

What do you know about Peter?

- What are some adjectives that describe Peter?
- When you think about what Peter did, what are some first things that come to mind?
- When you think about who Peter was, what do you think about?
- What are some of the mistakes we remember about Peter?
- What are some of the impressive things we remember about Peter?

→ **“First” among apostles.**

- ◆ Matt. 4:18, Mark 3:16, Luke 5:1* John 1:42** First disciples called.
- ◆ Matt 10:2 “names of the twelve apostles: *first*, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew. Luke 6:13
- ◆ This made it more significant that he was then sent to the Gentiles (Cornelius), previously a violation of Jewish law.
- ◆ Jesus appeared to Peter, then the twelve. I Cor 15:5

→ **Part of the Inner Circle**

- ◆ Only Peter, James, and John allowed in house of Jairus, Mark 5:37, Luke 8:51
- ◆ Peter, James, and John taken by Jesus to the transfiguration. Matt 17:1
- ◆ Peter, James, and John are the ones mentioned at Gethsemane. Matt 26:37
- ◆ Private conversation with Peter, James, John, Andrew. (About temple destruction.) Mark 13:2
- ◆ James, Peter, John reputed to be pillars Gal 2:9

→ **Peter Specials**

- ◆ Actually walked on water. Matt 14:28
- ◆ “Feed my sheep”
- ◆ “On this rock...”
- ◆ Even Peter's shadow was in demand. Acts 5:15
- ◆ Apostle to the Jews Gal 1:18, 2:7

→ **Items of Interest**

- ◆ Peter seemingly was married – either was widowed, divorced, or still married, unless “mother-in-law” had a different meaning than today. (Matt 8:14ff, Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law.)
- ◆ Matt 15:15, Asked Jesus to explain parable. Jesus responded by calling Peter and the disciples, “dull”.
- ◆ Says that Paul's letters contain things that are hard to understand. (2 Peter 3:15-16)

→ **Peter Scriptures.**

- ◆ Matt 4:18 Peter called as a disciple. He and Andrew are the first. Mark 3:16, Luke 5:1, John 1:42
- ◆ Matt 8:14 Peter's mother-in-law.
- ◆ Matt 10:2 Apostles named, Peter is first in list. Luke 6:13
- ◆ Matt 14:28 Peter walks on water
- ◆ Matt 15:15 Peter asks for an explanation and Jesus asks if his disciples are so dull as to need one.
- ◆ Matt 16:13 Peter declares Jesus as the Christ and Jesus says "Upon this rock I will build my church".
- ◆ Matt 16:22 Peter says "Never Lord" to the idea of Jesus being killed. Jesus responds with "Get behind me Satan!" Mark 8:33
- ◆ Matt 17:1 Peter witnesses the Transfiguration and offers to build a shelter for each of the three figures. (Side item: How did they recognize Moses and Elijah?) Mark 9:2, Luke 9:28
- ◆ Matt 17:24 Peter gets his taxes from a fish.
- ◆ Matt 18:21 Peter learns he must forgive 70 x 7 times.
- ◆ Matt 19:27 Peter asks what there will be for the apostles who have left everything to follow Jesus. Mark 10:28, Luke 18:28
- ◆ Matt 26:31 Jesus says all will fall away that night. Peter says even if everyone else does, he won't. Mark 14:27-31 (All the others say they will never disown him.)
- ◆ Matt 26:37 Jesus takes Peter, James, and John to Gethsemane. Mark 14:33
- ◆ Matt 26:41 Jesus specifically asks Peter to watch and pray.
- ◆ Matt 26:51 Peter cuts off Malchus' ear (John 18:10)
- ◆ Matt 26:58 Peter watches the "trial" of Jesus from a distance. Mark 14:54
- ◆ Matt 26:69 Peter denies Jesus. Mark 14:66, Luke 22:34/54, John 18:15
- ◆ Matt 26:75 The rooster crows and Peter remembers Jesus' words and weeps over his betrayal. Mark 14:72, Luke 22:60, John 18:27

- ◆ Mark 8:27 Jesus asks who people says he is, then asks Peter who Peter says he is. Luke 9:18
- ◆ Mark 11:21 Peter notes that the fig tree that Jesus cursed has withered.
- ◆ Mark 16:7 Angel tells the women after resurrection to go tell disciples and Peter.

- ◆ Luke 5:1 Extra info about calling of Peter.
- ◆ Luke 8:45 Peter responds to Jesus question, "Who touched me?"
- ◆ Luke 12:41 Peter asks who a parable (about being ready) is for.
- ◆ Luke 22:8 Peter and John sent to prepare passover.
- ◆ Luke 24:12 Peter ran to the tomb. John 20:2 (John beats him, but Peter goes in!)

- ◆ John 1:40 Peter's brother Andrew says they have found the Messiah.
- ◆ John 6:68 Peter says to Jesus, "You have the words of life."
- ◆ John 13:6 Peter refuses to let Jesus wash his feet; then says to wash his whole body.
- ◆ John 13:36 Peter asks about where Jesus is going and following him there. Says he will die for him.

- ◆ John 21:2 After catching no fish, big haul with Jesus in command. Peter jumps in water.
- ◆ John 21:15 Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves him and says “Feed my sheep.” Peter is hurt by the repeat question.
- ◆ John 21:19 Peter's death indicated.

- ◆ Acts: Peter preaches sermon. Heals beggar. Put in jail. “Unschooling and ordinary men” (4:13). Death of Ananias and Sapphira (who lied to Holy Spirit) (5:3) Obey God rather than men. Peter and John laid hands and people received Holy Spirit (8:17) *Cannot buy the gift of God.* (8:20) Raises the dead (9:40) Cornelius/Gentiles receive Holy Spirit and are baptized (Acts 10) Peter criticized by circumcised believers (11:2) Peter escapes from prison, church astonished at answer to prayer. (Acts 12)

- ◆ Galatians Paul stays with Peter for 15 days. (1:18) Peter apostle to the Jews. (2:7) One of the pillars. Opposed by Paul (2:11)

→ **Lessons (includes repeat from other characters):**

- Peter and Paul were “Super Apostles” / “Super Jews” but they got it wrong.
 - Do you have it down better than they did??
 - We can be fully convinced, fully sincere, but yet be absolutely wrong.
 - We need to be humble knowing that we might have it wrong. (Remember I Cor 8:2)
 - We need to be gracious and forgive ourselves and others when we get it wrong.
 - We don't have to have it right or understand it all to be in God's grace.

- Peter was bold and confident when he was with Jesus, or when his focus was on Jesus. But when Peter's focus was elsewhere or he wasn't walking with Jesus, Peter stumbled – denying Christ, or sinking after walking on water.
 - It is the same with us. Walking with, and focusing on Jesus gives us courage and success. Doing otherwise magnifies our fears and causes us to slip and sink.
 - Even though Peter walked with Jesus and even on water, Peter made doubted and made mistakes. So will we. We need to be gracious and forgiving to ourselves and others.

- Jesus actually called Peter “Satan”. He also called him “dull” after he asked a question. And Jesus hurt* Peter by asking three times if Peter loved him.
 - This could suggest that we ought not to be overly delicate/sensitive, or easily offended. Jesus himself was seemingly harsh on one of his foremost apostles.
 - Sometimes we need a jolt to keep us humble – one that we can remember when we are tempted to discount someone else.
 - Also sometimes we are “hurt” for a good cause. (Proverbs 27:6 Wounds from a friend can be trusted. Psalm 141:5 Let a righteous man strike me – it is a kindness; let him rebuke me – it is oil on my head.)

- Peter walks on water.
 - One lesson is to think bigger (think out of the boat): After being terrified of what seemed to be a ghost and then hearing Jesus voice, Peter doesn't say “whew, that's a relief!”. He suggests that Jesus command Peter to go to Jesus *on the water*. Who would even think of such a thing? This is a reminder that God can do more than we can think or imagine, and so we need to practice imagining!
 - Another lesson is to wait on the Lord. In this case, our impetuous apostle doesn't just jump out of the boat. He waits for word from the Lord. He waits for the command.
 - As author John Ortberg says, “If you're going to walk on water, you have to get out of the boat.”

- The company we keep has substantial impact on our lives. Peter reverted to shunning Gentiles when with certain Jews. Paul confronted him publicly about this.

- Notice that the original high profile apostles were brothers – Peter and Andrew, James and John.
 - Again this relates to the company we keep. This could possibly suggest synergy through family. The lesson for us would be to seek to connect with spiritual family who can encourage

and help us to be more than we can be alone.

- Christianity is not about perfection. It's about God's goodness and our acceptance of it. We can be dysfunctional and still be Christians. God's grace is truly amazing.
- Christianity is not about knowledge. It's about heart.
- Everybody deserts Jesus at some point. Matt 26:56, "all the disciples deserted him and fled." This was after they all claimed they wouldn't. Mark 14:31. The important thing is to return.
- Listen. Peter and the disciples didn't like what they heard, and so it seems that perhaps they didn't really listen.
- We quickly forget, so reminders are important. Jesus told Peter and the disciples what was going to happen. Peter did not recognize it happening until he heard the cock crow. Then it was too late.
- We are not defined by our mistakes; we are improved by them – if we are their students. Was Peter defined and remembered for his mistakes, or for his service to God? Mistakes are remembered, and their consequences may endure, but only if we stay in them are we defined by them. Note that Jesus lineage is David and Bathsheba. Jesus is a descendant of adultery. Judas remained in his mistakes.
- Side note: Is "forgive and forget" really Biblical when the Bible itself records mistakes for all time??
- The greatest biblical characters were human, just as we are. They had the very same problems – impetuosity, missing the point, fear, forgetting, etc.
- We are "ordinary". God does extraordinary through us. (See Acts 4:13)
- God does not show favoritism.
- If God does not show favoritism, then could the same God that saved Paul, who was sincerely wrong, condemn another person who is also sincere but wrong??