

Take Another Step — In Faith

Peter: A Second Chance

Another Step // Study Two

Along with the disciples James and John, Peter was in Jesus' inner circle of three that was within His inner circle of twelve. Peter was a fisherman, called by Jesus to "fish for people." He was the only one of the twelve disciples to have a go at walking on water and he was there with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. Peter was the one Jesus addressed when he said in Matthew 6:18 "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." Yet Peter was the one who went on to turn his back on Jesus, completely denying knowing Him three times as Jesus was on His way to crucifixion. It was likely Peter's lowest moment. When he realised what he'd done, he was heartbroken. Luke 22:62 tells us that "he went outside and wept bitterly".

With that in mind, have someone in your group read John 21:1-19, looking for what happened after Jesus was crucified and Peter had returned to fishing.

Discuss:

- *What do you notice in Peter's story as he closely followed Jesus, made a huge mistake, and then was commissioned again for ministry? How would you describe Peter's story to someone who is unfamiliar with his story?*
- *After Peter turned his back on Jesus and after Jesus was raised from the dead, what do you notice about Jesus' next encounter with Peter?*
- *In what ways might you relate to Peter as you look back on this year? Maybe it hasn't gone the way you expected. Maybe you have some regrets. Share those reflections amongst the group. What have you learned and what might still be learned from those experiences?*
- *As the leader, call attention to the character of Jesus. In Peter's story we see that God is the God of second chances. Maybe you haven't stepped out in faith this year in a way that you wanted to. But it's not too late! What might God be inviting you to step forward in right now? (It could be getting serious about your prayer life, your worship, your time devoted to God and His word. It could be setting aside something that's unhealthy or repenting from sin. It might be stepping out in faith to share the good news of Jesus and having a tangible impact on those around you, or getting involved in your church community in a deeper way.)*

Digging Deeper:

Colossians 1:15 says, "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation." The Old Testament paints a picture of who God is, but it's in Jesus that we see that picture reach its completion. Put simply, in Jesus we see what God is like.

- *Have you had any pictures in your mind of what God is like that have proven to be inaccurate? You may have previously seen him as angry, distant, or disinterested. What has God taught you during this year about who He is?*