



# The Fisherman's View

SERMON SERIES  
STUDY GUIDE

Through this series we will be looking at the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus through the eyes of a common fisherman named Peter. We will notice how Jesus called him, encouraged him, and sent him on a mission. We are also blessed to hear from Peter himself as he would want to encourage us. Start with his words from 1 Peter 2:4-10 to hear what he wants for us as followers of Jesus today.

## **1 Peter 2:4-10 (NIV)**

### **The Living Stone and a Chosen People**

<sup>4</sup>As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—<sup>5</sup>you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,  
a chosen and precious cornerstone,  
and the one who trusts in him  
will never be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup>Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone,”

<sup>8</sup>and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

## February 22, 2026

### Session 1 | Ordinary Interruption



***Before you begin*** this session, read the inside cover of your materials.

### Background:

*This will help to set the context of the session if this is read aloud.*

Have you ever been minding your own business, doing what you need to do and then suddenly get interrupted? It can either be annoying, or a much-needed break. Either way, it pulls you away from what you are doing.

Here was Peter who had worked all night fishing. Washing his nets out was the end to a long night. A man (Jesus) followed by a crowd, gets into his boat and asks to be pushed away a bit from shore. This man was teaching the crowd from Peter's boat. After he finished speaking with the crowd, He told Peter to *"Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."* (NIV) Peter told Jesus that they worked all night and caught nothing, but because you say so we will do it. They caught so many fish that the nets started to break. They called other fisherman to help, and the boats started to sink because of the weight of the fish. Peter told Jesus to go away from him because he was a sinful man. Jesus told Peter, *"Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people."* (NIV) And they left their boats to follow Him.

"Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people."

**Luke 5:10b NIV**

Jesus called a common fisherman to be His disciple. Not a rabbi or scholar of the Scriptures. Someone just doing their normal job, minding their own business. Jesus is calling you. How might you grow in answering His call this Lenten season?

Fish will never be caught unless a net is cast, and people will never get saved unless we speak out.

**Christianity.com**

**Scripture:** Luke 5:1-11 and Romans 12:1-8

*Before engaging in the questions, read the Scripture passages aloud.*

### Sermon Reflection:

1. What stands out to you about today's sermon?
2. What did you learn about God? About people?

3. Any life-lessons to apply? How do you plan to apply them?

4. How can we pray for one another?

### Questions from the Bible:

1. Peter was washing his nets and so was done for the day, but Jesus asked to be taken out in his boat. How do you react when Jesus interrupts your schedule or goals?

2. Peter's reaction to Jesus' "great catch" miracle was one of conviction (v8) and fear (v10). Why did Peter react this way instead of, say, praise?

3. The Message translation of Romans 12:1 reads, "*So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.*" What do you think Paul intended when he said we are to "offer [our] bodies as a living sacrifice"?

4. What do you think the "great quantity of fish" symbolizes?

## Questions for Application:

1. How will your life change if you start being obedient to God in the small things?
2. Is there anything in your life you are holding on to too tightly? Is God calling you to give up something to follow Him completely?
3. The disciples left everything and followed Jesus (v.11). Does that find resonance in your commitment to Jesus? Explain.
4. Why do you think Jesus called His disciples from the working class, rather than calling men from the wealthy class, scholars, or rabbis?
5. In Romans 12:4-8, Paul gives instructions on identifying and using the gifts that God has given us. What have you done, or are doing, to identify your gifts and put them to use?
6. What have you learned from Peter that will help you with your faith walk?

**Dig Deeper:** *Consider starting one of these Bible reading plans to go deeper on this topic*

UNCOMMON: Fishers Of Men -5-day reading plan: <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/16011-uncommon-fishers-of-men>



UNCOMMON

The Miracle Catch -6- day reading plan: <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/56432-the-miracle-catch>



The Miracle Catch

### Questions for Discussion:

1. What are you reading in the Word this week?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How is your reading growing you in the Marks of Discipleship - prayers, presence, gifts, witness, service?

### Growth Challenge:

What is holding you back from sharing the Gospel? Jesus wants you to be fishers of people. Cast out your net.

## NOTES

March 1, 2026  
Session 2 | Bold Adventure



**Before you begin** this session, read the inside cover of your materials.

### Background:

*This will help to set the context of the session if this is read aloud.*

Peter's stepping out offers a glimpse into a pattern seen throughout the Gospels. God frequently requires an action of faith before He steps in and provides a miraculous solution. Abraham had to respond to God's call and leave his homeland (Gen.12:1-4). The Israelites had to look upon the bronze serpent on the pole to be saved from death caused by the fiery serpent's bite (Num. 21:8-9). The priests carrying the ark had to set foot into the Jordan before it was stopped and they could cross on dry land (Joshua 3:13-17). We have to take a step of faith and put our trust in Jesus before we are born again spiritually and inherit eternal life (John 1:12). The act of stepping out mirrors a willingness to trust God despite impossible circumstances.

Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

**Matthew 14:28-29 NIV**

After Peter started walking on the water, he focused on Jesus at first. "But when he saw the strength of the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Immediately Jesus reached out his hand, caught hold

of him, and said to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?'" (Matthew 14:30-31 CSB). If others had stepped out of the boat with Peter, might he have been encouraged to continue in faith and not succumb to fear?

This exchange highlights an abiding principle: faith is strengthened or hindered by what we choose to focus on. Peter's momentary triumph showed that trusting Christ enables believers to do what was otherwise impossible. His moment of doubt, however, underscores how easily fear can interrupt faith and how crucial it is to keep attention fixed on the One who has authority over all creation.

Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion.

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 NIV**

**Scripture:** Matthew 14:22-33 and Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

*Before engaging in the questions, read the Scripture passages aloud.*

### Sermon Reflection:

1. What stands out to you about today's sermon?



4. In this week's Matthew Scripture, what did the disciples think when they first saw Jesus walking towards them on the water? What did they say after Jesus had climbed into the boat?

### Questions for Application:

1. Do you feel God calling you to do something you think will be difficult? How might you respond with faith, trusting Jesus to provide the way?
2. Have you ever received encouragement from other believers during your spiritual journey? How did that help you? How could you be an encouragement to others?
3. How does it make you feel knowing that Jesus' love and power towards you is not conditional on your success or failure?
4. Has fear ever kept you from doing something that you felt called to do? Please elaborate. Were you able to do it anyway? If not, do you think you could do it today?
5. Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NIV) states: "*Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor.*" What is your understanding of this verse? How does reading verses 10-12 alter your understanding?

6. What have you learned from Peter that will help you with your faith life?

**Dig Deeper:** *Consider starting one of these Bible reading plans to go deeper on this topic*

Peter Walking On Water – Commentary: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Peter-walking-on-water.html>



Peter Walking On Water

### Questions for Discussion:

1. What are you reading in the Word this week?
2. How is your reading growing you in the Marks of Discipleship – prayers, presence, gifts, witness, service?

### Growth Challenge:

How might you rely upon your faith in Jesus to help you work towards a specific goal for your life this week?

## NOTES

## March 8, 2026

### Session 3 | Building Project



***Before you begin** this session, read the inside cover of your materials.*

### Background:

*This will help to set the context of the session if this is read aloud.*

Jesus is about midway through His ministry when He asks His disciples, “*Who do people say the Son of Man is?*” Many public sermons, parables, and miracles have happened; the Pharisees and the Sadducees continue their efforts to discredit Him; and the disciples frequently seem confused by what they are witnessing, so Jesus comes

Who do you say I am?  
**Jesus**

right out and asks them, “*Who do people say the Son of Man is?*” The disciples play it safe and answer with the things they have heard others say, but their answers don’t satisfy Jesus. So, He asks again, more pointedly. “*But what about you?*” “*Who do you say I am?*” Simon Peter answers, “*You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.*”

Simon Peter answers perfectly! Jesus blesses him, changes his name to Peter, and vows, “*on this rock I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*” When Jesus says this, He knows the gates of Hades will not overcome Peter or His church, but He also knows both will be sorely tested.

In verse 19 Peter is being given the “*keys of the kingdom of heaven*”, but, by verse 23, he receives one of Jesus’ harshest rebukes: “*Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.*” We read these words and our hearts ache for Peter. He loves Jesus. To go from “hero” to “zero” as quickly as Peter has is devastating!

We know the rest of the story. Peter will experience more stints as “hero” and “zero”. Maybe you feel like your faith story mimics Peter’s? If so, good news! Because “*the gates of Hades*” don’t overcome Peter! He will stick with Jesus and Jesus will use him to build His church. Stick with Jesus, be available to Him, and He will use you too!

“In every decision we [make] we must ask ourselves whether we have in mind the concerns of God or human concerns.”

**Nicky Gumbel**

Like Peter, sometimes we will get things wrong. But, we can also learn to get them right more often. Take heart, God isn’t finished with us.

**Scripture:** Matthew 16:13-23 and Philipians 3:15-21

*Before engaging in the questions, read the Scripture passages aloud.*

### Worship Reflection:

1. What stands out to you about today’s sermon?



5. Read Philippians 3:17-20. What do you think Paul means when he says that, “*many live as enemies of the cross of Christ*” (NIV)? What does it mean to have one’s mind “*set on earthly things*” (v.19)?

### Questions for Application:

1. Why is it important to understand that “*the gates of Hades*” represents real adversaries?
2. Why do you think God allows hard things to happen to us?
3. Philippians 3:17 (NRSV) reads, “*Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us.*” What has your experience been observing and/or imitating other believers?
4. When you are challenged by the world around you, what will you say? Will you make a bold statement of faith like Peter? Or will you waffle? Will you stand on absolute truth or take a cultural “all roads are equal” path?
5. In the Philippians passage, believers are called citizens of heaven (v.20). Why is it important to set our minds on heavenly things and not on earthly things?

6. What has Peter's experience taught you that will help you with your faith life?

**Dig Deeper:** *Consider starting one of these Bible reading plans to go deeper on this topic*

Jesus Is... LORD—4 day reading plan: <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/60792-jesus-islord>



Jesus Is...LORD

Aligning with God's Perfect Will When Facing Opposition—7 day devotional: <https://www.bible.com/gu/reading-plans/51553-aligning-with-gods-perfect-will-when-facing>



Aligning with God

### Questions for Discussion:

1. What are you reading in the Word this week?
2. How is your reading growing you in the Marks of Discipleship - prayers, presence, gifts, witness, service?

### Growth Challenge:

In the days ahead, pay attention to whether your mind is primarily on Godly concerns or human ones. Give some consideration as to whether it is time to let go of any of your human concerns in favor of more Godly ones. Ask Jesus to help you make any changes.

## NOTES

## March 15, 2026

### Session 4 | Catch and Release



***Before you begin*** this session, read the inside cover of your materials.

### Background:

*This will help to set the context of the session if this is read aloud.*

We all carry some baggage in our lives. Trauma and hurt from people that we trusted.

In today's Scripture Peter asks Jesus about how many times we should forgive someone. Jewish teachers were telling people to only forgive someone 3 times. Peter went beyond what the Jewish leaders said and asked, 7 times? Jesus replied to him seventy-seven. When two sevens are used in the New Testament, it means infinity.

"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart." **NIV**

Jesus then tells a parable of a servant owing a king 10,000 bags of gold. (Several million dollars in today's standards) The man could not pay back what he owed. The king forgave his debt. Then the man found a fellow servant who owed him 100 coins. (About \$16) The man did not have the coins to pay, and he was put into prison. The king hears of this, and the first servant was called before the king. The king said that he showed the servant forgiveness and mercy. "Shouldn't you have had mercy on your

*fellow servant just as I had on you?"* The king became very angry and let the jailers torture the servant. Verse 35 reads, "*This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.*" This verse should make you sit up and take notice!!

"To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you."

**C.S. Lewis**

Grace and forgiveness go hand in hand. God extended grace to us by sending His Son for the redemption of our sins. We need to show grace and forgiveness to others.

**Scripture:** Matthew 18:21-35 and Colossians 3:12-17

*Before engaging in the questions, read the Scripture passages aloud.*

### Worship Reflection:

1. What stands out to you about today's sermon?
2. What did you learn about God? About people?

3. Any life-lessons to apply? How do you plan to apply them?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. How can we pray for one another?

### Questions from the Bible:

1. Does Jesus' answer mean you should count seventy sevens (or 490) times? What does His answer mean?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What is Jesus' answer of 77 or 490 symbolic of?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Why did the king condemn the unforgiving servant in this parable?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Read Colossians 3:12-14. What is the intended result of Paul's instructions?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. In Matthew 6:14-15 NIV Jesus tells us, "*For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*" Why is forgiveness so important to God?

## Questions for Application:

1. Think about forgiveness. Are you a forgiving person? Do you hold things against others that God has forgiven them of? Do you hold your forgiveness out of reach? If so, you need to think through the amount of grace and forgiveness that has been extended to you and apply that to others.
  
2. Why does God forgive us when we can never repay Him, and how should this shape your response to those who have hurt you?
  
3. Lewis B Smedes has said, “To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.” What do you understand this to mean? Have you ever had this experience?
  
4. Nicky Gumbel has said, “Forgiveness is not easy. The cross reminds us how costly and painful it is. Forgiveness does not mean approving of what the other person did, not excusing it, not denying it, nor pretending that you are not hurt. Rather, you are aware of what the other person has done and yet you are called to forgive.” How do you feel about this understanding of forgiveness?
  
5. Colossians 3:12(NIV) reads, *“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”* How do you “clothe yourselves” with the attributes that Paul lists?

**Dig Deeper:** Consider starting one of these Bible reading plans to go deeper on this topic

Choosing Forgiveness-5-day reading plan: <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/25166-choosing-forgiveness>

Living Changed: Forgiveness-6-day reading plan: <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/16504-living-changed-forgiveness>



Choosing Forgiveness



Living Changed

**Questions for Discussion:**

1. What are you reading in the Word this week?
  
2. How is your reading growing you in the Marks of Discipleship - prayers, presence, gifts, witness, service?

**Growth Challenge:**

Focus on the forgiveness that God has shown you. Is there someone that you need to forgive and haven't yet? Is there someone from whom you need to ask for forgiveness? Ask God to help you forgive them or go to someone to ask for forgiveness.

**NOTES**

## March 22, 2026

### Session 5 | Come Back



***Before you begin** this session, read the inside cover of your materials.*

### Background:

*This will help to set the context of the session if this is read aloud.*

In the Mel Brooks movie *High Anxiety* (1977) there is a running joke where the character Brophy is heard saying, “I got it! I got it! I got it! <thump> I ain’t got it.” Have you been in a similar situation where you’ve convinced yourself that you have it under control, only to painfully realize it is not under control? That is what we see with Peter in this week’s Matthew passage. Peter is convinced that he has the strength of will to stand with

Jesus does not call us to a shallow or lukewarm faith.

Jesus, even if everyone else deserts Him, to the point of confidently stating, “*Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.*” (Matthew 26:35 NIV) And yet, before the night is over, Peter will deny knowing Jesus three times. There is a lesson there for all of us.

Pride and overconfidence in our own spiritual strength will often put us into similar situations, where we are reminded that we cannot “do it” on our own. Jesus does not call us to a shallow or lukewarm faith. He calls us to a humble faith, one that knows we do not stand because we are strong, but because He is faithful. We follow Him not as people who think we are already perfect, but as people who are being perfected by His Grace as we continue to walk with Him. Proverbs 3:5 (NIV) summarizes this nicely, stating; “*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;*”

Trust in the Lord with all  
your heart  
and lean not on your own  
understanding;  
**Proverbs 3:5 NIV**

Remember, it is not the illusion of “I have it”; it is the reality that, with Jesus as our guide and companion, “He has it”.

**Scripture:** Matthew 26:31-35 and Proverbs 3:5-6

*Before engaging in the questions, read the Scripture passages aloud.*

### Worship Reflection:

1. What stands out to you about today’s sermon?
2. What did you learn about God? About people?

3. Any life-lessons to apply? How do you plan to apply them?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. How can we pray for one another?

### Questions from the Bible:

1. In the NKJV translation, Proverbs 3:6 states; "*In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*" In the ESV translation, this same proverb reads; "*In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.*" What difference, if any, do you see between "*direct your paths*" and "*make straight your paths*"?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Read Isaiah 26:4. According to Isaiah what is the benefit of trusting in the Lord? How does this relate to Proverbs 3:5?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Hebrews 10:23 NIV reads, "*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess for He who promised is faithful.*" Describe the hope you have in Jesus.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Read Zechariah 13:7. Why did Jesus quote this passage when speaking to the disciples?

5. Earlier in the evening, before Jesus predicted Peter would deny Him, the disciples had been disputing who was the greatest (see Luke 22:24). In Matthew 26:31 Jesus quotes a prophecy from Zechariah and then in Matthew 26:32 He says He will meet them in Galilee after He has been raised. How might spiritual pride have been a factor in Peter ignoring the ramifications of these comments and defending his loyalty?
  
6. What does Peter's reaction reveal about his understanding of himself and his loyalty to Jesus?

### Questions for Application:

1. In the background we are told that Jesus calls us to "a humble faith, one that knows we do not stand because we are strong, but because He is faithful." How has Jesus' faithfulness helped you to do something difficult?
  
2. If you can, describe a time when you had to admit, "I ain't got it!" What did you learn from that experience?
  
3. Has there been a time when you trusted in the Lord, instead of following your own desires? Explain.
  
4. Are there some areas in your life where you tend to rely on yourself rather than on God? What are you going to do to change this?
  
5. How might spiritual pride cause people to fall away from Jesus today?

6. What has Peter's experience taught you that will help you with your faith life?

**Dig Deeper:** *Consider starting one of these Bible reading plans to go deeper on this topic*

Wisdom for What's Next – 3 day reading plan: <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/56572-proverbs-35-7-wisdom-for-whats-next>



Wisdom for What's Next

With All Your Heart – 7 day devotional: <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/18722-with-all-your-heart>



With All Your Heart

### Questions for Discussion:

1. What are you reading in the Word this week?
  
2. How is your reading growing you in the Marks of Discipleship - prayers, presence, gifts, witness, service?

### Growth Challenge:

If you find yourself struggling with “I got it! I got it! I ain’t got it.”, stop and ask yourself, “Have I sought God in this?” Then pray to God for the strength, skills, resources and guidance to accomplish what He has called you to do.

## NOTES

## March 29, 2026 Session 6 | Called Again



***Before you begin** this session, read the inside cover of your materials.*

### Background:

*This will help to set the context of the session if this is read aloud.*

Last week we read as Peter confidently told Jesus; *“I will never disown you”*, and yet we know that before that night was over, Peter had denied Jesus three times. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples, including Peter, but Peter seems to be convinced that his time with Jesus is over. While gathered with some of his fellow disciples, Peter decides it’s time to go back to his former role of fisherman, and the others agreed to go fishing with him. This sets the stage for one of the greatest stories in the Bible of forgiveness and restoration.

... regardless of our failures, complete restoration is possible through the grace and forgiveness of Jesus.

After a night of fishing, Peter and the others are returning with nothing to show for their efforts when an unknown man on the shore tells them, *“Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.”* (John 21:6a NIV) The catch is so big they cannot pull it into the boat. This raises the curtain on the restoration of

Peter, as it mirrors his original call by Jesus. (See Luke 5:5-6) Impulsive as always, Peter grabs his outer garment, dives in, and swims to shore, where he finds Jesus has a charcoal fire with a breakfast of bread and fish waiting for them. Steve Oliver writes: *“There are only two places in the New Testament where the term ‘charcoal fire’ is used. Both are in John’s Gospel — once at Peter’s denial, and once here at the scene of Peter’s restoration.”*<sup>1</sup>

In the final act of restoration, Jesus takes Peter aside and three times asks him, *“Do you love me?”* Each time Peter responds, *“You know that I do.”*, to which Jesus instructs Peter, *“Feed my sheep.”* Peter’s restoration is complete. Jesus has made it abundantly clear that He has a place and a plan for Peter.

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

**1 Peter 5:10 (NIV)**

This is good news for us as well, as Jesus assures us; regardless of our failures, complete restoration is possible through the grace and forgiveness of Jesus. Praise God!

<sup>1</sup><https://holyojoys.org/restoring-the-fallen-peters-restoration-john-211-19/>

**Scripture:** John 21:1-17 and 1 Peter 5:1-11

*Before engaging in the questions, read the Scripture passages aloud.*

### Worship Reflection:

1. What stands out to you about today’s sermon?



6. Reread the 1 Peter Highlight Box. What does this verse help you understand about suffering?

### Questions for Application:

1. Have you experienced a fall from grace so spectacular that you were convinced you could never go back? How was it resolved?
2. To you, what is the most meaningful point in this week's 1 Peter Scripture?
3. What does the Bible teach us about failure, restoration and forgiveness?
4. Describe a time when you were involved in something that seemed to be blessed by God because it produced miraculous results.
5. What are some different ways to feed the Lord's sheep and minister to others? Which ones are you going to do?
6. What has Peter's experience taught you that will help you with your faith life?

**Dig Deeper:** *Consider starting one of these Bible reading plans to go deeper on this topic*

Restoration – 6 day reading plan: <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/58498-restoration>



Restoration

Strong: The Promise of 1 Peter 5:10 For God's Daughters – 6 day devotional: <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/37377-strong-the-promise-of-1-peter-510>



Strong

### Questions for Discussion:

1. What are you reading in the Word this week?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How is your reading growing you in the Marks of Discipleship - prayers, presence, gifts, witness, service?

### Growth Challenge:

If you feel that you have alienated yourself from the presence of Jesus, turn back to Him and seek His restoration. Then prepare yourself for the plans He has for you.

## NOTES

April 5, 2026  
Session 7 | Unexpected Delivery



***Before you begin*** this session, read the inside cover of your materials.

**Background:**

*This will help to set the context of the session if this is read aloud.*

**Imagine, you are the lame man. You are forty years old. You have been lame since birth. For forty years you have spent your days begging for money at the temple gate Beautiful, but today, the unexpected happens.**

Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these because I am going to the Father. —Jesus  
**John 14:12 NIV**

Imagine, you are Peter. It is a few short weeks since Jesus' resurrection. You and John are approaching the temple at the time of prayer. As you are about to enter the Beautiful gate, the unexpected happens.

**You see two men and ask them for money. You are hoping for some silver or gold, only, as luck would have it, neither of the men have any coins. Instead they offer you some spiel about giving you what they have. They make a pronouncement that their actions are in the name of "Jesus Christ of Nazareth," and they command you to walk! Instantly you are being pulled onto your feet; your feet and ankles become strong; and—for the first time ever—you are walking and jumping and praising God! The blessing of**

**mobility is an Unexpected Delivery.**

So much has happened. Jesus was crucified, died and was resurrected, just as He had said. On several occasions He appeared to you and the others in His resurrected body; even instructing you to wait in Jerusalem until you had received the power of the Holy Spirit. And then, fifty days after His Resurrection, on the Day of Pentecost, you and 120 others receive the Spirit with wind and fire. Newly empowered by the Spirit, you boldly begin preaching and teaching with authority; baptizing 3,000 people into Jesus' church! And now a man, lame since birth, is walking! Jesus told you to expect the Holy Spirit, but, truly, the Spirit is an Unexpected Delivery.

*Life changed for Peter and the disciples after they encountered the resurrected Jesus. With His Spirit living in them, they were empowered to share the gospel and to do the same great things they had seen Jesus do. And they did! We serve the same resurrected and living Lord! His Spirit lives in us! We are empowered to do the same great things Jesus did when loving and caring for others. His resurrection is meant to change who we are and how we live and serve.*

*How will you live out the new life Jesus is offering you?*

**Scripture:** Acts 3:1-10 and Luke 24:1-12

*Before engaging in the questions, read the Scripture passages aloud.*

Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call  
—Peter

**Acts 2:38-39 NIV**

**Worship Reflection:**

1. What stands out to you about today's sermon?
2. What did you learn about God? About people?
3. Any life-lessons to apply? How do you plan to apply them?
4. How can we pray for one another?

**Questions from the Bible:**

1. Reread the John 14:12 Highlight Box. What are your thoughts on what Jesus has said? Do you believe this to be true of you? Why or why not?
2. What did Peter have that he referenced in (v.6 NIV) when he said, "*but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk*"? Why do you think Peter had the confidence and boldness to heal the man?
3. Read Acts 3:8. What is extraordinary/miraculous about the behavior of the man who had been lame since birth?

4. What did the lame man do immediately after being healed?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Jesus' last words to His disciples before ascending to heaven are found at Acts 1:8 NIV, "*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*" What evidence is there to prove that the Holy Spirit was living in the disciples?

### Questions for Application:

1. Luke 24:8 (NIV) reads, "*Then [the women] remembered His words.*" Has there been a time in your life when you had to be reminded of the words of God when faced with the unexpected?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. After being healed, the lame man began walking and jumping and praising God. How did you respond the last time God answered a prayer of yours?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. When have you experienced the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit in your life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. How do you think your relationship with Jesus and the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit empower you spiritually to accomplish good works that result in people praising and glorifying God?

5. What has Peter's experience taught you that will help you with your faith life?

**Dig Deeper:** *Consider starting one of these Bible reading plans to go deeper on this topic*

This Changes Everything—5-day devotional: <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/36705-this-changes-everything>



This Changes Everything

Easter: Grace that Changes Everything—5-day reading plan: <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/56804-easter-grace-that-changes-everything>



Easter

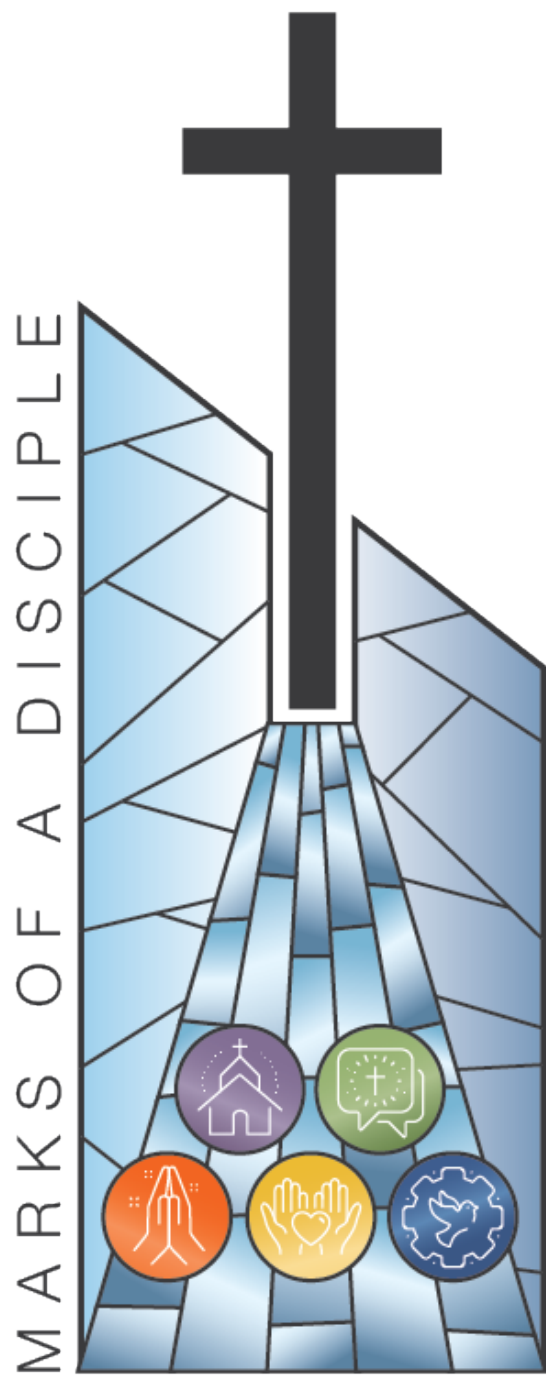
### Questions for Discussion:

1. What are you reading in the Word this week?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How is your reading growing you in the Marks of Discipleship - prayers, presence, gifts, witness, service?

### Growth Challenge:

Spend some time contemplating what changes you will make to live more fully the new life that our resurrected Lord has made possible for you.

# NOTES



MARKS OF A DISCIPLE



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