



Extra Ordinary

THE STORY OF PETER

Christ Church Lent 2021

Sermon Series Study

Participant Guide

Week 1



Open In Prayer

Group Rules & Logistics:

EXPERIENCE

God's Love.

Sermon Notes: _____

Sermon Notes: _____

A. What Spoke to you in the sermon?

DEVELOP

R e l a t i o n s h i p s .

Day 1

Read: James 4:7-10

A. What are some of the wonderful promises in these verses?

B. What makes it hard for you to submit to God?

C. What does it mean to resist the devil? What tips does this passage give for resistance?

D. How has God lifted you up when you humbled yourself before him?

Prayer Exercise: Consider where in your heart you've not submitted to God. What are you still holding on to? Today in your prayer time, ask God to reveal to you why you're not willing to let go of those things into His control. Ask God to help you loosen your grip.

Day 2

Read: Like 5:1-11

Note: Simon, Simon Peter, and Peter are often all used to refer to the same person.

A. What request did Jesus have for Simon Peter? How do you respond when someone who doesn't do your job tells you how to do your job? How do you think Simon Peter felt?

B. What was the result of the fishermen's obedience and what was their reaction?

C. What did the disciples give up to follow Jesus? What have you given up to follow Jesus?

D. What is the scariest thing about following Jesus to you?

E. How does Jesus use Simon Peter's current profession to describe what his new work would be? Think about your skillset: construction, cooking, providing medical services... How are you called to use those skills to help build the kingdom of God?

Prayer Exercise: How are you living out your calling? How equipped do you feel about it? During your prayer time today, make a list of ways you are fulfilling your calling or ways you'd like to live out your calling. If you're not currently taking steps in that direction, spend time in prayer asking God to reveal your next step.

Day 3

Read: Peter 2:4-12

A. What is the definition of a cornerstone? Who does the cornerstone refer to in this passage?

B. For each believer, how does this passage describe us as connected to the Cornerstone? How do you respond to Peter's description of you (and all believers) in this passage?

C. What does it mean to you to be a part of the holy priesthood? Do you feel up to that job?

D. How have others seen evidence of faith in your life?

Prayer Exercise: Find the words to Edward Mote's hymn "On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand." Say or sing the words as praise to God.

Day 4

Read: Romans 12:1-8

A. What point do you think Paul, this book's author, is trying to make when he says we are one body with many members? How does that give you hope for your calling?

B. Why is it important for us to have a proper evaluation of ourselves before relating to others in the church?

C. List the 7 gifts in this scripture. How could these gifts be used in our church?

D. What gifts do you have to offer? Where have you been successful in using your gifts?

Prayer Exercise: Spend time in prayer today asking God to help you have a proper evaluation of yourself. Pray for humility and opportunities to serve.

Week 2



Open In Prayer

Brief Summary of Last Week's Lesson:

EXPERIENCE

God's Love.

Sermon Notes: _____

A. What spoke to you in the sermon?

B. Share with your group how you used your unique gifting to bring joy to another.

DEVELOP

R e l a t i o n s h i p s .

Day 1

Read: Matthew 14:22-34

A. This passage takes place immediately following Jesus' miracle of feeding the five thousand with just five loaves of bread and two fishes. Why do you think Jesus went up to the mountainside alone to pray? When have you had a similar need to pray alone?

B. What miracle did Peter experience? What did Peter have to do to experience the miracle himself? Why did he begin to sink & how was he saved?

C. How can this passage encourage you to live your calling? When are you confident in taking the step out of the boat?

D. How does Peter's faltering encourage you? When do you experience fear?

E. What has God done in your life recently to strengthen your faith?

Prayer Exercise: Jesus calls out words of comfort to the disciples in this passage. What words of comfort has He given you in trials? Pray about who God might be wanting you to share those words.

Day 2

Read: James 1:19-27

A. Why do you think Christians have a tendency to listen to God's Word but not necessarily follow it? How can this be avoided?

B. Do you think James would be okay with good works without our listening and receiving God's Word? Why?

C. Who does this passage specifically say we should care for? What might this look like in today's world?

Prayer Exercise: Consider whether you lean more to the hearing side or the doing side of your faith. How can you make sure you're both learning God's Word *and* living out your faith? During your prayer time today, ask God for help to make sure you're engaging in learning His Word and action. Then, tell someone you trust about what you need and how to hold you accountable.

Day 3

Read: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

A. How easy is it for you to ask for help? Why? When do you find yourself wanting to do things on your own instead of with others?

B. How do we see where “two is better than one” in our everyday lives and church family?

C. When has someone been there to help you up recently? What opportunity have you had to be the helper?

D. How have you seen being a part of a small group as a benefit in your life? Where would you be spiritually if it weren't for others helping?

Prayer Exercise: Spend time thanking God for the people he has placed in your circle to help you do life.

Day 4

Read: Hebrews 12:1-13

A. Who is your “cloud of witnesses” who has inspired you in your faith walk?

B. What does discipline mean to you?

C. Why does God discipline us according to this passage? What do you think it looks like to be disciplined by God?

D. What benefits to discipline are there? Why is discipline so hard to endure? Where have you seen blessing out of being disciplined?

Prayer Exercise: Having the self-discipline to resist sin, temptation, and ‘entanglement’ is a hard call to live out. But rest assured, we are not on this journey alone. Our great cloud of witnesses surrounds us and encourages us. Today in your prayer time, make a list of the great faith witnesses in your life. Praise God for each of them and spend time thanking Him for putting those people in your life.

Week 3



Open In Prayer

Brief Summary of Last Week's Lesson:

EXPERIENCE

God's Love.

Sermon Notes: _____

A. What spoke to you in the sermon?

B. Describe your experience serving as a “doer of the Word.”

DEVELOP

R e l a t i o n s h i p s .

Day 1

Read: Matthew 16:13-23

A. Who does Peter say Jesus is? Why do you think Jesus was asking the disciples to find out what people were saying about him?

B. Jesus begins to call Simon by the name Peter. What does the name Peter mean? What symbolism do you see in this name?

C. See v. 21-23. Why do you think Jesus responds so differently in this passage than he did in verses 13-20?

D. Who do you say Jesus is?

Prayer Exercise: Are you willing to follow Jesus, even during the hard times? We won't always get it right, but we can commit to following Jesus even through those difficult times. If you haven't accepted Jesus as your Savior, ask Jesus into your heart today and begin to follow him.

If you have, spend your prayer time thanking Him for seeing you through the difficult times.

Day 2

Read: Judges 6:36-40

Note: Just before this passage, God instructs Gideon to save the Israelites from the oppressing Midianites and surrounding peoples. But Gideon wasn't so sure. He asked God to prove that this message was indeed from Him. Read all of Chapter 6 for the full story.

A. Do you think Gideon was looking for reassurance or was he testing God when he asked to put out the fleece?

B. What do you learn about God in this passage?

C. Do you think you would have responded the same way as God?

D. How do you test God's instructions?

Prayer Exercise: Memorize Psalm 103:8—"The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love" to remind yourself of God's love and patience. Spend time thanking him for that.

Day 3

Read: Romans 14:1-23

A. In this passage, Paul (the author) is writing about some common issues that seem to divide the early Christians. What did Paul include? What are some things that divide Christians today?

B. What does the scripture passage say about how we should respond to people that view things differently than us? What can help us stay together when we view things differently?

C. Share a time when you put a freedom aside to honor another believer.

D. To whom are we ultimately responsible in these matters?

Prayer Exercise: Ask God to reveal to you any areas where you may need to be more accepting of fellow believers and ask him to change your attitude.

Day 4

Read: Philippians 3:12-21

A. What similarities are there in training to be an athlete and in training for the Christian life?

B. Why is it a symbol of maturity for us to focus on Paul's goal? Who in your life do you see as a modern-day example of Paul's pursuit of Jesus? How does this person encourage you?

C. How does it make you feel knowing someone could be modeling your faith walk? What things do you feel are good examples and what things will you try to change?

Prayer Exercise: Humbly admit to God that you have not "arrived" in your Christian walk. Ask God to show you where you have become complacent and ask for his help in renewing your energy in that area.

Week 4



Open In Prayer

Brief Summary of Last Week's Lesson:

EXPERIENCE

God's Love.

Sermon Notes: _____

A. What spoke to you in the sermon?

B. Share with your group about how you found a way this week to encourage those around you in their faith walk.

DEVELOP

R e l a t i o n s h i p s .

Day 1

Read: Matthew 18:15-20

A. What things do you tend to argue about with your sibling/family/close friends? How do you know if your conflict is a sin or just a disagreement?

B. What are the steps listed in the passage for handling sin and conflict with other believers?

C. How could this process be helpful to all those involved—the wronged, the one guilty of the wrong, the church body?

D. What do you think are the hardest steps to follow? Why?

Prayer Exercise: Where is there a relationship in your life where reconciliation is needed? Pray for God's guidance and healing in that situation.

Day 2

Read: Matthew 18:21-35

A. In Jesus' time, offenders were to be forgiven three times. How many times does Peter suggest he would forgive? What does Jesus' response tell you about how God forgives?

B. How does Jesus describe the kingdom of heaven in this passage? What do you find helps you forgive others?

C. How does this parable compare the sins of others against us to our sins against God?

D. Share a time when God helped you forgive someone or how someone offered you forgiveness.

Prayer Exercise: Spend time asking God to show you your sins against Him and seek His help in changing your thoughts and actions.

Day 3

Read: Luke 17:1-4

A. How does it feel knowing that things that cause you to sin are bound to come?

B. What is a believer to do if someone sins against them? What does this passage say someone must do to be forgiven?

C. When should we stop asking for forgiveness?

D. What is your reaction to this teaching?

Prayer Exercise: Is there someone you are having a difficult time forgiving? Ask God to help you see them with His eyes. Write Ephesians 4:32 on an index card and keep it handy for those times when the feelings of unforgiveness pop up.

Day 4

Read: 1 John 1:3-10

A. What should we never claim and why?

B. What are we promised if we confess our sin?

C. What does it mean to confess your sins? How do you know when you need to confess and ask for forgiveness?

D. Who do you confess your sins to? Who is your accountability partner?

Prayer Exercise: Each of us has sin in our life. This week, make a list of ways you recognize sin in your life. Confess aloud each of those sins to God. Ask for forgiveness and the strength to overcome. If you have an accountability partner, talk it over with them. If you don't have one, pray about who that person might be.

Week 5



Open In Prayer

Brief Summary of Last Week's Lesson:

EXPERIENCE

God's Love.

Sermon Notes: _____

A. What spoke to you in the sermon?

B. Share with your group which option for Revive the World you picked last week. Share how it went.

DEVELOP

R e l a t i o n s h i p s .

Day 1

Read: Matthew 26:31-35

A. Jesus was telling the disciples that their actions would fulfill Old Testament prophecy. How do you think that would have made you feel?

B. What was the disciples' reaction to Jesus' Words? What might have been a more beneficial response?

C. At this point in time, do you think Peter believed he would remain faithful to Jesus? Why or why not?

Prayer Exercise: Spend time thanking God that His mercies are new every day and that His faithfulness does not depend on ours. Ask Him to reveal to you areas where you are relying on your strength and not His.

Day 2

Read: Matthew 26:69-75

A. When have you made a promise you could not keep? How did that make you feel?

B. How do you think Peter felt when he realized he had denied Jesus three times?

C. What are ways we deny Christ today—at home, at work, or with friends? Why do we do that?

D. What challenges you or encourages you in the Day 1 and 2 scriptures about Peter?

Prayer Exercise: Think about other people in the Bible who have messed up. Spend time thanking God for letting us know through the fallible characters of scripture and through His promises that our failures do not make us ineligible to be used for His service.

Day 3

Read: Exodus 4:1-17

A. What objections to his calling does Moses have? How does God remedy his objection?

B. Why did God have Moses go through the tasks in v. 1-9? In what ways has God given you the reassurance of His power?

C. In your life, where has God made up for your shortcomings or insecurities? What do you hear God saying about your excuses?

D. How can lack of confidence be as harmful in our faith walk as overconfidence?

Prayer Exercise: Where are you lacking the confidence to do God's will? Pray to God and ask Him to increase your faith in His power.

Day 4

Read: Psalm 145

A. What do you learn about the character of God in these verses?

B. What does this passage teach us about God's kingdom?

C. What do you find most encouraging in this passage?

D. Share a time when you felt like you had fallen in your spiritual walk. How did God lift you up?

Prayer Exercise: Spend your prayer time today in praise. Praise God that his kingdom lasts forever and that he is faithful to fulfill the promises he's made in our lives.

Week 6



Open In Prayer

Brief Summary of Last Week's Lesson:

EXPERIENCE

God's Love.

Sermon Notes: _____

A. What spoke to you in the sermon?

B. Share how you were able to be an encouragement this week.

DEVELOP

R e l a t i o n s h i p s .

Day 1

Read: John 21:4-18

A. Why do you think the disciples were back on fishing boats fishing? What happens when Jesus directs their work? How does this shape how you see Jesus' instructions?

B. Why do you think the disciples didn't recognize Jesus right away? Who recognizes Jesus first? Who takes action first? Who do you most closely relate to in this passage?

C. How do we see Jesus' love and kindness in his questions to Peter? Why do you think Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved him and told him three times to care for his sheep?

D. How do you relate to Jesus' instruction to "feed my sheep"? What calling does that relate to in your life?

Prayer Exercise: Pray about where God might be calling you to cast your net and how he wants you to use the unique abilities he has given you for His kingdom.

Day 2

Read: Psalm 23

A. This psalm describes how God sustains, leads, and hosts us. Which verses or words would you associate with each of those categories:

Sustains:

Leads:

Hosts:

B. What are some of the responsibilities of a shepherd? Feel free to Google .

C. How do those compare to the qualities we see in Jesus as our Good Shepherd? What aspect of Jesus as your Shepherd do you appreciate the most?

D. What verse in this Psalm brings you the most encouragement/comfort?

Prayer Exercise: Prayerfully rewrite Psalm 23 in your own words and then thank Jesus for being your Good Shepherd. (There is space on the next page for you to write this in.)

Day 3

Read: Matthew 10:1-8

A. What authority did Jesus give to his disciples? Do you think that is limited to just those twelve men or all of Jesus' followers? Why or why not?

B. How do the authorities Jesus gave the disciples mirror the works of Jesus' ministry?

C. Who are the disciples sent to minister to? Why do you think Jesus sent them to this particular group of people? What are they supposed to do in ministry to these people?

D. What was to be the motive of the apostles going out to minister (Matthew 10:8)?

Prayer Exercise: Consider how Jesus equipped the disciples. In what ways (spiritual gifts, etc.) have you been equipped for ministry? Today in your prayer time, ask God how he wants you to minister to those around you. Write down what is revealed to you. Ask God to give you the skills and tools necessary to take action.

Day 4

Read: 1 Peter 5:1-11

A. What does the word “elder” mean? As described in this passage, what is the role of the elders?

B. Who do you see as the elders in your life? Do you see yourself as an elder? Why or why not?

C. To which group of people are you called to be an elder?

D. What commands did you need to hear from this passage? Why?

Prayer Exercise: Consider your humility-level. What are you willing to do for Jesus’ sake or glory? Today in your prayer time, ask God to help you recognize where you’re too proud to bring Jesus to the center of your life. Make note of what is revealed to you and prayerfully ask God to help you shift your focus.

Week 7



Open In Prayer

Brief Summary of Last Week's Lesson:

EXPERIENCE

God's Love.

Sermon Notes: _____

A. What spoke to you in the sermon?

B. Share with your group your experience either writing a thank-you note or humbly sharing Jesus.

DEVELOP

R e l a t i o n s h i p s .

Day 1

Read: John 13:1-17

A. Is it harder for you to serve or be served? Why?

B. What extremes does Peter fluctuate between? Where do you find yourself alternating in spiritual extremes? How do you stay centered on Christ?

C. In your spiritual life, who is one person who displays the heart of what it means to wash another's feet?

D. What assignment does Jesus have for us as he finishes washing the disciples' feet?

Prayer Exercise: Consider how submissive and humble the act of washing the disciples' feet was. Examine your heart. Where do you feel called to 'wash feet' in service. In your prayer time, thank Jesus for his example and ask him to help guide you to serve others in Christ-like service and love.

Day 2

Read: Matthew 26:36-46

A. Who does Jesus bring with him to pray in the garden of Gethsemane? What job does Jesus charge them with?

B. What do you think the “cup” is?

C. What emotions did Jesus experience during his time in the garden? What does he pray? When have you wrestled with God about something?

D. What does Jesus pray for during his second time in prayer? What can you learn from his example here?

E. What help do you receive from the fact that when Jesus needed his friends he found them sleeping?

Prayer Exercise: Where is “The spirit is willing, but the body is weak,” in your life? Spend time asking Jesus to give you the strength to overcome.

Day 3

Read: Luke 23:26-49

A. List the different people/groups of people in this scripture along with their roles or their reactions to Jesus' crucifixion.

B. What does it tell you that the guards had to find a helper to assist Jesus in carrying his cross? What factors would you consider play a part in Jesus' condition?

C. Who was on Jesus left and right? How did they view Jesus differently? In what way did Jesus respond to them?

D. When you reflect upon the crucifixion of Jesus, what emotions do you feel? Who do you relate to most?

E. Share anything that was new or stood out to you as you studied this passage.

Prayer Exercise: Spend time meditating on the physical and mental agony Jesus experienced during his crucifixion. Then offer Him praise and thanksgiving for what he did for you on the cross.

Day 4

Read: Matthew 28

A. The angel commands the women to not be afraid. Why do you think they might have been afraid?

B. What is the difference between the women's response to Jesus' empty tomb and the guards/priests? How would you explain what happened to Jesus differently to someone who was a believer vs. a non-believer?

C. Why is the certainty of Jesus' resurrection important to the Christian faith? See I Corinthians 15:1-19.

D. What authority does Jesus give the disciples? How is this different from Matthew 10:1-8 from last week (Day 3)? Compare and contrast the authorities and the instructions.

Prayer Exercise: Jesus commands us to go to all the world. Today, spend time praying for our international missions partners, RTS Missions and the Shepherd family, as they boldly serve Christ in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Day 5

Read: Acts 3:1-10

A. How does this passage show Peter and John's response to Jesus' final instructions in Matthew 28?

B. The man asked for money but Peter gave him something much better. When has God given you something better than what you asked for?

C. How does Peter's action demonstrate his faithfulness to his calling?

D. Where are you called to minister? How are you fulfilling that calling today?

Prayer Exercise: Pray about how God might be directing you to take hope and healing to someone. Then spend time praising him for the hope and healing he has brought to your life.

