

JESUS

FOR LIFE

A Greater Purpose

Peter's Extraordinary Ministry in the Early Church

- Day of Pentecost
- The day he healed a lame beggar
- “As a result of the apostles' work, sick people were brought out into the streets on beds and mats so that Peter's shadow might fall across some of them as he went by.” (Acts 5:15 NLT)

From Rock to Blockhead

- Who do you say that I am?
- “You are Peter—the rock—and I’m going to build my church on this rock.”
- Jesus explains and Peter corrects him.
- Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's." Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. (Matt. 16:23-25 NLT)



From Walking to Sinking

Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water." "Yes, come," Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted. Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?"

(Matt. 14:28-31 NLT)



Peter Still Doesn't Get It

Simon Peter asked, "Lord, where are you going?" And Jesus replied, "You can't go with me now, but you will follow me later." "But why can't I come now, Lord?" he asked. "I'm ready to die for you." Jesus answered, "Die for me? I tell you the truth, Peter-- before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me. (Jn. 13:36-38 NLT)



Called to a Greater Purpose

- Jesus meets his disciples on the seashore
- Peter had gone back to fishing for fish

Called to a Greater Purpose

¹⁵ After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," Peter replied, "you know I love you." "Then feed my lambs," Jesus told him.

¹⁶ Jesus repeated the question: "Simon son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Lord," Peter said, "you know I love you." "Then take care of my sheep," Jesus said.

¹⁷ A third time he asked him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Then feed my sheep.



God Has a Greater Purpose for Each of Us

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Examples:

- Helping others know and trust Jesus
- Recognizing injustice and bringing justice in its place
- Making a family that follows Jesus



God Has a Greater Purpose for Each of Us

We can seek Jesus.

Jesus will free us from whatever gets in the way:

- Fear
- Pride
- Shame
- Temptation
- Deliberate, habitual sins



Jesus Never Stops Transforming Us



Invitation

Moving Yourself toward Jesus

- Identify ways that Jesus is at work changing you into someone who trusts yourself less and him more.
- Think about how you are seeking Jesus and ask Holy Spirit to show you how you can seek him more.

Moving Others toward Jesus

- Ask God to put someone on your heart and to show you how you could do something that feels personally risky to show that person how much Jesus loves him or her.



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