



Series:	Date: <b>Nov. 27th, 2016</b>
Topic: Peter the Impulsive Disciple	Speaker: <b>Dr. George Rhoades</b>

## WELCOME

Dr. Rhoades continues to look at characters within the Bible and how God used them for His glory. This week we look at Peter, his impulsiveness, and how his life glorified God.

For the ice breaker this week, share your answers to the following question: What is your favorite Christmas song?

## WORSHIP

Start the worship time by encouraging people to share praises for what God has done in their life this past week. Sing worship songs from the Sunday services or select your own.

## WORD

**I. Spiritual Objective.** At the end of the discussion, members will:

- A. Discuss how Peter's background was used by God for His glory and the establishment of the Church.
- B. Talk about how we can spend time with Jesus and study God's Word to guide our actions and lives.

**II. The Sermon Synopsis:**

Peter is often known as the impulsive disciple and we see many examples in Scripture of Peter speaking or acting quickly. Sometimes Peter's impulsiveness got him into trouble, sometimes it benefited him. Before following Jesus, Peter was a fisherman, who were often gruff, loud, vulgar, and full of confidence. Peter would go on to become one of the leaders of the disciples, and eventually lead the early Church in Jerusalem.

By spending time with Jesus, Peter was able to gain the confidence necessary to be the leader he became. He also followed the example Christ had set for him, kept focused on Jesus, and was filled with and trusted the Holy Spirit. Peter serves as another reminder that God uses all people and personalities. What is important is that we spend time with and learn from Christ.

## The Text:

<sup>21</sup> From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. <sup>22</sup> Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" <sup>23</sup> Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

**(Matthew 16:21-23)**

<sup>13</sup> When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. <sup>14</sup> But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say.

**(Acts 4:13-14)**

## Discussion Questions

**III.** Before being called by Jesus Peter was a fisherman. Like many of the disciples, Peter's background made it surprising that he would help spread the church across the world. *How can God use just anyone regardless of who or what they were? Have you ever felt that God cannot use you because of your past or your lack of gifts or talents? How has he used you anyway?*

**IV.** Dr. Rhoades highlighted the times where Peter's impulsiveness got him into trouble and when it worked well in his favor. *What is your own personality like? Are you impulsive and think things out thoroughly before acting? What are the pluses and minuses? How can God use your personality?*

**V.** One of the most well known stories of Peter is of him walking on the water towards Jesus. However, he became distracted by the storm, took his eyes off Jesus, and began to sink. *What distractions in life causes us to take our eyes off Jesus and sink? How can we stay focused and keep our eyes of Christ?*



**VI.** Peter had confidence to lead the Early Church because of the time he had spent with Jesus. The more time we spend with Jesus, the more we learn to hear His voice, the more confident we become in our actions, and the greater things we do for the Kingdom. *What does it mean to spend time with Jesus? How do you spend time with Him? Do you have confidence in Christ? Do you feel as if He is calling or asking you to do something?*

**VII.** One of the ways to deal with impulsiveness is to follow the example of Jesus. A popular statement a few years ago was WWJD or What Would Jesus Do. Besides spending time with Jesus, we know more about Jesus by studying Scripture. *How does Scripture reveal more about Jesus? What is the difference between studying Scripture and reading it? In what areas do you ask yourself, "What would Jesus do?" In what areas of your life do you tend to do your own thing because of the confidence you already have in yourself?*

## WORK

- **Pray** and thank God that He has given us all unique personalities and that our personalities can be used uniquely for His Glory. Ask for opportunities to glorify Him this week and that God will continue to teach you to hear His voice. Finally, thank Him for the gift of His Son and reason we can celebrate Christmas.
- **Service Opportunity:** If your HOME group is interested in serving the community in anyway this Thanksgiving and Christmas season and would like ideas or opportunities. Please contact Jon Ayin at the Church.
- **Pray for Our Building Expansion Project (BEP).**
  - ❖ The letter to appeal our parking requirement to the C&C was mailed this past week. Please continue to pray that they will accept the number of parking stalls we need based on our actual use of our facilities instead of the potential capacity of our buildings that requires more stalls than we have available.

- ❖ Continue praying that Max will continue to move forward on the detailed drawings to complete building permit drawings by mid-December and be ready to submit for building permits.
- ❖ Pray that our contractor will soon provide a final cost estimate that will be within the original estimate so that we can secure a final loan commitment.
- ❖ The grading permit application has been submitted—please continue praying that it will be approved by Jan. 31, 2017

### Announcements:

1. **Star Trip: Our Faith Awakens.** This Sunday, **12/4** at 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM. Continue to invite your friends and family to hear the Christmas story told in a unique way in our AWANA Children's Christmas program.
2. **River of Life Missions.** Give the gift of time along with your donations. Need volunteers on Wed, **12/7**, at 5:45pm to serve a meal and give encouragement. We're also accepting monetary donations—just write ROL on memo section of your check.
3. **River of Life Giving Tree.** This year our RoL Giving Tree will be in partnership with the AWANA T&T Club. The clubbers will spend their AWANA bucks on gifts for the Homeless, as well as learn about what the mission does to provide hope to the homeless. The tree is located downstairs on the Fellowship Hall lanai and lists the supplies needed—take the ornament as a reminder of what to donate. Donations can be dropped off through **12/11**.
4. **Christmas Day Service.** Invite your friends and family to join us on Christmas Day, **Dec. 25** for a special service at 9:00am.
5. **Youth Christmas Camp.** Tue-Sat, **Dec 27<sup>th</sup> – Dec 31<sup>st</sup>** at Our Lady of Keeau. Need adult help to provide all kinds of support. If you can help in any way at any time, please see Abi.