

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

| Date | Lesson |
|--------------------|--|
| 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 11

Preaching in Judea and Samaria**Objectives**

- Describe the similarities and differences between Peter's sermon in Acts 10 and his previous sermons
- Explain the significance of Cornelius being the first Gentile convert

Introductory Notes

All preaching of the gospel to this point had been done among Jews. Old Testament prophecy had foretold the conversion of the nations to the worship of God. Peter himself said concerning the promise of remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit that the promise was also to "all who are far off" (**Acts 2:39**). The prayers of a devout Gentile in Caesarea reminded God of His promise (**Acts 10:4**).

Text Questions1. Preliminary Events, **Acts 10:1-33**

- What did an angel tell Cornelius to do?
- What did Cornelius do in response?
- In Joppa, what was Peter doing about noon the next day?
- Why did Peter refuse to eat the animals in the vision?
- What did the voice from heaven tell him?
- Did Peter understand the vision immediately?
- What instructions did the Holy Spirit give Peter regarding the men who had come for him?
- Whom did Peter take with him to Caesarea?
- How did Cornelius greet Peter?
- What had Peter decided about the meaning of the vision?
- What question did Peter ask Cornelius?
- What was his answer (v.33)?

2. Conversion of the Gentiles, **Acts 10:34-48**

- What truth did Peter perceive (vv.34-35)?
- Did Cornelius know anything about Jesus before Peter came?
- How does Peter's message (vv.39-41) compare with his sermons in Acts 2, 3 and 5?
- What did Peter say was available for all who believe in Jesus?

- e. What happened as Peter was speaking?
 - f. How did they know what had happened?
 - g. Why were the Jews from Joppa astonished?
 - h. What did this prove to Peter according to v. 47?
3. The Sequel in Jerusalem, **Acts 11:1-18**
- a. What charge did the brethren make against Peter?
 - b. List at least four facts Peter reported in his defense.
 - c. According to the angel, by what was Cornelius to be saved (v.14)?
 - d. Why, then, did the Holy Spirit come on them?
4. Conclusion: The Conference in Jerusalem, **Acts 15:7-11**
- a. Acts 15 describes a conference discussing the position of the Gentiles in God's plan. Peter speaks in vv.7-11.
 - b. According to Peter's speech:
 - i. How did the Gentiles come to believe?
 - ii. By what were their hearts purified?
 - iii. What was accomplished by the baptism of the Spirit?

Thought Questions

1. Why do you think Peter was chosen to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles?
2. Why is it significant that Cornelius was the first Gentile to obey the Gospel? What additional impact would his race, occupation, and position have had on believers hearing about his conversion?
3. How does Peter's sermon in Acts 10 differ from his previous sermons? What is similar?