

WHO IS SIMON PETER? – Part 1

**John 1:35-42; Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 14:22-33;
Matthew 16:13-20**

John 1:35-42

³⁵ The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹ He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). ⁴² He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).

Luke 5:1-11

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. ² He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon,

and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

⁵ Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” ⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” ¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Matthew 14:22-33

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but the boat by this

time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

²⁸ And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Matthew 16:13-20

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in

heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Opening Discussion Questions

If God told you he was going to change your name to reflect some of the plans he has for your life, what name would it be and why?

Bible Study Questions

1. Background of Simon Peter

Birthplace: (*John 1:44*) _____

Family: (*1 Cor. 9:5, John 1:40-42, Matt. 16:17, Luke 4:38-39*) _____

Occupation: (*Luke 5:9-10*) _____

2. How was Simon introduced to Jesus in John 1? Is there a familiar member that played a significant role in your journey of faith?

3. Why do you think Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter? Do you believe Simon believed Jesus was the Messiah at this moment? What would be some reasons for his hesitancy to believe?

4. What direct and indirect actions did Jesus take in Luke 5 that convinced Simon that Jesus was in fact the Messiah?

5. How did Simon acknowledge Jesus in Luke 5:8? Have you ever encountered Jesus during your occupational pursuit?

6. Have you “dropped everything” to follow Jesus? Why or why not? What needs to happen for you to do that? (*Mark 9:24*)

7. Why do you think Peter asked Jesus to command him to get out of the boat in Matthew 14:28? What caused his faith failure? (*Hebrews 12:1-3*)

8. How do you reconcile Peter’s action versus the rest of the disciples? Is there are spiritual principle you can discern from Peter’s failure?

9. How would you characterize Peter’s growth as a disciple of Jesus in Matthew 16:16? How have your views or understanding of Jesus changed over the years?

10. Discuss the interpretation of what the “rock” in *Matthew 16:18*. Who you think God built his church on? Which view do you find persuasive? (*Eph. 2:20, Deut. 32:4, 1 Peter 2:4, 6-7, Matt. 21:42, Psalm 18:31, Isa.26:4, 1 Cor. 3:11*)

11. What influenced you about tonight’s lesson? What changes would you like to make as a result?
