



PETER

THE DISCIPLE

Daily Devotions and Small Group Discussion Questions | Week Three

Peter, The Disciple

Has your faith journey ever seemed to be one step forward and two steps back? The disciple, Peter, is an incredible illustration of the highs and lows we all experience in our journey with God. Walk alongside Peter as he leaves his life as a fisherman; walks upon a raging sea; is haunted by the sound of a rooster's crow; and finally finds himself staring into an empty tomb.

Let's follow Peter's story and learn to experience a life of faith together.

This Week's Memory Verse

..to keep in your pocket, memorize, and hide in your heart:

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.
Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live."
- John 11:25 (ESV)

Week Three | Small Group Discussion Questions

The following small group discussion questions are based on North Way's weekly teaching within the series, "Peter, The Disciple." If you or your small group didn't have a chance to watch the sermon, please visit www.northway.org or North Way's app to access the video message and watch prior to or during your small group gathering.

Spend a few minutes reviewing the primary points from this week's teaching. What stood out to you the most? Were there things you didn't understand? What challenged you?

Put yourself in the disciples' shoes. What do you think would have been your response to Jesus' crucifixion?

Consider a life stage or situation that was completely against what you had planned or hoped. Maybe you are currently in one. How has this affected your faith?

What are some areas of your life that you could trust more in God's power to resurrect, or work in miraculous ways?

Have you ever been passionate and intense about something? What was it? How did it cause you to act?

Does the mystery and truth of Christ make you eager to know Him more? Why or why not?

Unlike Peter that early Sunday morning, we already know what happens in the second half of the story of Christ. Is there still purpose in running after him? What does that look like for us?

Read Luke 24:5. Have you ever looked for the things of this world to give you life? What are some ways to keep our hearts in pursuit of the only One who offers true life?

As a group, how can you put your faith in action together in response to this week's message?

Week Three, Day One

Scripture Reading

John 20:1-10; Ephesians 3:14-21

Devotional Reading

Sometimes life doesn't go as planned.

The disciples must have had their own expectations of what their future in furthering God's kingdom would entail. None of those ideas likely included their teacher being brutally tortured and shamefully hung on a cross. In John 20, we find Christ's closest companions wrought with despair.

Could any possible good come from the devastation that had seemingly crippled their cause? To the disciples, experiencing God's kingdom first-hand through the words, actions and leadership of Christ, Jesus' death must have seemed like the end of a beautiful dream.

Like the disciples, it is tempting to feel like our faith is flourishing when it seems apparent that God is guiding our life. We are comfortable with God as long as he operates in a way that seems clear and full of direction. When we come against something that seems to derail the path we have been on with God, something that shakes us to our very core, we find ourselves questioning our faith. God doesn't always operate according to our expectations. His ways don't always jive with our rational, earthly mindset.

Despite three days of utter despair, grief, and broken plans, the disciples came to discover that what they received was far greater than anything for which they could have planned. He conquered death, and they were forever changed. Likewise, in the moments where our lives aren't going as anticipated, in those moments that grab our guts and shake our faith, let us look to the God who has proven his ability to overcome the grave!

Faith In Action

Today, meditate on Ephesians 3:20: "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us." Ask God to restore hope to an area where current circumstances have caused your faith to wane.

Today's Prayer

Lord, you are worthy of my life, hopes, dreams and plans. I trust you. Thank you that your resurrection power is available today. Restore faith to the parts of my heart that need it.

Week Three, Day Two

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

Devotional Reading

Easter is a celebration of Christ's victorious resurrection from the dead. Death was proven powerless over him, and we celebrate that one day, we too will be resurrected to live with him forever in heaven.

Christ's power to resurrect has provided us not only with a hope of future glory, but also a promise here on earth that we are forgiven and rescued from the death that comes from sin.

The Bible expresses over and over again that our old selves have been crucified with Christ, and our new selves are brought forth through his resurrection. Hallelujah that the old is gone and the new has come! Paul, in the second chapter of Ephesians, teaches this lesson to the church. He begins the chapter as directly as possible: "You were dead." Then two of the most powerful words in all of scripture follow just a couple verses later: "But God." As we are celebrating Jesus' power over the grave this Easter season, let's remember how God also, "raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms."

We too, because of God's grace and Jesus' loving sacrifice, have power over sin and are spiritually resurrected from the dead. May we celebrate with hope and confidence, as we live as heirs to the most high God!

Faith In Action

Thank Jesus for conquering the grave on your behalf. Reflect on what it looks like in your life to be dead to sin and alive to Christ.

Today's Prayer

God, thank you that you were, are and will be victorious! I confess that I am unable to overcome sin in my life on my own. I pray that you would help me to live as a resurrected believer, trusting your grace today and always.

Week Three, Day Three

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:1-8

Devotional Reading

“Why do you look for the living among the dead?” Luke 24:5 is one of my favorite passages in all of the Bible. In context, this was a genuine question, not theoretical or full of imagery.

But this is so much more than a question for these women at Jesus’ empty tomb.

How often must we ask this question of ourselves? Are you looking for Christ among the dead things of this world? Money. Things. Happiness. Success. Friendship. Appearance.

Whatever your dead may be, God is not there. Christ is alive and active, and he desires for your eyes to be lifted to him, not distracted by the dead. This angel of the Lord talks to these women with love and patience as he gently reminds them: the living is elsewhere.

This isn’t a question we ask of ourselves once and move on. This question is one we must ask daily. Am I looking for the living among the dead?

Who am I trusting? What am I pursuing? Have I made worldly success my goal? Am I storing up treasures here on earth or am I living abundantly with eternity in mind?

Jesus Christ is the living. Seek him.

Faith In Action

Identify the areas in which you are seeking life among the dead. Remember that God’s grace is abundant. No matter how many times you find yourself on your knees in prayer, asking yourself this same question time and time again, God’s grace is abundant.

Today’s Prayer

Father, thank you that you are the creator of life. I am sorry for looking to the dead things of this world to bring satisfaction. Breathe afresh into my soul today, that I might experience the fullness of joy that comes from your presence.

Week Three, Day Four

Scripture Reading

John 20:1-10; Luke 24:9-12

Devotional Reading

As we look at today's readings, we see an intense narrative. Isn't most of the Bible like that?

Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah, has died. His followers, those whom were closest to him, are in a state of confusion. They are mourning, and they are perplexed for, "they still did not understand...that Jesus had to rise from the dead (John 20:9)."

They had spent three days wondering if they were completely crazy in devoting their lives to this man who is now dead, when one of them, Mary Magdalene, thinks she has made a discovery that could change everything. As we watch the rest of the story unfold, we see a hurricane of emotions in Peter - a swirl of determination and bewilderment - as he runs fiercely toward the empty tomb and immediately goes inside.

He is eager.

How eager are we to discover all that we can about Jesus and his next move? Even now, being blessed with the gift of God's written Word for so many years, there is still a beautiful mystery about Jesus. Are we intrigued and full of the same wonder and hope that we see here in Peter? Does the life, death, and resurrection of Christ cause us to run after him with full passion and intensity, desiring to know and discover all that we can about our Savior?

Faith In Action

Peter was passionate and determined when it came to Christ. Evaluate your own sense of eagerness and wonder toward Christ. Wherever you are in your faith journey, ask that God would create in you greater passion for knowing and discovering him more.

Today's Prayer

God, may I never lose sight of the magnitude of your death on the cross and resurrection from the dead! Let the truth of your magnificent love dwell richly in me. May I be compelled by fierce devotion and passion as I follow you.

Week Three, Day Five

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 15:1-58

Devotional Reading

Undoubtedly, at one time or another, we take things for granted.

An often unintentional slip into the mundane can affect nearly every area of life. That amazing smart-phone or tablet that blew your mind last year has become a normal, unremarkable part of everyday life. Those breath-taking views of Pittsburgh's skyline are now a barely-noticed part of your daily commute. The snowflakes that were mesmerizing in November aren't as majestic come March.

Easter is the perfect time to ask yourself if you've done the same with the gospel. Have you been taking for granted Jesus' triumphant rise from death?

The Corinthians had a different problem. False teachers had crept in and spread lies that there was no resurrection from the dead. Paul's response to their crisis might be exactly what we need to hear this Easter season!

In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul lays out many reasons that Jesus' resurrection is not only factual, but crucially important to our lives and faith. If Jesus were not raised, we would not be forgiven (1 Corinthians 15:17). Because of Jesus' victory in resurrection, we need not fear death (1 Corinthians 15:55-57)!

Paul lists many, many more. Why not explore the rest yourself? Pray that as you do, God will take what has become routine in your heart and inspire new excitement, gratitude and life!

Faith In Action

Read through 1 Corinthians 15, and make a list of every reason Paul gives for Jesus' resurrection being factual or important. Ask God to show you how Jesus' resurrection impacts your life today.

Today's Prayer

God, may I never take for granted the amazing death and resurrection of Jesus. Please fill me with wonder and awe over your love, your victory and your power.



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