Background Texts:** Acts 4:1-31; 1 Peter 2:13-17; Romans 13:1-8

## Questions About Peter

1. What were the circumstances of the arrest of Peter and John in Jerusalem?
2. What commandment did the Sanhedrin give to them concerning their activities in the city?
3. How did they answer these men?
4. What did Peter and the rest of the Apostles continue to do after being threatened by the Sanhedrin?
5. What happened to them because of their actions? How did God thwart this action?
6. How did Peter justify their disobedience to the civil authority?
7. What commandment did Peter give persecuted believers in Asia Minor concerning civil authority? How do you harmonize his teaching with his practice?
8. For what purpose does Peter enjoin obedience to civil authority?
9. What assumption does Peter make concerning the Law of God and the laws of men? (1 Peter 2:14)
10. How are Christians to behave in their relationship with civil authority when there is an obvious conflict between divine law and human law?



# The Letters of Peter

**Lesson Twenty-Two:** *Peter Encourages Spiritual Growth*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn what every Christian must supply in his faith so that he will never be barren or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Lesson Text:** 2 Peter 1:3-11

## Questions About This Epistle

1. Define the following terms used by Peter in the lesson text:

(a) *life* \_\_\_\_\_

(b) *glory* \_\_\_\_\_

(c) *partakers* \_\_\_\_\_

(d) *divine nature* \_\_\_\_\_

(e) *faith* \_\_\_\_\_

(f) *virtue* \_\_\_\_\_

(g) *knowledge* \_\_\_\_\_

(h) *temperance* \_\_\_\_\_

(i) *patience* \_\_\_\_\_

(j) *godliness* \_\_\_\_\_

(k) *brotherly kindness* \_\_\_\_\_

(l) *charity* \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the condition of the Christian who has diligently supplied “these things” in his faith? (1:8)

3. What is the condition of the man that lacks these things? (1:9)

4. How does the believer make his calling and election sure? (1:10)

## Make A Life Application

Research the word picture in 2 Peter 1:11 of “an entrance” into the everlasting kingdom. What does this describe? What promise does Peter make to the believer by use of this imagery?

# The Life of Peter

**Lesson Twenty-Three:** *Peter Makes a Mistake*

**Lesson Aim:** See Peter err in the matter of the treatment of Gentile Christians at Antioch in Syria.

**Lesson Text:** Galatians 2:1-21

**Background Texts:** Acts 10:28-35; 11:1-18; 15:1-35; 2 Peter 3:15,16; James 2:1-13

## Questions About Peter

1. What standard of behaviour did Peter set by his example in dealing with Cornelius and his house?
2. This behaviour was determined by what spiritual principle that God showed to Peter?
3. Once Peter learned this principle what did he conclude about God and his view of the Gentiles?
4. What should you and I learn concerning God's view of any human being?
5. What is the criteria for acceptance with God?
6. What does God consider in these matters which men cannot consider? (Acts 15:8)
7. When Peter was in Antioch with whom did Peter eat? After brethren from Jerusalem arrived in Antioch what did he do?
8. How did Paul react to Peter's behavior? Why be so about it?
9. What in Peter's character was still a problem for him even at this point in his spiritual journey?
10. How does the Apostle James apply the principle of "no respect of persons"?

# The Letters of Peter

**Lesson Twenty-Four:** *Peter warns About False Teachers*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn the identity, character and fruit of the false teachers, which Peter says will be among us.

**Lesson Text:** 2 Peter 2:1-22

## Questions About This Epistle

1. What does Peter say false teachers will do?
2. What will be the effect of their teaching upon the Church?
3. What assurance does Peter give to the faithful that they should not despair when false teachers arise?
4. What are some of the attributes of a false teacher?
5. Must a man be possessed of all of these attributes in order to be called a false teacher? (Discuss)
6. How did Jesus say we would recognize a false teacher?
7. Upon whom do false teachers prey?
8. Who is Balaam the son of Bosor? Of what is he an example relative to false teachers?
9. What are the “wages of unrighteousness”?
10. What affect does the false teacher’s doctrine have upon himself and those whom he deceives?

## Make A Life Application

What is the means by which all are able to resist and overcome the false teacher? How may we all be assured of never becoming entangled again in those things which we have escaped through the Lord Jesus Christ?

# The Life of Peter

**Lesson Twenty-Five:** *Peter Strengthens His Brethren*

**Lesson Aim:** Watch the aged saint fulfill his charge to feed Jesus' sheep and strengthen his brethren.

**Lesson Text:** 2 Peter 1:12-19

**Background Texts:** Acst 8:14-25; 9:32-43; 12:1-19; 15:6-11; 1 Peter 5:1-14; John 21:18,19

## Questions About Peter

1. Describe the evangelistic work of the Apostle Peter as recounted in the New Testament?
  - (a) Jerusalem \_\_\_\_\_
  - (b) Judea \_\_\_\_\_
  - (c) Caesaria \_\_\_\_\_
  - (d) Babylon \_\_\_\_\_
  - (e) Asia Minor \_\_\_\_\_
2. Outline the advice Peter gives in 1 Peter 5:1-14 to Churches which will strengthen them.
3. What example did Peter set for handling controversy in the local Church and among brethren?
4. What contribution did Peter make to the Church in Babylon that strengthened it? (1 Peter 5:1)
5. As an evangelist by what means did Peter strengthen his brethren?
6. What attribute did Peter manifest in his old age that would strengthen his brethren?
7. What confidence in the word of God did he demonstrate that would strengthen his brethren?
8. What attitude toward Paul did Peter display that would strengthen his brethren?
9. What concern for repentance did Peter show that would strengthen his brethren?

# The Letters of Peter

**Lesson Twenty-Six:** *Peter Preaches the Return of Jesus*

**Lesson Aim:** Learn that Jesus is coming back to judge the world in righteousness.

**Lesson Text:** 2 Peter 3:1-18

## Questions About This Epistle

1. Whom did Peter say would come in the last days? What would they do?
2. Of what two events does Peter remind us in order to give assurance that Christ will come again?
3. Why do these events have any significance in connection with the return of Christ?
4. What is the meaning of this statement: "one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day"? To what does Peter make the application in this text.
5. One of the attributes of Deity is *longsuffering* (2 Peter 3:9,15). What has this attribute to do with the timing on the return of Christ in judgment?
6. What does God want all men to do? Why? List other New Testament texts that contain a sentiment similar to that of 2 Peter 3:9.
7. What are the signs of Jesus' coming?
8. What will happen to the earth when Jesus returns?
9. For what do the righteous look at the return of Jesus?
10. What have some done with the things that both Peter and Paul have revealed concerning the return of Christ? Why do they do this?

## Make A Life Application

Since Jesus is coming back to judge the world in righteousness, what does Peter say the believer should be doing?