

# on mission.

THE LIFE OF PETER

## group guide



GROUP GUIDE  
SEPTEMBER 2020



**on mission.**  
THE LIFE OF PETER

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## CHRIST'S MISSION FOR THE CHURCH

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*All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to me.  
Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.  
And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.  
Matthew 28:18 - 20*

What would drive a person leave their ancestral home to travel as an itinerant preacher?

Why would someone leave the security of their profession to lead a life of hardship?

Why would a person choose difficulty, danger, and the unforeseeable over a life of routine, contentment, and predictability?

Why would a person trade a long life for a death on a cross?

Peter was one of the closest friends and followers of Jesus Christ during His time on this earth. He followed in Jesus' footsteps, learned from Him, and eventually helped to lead His newly formed Church. The path that Peter chose was fraught with challenges. It would not be an easy life.

But knowing Jesus was transformational.

Being given a mission and purpose in life was foundational.

Peter became a man on mission for Jesus. For that reason, he was willing to trade in everything else and embrace the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

In this series eight-week series, we'll be taking a look at the life of Peter and discovering how knowing Jesus transformed a common fisherman into an uncommon Christ-follower. And how this path started with two words: 'Follow me'.

# SERIES INTRODUCTION

# GROUP GUIDELINES

## Ground Rules

Here are some guidelines for your gatherings.

- **Growing real relationships.** One of the central purposes of CCW groups is to help in the growth of real relationships. These relationships are formed through common mission, application of God's Word, authentic conversation, and time together. Don't get overly focused on one area to the detriment of the others!
- **Confidentiality.** For authenticity to thrive, what is shared during group time should be kept confidential.
- **Start on time - and end on time.** We want to respect the time of everyone involved. For that reason, our group will start on time and end on time.
- **Be a part of the discussion.** If you want to grow, get involved in the discussion. Your perspective is valuable!
- **Be real.** Authenticity and transparency are two keys to authentic life change. We ask that those participating in our group are real with who they are and their walk with God.
- **It's alright to disagree.** We're not always going to see eye-to-eye in all situations. That's alright! God created us uniquely and so we all bring different opinions, experiences and perspectives to the conversation.
- **Love, love, love.** Even if we disagree, we do so in love. Love is the binding force in all Christ-centered relationships, so we will not let our differences divide us.
- **Minimize distractions.** We recognize that emergencies may arise, but we will do our best to minimize what distractions we are able to (yeah, we're talking about cell phones here - put them away!).

## Leader Guidelines

Thank you for taking the time to invest in others by leading a group. As a leader, your task is to create an environment where real relationships can thrive. Here are some things to keep in mind as you do that:

- **Multiply.** The mission of the church is to multiply disciples. Groups are one of the environments where this occurs. You are involved in the discipleship of each person in your group. We ask that each of our group leaders has someone who they are equipping to be a disciple-maker.
- **Create a safe environment.** When we say 'safe', we mean an environment where participants can freely share without feeling belittled or that what they share will get spread beyond the group.

When we say 'safe', we also mean a group where participants can encounter Jesus and His plan for their life.

- **Recognize that your group is unique.** This booklet is designed to be a general guide, but every group is unique. So when you're planning, take into account what does and doesn't work for your group and shape the session to their personalities and needs.
- **Review the ground rules.** Periodically, remind your group about the ground rules for the group.
- **Ask lots of questions.** Engaging leaders draw participants into the discussion. Ask many questions and lead your group into self-discovery.
- **Get feedback.** Improve your group by asking others for feedback.
- **Seek wise council.** There are some questions you won't be able to answer and some situations you aren't trained to handle. That's OK! Know who your wise council is (whether a coach, minister, or another disciple-maker) and turn to them in your time of need.

## Before the Session

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**Prepare for the Session:** As a group leader, it's essential to be prepared. Before the group session:

1. **Pray.** These are God's Words and it is His Spirit that provides authentic transformation. So take time to turn the group over to Him.
2. **Take time to read over the Bible passage.** While reading, write down any questions that you have about the text.
3. **Preview the session guide.** Read through the session guide. Shape the session for your group by highlighting important questions to ask and adding your own.
4. **Tap into study resources.** Broaden your understanding of the biblical text by tapping into additional study resources. Discover the answers to your questions and increase your knowledge of the Biblical content. These study resources can be found in the Resource Center at CCW, the back of this guide, and in a variety of other places.

## During the Session

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- **Icebreaker:** Get the discussion rolling with an icebreaker activity or question. We've provided one for you, but you know your group better than us! The goal is to get them talking.
- **Share:** Take time to review the content from last week. Two important things to ask group participants about during this time are:
  - **Prayer Requests:** If a group participant made a prayer request the previous week, make sure to take this opportunity to follow up on what God is doing in their life.
  - **Application and Challenges:** Some weeks give specific challenges for groups to attempt throughout the week. Other times, a group participant will take on a challenge as a result of application discussion (e.g. 'This week, I would like to...'). Either way, take time to ask about these.
- **Transition:** In the Transition, we give you a way to shift gears into the Bible reading and focus of the night. Usually this comes in the form of something simple that can be said (stated in italics).
- **Read It:** Read through the Scripture passage. If it's a larger section of scripture, break it into smaller sections and ask questions throughout.
- **Talk About It:** After reading, the next step is to make sure that the Bible passage is understood in its context. The main ways to do this are:
  1. As a group, *retell* the story in your own words.
  2. Ask *review questions*, which are provided in each small group session.
  3. Take some time to *ask the key questions*. These questions are the same in each session and they help to bridge the gap between understanding and application.
- **Apply It:** Ultimately, the Bible should shape who we are and how we live our lives. So once we have

read over the text and reviewed the text, it's essential that we personalize it through application. The apply it section may have both (a) application questions and (b) challenges. Challenges are real-life ways to put Biblical Truth into effect this week.

- **Pray Together:** As a group, share prayer requests and write these requests down. Afterwards, take time to turn those requests over to God. Make sure to center some of this prayer time specifically on the application/challenges discussed in the session.

## After the Session

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- **Follow Up:** Real relationships aren't formed in a single weekly session. They are formed as a result of ongoing presence in the lives of one another. Follow up with group members throughout the week to (a) remind them of their application/challenge commitments, (b) check in on prayer requests, and (c) to simply do life together.
- **Input Group Attendance:** As a CCW group, you should receive an e-mail asking for your group's attendance. Filling in this form is incredibly important to the continued spiritual development for those connected to CCW. The point: please take time to use this valuable resource!

NOTES

# 1 PETER

ORDER IN NEW TESTAMENT

21

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

5

TYPE

EPISTLE, GENERAL



## OVERVIEW

This epistle was written by Peter from Babylon soon after Nero's persecution of Christians. A Roman Emperor in the 60s AD, Nero hated Christianity and did terrible things to Christians. Peter here addressed the Jews and Gentiles with encouragement to stay the course with Jesus, and not deny the faith despite difficult circumstances.



WRITTEN  
64 AD



TIME PERIOD COVERED  
All Eras in the Age of  
Grace



AUTHOR  
Apostle Peter

**1** A PRAISE UNDER  
FIRE: BE ON THE  
ALERT

1PETER 1

In spite of strained persecution of the saints, Peter offers a praise of God and expresses that salvation has been foreknown since the earliest of Old Testament prophets. He tells them that the word of God endures forever, and reminds them to hold on to their hope of the future.

**2** HOPE

1PETER 2

Peter preaches that the people are being built into a holy priesthood despite being foreigners and exiles. He tells them to live holy lives that are worthy of their calling as a special people to God.

**3** A WORD TO THE  
MARRIED:  
REWARDS FOR  
SUFFERING FOR  
DOING GOOD

1PETER 3

Peter tells husbands and wives to be kind and respectful. He teaches that people will meet with less harm by doing good, but if they meet harm they will be richly blessed.

**4** LIVE FOR GOD,  
SUFFERING DUE TO  
FAITH

1PETER 4

Peter exhorts Christians not to partake in pagan debauchery, not to fear their threats or pressure, and not to depart from the faith. He expresses that it is better to be a martyr than a murderer, and reminds the people to live for God.

**5** A WORD TO  
ELDERS

1PETER 5

Peter gives practical and well quoted exhortations: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble," "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you," "Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking to devour," etc.

## SESSION ONE

# CALLED BY JESUS

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## Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- *What's the longest that you've ever spent on a telephone call? What's the longest distance call that you've ever made?*

## Transition

It's time to move towards reading God's Word. Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

*In this series, we'll be looking at the life of Peter and how knowing Jesus transformed Him to be a man on mission. Each week, we'll discover a little more about what this mission that we're on is all about. In this session, we're going to see that mission starts with two words: 'follow me.'*

## Read It

Scripture reference: **Matthew 4:18 - 25**

*18 As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 19 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." 20 At once they left their nets and followed him.*

*21 Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, 22 and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.*

*23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. 24 News about him spread all over Syria,*

*and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. 25 Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.*

## Review It

- Who did Jesus see as He walked by? (4:18)
- What were Simon and Andrew doing when Jesus approached them? (4:18)
- What exactly did Jesus say to Simon and Andrew? (4:19)
- What was Simon and Andrew's response to Jesus' words? (4:20)
- In what activity were James and John involved? (4:21)
- How did James and John react to Jesus' challenge? (4:22)
- How risky was it for Peter, Andrew, James, and John to drop everything (jobs and families) to go with Jesus?
- What thoughts do you think were racing through their minds as they headed off down the beach with Jesus?
- How do you think you might have responded had you been fishing with these men and heard Jesus direct this challenge to you?
- What do you think Jesus saw in these men?
- What did Jesus do at the synagogues of this region? (4:23)
- How did the masses react to the news of what Jesus was doing? (4:24)



## Apply It

- What does it mean to be a “fisher of men”?
- When did you initially receive the call from Jesus to ‘follow me’?
- What possessions, goals, dreams, or relationships are keeping you from following Jesus wholeheartedly today?
- What can you do or stop doing today in order to become a more expert “fisher of men”?

## Pray Together

## Notes

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Don't forget to plug in your group attendance and follow up with the people in your group this week!

## SESSION TWO

# WALKING WITH JESUS

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## Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- *What is something that you've done that you immediately regretted doing?*

## Transition

It's time to move towards reading God's Word. Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

*Living on mission means that we are walking with Jesus. Following Jesus can be challenging because His path can lead us into places where we lose security, comfort and control. Today, we'll see how Peter decided to step out and follow Jesus into the unknown.*

## Read It

Scripture reference: **Matthew 14:22 - 36**

*22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, 24 and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.*

*25 Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.*

*27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."*

*28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."*

*29 "Come," he said.*

*Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"*

*31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"*

*32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."*

*34 When they had crossed over, they landed at Genesaret. 35 And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him 36 and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.*

## Review It

- After feeding the crowd of five thousand people, what instructions did Jesus give His disciples? (14:22)
- What did Jesus do on the mountain? (14:23)
- Where were the disciples when evening came? (14:24)
- What conditions were the disciples encountering? (14:24)
- What miracle did Christ perform? (14:25)
- How did the disciples react to what they saw? (14:26)
- How did Jesus try to calm the disciples' fears? (14:27)
- What did Peter ask Jesus to do? (14:28)
- What happened to Peter as he made his way

toward Jesus? (14:29-30)

- What did Jesus do and say when Peter got in trouble? (14:31)

## Apply It

- What causes you to doubt and waver in your faith?
- What situations cause you the most fear in life?
- What events or experiences have led you to trust in Jesus?
- How can a life on mission lead you into challenging, faith-stretching circumstances?
- What will help you remember to keep your eyes on Jesus and off your fears?

## Pray Together

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Don't forget to plug in your group attendance and follow up with the people in your group this week!

## SESSION THREE

# UPON THIS ROCK

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## Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- *What is a foundational truth that your parents taught you? How has that shaped your life?*

## Transition

It's time to move towards reading God's Word. Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

*A life on mission revolves around some very clear truths about Jesus - who He is and what He accomplished through His death and resurrection. Truth is at the core of our mission. In this story, we'll discover some of the key truths about Jesus that should shape our missional efforts.*

## Read It

Scripture reference: **Matthew 16:13 - 28**

*13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"*

*14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."*

*15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"*

*16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."*

*17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19 I will give you*

*the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20 Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.*

*21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.*

*22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"*

*23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."*

*24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. 26 What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.*

*28 "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."*

## Review It

- What broad, impersonal question did Jesus ask His disciples? (16:13)
- What different answers did Christ get to His question? (16:14)
- What pointed personal question did Christ ask

His followers? (16:15)

- What answer did Peter give? (16:16)
- In what way is coming to faith and understanding the gospel a supernatural event? (16:17)
- What 'rock' was Jesus going to build His Church on? (16:19)
- How did Christ say He would suffer? (16:21)
- What did Christ say would happen after He was killed? (16:21)
- How did Peter react to the news that Jesus would suffer and die? (16:22)
- How did Jesus characterize Peter's objections? (16:23)
- What is required of the one who would follow Jesus? (16:24)
- What two ways can a person lose his or her life? (16:25)

## Apply It

- What are some common views of Jesus among our generation?
- Who do you say Jesus is?
- What part in the building of Christ's Church do you have now?
- What does it mean to you to "take up your

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cross" and follow Jesus?

- In what situations do you find it difficult to follow Christ?
- What can you do or say to help a friend overcome an erroneous idea about Jesus this week?

## Pray Together

Don't forget to plug in your group attendance and follow up with the people in your group this week!

## SESSION FOUR

# TRANSFORMED BY JESUS

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## Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- *Share a time when you encountered someone whom you had not seen in a long while. What was the experience like?*

## Transition

It's time to move towards reading God's Word. Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

*A life on mission means that we will be transformed by Jesus. There is no way to continue being the same person once we've encountered Christ, as Peter discovers in the Bible passage in this session.*

## Read It

Scripture reference: **John 21:1 - 19**

*Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 3 "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.*

*4 Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.*

*5 He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"*

*"No," they answered.*

*6 He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of*

*fish.*

*7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. 8 The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. 9 When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.*

*10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." 11 So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. 12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. 14 This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.*

*15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"*

*"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."*

*Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."*

*16 Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"*

*He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."*

*Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."*

*17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"*

*Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."*

*Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. 18 Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will*

*dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." 19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"*

## Review It

- What familiar activity did several of Jesus' disciples do together? (21:2-3) Why do you think several of Jesus' disciples went fishing?
- How successful had Peter and the others been at fishing that night? (21:3)
- What did Jesus ask His disciples? (21:5)
- What did Jesus tell His disciples to do? (21:6)
- What happened when the disciples did what Jesus had told them to do? (21:6)
- What did Peter do when he realized that it was the Lord who was talking? (21:7)
- What did Jesus ask His disciples to do once they were on shore? (21:8-10)
- What did Jesus do with the bread and fish? (21:13)
- What did Jesus ask Peter three times? (21:15-17)
- What did Jesus tell Peter to do? (21:15-17)
- What did Jesus predict about Peter's future? (21:18-19)

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## Apply It

- How has Jesus been changing you since you first encountered Him?
- How can you bring glory to God through your life and the unique opportunities God has given you?
- What might cause us to be more concerned about someone else's relationship with Christ than our own? How can you shift that focus to your own transformation?
- What would Jesus challenge you with if you were having a conversation with Him right now?

## Pray Together

Don't forget to plug in your group attendance and follow up with the people in your group this week!

# THE MISSION OF JESUS

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## Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- *How do you feel about flying? What is the longest flight that you've ever experienced? Would you ever go sky-diving - why or why not?*

## Transition

It's time to move towards reading God's Word. Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

*Peter had been called and transformed by Jesus. He had encountered the truth while he was walking with Jesus. But now he would be given a mission and a responsibility that would fill the rest of his days. A life on mission rests on the mission and promise that Jesus gave us in Matthew 28. Let's check it out.*

## Read It

Scripture reference: **Matthew 28:16 - 20**

*16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

## Review It

- Where did the disciples gather? Why? (28:16)

- Who appeared to the disciples? When? (28:16-17)
- What responses did Jesus' appearance elicit? (28:17)
- What did Jesus say about Himself? (28:18)
- What did Jesus tell His disciples to make? (28:19)
- With what words of comfort did Jesus leave His disciples? (28:20)

## Read It

Scripture reference: **Acts 1:1 - 11**

*In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with[a] water, but in a few days you will be baptized with[b] the Holy Spirit."*

*6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"*

*7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

*9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.*



10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

## Review It

- After His resurrection, how did Jesus spend His time with the apostles? (1:3-5)
- What gift did Jesus promise to the apostles? (1:4-5)
- What did the apostles misunderstand? (1:6)
- How did Jesus answer the apostles' question? (1:7-8)
- What task did Jesus assign the apostles? (1:8)
- After speaking to the apostles, where did Jesus go? (1:9-11)
- How did the apostles react to Jesus' departure? (1:10)
- How did the men in white encourage the apostles? (1:11)

## Apply It

- What does it mean to us that Jesus has "all authority"?
- What does it mean to "make disciples"?
- What does it mean to you to be a 'witness' of Jesus?
- What role do you have in making disciples?
- What step can you take this week in the process of making disciples?
- How can you invite the Holy Spirit to guide you throughout this week?

## Pray Together

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Don't forget to plug in your group attendance and follow up with the people in your group this week!

# THE MESSAGE OF JESUS

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## Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- *If you had to give a twenty-minute speech in front of a large crowd, what topic would you speak on?*
- *How would you feel just before getting up to speak to a large group of people?*

## Transition

It's time to move towards reading God's Word. Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

*To live on mission means that we're carrying the message of Jesus to those who need to hear it. In this session, we'll discover how Peter shared that message on the day of Pentecost.*

## Read It

Scripture reference: **Acts 2:14 - 40**

*14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! 16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:*

*17 "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.*

*Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.*

*18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.*

*19 I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of*

*smoke.*

*20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.*

*21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'*

*22 "Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. 23 This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men,[d] put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. 25 David said about him:*

*"I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.*

*26 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope,*

*27 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay.*

*28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.'*

*29 "Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. 30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. 32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. 33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. 34 For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,*

*“The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand 35 until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”*

*36 “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”*

*37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”*

*38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

*39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”*

*40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.*

## Review It

- Whom did Peter address and what command did he give them? (2:14)
- What was Peter’s defense? (2:15)
- What were the believers experiencing? (2:16-21)
- What did Peter say about Jesus of Nazareth? (2:22-24)

## Notes

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- How was God in control of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection? (2:22-24)
- How did Peter explain Christ’s work as Messiah? (2:25-35)
- What testimony of the apostles did Peter give? (2:32)
- Who sent the Holy Spirit? (2:32-33)
- How did the hearers respond to Peter’s words? (2:37)
- What did Peter tell his audience to do? (2:38-40)
- What effect did Peter’s sermon have? (2:41)

## Apply It

- How can you challenge others to follow Christ?
- How have you been changed by the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?
- How can you prepare your friends and neighbors for the news that Christ can change their lives?
- What are the fears and challenges you have about sharing Jesus’ story? What can you do to alleviate some of the fears?

## Pray Together

Don’t forget to plug in your group attendance and follow up with the people in your group this week!

# THE MISSION SPREADS

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## Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- *What is one family tradition you want to keep at all costs?*

## Transition

It's time to move towards reading God's Word. Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

*To live on mission means that we will follow the Spirits leading even if He takes us to unexpected places. In this session, we'll hear Peter recount the story of meeting Cornelius (a Roman centurion) and how God used that to grow His Church in amazing ways!*

## Read It

Scripture reference: **Acts 11:1 - 18**

*The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. 2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him 3 and said, "You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them."*

*4 Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: 5 "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. 6 I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. 7 Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.'*

*8 "I replied, 'Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'*

*9 "The voice spoke from heaven a second time, 'Do not*

*call anything impure that God has made clean.' 10 This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.*

*11 "Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. 12 The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. 13 He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. 14 He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.'*

*15 "As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. 16 Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' 17 So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?"*

*18 When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life."*

## Review It

- What did the apostles and Christians in Judea hear? (11:1)
- When Peter went to Jerusalem, who criticized him? (11:2)
- Why did the circumcised believers imply that it was wrong for Peter to eat with Gentiles? (11:3)
- How did Peter explain his actions? (11:4-17)
- What was Peter's vision? What do you think it meant?
- What did the Spirit tell Peter to do when the men from Caesarea showed up?

- What did Cornelius say that God had told him to do? (11:13 - 14)
- How did Peter dispel the idea that the Gentiles were second-class citizens? (11:15-17)
- On what did Peter's defense rest? (11:17)
- How did Peter's argument prove convincing? (11:18)

## Apply It

- What might it look like to follow the Spirit of God?
- How is the Spirit an integral part of the mission that we have been given?
- What fears or hesitations do you have in following the Spirit?
- Are there any peoples groups you might hesitate to go to? How can you be more accepting of those who don't match your values or life-style?

## Pray Together

## Notes

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Don't forget to plug in your group attendance and follow up with the people in your group this week!

# THE WRITINGS OF PETER

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## Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- *When was the last time you felt like a stranger? How would you explain that feeling to someone else?*

## Transition

It's time to move towards reading God's Word. Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

*We're wrapping up the series with a look at the writing of Peter in the New Testament. In 1 Peter 1, he tells us that a life on mission is characterized by joyful suffering and a commitment to holiness.*

## Read It

Scripture reference: **1 Peter 1:3 - 25**

*3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith,*

*the salvation of your souls.*

*10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, 11 trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.*

*13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. 14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."*

*17 Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. 18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.*

*22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For,*

*"All people are like grass,*

*and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;  
the grass withers and the flowers fall,  
25 but the word of the Lord endures forever.”  
And this is the word that was preached to you.*

## Review It

- What had God given Peter and his readers? (1:3)
- Into what kind of inheritance did Peter say his readers had been born? (1:4)
- By what are believers shielded? For how long? (1:5)
- What did Peter tell his readers they may have to suffer? (1:6)
- Why had trials come to Peter’s audience? (1:7)
- What benefit is there in suffering? (1:7)
- What did Peter say was the goal of their faith? (1:9)
- About what did the prophets speak and for what did they search? (1:10)
- What did the Spirit of Christ predict? (1:11)
- Whom did Peter say these prophets were serving? (1:12)
- What bold challenge did Peter give his readers? (1:13)

## Notes

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- What pressure must we resist conforming to? (1:14)
- With what are believers redeemed from their sins? (1:18-19)
- When was Christ chosen and revealed? Why? (1:20)
- How had these Christians purified themselves? (1:22)
- How had these believers been born again? (1:23)

## Apply It

- How have the trials you’ve been through strengthened and refined your faith?
- What can you do this week to welcome the present trials in your life?
- In practical terms, what does it mean to be holy? Why is being holy difficult?
- What does it mean to live like a stranger in this world?
- What step can you take right away in order to live a more holy life?

## Pray Together

Don't forget to plug in your group attendance and follow up with the people in your group this week!





MAN ON MISSION

RESOURCES

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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- **RightNow Media:**

Get a free RightNow Media account to get access to thousands of study resources. Some potential resources include:

- ***The Book of First Peter (Idleman)***: This world looks nothing like the promised perfect kingdom of God. And yet we as God's people must live in it every day. In *The Book of 1 Peter*, Kyle Idleman walks through the short letter and unpacks the importance of our witness in this world.

The world's not as it should be. Until the day that God rights all wrongs, we have a job to do. Let's be about the business of the kingdom.

- ***A Fragile Stone (Card)***: As much as we enjoy our relationship with Jesus Christ, imagine what it would have been like to take that a step further and be His friend when He was here on earth! The apostle Peter had that special opportunity. Michael Card traveled to Israel to walk us through the friendship between our Savior and the man Jesus renamed The Rock.
- ***How to Read 1 Peter (Mackie)***: The Bible can be hard to interpret. It's lengthy, packed full of characters, and sometimes difficult to tie into daily life. *First Peter*, for example, encourages the early church to persevere through persecution. In this post, The Bible Project breaks down the book of 1 Peter into digestible pieces so we can understand and apply its truths.

If you're not yet connected to RNM, please contact the CCW Offices or go to [ccw.church/rightnow-media/](http://ccw.church/rightnow-media/) to sign up.

- **The Bible Project ([www.thebibleproject.com](http://www.thebibleproject.com))**

The Bible Project offers a variety of amazing resources. These videos expand on many of the ideas that we have touched on in this series.