

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Peter

Peter was a fisherman born in a small fishing village, Bethsaida. Later he moved to Capernaum. Jesus called Peter to be a fisher of men. He was a prominent apostle and chief spokesperson for the gospel to the Jewish people. Peter was strong-willed and impulsive--he was very reactive. For instance he tried to cut off a soldier's head, missed and cut off his ear instead. Yet Peter was honest, human and tender-hearted toward the Lord. In these two letters to the church, Peter tells the church (us) that we can expect danger from both inside and outside of the church.

1st Peter - Christians can expect dangers from the outside

Peter was writing to a group of Christians who were suffering for their faith. They wanted to know, "What is God's plan for our lives in the midst of this kind of suffering that we are experiencing?" Peter writes to them to tell them what God's plan is. God wants them to know that they are secure in their salvation. God's plan includes submission to authority and surrender to God's will, and to suffering; and, God's plan includes service.

Discussion Questions:

- a. What was Peter's given name?
- b. Explain what "born again" means to you personally?
- c. What were 3 reasons that Nero and the Romans were picking on the Christians?
- d. How do we surrender to God's plan, purpose and will no matter what we face?
- e. Examine your heart: How is your spiritual passion? How hungry are you for His righteousness; His truth applied in your life?
- f. In what instance would it be okay for Christians to disobey the laws of the land? Give some examples from scripture when God's people disobeyed the law of the land in order not to break God's law.
- g. How does Peter instruct us to respond to suffering?
- h. Examine your heart: What did you expect when you gave your life to Jesus Christ? What unexpected things have happened as a result of your salvation?

2nd Peter - Christian's can expect dangers from the inside

Peter wrote this second letter to instruct Christians to commit to faithful progress in the truth. Peter instructs them to always be moving forward in the truth because they are in a battle. There are false prophets and false teachers against the truth.

Discussion Questions:

- a. Examine your heart: Are you giving all diligence, increasing in your faith?
- b. What warnings did Jesus give regarding false prophets?
- c. Read chapter 3 verses 10-11. Then ask yourself: If everything in the material world is going to be destroyed, what manner of person should I be?
- d. Examine your heart: How can I stand up for the truth while having a generous loving heart toward my brothers and sisters in Christ?
- e. How is 1st and 2nd Peter the fulfillment of what Jesus told Peter in Luke 22?