

Peter's Great Confession

Key Verse:
"Whoever
wants to save
his life will lose
it, but whoever
loses his life for
Me will save it."

Luke 9:24

Extra: How do we show that Jesus is Lord of our lives?

Level 3 lesson 29

Read Matthew 16:13-28
and Matthew 7:21-23

THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS: Everything and nothing - that's what it costs you to be a Christian. Sound confusing? In this lesson, we'll see that Jesus is both Saviour and LORD!

PETER - JUST AN AVERAGE GUY!

What a relief to find people like Peter in the Bible! He was a good leader and speaker; the kind of person others looked up to and followed. But he was also a bit of a 'loud-mouth' and often spoke before he used his brain! I guess he was a bit like you and me; he had his good and bad points, his weaknesses and strengths.

PETER'S CONFESSION

One day, Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do the crowds say I am?" They answered, "Some say John the Baptist; some say Elijah the Prophet; some say one of the old-time prophets come back to life." Jesus knew that of course, but then He got right to the point. "Who do YOU say that I am?" He asked them.

Peter, who often spoke first, said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God!" Jesus blessed Peter and told him that it was God who had revealed this truth to him. We believe in Jesus, not because we are smarter than others, but because God's Holy Spirit helps us understand the truth about Him. But there's MORE to being a Christian than just 'believing' in Jesus.



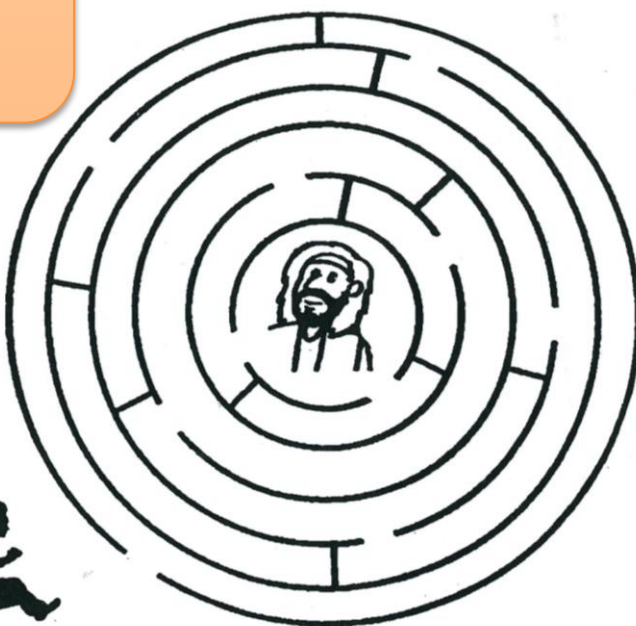
PETER'S MISTAKE

When Jesus told the disciples that He must die, Peter spoke up and said he would never let that happen! He loved Jesus, and didn't understand that Jesus had to die and take the punishment for sin, so we could be made right with God.

Jesus helped Peter understand that this was God's plan. Then Jesus made sure that Peter understood something else very important: salvation is a free gift (Romans 6:23), but Jesus saves us so that we will obey Him as Lord of our lives!

That's what we meant earlier: it doesn't cost any money to become a Christian; it is a free gift. But at the same time it will cost us plenty in other ways, to live as a Christian day by day! Jesus said that we must 'lose' our lives - we must be ready to put God's will for our lives first, and live our lives for Him.

It's easy to SAY that Jesus is our Saviour - but if He really is, others will see it by the way we LIVE and BEHAVE. Take time to read the Bible so you can understand God's ways and how He wants you to live as His child. Then ask God to help you do it!



Help Peter to
'find' his life...
direct him
to the Lord
Jesus by
drawing a line
through this
maze



1. Who helps us understand the truth about Jesus?

2. Why did the Lord Jesus have to die?

3. What must we take time to do?

Miracle on the Mountain!

Key Verse:
“...We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:14b

Extra: How can the thought of Heaven encourage us?

Level 3 lesson 30

Read Matthew 17:1-8 and John 14:1-3

LOOKING AHEAD!

The Bible tells us that life can be tough - even for a Christian - but Jesus always looks after those who love Him! We must learn God's ways from the Bible and trust Him while we are on our way to Heaven.

WORTH IT ALL!

When I was a boy, a trip to the beach meant loading the whole family and half the things from our house into the car, then heading off on a long, hot, and boring drive. The only thing keeping us going was the thought of the beautiful, cool water, and the fun awaiting us at the beach! Finally, we would arrive, and the long, hot trip would be worth it!

A PREVIEW OF HEAVEN!

Many times, the Lord Jesus told His disciples that they were in for a tough time here on earth. The people of the world hated Jesus, and so they hated His disciples too. Peter didn't know it yet, but one day he would be arrested and killed, just as Jesus was. The Christian life is tough sometimes, simply because people still hate Jesus and His followers!

So one day, the Lord Jesus gave Peter a little glimpse of Heaven to encourage him through the tough times ahead. Jesus took Peter, James, and John, up a mountain and there something marvellous happened. The Lord Jesus began to shine as bright as the midday sun! Then suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared and talked to Him! The disciples were amazed! It was like looking into Heaven, where Jesus had come from!



You see, while Jesus was on earth, many people thought that He was just a man. They may have thought He was a good man, a wise man, or a man sent from God - but just a man all the same. Up there on the mountain, Peter and the others saw that Jesus was much more than just a man - He truly was God the Son!

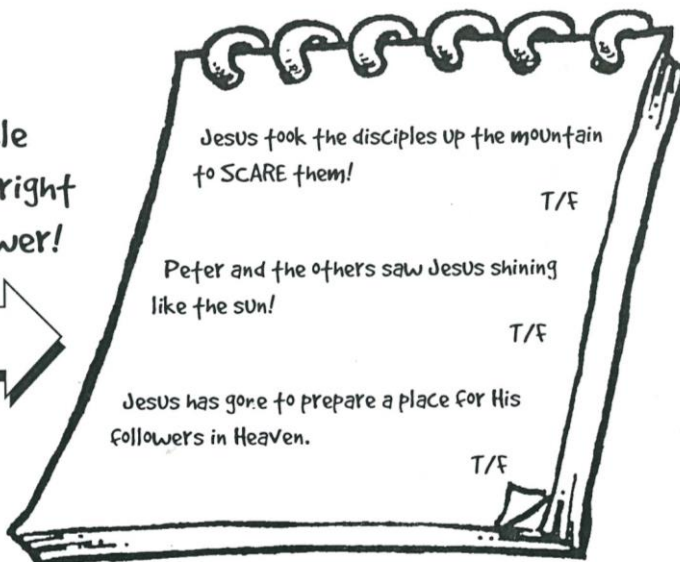
A BRIGHT HOPE

In John 14:1-3, Jesus told the disciples that He was soon going back to His Father in Heaven. And there He would prepare a place for them, so they could be with Him one day and share in His glory. On the mountain that day, they saw a brief glimpse of what that glory will be like!

Later, when people persecuted Peter and the other disciples for following Jesus, they didn't forget that they'd seen the Lord Jesus in His Heavenly glory. They knew that He really was God and that they would one day be with Him - forever! If you are a Christian, you have that same hope too! When things get tough in this life, then remember this: being with the Lord Jesus forever in Heaven will make everything worthwhile!

TRUE OR FALSE

Circle the right answer!



1. Why is the Christian life tough sometimes?

2. Why did the Lord Jesus show Peter and the others His glory?

Peter Falls Flat

Key Verse:
“When PRIDE comes, then comes disgrace, but with HUMILITY comes wisdom.”

Proverbs 11:2

Level 3 lesson 31

Extra: How can we keep from making Peter’s mistake?

Read John 13:33-38
 and John 18:15-18, 25-27

WATCH OUT!

The Bible warns us against being PROUD! Proud people think too highly of who they are and what they can do.

‘PUTTING YOUR FOOT IN IT!’

Have you ever opened your mouth and said the wrong thing? Peter was a bit like that! He often said the wrong thing at the wrong time, or spoke before he’d thought about what to say. We see an example of this in one of the Bible readings today (John 13:33-38).

A BOLD CLAIM

Earlier on the night that He was arrested, Jesus talked to Peter and the other disciples to encourage them and give them strength for the days ahead. He tried to explain that He would only be with them for a little while longer. “Where I am going, you cannot follow,” He said. Of course, He was talking about His coming arrest and crucifixion.

Peter, who loved Jesus so much, was a bit puzzled by Jesus’ words. He couldn’t see why he couldn’t follow Jesus. Full of self-confidence, he boldly told the Lord, “I will lay down my life for you!” Jesus looked at Peter kindly, and said sadly, “Will you really lay down your life for Me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times!”



PRIDE COMES BEFORE A FALL

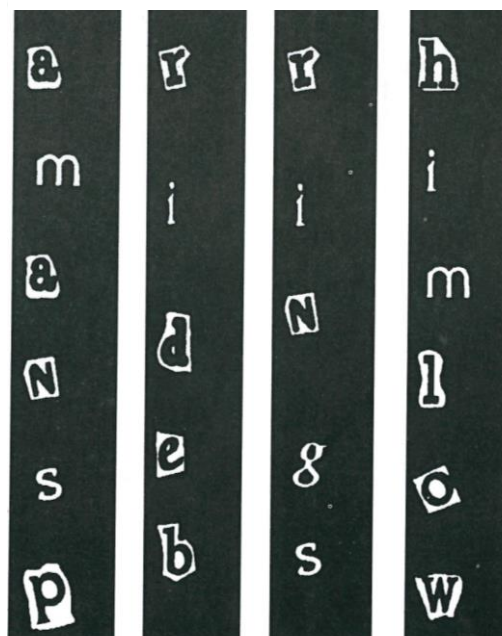
What was Peter’s mistake? Was it wrong for him to want to give his life to protect the Lord? No! Such devotion was a great example. The mistake Peter made was to think that he was strong enough to do this by himself. The Lord knew Peter’s heart well, and He knew that without God’s help, Peter didn’t have the strength to back up his claim.

As you will have seen in today’s readings, when the ‘crunch’ came, Peter was afraid to tell others that he was a disciple of Jesus. When some people said that he was a friend of Jesus, he denied it, “No! I don’t know Him!” Peter lied - not once, but three times - just as the Lord said he would!

REAL STRENGTH

The Apostle Paul once said, “I can do anything...” Was he being proud too? No; because he went on to say, “...through Christ who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:13). Peter went through this painful lesson about the dangers of pride, but we don’t have to! We can learn from his mistake and be people who do great things for the Lord, because we trust in Him for our strength and courage!

The letters below make a sentence from the Bible. Write it out in the space beside!



1. Why did Jesus want to talk to the disciples on the night He was arrested?

2. What mistake did Peter make?

CLUE: Proverbs 29:23

Peter's Second Chance

Key Verse:

"As far as the East is from the West, so far has He removed our sins from us."

Psalm 103:12

Extra: What should you do when you commit sin?

Level 3 lesson 32

Read John 21:1-19 and Micah 7:18-20

DOWN, BUT NOT OUT!

We all fail sometimes. When we do, it's easy to want to give up. But a Christian has hope because God always gives us a second chance!

GIVING UP

Peter had almost 'had enough!' For three years he had followed the Lord Jesus, believing that He would save the Jews from the Romans and become King. Instead, the leaders of the people had started to hate Jesus and He had been arrested and crucified!

Afterwards, Jesus rose from the dead, and while Peter was very happy, he still felt a deep sadness inside. He felt like he'd been a lousy disciple; after all, how could he ever forget denying he even knew the Lord Jesus - three times!! How bad was that! Peter wasn't too sure what to do next, or if Jesus even wanted to be His friend anymore!

Peter of course, had once been a fisherman, so one day he told the other disciples, "I'm going fishing!" Perhaps poor Peter just wanted to get back out on the peaceful Sea of Galilee - to go back to what he was good at, and forget his failure. So the other disciples, who were also sad and disappointed, went with him.

"IT'S THE LORD!"

Peter and the disciples fished all night, but caught nothing. It seemed like God had sent all the fish somewhere else! Then, just as the sun was coming up, Peter saw someone standing on the shore. This 'stranger' told them to throw their nets over the right side of the boat.

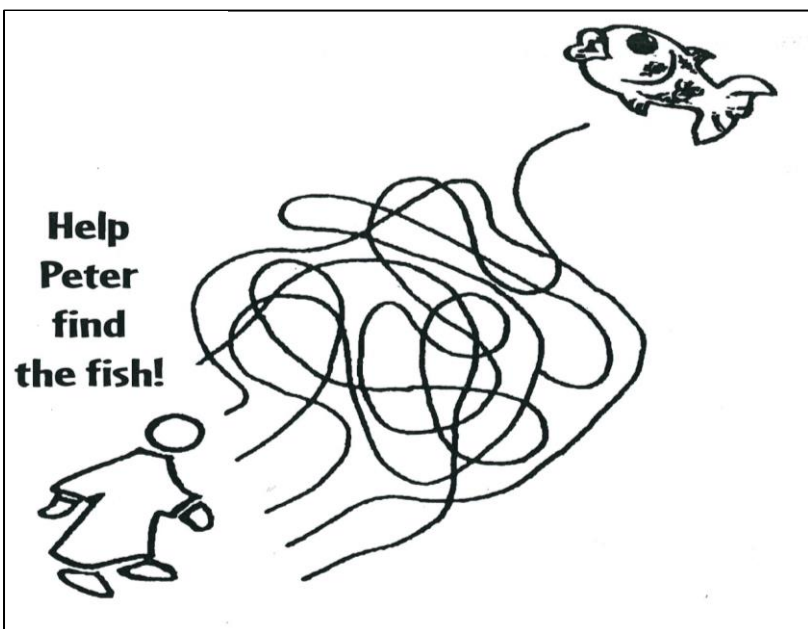


Suddenly, they caught a huge catch of fish. Then Peter and the others realized it was Jesus! Without hesitating, Peter jumped into the water and swam ashore to see Him. When the others arrived in the boat, they joyfully ate some breakfast together.

A SECOND CHANCE

Afterwards, Jesus asked Peter - not once, but three times - if he loved Him. Peter was upset, thinking that the Lord didn't believe him. But Jesus believed Him alright! In a lovely way, He gave Peter a chance to re-affirm his love for Jesus three times - the same number of times as Peter had denied Him!

In fact, Jesus had a very important job for Peter: "Look after My sheep," He told him. Jesus wanted Peter to be a shepherd and teacher of His people. If you are a child of God, He never gives up on you! God can take away your sins (Psalm 103:12), and He can forgive your failures - just as He did Peter's. What a joy it is to know this about God! For the Christian, He truly is the God of 'second chances!'



1. Why did Peter want to go back to fishing?

2. How did the Lord show that He forgave Peter for denying Him three times?

Please complete and return by post to

PSSM Bible Discovery, 5/399 New North Rd, Kingsland, Auckland 1021 or scan & email to info@biblediscovery.org.nz