



## Chapter 2: Simon Peter

**Get Connected:** Share a time when you were invited to try something new or step outside your comfort zone and how you responded.

**Scripture:** John 21:1-19 NIV

*Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.*

*Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered. He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.*


*Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.*

*Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.*

*When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” The third time he said to him, “Simon, son of John, do you love me? Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”*

*(continued)*



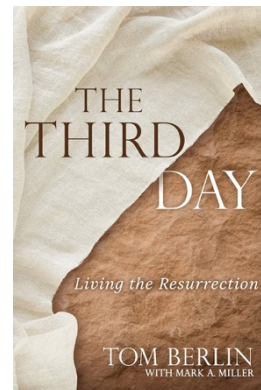


*Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”*

**Watch Video:** Rev. Dan Bader, Southwest District Superintendent

**Discussion Questions:**

1. In this chapter on Simon Peter, Berlin points out that “even before Jesus gave him the nickname Petros, ‘the Rock,’ Peter was confident that he would serve Jesus well. Peter’s **self-portrait** was a man of loyalty and devotion who would stand firm, lead the way, never falter, and never give up.” pp 22-23 When Peter denies Jesus three times, what might you assume Peter discovers about himself? When we deny Jesus, what do we discover about ourselves?
2. In John 21, we encounter Peter and some of the other disciples at the Sea of Galilee fishing. Is there any significance to finding Peter and the others at the sea fishing?
3. When Jesus initially calls Peter and the others to become his disciples when he offers the invitation “Follow me and I will make you fish for people”, Peter immediately and confidently follows. When Jesus shows up at the lakeshore and asks, “Peter, do you love me?” not once but three times, what is Jesus offering to Peter in this invitation?



**Closing Prayer:** Lord Jesus, we give you thanks for Peter’s story and for the Gospel writers who shared it – even the difficult parts. We thank you for the reality it depicts and the reminder that in our quest to follow you, we will stumble and fall. Yet, you continue to call us back and to redeem those moments in our story that we may wish weren’t included. We thank you for the hope it gives us and the reminder that, no matter what circumstance we face, we can live as resurrection people. Like Peter, may we boldly share that truth with others so they too might experience the power of resurrection.

**Suggested Hymns:**

UMH #389	Freely, Freely
UMH #348	Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling
TFWS #2130	The Summons

