



# VALLEY FORGE

## BAPTIST

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### Meet the Apostle Peter

#### God Delights in Using Flawed Ordinary People

#### John 1:35-42

*The Twelve Apostles, Matt. 10, Mark 3, Luke 6, Acts 1*

- A) Peter is always mentioned first and Judas always last.
- B) Each list has three groups containing the same 4 members.

Group 1: Peter, Andrew, James, John,

Group 2: Philip, Bartholomew (or Nathanael), Thomas, Matthew,

Group 3: James the son of Alphaeus, Lebbaeus (or Thaddaeus or Judas – not Iscariot), Simon the Zealot, Judas Iscariot

(Write this list in the back of your New Testament to keep them straight).

Can God use me? Many people think, “God can’t use me to do anything great for Him.” Why? “Because He knows all about me! He knows all my sins, all my mistakes, and all my secrets. God is looking for someone without flaws and faults.” NOT TRUE!

One of the great things about God is that He chooses the undeserving to be His people and the unqualified to do His work. God gives grace when we put our faith in Christ.

Can you ever be a leader for God? \_\_\_\_\_!

If God can make Peter into a leader, then He certainly is able to make you or me into a leader for Him.

When you look at our kids and teens, you need to look at them with spiritual eyes. We need to have the ability to see them as diamonds in the rough – before they are chiseled and polished.

## 1. The Three Calls of Peter

A. *The First \_\_\_\_\_, John 1:32-42*

Andrew finds his brother, Simon, and brings him to Jesus. Jesus says, “I know exactly who you are, but I’m going to change you. Now you are going to be called Peter. And I’m going to do something great with your life.”

When you meet Jesus, He is going to do the same thing...

**He will \_\_\_\_\_ you for the better!**

B. *The Second Meeting – the Call to Follow, Matthew 4:17-20*

*“And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.”*

**Matthew 4:19-20**

C. *Call to \_\_\_\_\_ Service, Luke 5:1-3*

*“And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.”*

**Luke 5:10-11**

## 2. Three Things we know about Peter

A. *His Trade – He is a \_\_\_\_\_ who lived in Capernaum and had a fishing business with his brother, Andrew.*

B. *His Family – He was \_\_\_\_\_, Mark 1:30.*

C. *His Name – Simon, but Jesus changed it to Peter. By nature, Simon was unstable, but when the Lord renamed him Peter – “a stone” – this implies that he was becoming stable. Simon is used to identifying*

referred to as Simon whenever he is reprimanded for sin or weakness. 17 times in John's gospel, he is called Simon Peter – at any moment, he could act his old self or new self.

### 3. Three Elements of the Lord's Preparation

#### A. The Right Qualities

- 1) He was \_\_\_\_\_ – Peter is continually asking questions of Jesus. Leaders need to ask questions.
  - He asked if there was a reward for following Jesus.
  - He asked how the temple would be destroyed.
  - He asked how many times should I forgive. Seven?

Peter never received the answer he expected.

- 2) He took \_\_\_\_\_.

He was the first to respond to the questions Jesus asked.

- 3) He was \_\_\_\_\_. He got right in the middle of everything. He stayed as close to Jesus as possible and wanted to be a part of everything. Some people go through life with a cloud of dust around them because they are right in the middle of the action.

Who jumped out of the boat when the Lord was walking on the water? Peter! He was the envy of the other 11.

#### B. The Right Experiences

The Lord brought into Peter's life all the experiences necessary to develop his leadership ability.

- 1) His Great \_\_\_\_\_, Matthew 16:16-17  
*"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."*
- 2) His Great \_\_\_\_\_, Matthew 16:18

He is given the keys of the kingdom, which means he had the privilege of opening the Gospel up to the Jews and the Gentiles. God used Peter to preach on Pentecost and 3,000 Jews were saved.

Peter was not the first pope. The church is built on Christ, 1 Peter 2:6.

Peter = "petros" – a stone

Rock = "petra" – bedrock stone (Christ)

## 3) His Great Rebuke, Matthew 16:21-22

Shortly after Jesus honored Peter, Peter proved that he was far from being infallible. He demonstrated how his mouth could be used by Satan as well as God.

## 4) His Great \_\_\_\_\_, Matthew 26:33, 73-75

When Jesus predicted that all the disciples would fall away, Peter's self-confidence took over and he said, "I will die for you Jesus." Yet, that night he had denied the Lord three times.

## 5) His Great Re-commissioning, John 21

Three times our Lord asked Peter, "Do you love me?" Three times the Lord said, "Feed my sheep." The Lord reassured Peter.

### C. *The Right Lessons*

1) \_\_\_\_\_, 1 Peter 2:13-14

2) \_\_\_\_\_, 1 Peter 2:21-23

3) \_\_\_\_\_, 1 Peter 5:5-6

4) \_\_\_\_\_, 1 Peter 4:16

5) \_\_\_\_\_, 1 Peter 4:8

"Love covers a multitude of sin."

6) \_\_\_\_\_, Acts 4:18-20, 5:29

#### ***What did God do with this flawed and ordinary man?***

Peter is the leader in the first 12 chapters of Acts. He preached on Pentecost where 3,000 were saved and baptized. He healed; he raised the dead; and wrote 2 epistles.

Don't you dare think that God can't use you - He can! History proves that God is willing to pick up the broken pieces of people's lives and use them for His glory.

God \_\_\_\_\_ all about us, and He still loves us! My sin does not stop God from loving me. In fact, it was because of my sin that Jesus came into the world to die for me, Romans 5:8. God's love can save me from my sin and give me a desire to stop sinning and start loving God. But I have to say "Yes" to Him and receive Him as my Savior.