

# The Apostle Peter

Matthew 4:18-20



New Testament 4  
Part 2: Lessons from the Apostle Peter

## SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 4 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Matthew 4:18-20; 1 Peter 1:3-12; 2:21; 3:8-18; 4:12-19; 5:7-9; Matthew 5:10-12; 10:16-39; 13:1-9, 18-23; John 15:18-20; 16:1-4

### MEMORY WORK:

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18).

### SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- [“This is the Way to Grow in Christ”](#)
- [“God’s Little Children Love Living Right”](#)
- [“Read Your Bible, Pray Everyday”](#)
- [“The Apostles”](#)
- [“The Twelve Apostles”](#)

### LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP’s Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [N.T. Disciples & Peter](#) Bible fact cards (provided under “N.T. 4 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)
- “Summary of the Bible” from [“Kids Prep”](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- Peter flannelgraph
- Pictures from different events in the life of Peter described in the lesson.
- Ask one of the men or teenage boys of your congregation to role play the part of Peter, and have him describe the events in Peter’s life (as told by Peter) mentioned in this lesson.
- Cut out large letters (at least 12” tall) to spell “PETER.” On each letter, put a picture or words to represent different things in Peter’s life. Examples: small stone; “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”; sword and rooster; man preaching (old flannelgraph piece); man in prison.



## PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I make mistakes, but I can learn to do better and to trust God more, through prayer and study of His Word.

## LESSON STARTS HERE

### INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Sometimes we say things that are not very nice, but that doesn't mean we can't change and do better. Jesus always wants us to try to do what's right. Today we will learn about a man who said some things that weren't nice, but was sorry and later did some great things for Jesus.

### INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Have you ever done or said things for which you were later sorry? Have you ever “not stood up for” Jesus when your friends were teasing you or saying things against the Bible? How did it make you feel when that happened? (If children are willing, discuss this for a few minutes.) We are not alone in doing wrong things or in denying Jesus. Today, we will learn how one of the Church's greatest leaders did those things, but Jesus still used him to teach others.

### POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. When Jesus was looking for men to carry on His work after His death, He chose 12 men out of all the thousands who followed Him. A fisherman named Peter was one of those 12. Because Jesus knows what we are like on the inside (what we think) and what our talents are (what we are capable of), He knew that Peter could one day be a great leader in the Church. In fact, the first time Jesus met Peter He gave him a nickname, Cephas, which means “a rock or stone.”
2. Unfortunately, sometimes Peter was quick to say things and do things without thinking, and that got him into trouble.
3. In a small boat, crossing the Sea of Galilee with the other apostles, he asked to get out of the boat and walk to Jesus on the water. But he started sinking when his faith was tested by the waves (Matthew 14:22-36).
4. When he told Jesus that He should not talk about dying, the Lord scolded him (Mark 8:31-33). He (and the other apostles) still hoped Jesus would be an earthly king. They didn't yet understand that Jesus had to die.
5. When the soldiers came to arrest Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter drew out a small sword and cut off the ear of Malchus, a servant of the high priest. Jesus scolded him and told him to put away his weapon. Once again, Peter did something quickly, without thinking of the consequences. Then he ran away, along with the other apostles (John 18:10ff.)!
6. Peter also did some great things:
  - When Jesus asked the 12 what other people were saying about Him, they gave several different answers. But Peter spoke up, and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:18). Jesus was very pleased with Peter's confession of faith. He said that same kind of faith would be the foundation upon which the Church would be built.



**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[Was Peter the First Pope?](#)” by Moisés Pinedo on the Apologetics Press Web site for further discussion of the Catholic Church’s claim about Peter.

- When many of Jesus’ disciples deserted Him, He asked the 12 if they also would go away. Peter spoke up and bravely said, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also, we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (John 6:68-69).
7. The most terrible thing Peter did was to say that he did not know Jesus after the Lord was arrested. He ran away at first, but then followed at a distance to see what would happen to Jesus. In the courtyard of the high priest, Peter was asked three times if he knew Jesus or if he was His disciple. All three times Peter denied knowing Jesus and then the rooster crowed, just as Jesus said it would (Mark 14:27-31). Peter was overwhelmed by sorrow for what he had done and he “went out and wept bitterly” (Matthew 26:69-75; Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:54-62; John 18:15-18,25-27).



**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the articles “[How Many Times Did the Rooster Crow?](#)” and “[The Event Could Have Happened Only One Way](#)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for further discussion of alleged discrepancies in the Bible regarding Peter’s denial.

8. Jesus knew that Peter had a good heart and that he believed, but his faith needed to grow. Jesus knew that Peter could become a great leader in the Church, even though he had made some big mistakes. After His resurrection, Jesus talked with Peter, forgave him, and encouraged him (John 21:15-19). From that point on, Peter was the leader Jesus wanted him to be. He became a great preacher and was often persecuted because of his work for the Lord.
9. He also wrote two books of the New Testament (1 and 2 Peter) to encourage other Christians not to give up when they make mistakes, but to continually grow in faith. We can learn from Peter, too, because we also make mistakes. Jesus did not give up on Peter, and He won’t give up on us as long as we’re trying to do the right things. Through prayer and study of God’s Word, we can learn to do better and to trust God more every day.

**PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):**

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

**Ages 2-5:**

- “[The Apostle Peter Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Set up an obstacle course outside or in a large classroom. Use a crepe paper curtain, large building blocks, a beanbag or large floor pillow, and anything else that you have room for (like a tunnel made of boxes or 50 gallon drums). Using a stop watch, time each of the students to see how fast they can answer a question about this or previous lessons and then go through the obstacle course. If they cannot answer the first question, move to another question, while the clock is still ticking.
- Have pictures of animal parents and their offspring, as well as adult humans and their children. Talk about how the animal parents were once small but grew, and the little ones will, too, if they

have enough to eat (i.e., learn how to find their food) and get enough sleep and exercise. The same is true for human children. But humans have souls and need to “nourish” their souls with God’s Word and prayer so that their faith will grow.

- Fishing Game: write questions about Peter and the lesson on fish cutouts and use a play fishing pole with a magnet and let the children catch a fish and answer the question. They might get goldfish to eat when they answer. (Fish cutouts [with questions](#) and [without questions](#) provided in activity sheets)
- Make a string of “fish facts” about Peter. Write or type simple facts about Peter on fish cutouts and have the children color the fish and string them on a fishing line (hole punch the fish and use yarn for the string). Tie the string in a knot and children can use this to review facts about Peter at home.

### 1st-2nd Graders:

- Divide the class into pairs, and give each pair a Bible concordance. Ask them to find five or six scriptures with the word “grow” or “growth.”
- “[The Apostle Peter Word Search](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Make a string of “fish facts” about Peter. Write or type simple facts about Peter on fish cutouts and have the children color the fish and string them on a fishing line (hole punch the fish and use yarn for the string). Tie the string in a knot and children can use this to review facts about Peter at home. (Fish cutouts [with questions](#) and [without questions](#) provided in activity sheets)
- In pairs, ask the children to unscramble the following short phrases:
  - DRAE ORUY BEBLI (Read Your Bible)
  - RPYA LAL EHT EMTI (Pray All the Time)
  - BOYE SDGO DRWO (Obey God’s Word)
  - NESPD EMIT HTWI ODG (Spend Time with God)
- Play Tic Tac Toe with facts from this lesson ([Tic-Tac-Toe Instructions and Board](#) provided in activity sheets).

### 3rd-4th Graders:

- Divide the class into pairs, and give each pair a Bible concordance. Ask them to find five or six scriptures with the word “grow” or “growth.”
- “[The Apostle Peter Word Search](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- In pairs, ask the children to unscramble the following short phrases:
  - DRAE ORUY BEBLI (Read Your Bible)
  - RPYA LAL EHT EMTI (Pray All the Time)
  - BOYE SDGO DRWO (Obey God’s Word)
  - NESPD EMIT HTWI ODG (Spend Time with God)
- Play Tic Tac Toe with facts from this lesson ([Tic-Tac-Toe Instructions and Board](#) provided in activity sheets).
- Advanced Bible Reader: Have the kids read 1 Peter. [This could be assigned Sunday, to be completed by Wednesday.] Print out copies of the 1 Peter quiz from AP’s [Advanced Bible Reader](#) (ABR) site. Have each of the children take the quiz. If you have not already, outside of class, make ABR accounts for each of the children and put their answers into the ABR quiz for each child. Show them their scores in the next Bible class, and explain what ABR is.
- Have the children read:
  - Matthew 13

- *Peter the Apostle*, by Carine Mackenzie, A Bibletime Book, Christian Focus Publications (DISCLAIMER: On page six, note that in Acts 2:38, Peter tells the Jews that the baptism discussed was “for the remission of sins.”)
- *Simon Peter the Disciple*, by Carine Mackenzie, A Bibletime Book, Christian Focus Publications (DISCLAIMER: p. 9—remove the last sentence that begins with “After...”; p. 18—remove the paragraph that begins with “Boys and girls...”)

## SONGS:

### “THIS IS THE WAY TO GROW IN CHRIST” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown\*

(Tune: “London Bridge Is Falling Down”)

This is the way to grow in Christ, grow in Christ, grow in Christ,  
This is the way to grow in Christ—we’ll read God’s Word!

This is the way to grow in Christ, grow in Christ, grow in Christ,  
This is the way to grow in Christ—we’ll worship God!

This is the way to grow in Christ, grow in Christ, grow in Christ,  
This is the way to grow in Christ—we we’ll pray each day!

### “GOD’S LITTLE CHILDREN LOVE LIVING RIGHT!” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Sarah Richey

(Tune: “Mammy’s Li’l Baby Loves Short’nin’ Bread”)

God’s little children love living, living,  
God’s little children love living right!

(REPEAT)

Get out the Bible, turn to the place,  
Gonna talk about Jesus and His saving grace!  
He is our Savior; He saved our race!  
Gonna spread Jesus all over this place!

(REPEAT FIRST STANZA)

### “READ YOUR BIBLE, PRAY EVERYDAY” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown\*

If you read your Bible and pray everyday, you’ll grow, grow, grow. (REPEAT)

Grow, grow, grow, grow,

Grow, grow, grow.

If you read your Bible and pray everyday, you’ll grow, grow, grow.

(Make hand movements as if reading, praying, and like a child growing.)

If you neglect your Bible and forget to pray, you'll shrink, shrink, shrink.  
(Make hand movements as if closing Bible, head gesture saying "No," and like a child shrinking.)

(REPEAT)

Shrink, shrink, shrink, shrink,  
Shrink, shrink, shrink.

If you neglect your Bible and forget to pray, you'll shrink, shrink, shrink.  
(Make hand movements as if closing Bible, head gesture saying "No," and like a child shrinking.)

So read your Bible and pray everyday, and you'll grow, grow, grow.  
(Make hand movements as if reading, praying, and like a child growing.) (REPEAT)

Grow, grow, grow, grow,  
Grow, grow, grow.

So read your Bible and pray everyday, and you'll grow, grow, grow.  
(Make hand movements as if reading, praying, and like a child growing.)

### **"THE APOSTLES"**

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See "[Kids Prep](#)" CD)

Peter and Andrew his brother;  
James and John of Zebedee;  
Philip and Bartholomew,  
and then Thomas and Matthew.

James the son of Alpheus,  
And also, there was Thaddeus,  
Simon, and Judas Iscariot,  
Paul and Matthias.

### **"THE TWELVE APOSTLES" ([Click to Hear](#))**

Author: Unknown\*

(Tune: "Jesus Loves me")

#### VERSE 1:

Jesus called them one by one,  
Peter, Andrew, James, and John,  
Next came Philip, Thomas, too,  
Matthew and Bartholomew.

#### CHORUS:

Yes, Jesus called them.  
Yes, Jesus called them.  
Yes, Jesus called them.  
And they all followed Him.

#### VERSE 2:

James the one they called the Less,  
Simon, also Thaddeus.

Twelfth apostle Judas made.  
Jesus was by him betrayed.

(CHORUS)

VERSE 3:

Matthias then took Judas' place,  
To preach to men of every race.  
Paul three preaching trips did make.  
He went to Rome for Jesus' sake.

(CHORUS)

\*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

\*\*\* IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE  
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## WEDNESDAY EVENING

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## PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I make mistakes, but I can learn to do better and to trust God more, through prayer and study of His Word.

## INTRODUCTION:

- [N.T. 4 Bible Fact Flashcards](#) (provided under “N.T. 4 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

## POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Briefly review Sunday morning’s lesson (see [N.T. 4 Review Questions](#) for example questions)
2. Review strengths and “weaknesses” of apostles discussed in New Testament 3 lessons.
3. Discuss how even though we make mistakes, sometimes big ones, God forgives us and can still use us in His service. Discuss other Bible characters that made mistakes, but whom God still used for great things (Moses, David, Jonah, Abraham, etc.).



**NOTE:** According to Title 18, Section 333 of the United States Code, it is not illegal to disfigure or cut currency, unless the intent is to “render [it]...unfit to be reissued.”

4. Show a dollar bill to the kids, and talk about how valuable it is. Then crumple it up, throw it on the floor and put some small tears in it. While doing so, talk about how we make mistakes and get dirty and crinkled by sin. Then pick up the dollar, straighten it out, and ask the kids if they would still want it. Of course they would. It is still worth a dollar. Then explain how God still values us even when we are crumpled and dirty.

## PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning’s lesson

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