

# Adventure Club

A weekly lesson for children, young people, parents and grandparents, from the GCI Watford Church.  
Number 39, 18th December 2020

## The Apostle Peter

The Apostle Peter is an outstanding character in the Bible gallery of men. He was naturally impulsive: John 21:7, courageous: Matthew 14:28, tender-hearted: John 21:15, spiritually aware: John 6:68, slow to understand: Matthew 15:15-16, challenging: Matthew 16:22, cowardly: Mark 14:70-71 and immovable in his convictions: Acts 5:28-29. We are introduced to him as a fisherman, but he became a dauntless leader and spokesman of the infant Church. There are many lessons we can learn from the life of Peter.

### 'The Lord Turned and Looked at Peter'



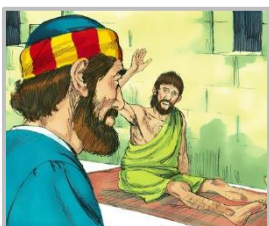
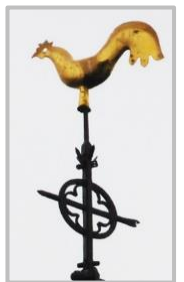
'The servant girl who kept the door said to Peter, "You are not also one of this Man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." ' John 18:17, NKJV

A while later Peter was again asked if he was one of Jesus' disciples, Peter again said: 'I am not!' John 18:25, NKJV

'Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, "Surely this fellow also was with Him, for he is a Galilean". But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!" Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times". So Peter went out and wept bitterly.' Luke 22:59-62, NKJV

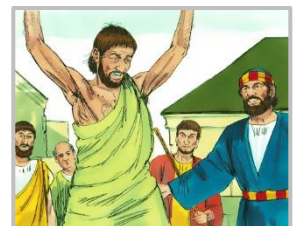
Despite Peter's three vehement rejections of Jesus, Jesus forgave him and later, three times, invited Peter to shepherd people. John 21:15-17

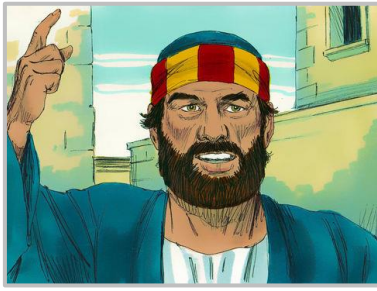
Why is there a cockerel on top of many church spires in Europe? The cockerel reminds us of a profound lesson. The cockerel reminds us of God's amazing grace to Peter. It also reminds us of God's amazing grace to us.



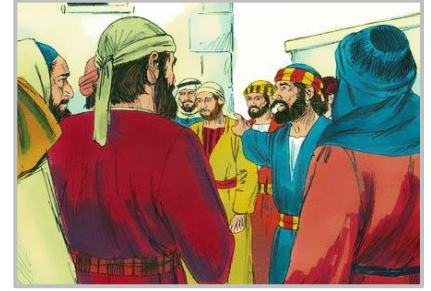
### Peter Said to Aeneas 'Jesus the Christ Heals You'

'Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.' Acts 9:32-35, NKJV





## Peter's Sermon



'Peter, with the eleven standing by him, raised his voice and addressed them: "Fellow Jews, and all who are living in Jerusalem, listen carefully to what I say while I explain to you what has happened! These men are not drunk as you suppose – it is after all only nine o'clock in the morning of this great feast day. No, this is something which was predicted by the prophet Joel, "And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. And on my menservants and on my maidservants I will pour out my Spirit in those days and they shall prophesy. I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapour of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and notable day of the Lord. And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

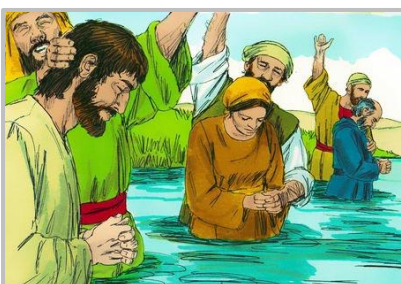
Men of Israel, I beg you to listen to my words. Jesus of Nazareth was a man proved to you by God himself through the works of power, the miracles and the signs which God showed through him here amongst you – as you very well know. This man, who was put into your power by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed up and murdered, and you used for your purpose men without the Law! But God would not allow the bitter pains of death to touch him. He raised him to life again – and indeed there was nothing by which death could hold such a man.

When David speaks about him he says, "I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken; therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; moreover my flesh will also rest in hope, because you will not leave my soul in Hades, nor will you allow your holy one to see corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of joy in your presence."

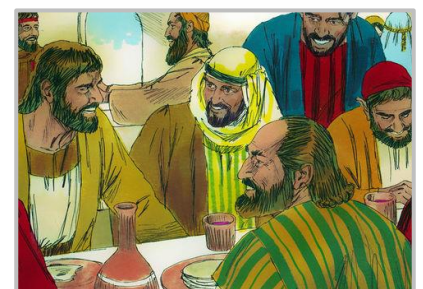
Men and brother Jews, I can surely speak freely to you about the patriarch David. There is no doubt that he died and was buried, and his grave is here among us to this day. But while he was alive he was a prophet. He knew that God had given him a most solemn promise that he would place one of his descendants upon his throne. He foresaw the resurrection of Christ, and it is this of which he is speaking. Christ was not deserted in death and his body was never destroyed. Christ is the man Jesus, whom God raised up – a fact of which all of us are eye-witnesses! He has been raised to the right hand of God; he has received from the Father and poured out upon us the promised Holy Spirit – that is what you now see and hear! David never ascended to Heaven, but he certainly said, "The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, till I make your enemies your footstool". Now therefore the whole nation of Israel must know beyond the shadow of a doubt that this Jesus, whom you crucified, God has declared to be both Lord and Christ."

When they heard this they were cut to the quick, and they cried to Peter and the other apostles, "Men and fellow-Jews, what shall we do now?" Peter told them, "You must repent and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ, so that you may have your sins forgiven and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For this great promise is for you and your children – yes, and for all who are far away, for as many as the Lord our God shall call to himself!" Peter said much more than this as he gave his testimony and implored them, saying, "Save yourselves from this perverted generation!"

Then those who welcomed his message were baptised, and on that day alone about three thousand souls were added to the number of disciples. They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in their fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayer. Everyone felt a deep sense of awe, while many miracles and signs took place through the apostles. All the believers shared everything in common; they sold their possessions and goods and divided



the proceeds among the fellowship according to individual need. Day after day they met by common consent in the Temple; they broke bread together in their homes, sharing meals with simple joy. They praised God continually and all the people respected them. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were finding salvation.' Acts 2:14-47, Phillips





# 1 Peter

Greetings and Prayer 1:1-2  
A Real Reason for Hope 1:3-12  
Living as God's Holy People 1:13-2:17  
The Example of Christ's Suffering 2:18-25  
Being a Christian and Suffering 3:1-4:19  
Advice for Church Leaders 5:1-11  
Final Greetings 5:12-14

'In this letter Peter has much to say about suffering. He shows how it can be a way of serving the Lord, of sharing the faith, and of being tested. The letter was written to Christians scattered all over the northern part of Asia Minor. In this part of the Roman Empire many Christians had already suffered unfair treatment from people who did not believe in Jesus. And they could expect to suffer even more. Peter was quick to offer encouragement. His letter reminds the readers that some of the Lord's followers may have to go through times of hard testing. But this should make them glad, Peter declares, because it will strengthen their faith and bring them honour on the day when Jesus Christ returns (1:6-7). Peter reminds them that Christ suffered here on earth, and when his followers suffer for doing right they are sharing his sufferings (2:18-25, 4:12-17). In fact, Christians should expect to suffer for their faith (3:8-4:19). But because of who God is and because of what God has done by raising Jesus Christ from death, Christians can have hope in the future. Just as Christ suffered before he received honour from God, so will Christians be tested by suffering before they receive honour when the Lord returns.' In 3:18 Peter reminds his readers what God has done for us: 'Christ died once for our sins. An innocent person died for those who are guilty. Christ did this to bring you to God.' This summary and introduction of 1 Peter is taken from the *Contemporary English Version* of the Bible.

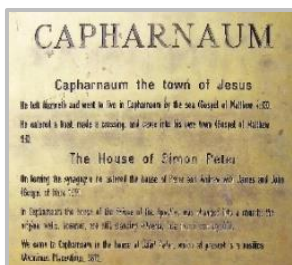
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# 2 Peter

Greetings and Prayer 1:1-2  
How the Lord's Followers Should Live 1:3-15  
The Glory of Christ 1:16-21  
False Prophets and Teachers 2:1-22  
The Lord's Return is Certain 3:1-18

Peter 'wants the readers to know that Christians must live in a way that pleases God (1:3) and hold firmly to the truth they were given (1:12). He warns them that false prophets and teachers had entered the Christian community and were trying to lead the Lord's followers away from the truth. But they will be punished for their evil deeds. When false teachers are at work, Christians must stick to their faith and be examples for others of right living. They must have understanding, self-control, and patience, and they should show love for God and all people. The readers must never forget that the Lord's return is certain, no matter what others may say.' Peter reminds us in 3:9 that 'God is patient, because he wants everyone to turn from sin and no one to be lost'. This summary and introduction of 2 Peter is taken from the *Contemporary English Version* of the Bible.

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## 'The House of Simon Peter?'

At the north end of the Sea of Galilee lies Capernaum. Those visiting the Biblical site can see ruins of many ancient houses (below left). Tradition locates one specific nearby ruin as the house of Peter. Today a church built on pillars is suspended over it. The picture below shows the inside of this church. On the floor in the middle of the church is a protected glass window through which one can see it. Of



course, there's no way to prove that these ancient rooms are the actual house where Peter and his family once lived. However, we do know that Peter lived in Capernaum. The above photograph of a visitor's sign (and its enlargement) gives some more information.

### CAPHARNAUM

Capharnaum the town of Jesus

He left Nazareth and went to live in Capharnaum by the sea (Gospel of Matthew 4:13). He entered a boat, made a crossing, and came into his own town (Gospel of Matthew 9:1).

The House of Simon Peter

On leaving the synagogue he entered the house of Peter and Andrew with James and John (Gospel of Marc 1:29). In Capharnaum the house of the Prince of the Apostles was changed into a church: the original walls, however, are still standing (Etheria, late fourth century AD). We came to Capharnaum in the house of Saint Peter, which at present is a basilica (Anonimus Placentinus 587).

## Jesus Restores Peter

‘Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing”. They said to him, “We will go with you”. They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, do you have any fish?” They answered him, “No”. He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some”. So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off. When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught”. So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast”. Now none of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you”. He said to him, “Feed my lambs”. He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you”. He said to him, “Tend my sheep”. He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you”. Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep”. John 21:1-17, ESV



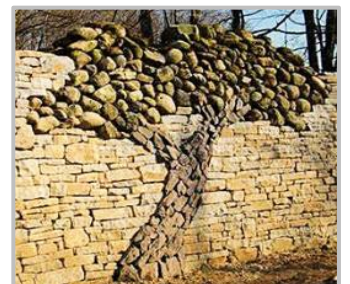
## Peter Declares Jesus Is The Messiah

‘When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they answered, “Some say John the Baptist; others, Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah, or [just] one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed), the Son of the living God.” Then Jesus answered him, “Blessed [happy, spiritually secure, favoured by God] are you, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood (mortal man) did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I say to you that you are Peter<sup>[a]</sup>, and on this rock<sup>[b]</sup> I will build My church; and the gates of Hades (death) will not overpower it [by preventing the resurrection of the Christ]. I will give you the keys (authority) of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind [forbid, declare to be improper and unlawful] on earth will have [already] been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose [permit, declare lawful] on earth will have [already] been loosed in heaven.” Then He gave the disciples strict orders to tell no one that He was the Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed).’ Matt. 16:13-20 and footnotes: Amp.

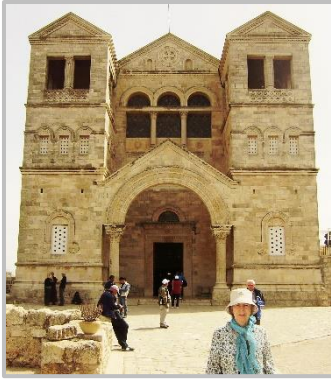
[a] Greek *petros*, a small or detached stone.

[b] Greek *petra*, bedrock or a huge rock. Jesus uses a simple play on the Greek words *petros* and *petra* in this verse. Throughout the N.T. Christ is clearly depicted as both the foundation *petra* and chief cornerstone of the church. Here He praises Peter for his accurate confession of faith in Him as Messiah.

In 1 Peter 2:5-6, Peter explains the role of believers as ‘living stones’ built on Christ as the foundation cornerstone. (The stones in the right photograph could look like they’re living!)



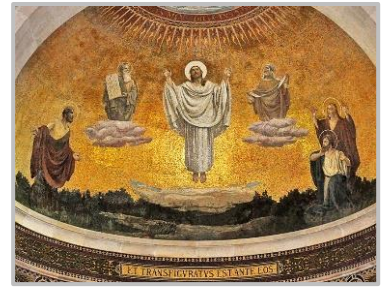




Jean Sole outside the Church of the Transfiguration on top of Mt Tabor, Israel. (Today, no one knows on which high mountain the Transfiguration took place.)

## Peter Witnesses the Transfiguration

'After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid". When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead".' Matthew 17:1-9, NKJV

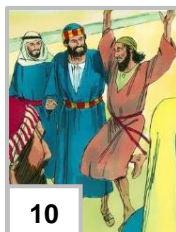
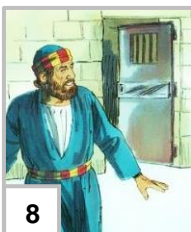


Picture of Peter, James and John at the Transfiguration on one of the ceilings inside the Church of the Transfiguration.

## Some of Peter's Other Experiences



1. Jesus saw Peter and Andrew fishing. Jesus said to them: 'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men'. Matt. 4:18-19, NKJV
2. When Peter 'saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried out. . . .' Matt. 14:30, NKJV
3. Jesus said to Peter: take the first fish that comes up, open its mouth and 'you will find a piece of money'. Matt. 17:27, NKJV
4. Jesus took Peter, James and John to the Garden of Gethsemane, but while He prayed, they slept. Matthew 26:36-45, NKJV
5. Jairus' daughter died. Jesus took Peter, James and John to her house. Jesus said: 'Little girl arise'. Luke 8:40-56, NKJV
6. 'Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear.' John 18:10, NKJV
7. 'They brought the sick out . . . that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.' Acts 5:15, NKJV
8. 'At night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought' Peter and the other disciples out. Acts 5:19, NKJV
9. Peter said: 'Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased'. Acts 8:20, NKJV
10. Peter said, 'Look at us'. . . 'So he leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them.' Acts 3:4, 8, NKJV
11. Tabitha died. Peter 'said, "Tabitha rise". And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up.' Acts 9:40, NKJV
12. Peter 'saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending.' Acts 10:11, NKJV



## St Peter's Church

The Adventure Club lessons are brought to you from the GCI Watford congregation. If you would like to join with us for services you would certainly be very welcome. We normally meet in St. Peter's Church, Bushey Mill Lane, Watford. The address is 61, Westfield Avenue, Watford, WD24 7HF. Our services usually begin at 11.00 every Saturday.





'Saint Peter'  
Painted by James Tissot (1836-1902) Brooklyn Museum

See if you can memorise some, or all, of these words:  
Jesus 'said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed), the Son of the living God." ' .  
Matthew 16:15-16, NKJV

## Word Search

SIMON	PETER
ST	PETERS
CHURCH	CAPERNAUM
ANGEL	PRISON
SPIRE	COCKEREL
AENEAS	CROWS
LIVING	STONES
TABOR	EAR
JAMES	SHADOW
JOHN	TABITHA
ANDREW	GIFT
SINK	LEAPING
FISH	MONEY
JAIRUS	SHEET

C	A	P	E	R	N	Y	U	M	C	O	C	K	E	R
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S	C	G	N	I	P	A	E	L	E	A	C	R	O	W

Pictures are courtesy of and grateful thanks to: Cock on St Anne's Church, Moseley: Elliot Brown, Flickr. Tree of stones in stone wall: Pinterest, Facebook, Twitter. Peter about to cut off ear: Wikipedia. Shadow on man on mat: WordPress, YouTube, Pinterest. Fish and coin: YouTube, Pinterest, WordPress. Jesus walking on water: YouTube, Pinterest, Facebook, WordPress. 'Saint Peter (above)', the five paintings in the section 'The Lord Turned and Looked at Peter' and two pictures (numbers 1 and 4) in the section on 'Some of Peter's Other Experiences' are courtesy of the James Tissot Collection, Brooklyn Museum, freebibleimages.org and commons.m.wikimedia. All other paintings courtesy of Jim Pagett (the artist) Sweet Publishing and freebibleimages.org. The seven photos in the section on 'Jesus Restores Peter' are courtesy of the: Lumo Project, freebibleimages.org.

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Bible abbreviations: Amp. Amplified Bible. ESV: English Standard Version. NKJV: New King James Version. Phillips: The New Testament, J.B. Phillips.

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Any questions, etc, please contact the UK GCI Watford Church Council or Geoff Sole, 01707 880782 or geoff@geoffsole.co.uk.