

LIFE OF  
PETER

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FALL 2020

### Course Goals

- To understand the scope and source of Peter's character transformation
- To imitate Peter's growth in Christ-like character
- To prepare to defend a scriptural view of Peter's role and authority in the early church

### Schedule of Lessons

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lesson</b>
Sunday, Sept 20	1 – Meeting the Master
Wednesday, Sept 23	2 – A Weekend with Jesus
Sunday, Sept 27	3 – Peter Among the Apostles
Wednesday, Sept 30	4 – Who Jesus Is and What He Came to Do
Sunday, Oct 4	5 – Peter at the Transfiguration
Wednesday, Oct 7	6 – The Last Supper and Crucifixion
Sunday, Oct 11	7 – Begotten Again by the Resurrection
Wednesday, Oct 14	8 – Using the Keys to the Kingdom
Sunday, Oct 18	9 – Confronting the Jewish Leadership
Wednesday, Oct 21	10 – Preaching in Judea and Samaria
Sunday, Oct 25	11 – Preaching to Gentiles
Wednesday, Oct 28	12 – Peter's Sufferings
Sunday, Nov 1	13 – Peter on Suffering and False Teaching

## Lesson 4

**Who Jesus Is and What He Came to Do****Objectives**

- Explain what the “keys to the kingdom” are and how Peter used them
- List at least 2 instances from Acts where Peter exercised special God-given authority in the early church

**Introductory Notes**

Jesus reached the peak of His popularity as He offered bread to the multitude of 5,000. The decline in His popularity began the next day as He offered Himself to them as the bread of life.

**Text Questions**

1. In Capernaum, **John 6:60-71**
  - a. What did many of Jesus' disciples say about His claim to be the bread of life?
  - b. What did Jesus say was spirit and life for them?
  - c. What did Jesus know from the beginning about His disciples?
  - d. What did many of His disciples do (v.66)?
  - e. What question did Jesus ask the twelve?
  - k. Give Peter's reply in full.
  
2. In Caesarea Philippi, **Matthew 16:13-20**
  - a. What question did Jesus ask His disciples?
  - b. What were some popular opinions? Give some reasons for each.
  
  - c. Who acted as spokesman for the disciples in giving their opinion of Jesus?
  - d. What conviction did he express?
  
  - e. What was the source of this conviction?
  - f. What was the rock on which Jesus promised to build His church?
  - g. What did Jesus promise to give to Peter? What is the use of such items?
  - h. When did Peter use the keys in a unique way?

- i. What relation did Jesus say would exist between Peter's action on earth and action in heaven?
- j. Was Peter the only apostle to whom this promise was made (**Matthew 18:18**)?
- k. What were the apostles not to tell anyone?

### 3. Peter's Blunder, **Matthew 16:21-28**

- a. What did Jesus begin to reveal to the apostles?
- b. How did Peter respond?
- c. What did Jesus call Peter? What is the meaning of this name?
- d. What made Peter an offense to Jesus?
- e. Why do you think Peter reacted so negatively to the prediction of Jesus?
- f. How would the words of Jesus in vv.24-25 address themselves to Peter's mistake?
- g. According to v.28, when was the Son of Man to come in His kingdom (the kingdom to which Peter was given the keys)?

### Thought Questions

1. How would you disprove to someone that Peter was the first Pope, or the first earthly head of the church? What evidence is found in Matthew 16?
2. If we conclude that Peter was not the first Pope, does that mean that Peter was not given and did not exercise a unique role and authority in the early church? Consider **Acts 1:15-16, 2:14, 5:1-11**. What do you think was Peter's role in the early church?
3. What earthly ideas or philosophies do we allow to interfere with our understanding of who Jesus is and what His kingdom is about?