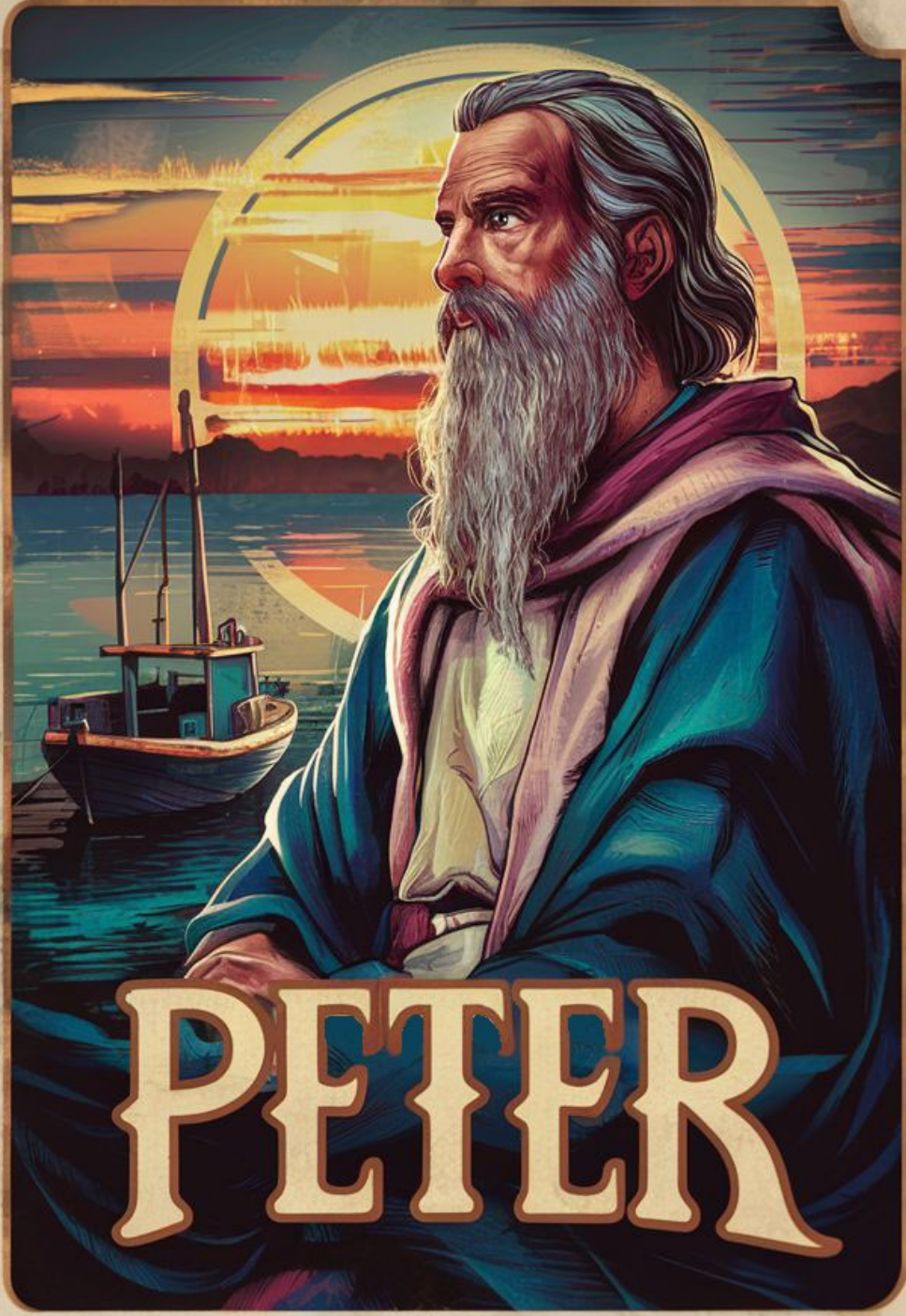


PETER BIRDS



PETER



Peter

Apostle Peter

Peter, one of Jesus' best buddies, was a **fisherman** who lived near a big lake called the **Sea of Galilee**. Imagine a place with sparkling blue water and boats bobbing up and down—that's where Peter worked! One day, his brother Andrew introduced him to Jesus. Peter thought Jesus was pretty amazing and decided to follow Him around.

Now, Peter was a bit like a **super-excited puppy**. He sometimes rushed into things without thinking. But Jesus saw something special in him. He even gave Peter a new name: **Cephas**, which means "The Rock." Peter was thrilled!

Peter had some wild adventures with Jesus. He walked on water once—yes, you read that right! Imagine stepping out of a boat onto the water like it's a sidewalk. Peter did it! He also saw Jesus change into a shining superhero during a special event called the **transfiguration**.

But Peter wasn't perfect. When Jesus needed him most, Peter got scared and said he didn't know Him. Imagine your best friend saying they don't know you! It hurt Jesus, but He forgave Peter.

After Jesus went back to heaven, Peter became a brave preacher. He told everyone about Jesus and even healed sick people. Eventually, Peter traveled to Rome, where he faced a tough time. They put him on a cross, but he asked to be hung upside down because he didn't feel worthy to die like Jesus did.

So, Peter's life was like a roller coaster—full of ups, downs, and twists. But he never stopped loving Jesus, and that's what makes his story so special!

Apply the Lesson

Let's explore **five inspiring lessons** from the life of the Apostle Peter:

1. **Listen When Jesus Calls:** Peter was a fisherman, just like someone who loves catching fish at the lake. One day, Jesus walked by the water and said, "Come follow me!" Peter dropped his fishing net and followed Jesus. The lesson here is that when Jesus calls, we should listen and follow Him, just like Peter did!
2. **Be Friends with God:** Jesus didn't want Peter to be just a helper; He wanted to be Peter's friend. Peter spent time with Jesus, talked to Him, and learned from Him. We can also be close to God by praying and reading our Bible. God loves us and wants to be our friend too!
3. **God Can Use Anyone:** Peter wasn't perfect. Sometimes he made mistakes, like when he denied knowing Jesus. But Jesus forgave him and still used him to do great things. It shows that God can use anyone, no matter their flaws. So, don't worry if you're not perfect—God has a plan for you!
4. **Keep Trying, Even When You Fail:** Peter tried to walk on water like Jesus once. Imagine stepping out of a boat onto the water! But he got scared and sank. Still, he didn't give up. When things don't work out, remember Peter and keep trying. God is with you, even when you fail.
5. **Love Jesus No Matter What:** Peter loved Jesus a lot. Even when things got tough, he never stopped loving Him. When Peter preached about Jesus, thousands of people believed! So, the lesson is to love Jesus with all your heart, no matter what happens. He loves you too!

Remember, just like Peter, you can be brave, make mistakes, and love Jesus every day.

Power Point

God's promises
can be trusted.

MEMORY VERSE

Isaiah 26:4, "Trust
in the Lord forever,
for the Lord God is
an everlasting
rock."





Game: Broom Relay

Can be played: Indoors or outdoors

Supplies: Two chairs and a broom



Set two chairs a broom's length apart and lay the broom across the chairs. Players will run toward the chairs, drop down and crawl under the broom without knocking it off, and then stand up and run to tag the next player in the relay. This race continues until every person on the relay team has taken a turn. The first team done wins.

Variations: Use a stick or pole if you do not have a broom. You also can use the rungs on the chair to lower the broom for the next round so that players have to do a belly crawl under the broom or pole.

Lesson: As we race under the broom and hurry to “tag” the next player, Peter was trusted to carry the Good News of Jesus to others, but had to face many obstacles along the way.

Classic Game: Follow the Leader

Jesus called Peter to quit his job as a fisherman and become a “fisher of men” or a leader. Kids love this classic game, “Follow the Leader.” Here is how it is played:

This is a simple and fun game. Have the kids line up single file. The leader (first kid in line) makes outrageous motions, etc. as he/she walks around the room. The kids behind must follow the lead of the person in front. For a competitive game, set up two lines and take players out as you notice them not following the leader.

Another Classic: Dodge Ball (Indoor Version)

There are many versions of dodge ball. Here is a great one for more confined spaces. Have the kids line up in a large circle. Designate a small circle/square inside. Put one group of kids in that area. Kids in the outer circle try to throw the balls (I advice you use foam balls or even beach balls) at the kids in the inner circle/square. Once a child is hit, they have to leave the game. Hits to the head to do not count. Once the first inside group is eliminated (or at set time intervals) put a new group of kids in the center circle.

Leader: Not all games/activities have to match today’s lesson perfectly. Just help your kids to have fun at church.



Peter Walks on Water

