

Call and Growth

Matthew 4:18-20; Matthew 16:16-18; John 21:15-18; 2 Peter 3:14-15, 18

Devotional Reading: Colossians 2:1-7

Background Scripture: John 1:40-42; Ephesians 4:11-16;
Philippians 3:12-16; Colossians 1:9-11; Hebrews 6:1-3

LESSON AIMS: the students will:

- List significant events in the life of Peter after Jesus called him
- State why Jesus might have continued to express confidence in Peter despite his shortcomings and weaknesses
- Write a note encouraging another believer who wants to grow in faith

INTRODUCTION: Jesus began His public ministry right after His baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan River [Matthew 3:13 - 17]. As He called disciples, the Savior called ordinary men, beginning with four fishermen, among them, a man named Peter. Peter's journey of faith probably has several similarities to our own. Like us, Peter faced times of doubt and times of failure.

KEY VERSE: *17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. John 21:17*

LESSON OUTLINE:

Peter's Call

Matthew 4:18 - 20

Peter's Proclamation

Matthew 16:16 - 18

Peter's Ministry

John 21:15 - 18

Peter's Teaching

2 Peter 3:14 - 15, 18

SUMMARY: The Bible is clear and just in the lives and personalities of the persons there. Scripture does not hide or cover up the mistakes or flaws of Peter. The Day of Pentecost was a defining day for Peter. By the power of the Holy Spirit, Peter became emboldened and fulfilled his call and his purpose. Just as Peter was transformed by Jesus' love, believers today are called and will become mature in His call and purpose, into a lifelong process of spiritual growth.

QUESTIONS:

1. *How would you respond to the question, "Who is Jesus to you?"*
2. *In which areas of life do you need to grow most in Christ as you await His return?*
3. *What are some "lesser loves" that can distract us from loving Jesus supremely?*
4. *In what ways has Jesus called you to follow and trust Him in the upcoming week?*

Prayer and Humility

Genesis 18:25-27; Luke 18:9-14; 1 John 5:14-15

DAY / DATE	SCRIPTURE	
Mon., Jan. 12 th	Praying for Wisdom	James 1:2 - 8
Tue., Jan. 13 th	Praying and Seeking God	Jeremiah 29:10 - 14
Wed., Jan. 14 th	Praying with Thanksgiving	Philippians 4:4 - 9
Thurs., Jan. 15 th	Praying for Protection	Psalms 61
Fri., Jan. 16 th	Praying as Jesus Taught	Matthew 6:5 - 15
Sat., Jan. 17 th	Praying for Others	Genesis 18:23 - 33
Sun., Jan. 18 th	Praying for Mercy	Luke 18:9 - 14