

Peter — From “You Are the Messiah” to “I Don’t Know Him”

Study Companion

Gospels–Acts | People of the Bible

Use this beside your Bible. Read the passages first. Record what Peter says, what Yeshua says, and what actually happens before explaining motives or building conclusions about discipleship.

PEOPLE-STUDY METHOD

READ THE STORY → FOLLOW THE PERSON → NOTICE THE TENSION → TRACK GOD’S WORDS → COMPARE LATER SCRIPTURE → TEST OUR ASSUMPTIONS → RESPOND

1. Simon Gets a New Name

Read John 1:35–42.

Who brings Simon to Yeshua? What new name does Yeshua give him?

What does the text say explicitly about the name? What conclusions about Peter’s future character would still be inference at this point?

2. Calling and the Catch

Read Luke 5:1–11.

What does Simon know from fishing experience? What does he do because Yeshua says so?

How does Simon respond to the catch? How does Yeshua respond to Simon?

3. Courage and Fear in the Same Scene

Read Matthew 14:22–33.

List what Peter does before fear takes over.

What does he pray when he begins to sink? What does Yeshua do first?

4. Confession and Correction

Read Matthew 16:13–28.

What does Peter confess about Yeshua?

What does Peter resist immediately afterward?

What does this passage show about the difference between receiving true revelation and understanding every implication of it?

5. Peter Tries to Manage the Moment

Compare Matthew 17:1–8 and John 13:1–17.

What does Peter say or try to redirect in each scene?

What does Yeshua require Peter to receive or hear?

6. “When You Have Turned Back”

Read Luke 22:24–34.

What does Yeshua say will happen to Peter?

What future responsibility does Yeshua give Peter before the denial happens?

7. The Denial

Read Luke 22:54–62 or John 18:15–27.

What social pressure or fear surrounds Peter?

What does the text explicitly say about Peter’s response afterward?

8. Restoration and Commission

Read John 21:1–19.

List each command Yeshua gives Peter after asking whether he loves Him.

Which parts of the “three questions / three denials” connection are explicit? Which are literary inference?

9. Public Courage

Read Acts 2:14–41 and Acts 4:5–20.

How does Peter publicly identify with Yeshua now?

What elements of the old Peter are still recognizable?

10. Peter Keeps Learning

Read Acts 10:9–48 and 11:1–18.

What confuses Peter about the vision? What does he eventually say God showed him?

How does Peter explain the Gentile event to the believers in Jerusalem?

11. A Mature Apostle Needs Correction

Read Galatians 2:11–14.

What was Peter doing before certain visitors arrived? What changed?

What reason does Paul give for Peter’s withdrawal?

What does this contribute to your understanding of accountability?

12. Peter the Shepherd

Read 1 Peter 5:1–6.

List the qualities required of shepherds.

Which earlier Peter scenes make these instructions especially meaningful?

13. Track the Whole Peter

Passage	What Peter does	What you learn
Luke 5		
Matthew 14		
Matthew 16		
Luke 22		
John 21		
Acts 2–5		
Acts 10–11		
Galatians 2		

14. TEXT / INFERENCE

TEXT	INFERENCE TO TEST
Peter confesses Messiah and then resists the suffering mission.	True revelation means a disciple cannot be seriously wrong elsewhere.
Peter denies Yeshua three times and weeps bitterly.	All earlier courage and loyalty were fake.
John 21 contains three love questions and shepherding commands.	John explicitly says each question cancels one denial.
Peter says God showed him not to call any person common or unclean.	Acts 10 by itself settles every later food/Torah debate.
Paul publicly corrects Peter's withdrawal from Gentile meals.	Correction proves Peter was a false apostle.

15. Your Conclusion

What does Peter's whole story teach you about discipleship?

Where have you confused maturity with never needing correction?

What does restoration look like in Peter's story beyond simply "feeling forgiven"?

16. Coffee Reflection

Which Peter do you identify with most right now: the one stepping out, sinking, confessing, objecting, denying, being restored, speaking boldly, learning something new, or receiving correction? Why?

Passages to Revisit

John 1:35-42 • Luke 5:1-11 • Matthew 14:22-33 • Matthew 16:13-28 • Matthew 17:1-8 • John 13:1-17 • Luke 22:24-34, 54-62 • John 20-21 • Acts 2-5 • Acts 10-11 • Acts 15 • Galatians 2:11-14 • 1 Peter 5:1-6