



Daily Devotionals: With Jesus One-On-One | January 9, 2022

Day 1 – Devotion

Can you think back to a time of your life you'd rather forget, a time you weren't the best version of yourself? Can you imagine someone using your past character defects and missteps as a reason to discredit you? Perhaps you do this to yourself? Conversely, can you think of someone who invested in you despite your lack of qualification? This week we're going to look at how Jesus calls all of us to the task of evangelism, specifically in how he called one of his disciples - Peter.

It was not unusual for a rabbi to have a group of students they would invest in and teach. True to his counter cultural approach, Jesus's choice of disciples was unconventional in that he invited ordinary men, not religious students or theologians, into his close circle.

The gospel writers were not ones to mince words when it came to describing the eclectic group Jesus called as his disciples. Their portrayal of Peter could lead us to remember him as the guy who didn't think before speaking, the disciple who sank as he walked on the water with Jesus, the one who couldn't stay awake in the garden, or the disciple who chopped off the ear of Caiaphas' servant. Forget all those failures, imagine being known as the close friend who denied Jesus THREE times before his crucifixion.

Why is it helpful for us to know these things about Peter? It seems that Peter's blunders would kill his credibility and disqualify him from service. Let's look at how Jesus extended the invitation to follow him to Peter and the others while on their turf.

Read Luke 5:1-11 (*To prevent confusion, it's helpful to know that Peter is referred to as Simon, Simon Peter, and Peter interchangeably throughout scripture*).

Jesus asks Peter, an *experienced* fisherman, to cast his nets into the water. Peter knows there are no fish in the water. He and his crew been fishing all night with no success. Peter could have responded with a number of excuses, but he didn't. He obeys and puts out the nets again. The nets are soon overflowing with fish. Jesus uses this miracle to demonstrate the mission he is inviting Peter and the others into. Peter is overcome by the demonstration of God's presence and power.

In his commentary on Luke, Darrell Bock says:

A genuine meeting with Jesus alters one's perspective. An encounter with God's power is no reason to draw back from him, but an opportunity to approach him on the right basis, in faith and dependence. In catching fish, Jesus has caught Simon Peter.



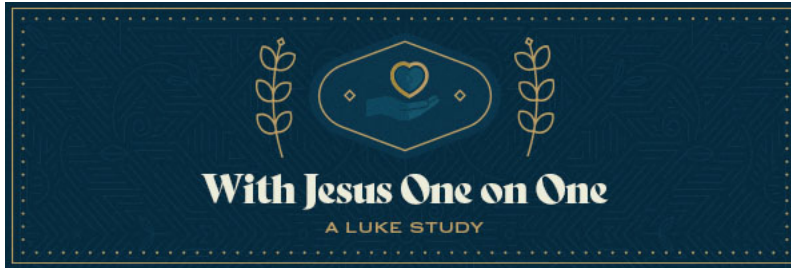
The response is instantaneous and total. When the boats come in, the former fishermen leave everything behind and follow Jesus. The call had gone to Peter in verse 10, but all those who experience the catch follow Jesus. The fishing expedition has brought in its first great catch. Sinners are transformed into servants of God. That is how great God's holiness and grace can be.

One of the most daunting tasks we are called to as Christians is to share the gospel with others, especially with friends or family members who might have known the less favorable versions of us. We can be led to believe that we are not compelling witnesses because of our lack of experience or sinful past. This is the lie the enemy would like us to believe.

Over this week, we're going to look at some defining moments in Peter's time with Jesus and take time to reflect on our own lives. Where might God be inviting us to take a small step in obedience? Where might he be asking us to let out our nets?

Questions for Reflection:

1. Who is someone in your life who spent one-on-one time helping you develop a skill set, hobby, or professional trade?
2. Have you shared what you learned with others? Why or why not?
3. What does your one-on-one time with Jesus look like right now?
4. Is it preparing you to share what you learn with others? Why or why not?



Day 2 – Bible Study Breakdown

In our study of scripture, it can be helpful to consult different translations of the bible as well as different gospel accounts of the same event. Various translations can help us gain a deeper understanding of the biblical truths and equip us to share the good news with others. We can only invite people into what we, ourselves, understand.

Today we are going to start by looking at **Luke 5:1-11** in two different translations and three different gospel accounts and pay attention to similarities and differences. Make note of any that you see.

Luke 5:1-11 (NIV)

Luke 5:1-11 (MSG)

Mark 1:16-20 (NIV)

Mark 1:16-20 (MSG)

Matthew 4:18-22 (NIV)

Matthew 4:18-22 (MSG)

Questions for Reflection:

1. Which translation resonated with you most and why?
2. What differences did you notice in your reading of the different accounts?
3. Do you feel the differences affected your understanding of the passage?
4. How might you engage different translations in your one-on-one time with God to invite transformation and prepare your heart to share his love with others?



Day 3 - Scripture Survey

Today we are going to look in the other gospels at some defining moments in Peter's life with Jesus that shaped his faith and character and prepared him to be an apostle.

As you read the passages, reflect on these questions:

- What do you learn about Peter and living by faith – either from his failures or successes?
- How do these interactions with Jesus help to prepare Peter to share the teachings of Jesus with others?

Try reading the passages aloud or listening to them on the YouVersion Bible app or website. Biblegateway.com has a feature that allows you to listen to scripture.

Matthew 14:28-29, John 6:19-20: *The apostles and Simon Peter see Jesus walking on water, Peter asks Jesus to command him to walk to Him. Peter tries to walk on water, but he fails.*

Matthew 16:13-20: *Jesus tells Peter that he will build his church on him.*

Matthew 17:1-3, Mark 9:2-3: *Peter, James, and John witness the transfiguration of Jesus.*

Matthew 26:34, Mark 14:30, John 13:38: *Jesus makes a prediction that Peter will deny Him three times before a rooster crows.*

Matthew 26:69-75, Mark 14:66-72, John 18:16-27: *Jesus' prediction comes true when Peter denies Him three times.*

Luke 24:34, 1 Corinthians 15:5: *Jesus appears to Peter before appearing to the other apostles.*

John 21:15-17: *Peter confesses his love towards the risen Jesus three times after meeting him on the shores of Galilee.*

Questions for Reflection:

1. Which of Peter's experiences stood out to you?
2. How do you feel God is inviting you to respond to those experiences?



Day 4 – Story Work

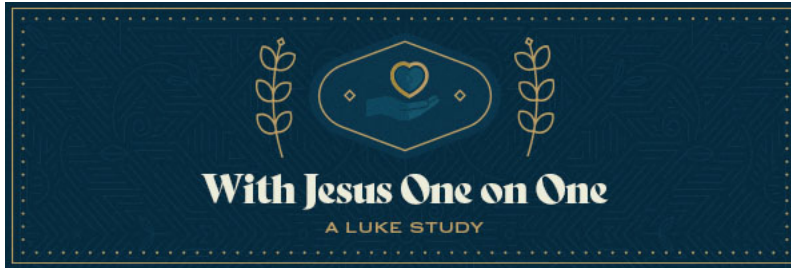
Yesterday we looked at some of the experiences in Peter’s life that shaped his faith and prepared him to spread the gospel. Examining Peter’s failings is not meant to criticize his character. Rather, we can look to them for hope when we feel inadequate to serve in the way God has called us.

Before you answer the reflection questions below, sit in silence for three minutes and then pray and invite God to speak to you through this exercise and reveal what he sees in you.

- Is there an experience or attitude in your past or present that you feel might disqualify you to serve God by sharing the gospel?
- Can you think of a time God asked you to do something you felt unqualified to do? What was your response?
- Is God asking you to do something right now?
- What is your attitude and response to what He’s potentially inviting you into? What does your attitude and response say about your heart’s motivations?

Sometimes we miss out on God’s invitation completely because we never enter into one on one time with him. We avoid silence and solitude.

As you wrap up your time today, spend an extended time in silence. Meditate on Jesus’ words in **Matthew 4:19** through a breath prayer. Situate yourself so your feet are flat on the floor. Set a timer on your phone for 5 or 10 minutes - whichever you choose. Once you hit start on your timer, prayerfully sit in silence. As you breathe, breathe in Jesus’ words, “Come, follow me.” As your exhale, breathe out the response, “I will follow you.” As you do this, notice your body’s response to the practice.



Day 5 – Application

Today we're going to look at how our circumstances can encourage or discourage us from sharing the gospel with others. We have spent the week looking at Peter and different encounters he had in a variety of circumstances. These experiences strengthened Peter's character and faith and equipped him to share the message of Jesus in the world.

Are there certain environments in your life that influence your ability to share Jesus with others? What might they look like? A secular workplace? Family and friends who are hostile towards faith? People who are critical and judgmental of you? A place where your voice is not valued?

We all have a job to do – to share the gospel with others. The enemy would love for us to believe that we aren't up to the job.

What insecurities or fears do you feel when you think about sharing the gospel with others?

There is no seminary degree, job position, or title that qualifies us to share the message of Jesus. Our relationship with God and how we reflect that in our life is what matters most.

What experience can you share to show the work God has done (or is doing) in your life?

Write the names of three people you would like to share the hope of Jesus with and begin praying for them this week.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

To close out your day, listen to the song, Storyteller, written and sung by Morgan Harper Nichols by using the QR code below or searching for it on Spotify.

