



# Small Group Study Guide

## **PETER** *A FLAWED, YET FAITHFUL FOLLOWER OF JESUS*

August 2, 2020  
"The Calling of Simon  
the Fisherman"

### **OPENING PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, thank you for Peter and that day on the banks of the Sea of Galilee we are studying today. Whatever we are wrestling with on our own spiritual journey, would you just give us that calm assurance that you are there. So Father, wherever we are, wherever this study lands with us today, give us courage to take that next step with you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### **SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:**

#### **Luke 5:1-11 (CEB)**

One day Jesus was standing beside Lake Gennesaret when the crowd pressed in around him to hear God's word. <sup>2</sup> Jesus saw two boats sitting by the lake. The fishermen had gone ashore and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> Jesus boarded one of the boats, the one that belonged to Simon, then asked him to row out a little distance from the shore. Jesus sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. <sup>4</sup> When he finished speaking to the crowds, he said to Simon, "Row out farther, into the deep water, and drop your nets for a catch."

<sup>5</sup> Simon replied, "Master, we've worked hard all night and caught nothing. But because you say so, I'll drop the nets."

<sup>6</sup> So they dropped the nets and their catch was so huge that their nets were splitting. <sup>7</sup> They signaled for their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They filled both boats so full that they were about to sink. <sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw the catch, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Leave me, Lord, for I'm a sinner!" <sup>9</sup> Peter and those with him were overcome with amazement because of the number of fish they caught. <sup>10</sup> James and John, Zebedee's sons, were Simon's partners and they were amazed too.

Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid. From now on, you will be fishing for people." <sup>11</sup> As soon as they brought the boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

#### **1 Peter 2:23-24 (CEB)**

<sup>23</sup> When he was insulted, he did not reply with insults. When he suffered, he did not threaten revenge. Instead, he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He carried in his own body on the cross the sins we committed. He did this so that we might live in righteousness, having nothing to do with sin. By his wounds you were healed.

## INTRODUCTION

Simon Peter is a hard-working, uneducated fisherman from the northern region of the Sea of Galilee. Simon Peter is a flawed yet faithful disciple who plays a pivotal role in the Gospels. When we look at him, we are meant to see ourselves in the story. Many of us can relate to being flawed and yet attempting to be faithful to Jesus. So, what can we learn about our own faith journey from the Calling of Simon the Fisherman?

Peter had no idea what hung in the balance of his decision to go fishing with Jesus. When Peter's simple act of faith intersected with Jesus' faithfulness, everything changed. What is your next step in your faith journey with Jesus—coming back, confessing, reconciling, choosing purity, serving, giving? Whatever your next step is, take it. You don't know what hangs in the balance.

## QUESTIONS

- 1) Do you tend to be trusting or skeptical? How has that tendency positively or negatively affected your relationship with God?
- 2) During the message, Eric said, "Peter is a flawed yet faithful disciple and we are meant to see ourselves in his story." How do you see yourself in the life of Peter? Explain?
- 3) Read Luke 5:1-7 on page 1. Have you ever chosen to trust God even though doing so didn't seem to make sense at the time? If so, what happened?
- 4) Read Luke 5:8-11 on page 1. Are you currently afraid that God is separating himself from you because of your sin? How might your life and faith be different if you were able to put aside that fear and trust him?
- 5) Read 1 Peter 2:23–24 on page 1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how well does your life reflect the truth that by Jesus' wounds you have been healed?

## FINAL APPLICATION

In what area of your life do you need to dial up your trust in Jesus? What is your best next step?