

MENTOR 2: PETER

CHECKLIST: WHAT YOU NEED

- Paper, and markers or pencil crayons
- Copies of the downloadable 622 service booklet
- Copies of the lesson handout
- Copy of the leader's notes
- OPTIONAL: Bibles (ESV or similar recommended)
- OPTIONAL: A white board, easel pad, or chalk board with markers/chalk
- OPTIONAL: Have notebooks on hand for teens to take home and use as prayer journals if they wish

ICE BREAKER: SEEN/UNSEEN

Have the teens create a self-portrait (face only). Half of their face is drawn to show who they feel they are as others see them. The other half is who they feel they are “underneath”. Give them latitude to explore this in whatever way they’d like. When the allotted time has elapsed, invite those who want to share (and explain) their portrait to do so.

622: BEGINNING WITH PRAYER

Begin the formal part of the lesson by saying together the first part of the order of service for young people in the booklet, up to the middle of page 4.

AT THIS POINT IN THE LESSON, ASK IF THE TEENS SUCCEEDED IN DOING LAST WEEK’S CHALLENGE, HOW IT WENT, AND WHETHER THEY HAVE ANYTHING TO SHARE.

DISCUSSION: WHAT’S IN A NAME?

As an introduction to the lesson ask the teens to discuss the following questions.

DEPENDING ON THE COMFORT LEVEL FOR SHARING IN YOUR GROUP, IT MAY BE EASIER TO HAVE THEM VOLUNTEER ANSWERS WITH ALL RESPONSES WRITTEN TOGETHER ON A BOARD.

- What is your full name? Why did your parents choose the name(s) they did for you?
- Sometimes people change their names. What are some reasons why people might do that?
- In the catechism, the first question is “What is your name?” Why do you think that is?

A few things worth pointing out (if they don’t otherwise arise during the discussion):

- *Just about everyone’s name comes with a story, whether it’s an aesthetic that made our parents like the name, a family connection, or a deeper meaning. The names that we are given and called by are an important part of our identity.*
- *People often change their names when there is a significant break from their old identity and a desire to embrace a new one. This can have a somewhat sad reason, like an attempt to assimilate to a culture that will not be respectful of your birth-name, but it might also have a happy one, such as embracing a new chapter of life in marriage.*
- *Our name is connected to our identity. It identifies us as an individual within a group, and it also establishes our relationship to others, in particular to those who gave us that name and those who call us by it. When we commit ourselves to God, we begin by putting ourselves forward just as we are: with our name.*

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THE LESSON: JOHN 21

The first part of the lesson can be read aloud. Then the teens are asked to read the Bible text (either silently to themselves or aloud together), followed by some additional questions for discussion.

When we first meet this saint, he's an ordinary fisherman named Simon. Then one day Jesus called him, and Simon followed. His life would never be the same. Simon was there listening to Jesus preach, watching him heal the sick, raise the dead, and miraculously feed massive crowds with one child's lunch. When Jesus asked his disciples who they believed him to be, it was Simon who answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God". Jesus commended him for this insight, and gave him a new name, saying, "You are Peter (which means "rock"), and on this rock I will build my Church".

But Simon Peter was also a man who got things wrong. When he saw Jesus walking on the water, he wanted to walk to him, but then became frightened, took his eyes off Jesus, and sank (Jesus rescued him). He was one of three disciples who slept instead of watching while Jesus prayed in Gethsemane. At Jesus' arrest, Peter resorted to violence, slicing off a man's ear (which Jesus then healed). And after that, while Jesus was being tried and condemned, Peter denied ever having known him. In fact, he denied him three times, something Jesus had foretold would happen.

But the story didn't end there because Jesus didn't stay dead. And Jesus didn't allow Peter's betrayal to be the end either. Instead he opened the door for Peter to be restored – a passage we're going to look at more closely in today's lesson.

Tradition says that Peter was martyred by crucifixion, but that he asked to be crucified upside-down, because he did not feel worthy to be killed in the same way as Jesus. Peter never forgot that he was a sinner in need of grace – as we all are. But he was also a man of great faith who loved Jesus, and that inspired him to keep following and serving Christ humbly to the very end.

Refer to John 21:1-19.

(THE TEXT IS PROVIDED ON THE BACK OF THE HANDOUTS AND IN THESE LEADERS' NOTES SO THAT EVERYONE CAN MARK IT UP AND MAKE NOTES ON IT IF DESIRED. ALTERNATIVELY, YOU CAN READ OUT OF A BIBLE).

Read through the text. Then ask the teens to respond to what they've just read. Here are some questions to help guide the discussion.

- Notice what Peter and some of the other disciples were doing. Why do you think they were doing that?
- What did Peter do when he realized it was Jesus? What would you have done in his place?
- What is Jesus' question for Peter? Why do you think he asks it three times?
- What does Jesus mean by "feed my sheep"?

A few notes and reflections for reference:

- *Peter and some of the other disciples were fishing. Many of them were fishermen before Jesus called them. This was something familiar, something they could "fall back on". In some ways, returning to what they had done before was like a declaration of defeat. Jesus had promised to make them "fishers of men", but things had not turned out the way they'd expected. And Peter also had the weight of his betrayal to make him feel that it had all been a failure.*
- *Peter might have run the other way in shame. Or stayed still and hoped to go unnoticed. But instead he runs towards Jesus – plunging himself into the sea. And when Jesus gives him instructions about their meal preparation, Peter simply obeys.*
- *Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love me?" Jesus already knows the answer. And it is difficult for Peter to be confronted with the question after what he has done, not once, but three times. But Jesus is giving Peter an opportunity to*

A NEW CREATION:

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reaffirm his love for every time that he has betrayed him. Notice that Jesus ends with “follow me”, which reminds us of when Peter was first called. It is a like a new beginning. But it’s not going to be without difficulty, as Jesus warns him.

- *Jesus is asking Peter to take care of the young Church. Peter’s betrayal of Christ has been set aside, and now we are taken back to that moment when Peter got it right and Jesus declared him to be “the rock” on which the Church would be built. Peter is given a particular mission and an opportunity to show that his love for Christ is genuine.*

DURING EACH LESSON, IF THE TEENS RAISE THEOLOGICAL OR BIBLICAL QUESTIONS THAT YOU DON’T FEEL CONFIDENT ABOUT ANSWERING, SAY SO, BUT LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU’LL FIND THE ANSWER AND RESPOND AT THE NEXT MEETING.

PREVIEW: AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Take a brief moment to look at the at-home challenge together.

THE WEEKLY “AT-HOME CHALLENGE” IS TYPICALLY A SIMPLE ASSIGNMENT TO SPEND SOME QUIET TIME IN PRIVATE PRAYER. ENCOURAGE THE TEENS TO GET NOTEBOOKS THAT CAN BE USED AS PRAYER JOURNALS. ASSURE THEM THAT THEY WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO SHOW THEIR JOURNAL OR THEIR PRIVATE PRAYERS TO ANYONE.

Each morning and evening, follow the rule of prayer that you created for yourself.

(If you didn’t make one, try saying the morning and evening prayers from the “Forms of Prayer to be used in Families,” which begins on page 728 of the BCP. If you don’t have a copy, you can look it up here: <http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/family-prayer>.)

*Spend some time considering the example of Peter. Ask God to help you to see your identity and purpose through his eyes. Close with this prayer adapted from 1 Corinthians 4:16, 18: “**Lord, help me not to lose heart. And though my outer self may be wasting away, let my inner self be renewed day by day. Help me to focus not upon the things that are seen and transient, but upon the things that are unseen and eternal.**”*

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through this prayer, pausing to reflect after each phrase.

Father of mercies, who to thine Apostle Saint Peter didst reveal in three-fold vision thy boundless compassion: Forgive, we pray thee, our unbelief, and so enlarge our hearts and enkindle our zeal, that we may fervently desire the salvation of all men, and with more ready diligence labour in the extension of thy kingdom; for his sake, who gave himself for the life of the world, thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

(PRAYER FROM THE “PRAYERS AT MIDDAY”, BCP PAGE 17)

622 (AGAIN)

Close with any prayers that might be appropriate in the context of the discussion of the day.

AT THE END OF EACH LESSON, IF YOU FIND THAT YOU STILL HAVE LOTS OF TIME REMAINING, YOU MIGHT CHOOSE TO TAKE SOME TIME TO EXPLORE THE “PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVINGS” SECTION IN THE BCP (PAGES 39-62, OR YOU CAN USE THE DOWNLOADABLE BOOKLET). AS YOUR GROUP MEMBERS COME ACROSS PRAYERS THAT THEY FIND RELEVANT, PAUSE AND PRAY THEM TOGETHER. IF YOU’RE PRESSED FOR TIME, YOU MIGHT CLOSE WITH THE THEMED PRAYER FROM THE AT-HOME CHALLENGE.

Then finish with the “Grace”, the final prayer in the booklet.

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JOHN 21: THE RESTORATION OF “THE ROCK” (X3)

¹After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. ²Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. ³Simon 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.

⁴Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, “Children, do you have any fish?” They answered him, “No.” ⁶He 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. ⁷That 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. ⁸The 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.

⁹When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” ¹¹So 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. ¹²Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶He 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.” ¹⁷He 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. ¹⁸Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” ¹⁹(This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”