

# PETER



## 1. Called to Discipleship

(Leader's Notes)

### Introduction

Peter – somehow our hearts warm when we hear Peter's name. He is so much like us. He really wanted to follow the Lord and yet he made mistakes. There were times when he said, 'but Lord', times when the Lord had to rebuke his impetuosity, and times when he fell into temptation and even denied his Master. Aren't we like that? In this series of studies we will be studying the life of Peter and learning from his mistakes and victories.

We know he was one of Jesus' disciples, but the call to discipleship is not for a select twelve, but to all who want to follow Christ. The word Christian is only mentioned in the New Testament a few times, but the word disciple is used often. In this study we will see how Peter was called to become a disciple. He is calling us to be his disciples too.

**Bible Reading:** Luke 5:1-11

### 1. Jesus calls Peter to become a disciple v1-4

Peter had met Jesus about one year earlier. See John 1:35-42. The time had come now for Jesus to challenge Peter to become his disciple.

- ❖ Why do you think Jesus let this time pass before calling him to be a disciple?
- ❖ Was there a time of learning and observing before you responded to Christ? Share.

#### Discuss

It is important not to rush people into making decisions for Christ. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Discuss.

- ❖ Why do you think Jesus used this miracle to call Peter?  
*(Since Peter was a fisherman this was a meaningful and powerful way to relate to him. He would understand what that call meant as Jesus was speaking 'his language.'*
- ❖ The way Jesus called Peter differed to the way he called the others. Why do they vary and what do what do they have in common? Luke 5:27-28, John 1:43-51  
*(Jesus related to each one differently, as they were different! He calls each of us in a way that is right for us. However the call is the same – "Follow me.")*

### 2. Peter's response to the call of Jesus v5-9

- ❖ How do you think Peter felt when Jesus asked him to put down his net? v4-5  
*(Perhaps he thought he knew better than Jesus, after all he was a fisherman!)*

- ❖ What did Peter realize about Jesus and about himself after the astounding catch of fish?  
(Peter realized that he was a sinful man. He also recognized that Jesus was worthy of the title 'Lord'.)



What does it really mean to make Jesus 'Lord' of your life?  
(It means to make Jesus 'boss' of every area of our life and to be obedient to him in all we do.)

- ❖ Peter was probably no different to many of us. He wasn't a thief or a murderer, but suddenly he realized in the presence of Jesus, he was a sinful man. What is sin then?  
(We are born with a sinful nature and from young choose to follow our own way instead of God's way. Like Peter, we need to recognize that we are sinful and turn and follow Jesus Christ. It is only through Jesus we can be forgiven and set free.)

### **3. Peter learns the meaning of discipleship v10-11**

Once Peter realizes he is a sinner and that Jesus is Lord, he is shown what it means to be a disciple.

- ❖ What is God's purpose for Peter according to v10? How did Jesus show what this means?  
(God's purpose was that from now on Peter would 'catch men'. Just as Peter had pulled up a net full of fish at Jesus' word, so in the future he would see men and women coming into the Kingdom of God.)
- ❖ What else does Jesus have in mind when he called Peter? See Mark 1:17, 3:14-15  
(Jesus was also calling Peter to be with him, to be his friend and companion, and to follow him.)
- ❖ Jesus knew he was calling Peter to a new life that would not always be easy. What word of encouragement did he give to Peter? V10  
(“Do not be afraid.”)
- ❖ Peter responded by leaving everything to follow Jesus. What do you think that meant for Peter? Also see Mark 1:20.  
(It meant leaving his possessions, his work and source of income, his home and family.)



What do you have to 'leave' to follow Jesus? Share.

### **Conclusion**

Jesus is calling each of us to follow him and be his disciple. Perhaps you have known about Jesus for some time, but you need to respond to his call to you personally. If you have never done that, you can do so at the end of this study.

For those who have already responded, you are now on a journey. First of all he is calling you to be with him. He wants your friendship! And he is calling you to follow him. The word 'follow' in the Bible is in the present continuous tense. This means we are to keep on following Jesus day by day. Just as God's purpose was for Peter to make disciples, this is his purpose for you too. He gives you the same word of encouragement, “Do not be afraid!”