



"Come follow Me," Jesus said. Matthew 5:19



Bible Study

Read the accounts of Peter's powerful proclamations of Jesus as Messiah before crowds and authorities (Acts 2:14-40; Acts 3:12-26; Acts 4:5-12). The Bible tells us that Jewish leaders were amazed that a simple fisherman could speak with such courage and authority as he skillfully explained how "the author of life" was put to death by the very people who claimed to have total devotion to God. Peter's courage speaks to a supernatural work done by Jesus. Peter's story like all gospel stories, magnifies the Love, Power and Grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



The gospel in the story:

Though Peter spent three years as a devoted follower of Jesus, Salvation came to him after Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection. Peter came to understand that God sent Jesus for this very purpose. Before that point, even though Peter was quite brave and outspoken and even faithful in his devotion to Jesus, he was still a **slave to sin, pride and selfishness**. In Peter's story, this is most evident in his denial of Jesus during Jesus' incarceration. Though Peter boldly insisted that he would NEVER leave or forsake Jesus, that is exactly what happened as Jesus was taken into custody. God is the only one who can make that claim (never leave us or forsake us) and KEEP IT! He did so by sending His Only Son to die in our place and pull us out of slavery to sin.

Application:

Head: What did we learn?

Q: Who was Peter before he met Jesus? A: A Jewish fisherman.

Q: Who was Peter after he met Jesus? A: One of Jesus' 12 disciples.

Q: Was Peter able to fulfill his promise to never deny Jesus? A: NO

Q: Was Jesus able to fulfill His promise to be the Lamb of God who takes away sins? A: YES

Q: Did Peter earn favor with God for his brave acts? A: NO

Q: Did Jesus reject Peter for his sinful acts? A: NO

Q: Well, then how did Peter receive salvation from Sin? A: Putting his faith in Jesus, and the justifying work of death burial and resurrection.

Q: Did Peter "catch a lot of fish" when he told his story? A: YES.

Heart: Memory Verse

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Hands: How does this affect the way I live my life?

Like Peter, every follower of Jesus has a Gospel story to tell. The more true followers of Jesus (which he refers to as disciples, which means learner) realize that our story **IS ALL ABOUT GOD**. The better we understand that, the better we speak the Gospel when we share our story.