# Called, forgiven, sent

Saint Peter: The Fisherman Who Became a Shepherd

**Ages approximately 7-11** | Video 18:37 | Full lesson 50-60 minutes
Two-session option:30-35 minutes each, with selected replay.

### Central truth

Jesus calls imperfect people, welcomes those who turn back to him, and gives his Church the Holy Spirit to help them love and serve.

### Learning goals

Children will retell Peter's call, denial and restoration; explain that Christian leadership means service; identify the Holy Spirit's help; and choose one concrete way to follow Jesus.

### Gather and prepare

Have the video, a Bible, pencils or crayons and one response handout per child. A paper net, a key and a towel are optional symbols. Preview the whole story and read the teaching notes on page 4.

### One complete lesson | about 55 minutes

**Welcome and notice (5 min):** Show a key or net. Ask what a person can learn with help.
**Watch (19 min):** Give one listening purpose: How does Jesus help Peter begin again?
**Talk together (12 min):** Choose four questions from page 3.
**Respond (14 min):** Use a student handout or the service activity.
**Share and pray (5 min):** Invite one voluntary response and pray together.

### Optional two-session plan

**Session 1:** Watch the call through the breakfast by the lake (Scenes 1-9; about 11 minutes). Explore trust, mercy and Jesus' invitation to serve. Use Draw & Tell page 1 or Read & Write page 1.
**Session 2:** Briefly recall Peter's new beginning, then watch Pentecost through the ending (Scenes 10-16; about 8 minutes). Explore courage, welcome and caring for the Church. Use the second activity page. Each session has room for a selected replay, discussion, response and prayer.

**Family option:** Watch in two sittings. Choose one question and one small response each time; completing every activity is optional.

# Follow Peter's journey

A story map for choosing pauses and short replays

### 1. Called to trust | Scenes 1-3

Simon receives the name Peter, follows Jesus and calls for help on the water. Notice that Jesus reaches for him. Ask: What does Peter do when he needs help?

Leader reading: John 1:35-42; Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 14:22-33

### 2. Learning who Jesus is | Scenes 4-5

Peter professes faith in Jesus and receives a special responsibility. He still needs correction and must learn to listen. A strong leader continues learning.

Leader reading: Matthew 16:13-23;17:1-8;18:21-22

### 3. Learning to serve | Scene 6

Jesus washes his apostles' feet and gives them the Eucharist. Jesus makes clear that Peter needs his feet washed, not his head and hands. Leadership is loving service.

Leader reading: John 13:1-17; Luke 22:14-34

### 4. Denial and a new beginning | Scenes 7-9

Fear leads Peter to deny Jesus. He grieves; the risen Jesus welcomes him and entrusts his flock to him. Do not end the lesson at Peter's failure.

Leader reading: Luke 22:54-62; John 20:1-20;21:1-19

### 5. Courage from the Holy Spirit | Scenes 10-12

At Pentecost Peter speaks boldly. He helps the man at the Temple and prays for Tabitha. The power belongs to Jesus; Peter is his servant.

Leader reading: Acts 2:1-41;3:1-16;4:1-22;9:36-43

### 6. A wider welcome and a praying Church | Scenes 13-14

God leads Peter to Cornelius. People from every nation are called to Christ. Later the Church prays while Peter is imprisoned, and an angel helps him escape.

Leader reading: Acts 10:1-48;12:1-17

### 7. A shepherd who keeps following | Scenes 15-16

Peter serves with the apostles and encourages the Church. The ending distinguishes Scripture from traditions about his death. Catholics honor him as the first pope.

Leader reading: Acts 15:1-21;1 Peter 5:1-4; John 21:18-19

# Talk, notice, respond

Choose questions to match the scenes and children's readiness

**1. Why does Peter lower the nets again?**
He trusts Jesus enough to act after an unsuccessful night. Help children distinguish trusting Jesus from pretending a task is easy.

**2. What happens when Peter begins to sink?**
He asks Jesus for help, and Jesus reaches for him. Needing help is not a reason to hide or give up.

**3. Why do a rock, keys and a towel belong in Peter's story?**
The rock and keys point to Peter's special responsibility for the Church; the towel shows the service Jesus expects. Responsibility is not permission to boss people around.

**4. Did Peter's denial mean Jesus stopped calling him?**
No. Peter turned back, and the risen Jesus welcomed and sent him. Mercy calls us to tell the truth, receive forgiveness and begin again.

**5. Who are the sheep Peter is asked to care for?**
They represent the people Jesus loves. Peter is to guide and care for the Church; he does not replace Jesus, the true Shepherd.

**6. What changes at Pentecost?**
The Holy Spirit gives the disciples courage to bear witness to Jesus. Peter's boldness is a gift of God, not a story about becoming strong alone.

**7. What does Peter learn at Cornelius' house?**
God's Good News is for every nation. No person should be treated as unworthy of hearing about Jesus because of family or nationality.

**8. What might following Jesus look like this week?**
Accept specific, safe examples: welcome a classmate, ask forgiveness, make amends, help at home, pray for someone or tell the truth with kindness.

**Listen for understanding:** A child links a story detail to Jesus' mercy or help, describes leadership as care, and names a practical next step. Accept oral, drawn or written responses.

# Lead the response

Adaptations, answer notes and trusted sources

### Choose the response

**Draw & Tell:** Two pages for remembering a scene, showing Jesus' help, and planning a loving action. Read prompts aloud and invite a spoken explanation.
**Read & Write:** Two pages for sequencing, explaining mercy and service, and choosing a response. Use short answers, dictation or a partner as needed.

### A small act of care | optional 8-10 minutes

Give each child a paper fish. Invite a drawing or phrase naming one safe act of care. Place the fish together in a paper net as a reminder that following Jesus helps gather and care for people. Participation and sharing are voluntary; do not turn the net into a competition.

### Adapt by readiness

For younger children, select just two episodes and one picture prompt. For confident readers, compare Matthew 16:18-19 with John 21:15-17: how do responsibility and service belong together? Offer speech-to-text, dictation, pointing or partner work. Allow extra time without requiring all pages.

### Handout answer notes

Read & Write page 1: sequence boxes (top to bottom) are 3,1,4,2. Jesus catches Peter and later welcomes and commissions him; accept accurate examples. Page 2: correct choices are care for others and help us be brave to do good. Cornelius is a Gentile; the Good News is for every nation. Accept a specific safe personal response.

### Teach with care

The story includes fear, arrest, grief and a brief account of martyrdom. Explain these calmly; avoid graphic detail and do not ask children to disclose private wrongdoing. Forgiveness does not mean hiding harm or remaining unsafe: a child should tell a trusted adult. Jewish people and traditions must be described respectfully. Scripture does not describe Peter's death in Rome or an upside-down crucifixion; the film identifies those details as Church tradition.

### Pray and take home

Jesus, you called Peter and helped him begin again. Give us your Holy Spirit, so that we can trust you, receive your mercy and care for others. Saint Peter, pray for us. Amen.
**At home:** Retell one scene. Choose an act of care together and pray for the pope and the Church.

### Sources for the leader

Peter and the keys - Matthew 16:13-23

Jesus welcomes Peter - John 21:1-19

Cornelius and the Church - Acts 10

Peter and the Church - Vatican doctrinal reflection

Story page and free downloads | Video 18:37. Sources and activities paraphrase the reviewed story; brief Scripture phrases are identified by reference.