

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL – Fall 2024 – FBC

The Life of Peter

Lesson #1 – The Historical Peter and His “Coming to Faith” – Sept 15/24

Class welcome and introductions – what story about Peter do you recall?

General Introduction to this L4L class: In this class we will look at Peter as (1) a disciple (our source will be the Gospels), (2) an apostle (our source will be primarily Acts) and (3) a church leader (our source will be his 2 letters).

Intro to Lesson #1 - Part One: Peter is a large figure in Gospels; we all feel like we know him and certainly he is the most memorable of the disciples. But what is the essential Peter? Page 4 gives some details about “Peter’s World” and give us a window into the “historical Peter”.

1. What do we know about Peter as a person?

- he is called both Simon (a Greek name which is used 75 times in the NT) and Simeon/Symeon a spelling that reflects his Aramaic name. Thus a bilingual culture and indicates that Peter is probably bilingual and lived in a world very much influenced by Greek ideas.
- his home – John 1:44 –
- his marital status – Mark 1:30, I Corinthians 9:5
- his profession – Mark 1:16-21
- his speech – Matt. 26:73

Part Two: Peter’s spiritual “journey”: how did meeting Jesus affect him?

2. This historical Peter encounters Jesus. READ the longer attached texts (John 1:35-44, Matthew 4:18-20, & Luke 5:1-11) and look closely at the details of his first interactions with Jesus. What do these verses tell us about Peter? What interest or knowledge or assumptions does he seem to have?

- What do you make of the way Peter is introduced to Jesus by Andrew?
- What is Peter’s first reaction to Jesus?
- What is the significance of the name change & the invitation by Jesus?
- What is the significance of “falling down at Jesus feet”?

3. What is your background in terms of faith? In what context were you “called” or drawn to become a “follower of Jesus”? What did you find appealing about Jesus? Why was that appealing to you?

NEXT WEEK: “Reducing the Options”

SCRIPTURE TEXTS for Lesson #1:

2.

Mark 1:30 Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once.

I Corinthians 9:5 Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?

Mark 1:16-21 As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you fish for people.’ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Matthew 26:73 After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, ‘Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.’

John 1:35-44 The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, ‘Look, here is the Lamb of God!’ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, ‘What are you looking for?’ They said to him, ‘Rabbi’ (which translated means Teacher), ‘where are you staying?’ He said to them, ‘Come and see.’ They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, ‘You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas’ (which is translated Peter).

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, ‘Follow me.’ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

Matthew 4:18-20 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.’ Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

3.

Luke 5:1-11 Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.’ Simon answered, ‘Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.’ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, ‘Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!’ For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.’ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.