

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PRAY TOGETHER

Lord, we come to you with open hands and surrendered hearts, asking you to speak clearly as we look at Peter's story and our own. Thank you that, like Peter, you meet us where we are, use even our mistakes, and patiently grow a genuine faith in us. Convict us today where we need correction, courage, or comfort, and give us the humility to receive it without throwing in the towel. Show each of us a clear next step of obedience, and give us the courage and endurance to follow through.

ICE BREAKER

This time of year we have the opportunity to cheer for our favorite teams on the court. But who are you cheering for the most, spiritually? On whom do you focus your prayers desiring to see God do a tremendous work in their life?

SERMON OVERVIEW



**SCAN FOR
SERMON CLIP**



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In this week's message, Pastor CJ explores the life of the Apostle Peter as a relatable example of genuine faith marked by both failures and triumphs. Through Peter's journey—from being a fisherman told he wasn't good enough to be a rabbi's disciple, to becoming the "team captain" of Jesus's disciples—we see how God meets us where we are but doesn't leave us there. The message emphasizes that spiritual growth is not about perfection but about staying committed through mistakes, receiving correction with humility, and allowing God to refine our faith through trials. Peter's story demonstrates that genuine faith is characterized by surrender, availability, and perseverance, even when we miss the mark. When we face correction, conviction, or seasons of grief and trial, do we shrink back or lean in? Genuine faith isn't about perfection—it's about persistence. It's about giving God our best and trusting Him with the rest, knowing that our faith is being refined like gold through fire, producing something authentic and lasting.

READ SCRIPTURE

MATTHEW 16:13-28 & 1 PETER 1:1-9

CONNECT RELATIONALLY

- 1) In Peter we see a follower of Christ who has a lot of ups and downs. Pastor CJ asked us to consider, "when in your faith journey have you been most sold out for God? When was the peak of your zeal, obedience and surrender?"
- 2) Peter desired to do good but sometimes missed the mark (Matt 16:22-23). When have you tried to do something right for the Lord, and messed it up?
- 3) Pastor CJ highlighted Peter's ability to accept correction and be coachable. How open would you say you are to accepting spiritual rebuke and correction? How do you typically respond when Scripture, the Holy Spirit, or a trusted person challenges you?

**GROW
SPIRITUALLY**

4) The sermon highlighted how Peter likely grew up being told he wasn't good enough to become a rabbi's disciple. Yet Jesus personally invited him to follow. What does that moment tell us about the kind of people Jesus chooses to use? What aspects of Peter's personality and journey do you find most relatable?

5) Peter experiences both strong correction ("Get behind me, Satan") and incredible privilege (the Mount of Transfiguration). What does this pattern reveal about how Jesus forms and develops His followers? What does this teach us about God's correction and His continued invitation?

6) Near the end of his life, Peter writes about "grace and peace in abundance" (1 Peter 1:2) and about faith being refined through trials. How does Peter's personal story help us understand why he emphasizes those themes?

**LIVE
GENEROUSLY**

7) Peter kept showing up - even after mistakes, embarrassment, or failure. What practices or relationships help you stay close to Jesus when your faith feels clumsy or inconsistent? How can you work to ensure steadfastness in failure?

8) Pastor CJ compared the spiritual journey to a hike rather than a sprint. Requiring intentionality rather than passive effort. Where do you sense God inviting you to simply take a step in faith right now?

9) Peter laid down his nets and allowed Jesus to use his boat and then his life as a platform. What might it look like in this season for you to offer your time, influence, or abilities to God with open hands for His glory?

**TAKE
ACTION**

Based on our conversation today, how is the Holy Spirit inviting you to take a next step in practical application? Please answer this statement:
I am feeling convicted to take the following action (keep it simple):

Please ask each member to share their step if they have one. It is ok if you are still discerning and need time to process, pray and ponder.

**PRAY
TOGETHER**

Please take a few moments to ask each member to share a joy or praise and an area of concern. Ask someone to pray over these requests, and please distribute them to all group members so you may continue to intercede for one another between your meetings.

**ENGAGE
TOGETHER**

Easter Egg Hunts - Across all of our campuses we put on community Easter Egg Hunts as a way to connect with our neighbors and invite them to attend one of our Easter services. This is a tremendous way for your small group to serve together and help introduce new families in our community to the hospitality of our church. It takes a lot of volunteers to put this on so please consider how you and your group can help.