

Jan 25, 2026



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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**Class Leaders:**

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

God has given us the Holy Spirit to help and guide us and He'll prepare us to answer His call

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

Jesus, thank You for calling and enabling me to serve You. Help me to see this as a privilege and to serve You willingly

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."  
(Isa 6:8 NKJV)

*(from "Our Daily Bread", Sept 08, 2021)*

**Series: Enduring Beliefs of  
the Church**

**UNIT 3: The Church and  
Its Teachings**

**NEXT WEEK**

The Christian Church  
(Mark 4:26-32;  
Eph 4:4-6, 11-18)

## Call and Growth

**Matt 4:18-20; 16:16-18;  
John 21:15-18; 2 Peter 3:14-15, 18**

### Lesson Background and Introduction

Today's lesson explores the life, call, and ministry of one such first-century fisherman, Simon Peter. He left the waters (and fishing boats) of the Sea of Galilee to become a disciple of Jesus. Peter's discipleship to Jesus was full of ups and downs, yet God used Peter to ensure the growth and spread of the first-century church.

Simon Peter was from Bethsaida (John 1:44), a village on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Here, he worked as a fisherman with his brother Andrew (Mark 1:16). Their fishing operation was a partnership with James and John, the sons of Zebedee (Luke 5:10). Peter was married (Mark 1:30; 1 Corinthians 9:5). At some point, Peter, his wife, and at least one other family member moved to Capernaum (Matthew 8:5-14), a town approximately five miles southwest of Bethsaida. The New Testament notes three names for Peter. His Hebrew name is Simon or the variant Simeon (Mark 1:16; Acts 15:14). Later, Jesus calls him Peter, a designation based on an ancient Greek word meaning "rock" or "stone" (Matthew 16:18; Mark 3:16); this is his most frequently occurring name in the New Testament, found over 160 times. The third name is Cephas, an Aramaic word for "stone" (John 1:42; 1 Corinthians 1:12; 3:22; etc.).

Peter's life of discipleship took him from being a fisherman in Galilee to being a leader of the first-century church. He grew from being "unschooled" and "ordinary" (Acts 4:13) to being the author of the two letters that bear his name in the New Testament. But his growth process wasn't a straight line that always trended upward! Neither will ours be. Even so, Jesus calls all who would claim to be his disciples to grow in his grace and knowledge—there are no exceptions. Peter's story is encouraging in that regard. And as we grow, we will find it natural to invite others to join us on this journey as well. Expect it!

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Peter's Call (Matt 4:18-20)**

#### *Call during daily activities (18)*

- God called Peter, James and John while they were fishing (Luke 5:1-11)
- God called Samuel while he was sleep (1 Sam 3:7-10)
- God called Matthew while he was collecting taxes (Luke 5:27-28)
- God called the widow through Elijah while she was preparing her last meal (1 Kings 17:7-16)

#### *Call to follow Jesus (19)*

- Following Jesus must become our first priority (Matt 8:22)
- Following Jesus is a requirement for being a Christian (Matt 10:38)
- Following Jesus means denying oneself (Matt 16:24)
- Following Jesus is serving Him (John 12:26)

#### *Call that prompted an immediate response (20)*

- Immediate response must not be delayed (Luke 9:61-62)
- Immediate response is required to receive results (Acts 9:34)
- Immediate response as an opportunity to be obedient to God (Ps 90:12)

### **Peter's Proclamation (Matt 16:16-18)**

#### *Proclamation of being Son of God (16)*

- Son of God because of the miracles He performed (Matt 14:28-33)
- Son of God because of His activities on the cross (Matt 27:54)
- Son of God because the gospel teaches it (Rom 1:2-5)
- Son of God because Jesus lives within believers (Gal 2:20)

#### *Proclamation revealed by God (17)*

- Revealed by God as a revelation (Gal 1:11-12)
- Revealed by God to teach and preach about the Jesus (Gal 1:15-16)
- Revealed by God through the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 2:10-11)
- Revealed by God to understand the mystery of Christ (Eph 3:4-5)

#### *Proclamation that the church is built on (18)*

- A Church that bears fruit (Col 1:5-6)
- A Church whose people are God's building (1 Cor 3:9)
- A Church that is courageous and full of hope (Heb 3:6)

### **Peter's Ministry (John 21:15-18)**

#### *Ministry built on love (15-16)*

- A love that comes from God (1 John 4:8-10)
- A love that is one of the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)
- A love that is obedience to God (2 John 6)
- A love that never fails (1 Cor 13:4-8)

#### *Ministry that shepherds (17)*

- A shepherd of the church (Acts 20:28)
- A shepherd that cares and serves the flock (1 Peter 5:2)
- A shepherd that directs the affairs of the church (1 Tim 5:17)
- A shepherd keeps watch over the flock (Heb 13:17)

#### *Ministry that contains suffering (18)*

- Suffering that produces perseverance (Rom 5:3)
- Suffering for what is believed and entrusted (2 Tim 1:11-12)
- Suffering so that joy may be felt when Jesus' glory is revealed (1 Peter 4:12-14)
- Suffering as co-heirs with Jesus (Rom 8:17)

### **Peter's Teaching (2 Peter 3:14-15, 18)**

#### *Teaching to be peaceful and obedient (14)*

- Peaceful by aiming for peace (2 Cor 13:11)
- Peaceful through promotion of peace (Prov 12:20)
- Peaceful through peacemakers (Matt 5:9)
- Peaceful through overcoming the world (John 16:33)

#### *Teaching about the salvation of Jesus (15)*

- Salvation that comes from the sanctification through faith (Acts 26:16-18)
- Salvation for everyone who believes (Rom 1:16)
- Salvation for those baptized in Jesus (Gal 3:26-29)
- Salvation through the gospel (Eph 3:6)

#### *Teaching based on the grace and knowledge of Jesus (18)*

- Knowledge of Jesus that surpasses greatness (Phil 3:8)
- Knowledge of Jesus' crucifixion (1 Cor 2:2)
- Knowledge of Jesus through the Spirit of wisdom and revelation (Eph 1:17)
- Knowledge of Jesus and his resurrection and fellowship (Phil 3:10)