

Table of Contents

Preface	3
Table of Contents	4
References and Abbreviations	11
Reprint Guidelines	14
1. The Call of St. Peter	15
1.1. Peter Meets Jesus in Judea (John 1:42)	15
John the Baptist	16
Behold, the Lamb of God (John 1:29)	16
Andrew and His Brother Simon Peter	16
You Will be Called Cephas (John 1:42b)	17
Peter's Names	18
1.2. Set Free by the Blood of the Lamb (1 Peter 1:18-19)	18
1.3. Peter's Call in Galilee (Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:3-8)	20
1.3.1. Fishers of Men (Mark 1:16-18 = Matthew 4:18-20)	22
1.3.2. The Miraculous Catch of Fish (Luke 5:3-8)	25
1.4. Healing of Peter's Mother-in-Law (Mark 1:29-30)	29
1.5. Peter Searches for the Missing Master (Mark 1:35-39)	32
2. St. Peter's Growth as a Disciple (Matthew 14-18)	35
2.1. Chief of the Twelve Apostles	35
Inner Circle – Peter, James, and John	35
2.2. Peter as a Spokesman for the Disciples	36
2.3. Peter Walks on the Water (Matthew 14:22-34)	38
Phantom on the Water (Matthew 14:22-27)	38
Walking on Water (Matthew 14:28-30)	39
Faith for Miracles (Matthew 14:31)	40
You Are the Son of God (Matthew 14:32-34)	42
2.4. Peter and the Temple Tax (Matthew 17:24-27)	43
Temple Tax (Matthew 17:24-25a)	44
The Sons Are Exempt (Matthew 17:25b-26a)	45
So That We May Not Offend Them (Matthew 14:27)	45
2.5. 77-Fold Forgiveness (Matthew 18:21-22)	47
On Forgiving One's Brother (Matthew 18:21-22)	48
Seven Times vs. Seventy-Seven Times	49
Who Must We Forgive?	50

St. Peter: Disciple Lessons from the Rock	5
3. St. Peter's Confession and the Keys to the Kingdom (Matthew 16:13-27)	52
Withdrawing to Caesarea Philippi	52
3.1 Peter's Confession in All Synoptic Gospels (Matthew 16:13-15, 20-27)	53
1. Question: Who do people say Jesus is? (Matthew 16:13-14)	53
2. Confession: Peter's Confession of Jesus as the Messiah (Matthew 16:15-16)	54
3. Secrecy: Jesus commands them to keep this Messianic secret (Matthew 16:20)	55
4. Prediction: Jesus says he must suffer, be killed, and rise from the dead (Mt. 16:21)	56
5. Objection: Peter refuses to accept Jesus' prediction of suffering (Matthew 16:22-23)	57
6. Requirement: Deny self, take up cross, and follow (Matthew 16:24-25)	58
Forfeiting One's Life (Matthew 16:25-27)	61
3.2. Jesus' Special Words to Peter (Matthew 16:16-19)	62
1. Jesus blesses Simon Bar-Jonah (Matthew 16:17)	62
2. Jesus calls Peter the rock upon which the Church is built (Matthew 16:18)	63
3. Jesus grants Peter the keys of the Kingdom (Matthew 16:19a)	66
4. Jesus grants the power to bind and loose (Matthew 16:19b)	67
Interpretation of the Passage on the Keys	69
Qualifying My Interpretation	69
Further Questions	70
The Legend of St. Peter at the Pearly Gates	71
3.3. Peter's Other Confession (John 6:67-69)	72
4. St. Peter's Glory and Humiliation (Luke 9:27-36; John 13:1-17)	74
4.1. The Transfiguration (Luke 9:27-36)	74
Coming in Glory	74
Jesus' Appearance Is Transfigured (Luke 9:29)	76
Talking with Moses and Elijah (Luke 9:30-31)	77
Peter's Plan for Three Shelters (Luke 9:32-33)	77
The Cloud and the Voice (Luke 9:34-35)	78
Why Was the Transfiguration Necessary?	78
Glimpses of Glory	79
Eyewitness to Christ's Glory (2 Peter 1:10-18)	79
4.2 Jesus Washes the Disciple's Feet (John 13:1-17)	80
Washing the Disciples' Feet (John 13:4-5)	81
St. Peter's Objection (John 13:6-9)	83
Washed by Jesus (John 13:8b-10a)	83
An Example of Humble Service (John 13:14-17)	85
4.3. Humble Yourselves (1 Peter 5:1-7)	86
Not Power but Example (1 Peter 5:1-5a)	86
Clothed with Humility (1 Peter 5:5)	87

God as Adversary to the Proud (1 Peter 5:5b-6)	88
God as Sustainer of the Humble (1 Peter 5:6b-7)	88
5. St. Peter's Crisis and Denial (Luke 22, Mark 14)	90
5.1. Peter Seeks to Know Jesus' Betrayer (John 13:24)	90
5.2. Peter's Denial Predicted (Luke 22:31-34)	91
Sifting as Wheat (Luke 22:31)	92
Strengthen Your Brothers (Luke 22:32)	94
Predicting Peter's Denial (Luke 22:34)	95
Weakness and Strength	95
5.3. Sleeping in Gethsemane (Mark 14:32-42)	97
Gethsemane	97
Jesus Deep Distress (Mark 14:33-34)	98
Stay Awake (Mark 14:34-42)	99
5.4. Resisting Temptation (1 Peter 5:8-11)	101
5.5. Cutting Off the Servant's Ear (John 18:10-11)	103
Buy a Sword (Luke 22:36b)	103
Malchus, the High Priest's Servant	104
Peter's Courage and Cowardice	104
5.6. Peter's Denial	105
At the Cross	107
How Does Peter Differ from Judas?	107
6. St. Peter and the Risen Christ (Luke 24; John 20-21)	109
6.1. The Empty Tomb and Graveclothes (John 20:4-7; Luke 24:12)	109
The Testimony of the Graveclothes	110
Comprehending the Resurrection	111
The Resurrection Foretold	112
6.2. Jesus' Appears to Peter (Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5)	113
6.3. Jesus' Appears to the Disciples in Galilee (John 21:1-14)	114
Peter and Other Disciples Go Fishing in Galilee (John 21:1-3)	114
Go to Galilee (Matthew 28:10)	114
Throw Your Net on the Right Side of the Boat (John 1:4-6)	115
Peter Swims to Shore (John 21:7-8)	116
Fish on the Fire (John 21:8-11)	117
Jesus Offers the Disciples Breakfast (John 21:12-14)	118
6.4. Jesus Restores Peter (John 21:15-17)	119
Peter, Do You Love Me? Feed My Sheep (John 21:15-17)	119
6.5 Jesus Prophecies Peter's Death (John 21:18-19)	120

7. St. Peter's Leadership in the Early Church (Acts 1-4)	124
7.1. Appointing a Twelfth Disciple (Acts 1:15-26)	124
Leadership Style	126
7.2. Peter's Pentecost Sermon (Acts 2:14-37)	127
Jesus the Crucified Messiah	128
Jesus' Resurrection (Acts 2:24-31-35)	128
Deep Conviction (Acts 2:36-37)	129
Repent, Be Baptized, and Receive the Spirit (Acts 2:38-39)	130
Salvation from a Corrupt Generation (Acts 2:40)	133
7.3 Ministry Preparation of Peter and the Apostles (Acts 2:41-47)	135
7.4. Peter and John Heal the Lame Beggar (Acts 3:1-10)	137
Walking, Leaping, and Praising God (Acts 3:7-10)	140
Decreeing Miracles	140
7.5. Peter's Sermon in Solomon's Porch (Acts 3:11-26)	141
7.6. Peter and John before the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:1-22)	143
Interrogation before the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:5-7)	143
Peter's Declaration before the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:8-12)	144
Christ the Cornerstone (Acts 4:11; Psalm 118:21-22; Isaiah 28:16)	144
Salvation in No Other Name (Acts 4:12)	145
The Sanhedrin's Response (Acts 4:13-22)	145
Obeying God Rather than Man (Acts 4:19-20)	146
7.7. On Giving Testimony (1 Peter 3:15-18)	147
A Prepared, Gentle Witness (1 Peter 3:15-16)	147
Christ's Suffering for Us (1 Peter 3:17-18a)	149
7.8. A Prayer for Boldness (Acts 4:23-31)	150
8. St. Peter's Authority and Power (Acts 5-8)	153
8.1 Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5)	153
Sharing Everything (Acts 4:32)	153
Lying about the Gift (Acts 5:1-11)	154
8.2 Peter's Shadow Heals (Acts 5:15)	156
Healing via Proximity to Holy People and Objects (Acts 5:15)	157
8.3 The Apostles' Arrest (Acts 5:17-29)	159
Peter's Clear Testimony (Acts 5:30-32)	160
Gamaliel's Counsel (Acts 5:33-42)	162
Persecution Doesn't Stop the Apostles (Acts 5:41-42)	163
Intense Persecution (Acts 8:1-4)	165
8.4 Peter and John Minister in Samaria (Acts 8:5-25)	165
The Holy Spirit Falls (Acts 8:14-17)	166

Simon Magus (Acts 8:9-11)	167
Rebuke (Acts 8:18-24)	168
9. St. Peter's Ministry to the Gentiles (Acts 9-11)	171
9.1 Paul Meets Peter in Jerusalem (Galatians 1:18-19)	171
9.2 Healing of Aeneas (Acts 9:32-35)	172
9.3 The Raising of Dorcas (Acts 9:36-43)	174
Dorcas the Giver (Acts 9:36, 39)	174
The Raising of Dorcas (Acts 9:37-42)	175
9.4 Staying with Simon the Tanner (Acts 9:43)	176
Patient Teaching on Godly Living	178
9.5 Peter and Cornelius the Centurion (Acts 10-11, 37 AD)	179
Caesarea Maritima	179
Cornelius the Centurion (Acts 10:1-2)	180
Cornelius's Vision (Acts 10:3-8)	183
Peter's Rooftop Vision (Acts 10:9-16)	184
Peter Addresses Cornelius's Friends (Acts 10:27-29)	186
Call No One Common and Unclean (Acts 10:28-29)	187
God Doesn't Show Favoritism (Acts 10:29-43)	187
Peter Preaches Jesus (Acts 10:36-43)	188
Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection (Acts 10:39-43)	189
The Holy Spirit Comes upon the Gentiles (Acts 10:44-46)	190
Criticism from the Jewish Believers in Jerusalem (Acts 11:1-18)	191
10. St. Peter's Suffering and Counsel (Acts 12-15)	193
Herod Agrippa (ruled 37 to 44 AD)	193
Herod Kills James (Acts 12:1-2)	194
10.1 Peter's Imprisonment and Deliverance (Acts 12:1-17)	194
Herod Arrests Peter (Acts 12:3-5)	194
Peter's Escape from Prison (Acts 12:6-17)	195
10.2. Rejoicing in Suffering (1 Peter 1:3-9)	198
Growth Despite Persecution (Acts 12:24)	199
10.3. Peter in Antioch	200
Antioch of Syria	200
Peter's Hypocrisy in Antioch (Galatians 2:11-14)	201
10.4. Peter's Word at the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15:1-29)	203
Danger from Judaizers	203
Peter's Testimony to the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15:7-11)	204
James' Summation (Acts 15:12-29)	205

St. Peter: Disciple Lessons from the Rock	9
10.5. Peter's Emphasis on Faith and Grace	206
11. St. Peter's Ministry to the World	209
11.1. Peter's Ministry in Antioch, Asia Minor, and Greece	209
Peter's Ministry in Antioch	209
Peter's Ministry in Asia Minor	210
Peter's Ministry in Corinth	211
11.2. Peter's Ministry in Rome	212
Babylon = Rome	212
Mark as Peter's Interpreter	213
Length of Peter's Ministry in Rome	214
11.3. Preaching, Miracles, and Evangelism	215
11.4. Peter's Opposition to False Teachers	217
The Legend of Simon Magus	217
Condemnation of False Teachers (2 Peter)	218
11.5. Peter's Teaching on Practical Christian Living (1 Peter)	218
The Theme of Priesthood (1 Peter 2:9-10)	218
The Theme of Holiness	220
The Theme of Submission (1 Peter 2:13-3:7)	221
The Theme of Following in Jesus' Steps (1 Peter 2:20-25)	221
11.6 Peter's Death by Crucifixion	223
The <i>Quo Vadis</i> Legend	223
Rome Burns; Christians Are Blamed	224
Peter's Crucifixion	225
11.8. Peter's Exalted View of Jesus (1 Peter)	226
Jesus as the Lamb of God (1 Peter 1:18-21)	226
Jesus as the Cornerstone (1 Peter 2:4-8)	227
Appendix 1. Participant Handouts	230
Appendix 2. References to St. Peter in the New Testament	231
Appendix 3. Chronology of St. Peter's Life	233
Appendix 4. The Synoptic Problem	235
Appendix 5. Primacy of Peter and Papal Primacy	238
From Elders to a Monarchical Episcopacy	238
Father, Pope, and Pontiff	238
Gradual Ascendency of Roman Influence	239
Peter's Primacy and Roman Primacy	239
Peter's Primacy and Fear	240

Appendix 6. The Legend of Peter’s Upside-Down Crucifixion	241
Appendix 7. How Can a Human Minister Forgive Sin?	243
Apostles are Given Power to Forgive and Retain Sins	243
Abuse of the Power of Absolution	244
Penitence Necessary	244
God Alone Actually Forgives Sin	245