

A Journey Through The Life and Letters of Peter

WELCOME!

The title of this study, "Find Me Where I Am, Jesus," is both an honest prayer to recite and a beautiful truth to embrace—there is no place where Jesus cannot find us. Whether we are full of faith or full of doubt, whether we feel strong or completely lost, Jesus meets us where we are, but He doesn't leave us there.

Peter's letters were written when he was an old man reflecting on a lifetime of walking with Jesus. He knew what it was like to be found by Jesus in different areas of life—in calling, in weakness, in fear, in failure, in leadership, in suffering, and even in misunderstanding.

Throughout this study, we will explore the life and writings of Peter—a disciple who experienced the highs and lows of following Jesus and ultimately became a pillar of the early Church. This study is about more than just theology—it is about a personal journey with Jesus. Peter's transformation wasn't instant. He was found in failure, with misplaced priorities, with a false sense of control, in suffering, in repeated mistakes, and in waiting on God. Yet through every moment, Jesus met him where he was, shaped him, and called him forward.

We believe that faith is not just about knowing the right answers—it's about walking with Jesus in real, imperfect moments. Whether you are new to faith or have been following Jesus for years, this study offers a space to reflect, engage, and take action alongside others in a supportive environment.

Together, we will:

- Connect Peter's life to his letters—seeing how his experiences with Jesus shaped 1 & 2 Peter.
- Explore how Jesus meets us in the various challenges of life.
- Engage in Scripture, personal reflection, and meaningful conversations in community.
- Take practical steps of faith—trusting Jesus, surrendering control, and living boldly.
- Challenge and encourage one another —to not just learn about faith, but to actively live it out.

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."— John 6:68

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 6 - Opening Session

Found in Calling | Luke 5:1-11 | 1 Peter 1:1-12

Peter was an ordinary fisherman when Jesus stepped into his life and invited him into something greater. Later, Peter would remind scattered believers that their identity was not in their circumstances, but in God's calling.

Page 8 - Session 1 Found with Misplaced Priorities | Luke 9:28-36 | 1 Peter 1:13-25

Jesus calls us to trust His greater plan when we are focused on the wrong things. Peter saw Jesus in His glory on the mountain and wanted to stay there. But Jesus had a greater purpose the cross. Peter had to learn that comfort is not the goal; surrender to God's eternal plan is.

Page 10 - Session 2

Found in Failure | Luke 22:54-62 | John 21:15-19 | 1 Peter 2:4-12 Jesus calls us to restoration and a new identity when we fail. Peter denied Jesus three times, but his failure was not the end of his story. Jesus restored him and reaffirmed his calling. Later, Peter encouraged struggling believers that they were chosen and built into God's house, not because they were perfect, but because of God's grace.

Page 12 - Session 3

Found in Suffering | John 21:15-19 | 1 Peter 3:13-22 Jesus calls us to endure and trust His purpose when we suffer. After his restoration, Peter was warned that faithfulness would come with suffering. He later encouraged the Church that suffering for Christ is not a sign of failure but of faithfulness. God does not waste our trials—He uses them to shape us.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 14 - Session 4

Found in Control | John 13:5-9 | 1 Peter 5:1-11

Jesus calls us to surrender and lead through service when we grasp for control. Peter resisted Jesus' servant-hearted leadership and often tried to take matters into his own hands. But Jesus showed him that true authority comes through humility, not power. Later, Peter urged church leaders to shepherd with humility, not dominance.

Page 16 - Session 5

Found in Progress | Acts 10:9-16 | Galatians 2:11-14 |

2 Peter 1:1-21

Jesus calls us to humility, repentance, and alignment with His truth when we are wrong. Peter boldly declared Jesus as the Messiah—but moments later, he rebuked Jesus for talking about suffering. He was passionate, but completely wrong. Jesus corrected him, and Peter later warned the Church about stubbornly holding onto falsehood rather than aligning with God's truth.

Page 18 - Session 6

Found in the Wrong | Matthew 16:13-23 | 2 Peter 2:1-22 Jesus calls us to keep growing, even when we mess up—again. Even as a leader in the Church, Peter struggled with old mindsets and needed correction. Paul publicly challenged him when he withdrew from Gentile believers out of fear. But Peter kept growing and later encouraged believers to make every effort to grow in faith.

Page 20 - Session 7

Found in Waiting | Acts 12:1-17 | 2 Peter 3:1-18

Jesus calls us to trust His timing and remain faithful in waiting. Peter was imprisoned, and the Church prayed for his release yet when God miraculously rescued him, they were shocked. Later, Peter encouraged believers that God is never slow in keeping His promises. Waiting is not passive; it's an invitation to active trust.

STRUCTURE FOR EACH SESSION

KEY TRUTH

Identify the core takeaway that connects God's Kingdom to our daily walk and challenges us to live it out.

READ

Engage with Scripture, highlighting how God's Kingdom transforms our lives and invites us to live differently.

REFLECT

Discuss thought-provoking questions that help connect the passage to your everyday life and deepen understanding.

RESPOND

Share personal experiences and insights related to the session's theme. Consider practical ways to apply what you've learned and prepare your heart for prayer.

BREAKTHROUGH (Let's Pray Together)

Pray for one another, asking God for strength and guidance in living out what we are learning.

NEXT STEPS

Choose practical ways to apply what you've learned —whether through acts of kindness, intentional conversations, or serving others.

DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

COME REGULARLY: Building a strong relationship with Jesus and others in your group begins with showing up consistently. Your presence matters—not just for you, but for the entire group. *Be present, not perfect—come as you are and be open to learning, growing, and encouraging one another along the way.*

PARTICIPATE: Your story and experiences reflect the character of God. Sharing what He is doing in your life helps others grow in their faith and deepens relationships within the group. *Listen actively and seek to understand before responding. Honor differences and recognize that everyone brings a unique perspective to the conversation.*

KEEP IT SAFE: We are all responsible for creating a space where everyone feels heard and loved. Give room for others to share by listening well and responding with kindness. Avoid quick answers or judgments and focus on offering support and encouragement. *Let's be patient and* gracious, understanding that spiritual growth takes time and everyone is on their own journey.

CONFIDENTIALITY: What's shared in the group stays in the group. Protecting each other's honesty and vulnerability fosters trust and growth. *Respect and honor one another's stories with care and discretion*.

KNOW & BE KNOWN: Take time to listen and truly know one another. As you do, you'll have opportunities to pray, encourage, and see God's Kingdom advance in each others' lives. *Commit to praying for your group members throughout the week, trusting that God is at work in every season of life.*

Note for Group Leaders: If a serious concern arises such as harm to a person or a need for further pastoral care—encourage the individual to seek support from a pastor or bring it to a pastor's attention yourself. Ensuring safety and care is a priority for our community.

OPENING SESSION Found in Calling

Key Truth: Jesus finds us where we are and calls us to Himself.

READ:

Luke 5:1-11

Peter was fishing when Jesus called him to something greater.

1 Peter 1:1-12

Peter reminds believers that they are chosen and called into a living hope.

REFLECT:

Peter's letter was written to Christians feeling displaced, uncertain in their culture, and facing opposition. But Peter shifts their focus: Your circumstances don't define you—your calling does. Peter knew this personally. (Luke 5:1-11) – He was fishing when Jesus stepped into his life and invited him to follow. At first, Peter responded: "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" But Jesus didn't leave—He called Peter anyway.

- God calls us from where we are, not from where we think we should be.
- Faithfulness in the present prepares us for what's next.
- Our identity is in Christ, not in our past or present circumstances.
- God's calling always involves change—it moves us forward.

- 1. How do you sense God's calling in your current season—whether in your vocation, relationships, or personal growth? Is there an area you've overlooked because it doesn't seem "spiritual" enough?
- 2. Peter was called from fishing, a secular profession, into ministry. How might God similarly be calling you deeper within your current context (workplace, home, friendships)?
- 3. What specific act of obedience (generosity, reconciliation, sharing your faith, etc.) could you commit to this week?

• Where do you feel uncertainty or fear in stepping into God's calling?

Prayer prompt: As a group, pray for clarity, confidence, and boldness in stepping into God's calling.

NEXT STEPS:

Practical ways to apply what you've learned this weekwhether through personal reflection, encouraging someone else, or taking a step of faith.

□ Write a short reflection about your first experience of sensing God's calling. Reflect on how that calling has developed or shifted today.

□ Identify a specific action you can take this week For example; have an intentional spiritual conversation, reconcile a strained relationship, or take on a new way of serving.

□ Memorize 1 Peter 1:3 – Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

SESSION ONE Found with Misplaced Priorities

READ:

Key Truth:

When we are found with our focus on the wrong things, Jesus calls us to trust His greater plan.

Luke 9:28-36

Peter struggles to grasp the bigger picture of Jesus' transfiguration

1 Peter 1:13-25

Peter calls believers to set their hope fully on grace and live holy lives.

REFLECT:

Peter's audience felt pressured to compromise their faith by focusing on temporary comfort and cultural acceptance. He reminds them to set their hope on Jesus rather than momentary things (1 Peter 1:13-25). Holiness isn't perfection—it means being set apart fully for God's eternal purposes, even if that conflicts with short-term desires.

Unlike controlling outcomes (which we'll discuss later in session 5), misplaced priorities are about <u>what we value or desire most</u>. Peter learned this vividly at the Transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36). He wanted to remain comfortable in a moment of glory instead of following Jesus toward the cross.

- Good things become distractions if they overshadow God's bigger purpose.
- Jesus redirects our hearts to eternal values over temporary comfort.
- + Holiness involves reorienting our values, not just our behavior.

- 1. What are some things in your life—good or bad—that might be distracting you from fully trusting God?
- 2. Why do you think Peter wanted to stay on the mountain? Have you ever wanted to stay in a comfortable place instead of moving forward in faith?
- 3. What would it look like for you to surrender your priorities to God and trust where He is leading you next?

• What is one area where you need to shift your focus from temporary things to eternal things?

Prayer prompt: Pray for courage to surrender distractions and trust in God's greater plan.

NEXT STEPS:

Practical ways to apply what you've learned this week whether through personal reflection, encouraging someone else, or taking a step of faith.

□ Choose one specific activity or habit that's become a distraction from fully trusting God. Replace it this week with intentional prayer, reading Scripture, or serving someone.

□ Take one practical step this week to intentionally prioritize eternal values over comfort for example; serving someone unexpectedly, practicing generosity, initiating a spiritual conversation).

□ **Memorize 1 Peter 1:13** – Set your hope fully on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at His coming.

SESSION TWO Found in Failure

Key Truth:

When we are found in failure, Jesus calls us to restoration and a new identity.

READ:

Luke 22:54-62 Peter denies Jesus three times, experiencing deep failure.

John 21:15-19 Jesus restores Peter after failure.

1 Peter 2:4-12 Jesus restores Peter after failure.

REFLECT:

Peter reassures struggling believers: You are "living stones" being built into God's house (1 Peter 2:5).

Peter was born Simon, meaning "small stone" or "pebble", but Jesus renamed him Peter ("Rock"), declaring: "On this rock, I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18).

But before Peter could live up to his name, he experienced devastating failure. (Luke 22:54-62) – Just hours after promising he would never abandon Jesus; Peter denied Him three times. At that moment, he was anything but a rock—he was shaken, afraid, and broken. Yet Jesus did not take back Peter's name or calling. Instead, He restored him and reaffirmed his mission.

- Failure reveals where we place our trust.
- God's plan is not limited by our weaknesses—He works through them.
- Jesus restores us to our calling, not just to forgiveness.
- Restoration is not just personal—it is for the sake of others.

- 1. Have you ever felt like failure disqualified you from being used by God?
- 2. How does Peter's restoration show us that failure is not the end of our calling?
- 3. What is one way God might be using past failures to shape you into someone stronger?

• Where do you need to let go of shame and trust Jesus with your failures?

Prayer prompt: Pray together for strength, perseverance, and the comfort of Christ's presence.

NEXT STEPS:

Choose practical ways to apply what you've learned this week—whether through personal reflection, encouraging someone else, or taking a step of faith.

□ **Identify** a difficult situation in your life and ask: "How might God be shaping me through this?" Journal your thoughts.

Encourage or pray with someone else who is struggling. Send a note, message, or take time to listen to their story.

□ Memorize 1 Peter 3:15 – "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."

SESSION THREE Found in Suffering

Key Truth:

When we are found in suffering, Jesus calls us to endure and trust His purpose.

READ:

John 21:15-19

Jesus restores Peter and prepares him for future trials.

1 Peter 3:13-22

Peter encourages believers to suffer for doing good, just as Jesus did.

REFLECT:

Peter wrote to believers experiencing suffering—whether persecution, relational tension, personal loss, or physical and emotional trials—and assured them suffering does not indicate God's absence. Instead, it often marks faithfulness (1 Peter 3:14-17).

Peter himself knew suffering personally (John 21:15-19). After restoration, Jesus warned him that his commitment would lead to hardship. Peter learned that enduring difficulties strengthens character and deepens trust in Christ's presence.

- Suffering, whether from external persecution or internal struggles, is formative.
- Enduring hardship is part of faithful discipleship, shaping us to rely on Jesus fully.
- Christ's presence in suffering is greater assurance than immediate relief from pain.

- 1. Peter tells believers to suffer for doing good, not for doing wrong (1 Peter 3:17). What's the difference?
- 2. Have you ever experienced a time when following Jesus cost you something? How did you respond?
- 3. How can suffering deepen your faith rather than weaken it?

• Share briefly with your group how past or present experiences of suffering shaped or challenged your faith.

Prayer prompt: Pray for courage to surrender distractions and trust in God's greater plan.

NEXT STEPS:

Practical ways to apply what you've learned this week whether through personal reflection, encouraging someone else, or taking a step of faith.

□ Identify a difficult situation in your life and ask: "How might God be shaping me through this?" Journal your thoughts.

Encourage or pray with someone else who is struggling. Send a note, message, or take time to listen to their story.

□ **Memorize 1 Peter 3:15**–Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

SESSION FOUR Found in Control

READ:

Key Truth:

When we are found trying to control, Jesus calls us to surrender and lead through service.

John 13:5-9

Jesus washes the disciples' feet, teaching surrender and servant leadership.

1 Peter 5:1-11

Peter urges church leaders to shepherd with humility, not for status or control.

REFLECT:

Peter urges leaders not to seek status or control but humility (1 Peter 5:2-3). Unlike misplaced priorities (values/goals from Session 2), control specifically addresses how we seek to achieve our goals or desires, often through power or dominance.

At the Last Supper, Peter initially rejected servant leadership, resisting when Jesus washed his feet (John 13:5-9). He often tried controlling outcomes (rebuking Jesus, fighting soldiers). Jesus taught him that true authority emerges from surrender and service.

- Control seeks power; humility seeks service.
- Servant leadership releases rather than grasps authority.
- Christ invites us into surrender, letting go of personal control.

- 1. Have you ever resisted receiving what Jesus wanted to do in your life? Why?
- 2. How does Jesus' leadership style—through humility and surrender—challenge your understanding of leadership and influence?
- 3. How would your relationships or leadership look different if you let go of control and served like Jesus?

• What area of your life where you need to release control and trust Jesus?

Prayer prompt: As a group, pray for one another specifically for humility, surrender, and trust in Jesus.

NEXT STEPS:

Practical ways to apply what you've learned this week whether through personal reflection, encouraging someone else, or taking a step of faith.

□ Identify a current situation (work, relationships, ministry) where you tend to control outcomes. Practice intentional prayer this week, actively surrendering it to God.

□ Take one concrete action of humble service this week in an unexpected area. For example, quietly serving a coworker or family member without acknowledgment.

□ **Memorize 1 Peter 5:7** – Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.

SESSION FIVE Found in Progress

READ:

Key Truth: Jesus finds us even when we mess up—again—and calls us to keep growing."

Acts 10:9-16

Peter initially struggles accepting Gentiles but grows through a vision.

Galatians 2:11-14

Paul confronts Peter for withdrawing from Gentile believers.

2 Peter 1:1-21

Peter calls believers to confirm their calling and keep growing.

REFLECT:

Peter urges believers to make every effort to grow in faith (2 Peter 1:5-8). Growth is not just about knowledge—it's about transformation. Spiritual maturity is a journey, not a destination.

Peter had to learn this personally. (Galatians 2:11-14) – Even after years of leading the Church, Peter still had blind spots. When pressured, he withdrew from eating with Gentiles out of fear, contradicting the Gospel message of unity. Paul had to publicly confront him, reminding him that faithfulness means continually aligning with Jesus, not falling into old habits.

Peter didn't let correction stop him—he kept growing. Later in his letters, he urged believers to add to their faith perseverance, godliness, and love (2 Peter 1:5-7), showing that maturity is a lifelong process.

- Faith is not static—it must keep growing and experiencing God's love and power.
- Even mature believers need correction and growth.
- Spiritual maturity is shown through perseverance, not perfection.
- God doesn't expect instant transformation—He calls us to continual progress.

- 1. Peter tells believers to "make every effort" to grow in faith (2 Peter 1:5). What does that look like in daily life?
- 2. How does Peter's mistake in Galatians 2 challenge the way you think about spiritual maturity?
- 3. Where is God calling you to keep growing instead of staying where you are?

• Where in your life do you need God's grace to keep growing spiritually?

Prayer prompt: Pray for a renewed hunger to grow in Christ and embrace spiritual maturity.

NEXT STEPS:

Practical ways to apply what you've learned this week whether through personal reflection, encouraging someone else, or taking a step of faith.

□ Commit to an intentional growth practice this week daily Bible reading, consistent prayer, or accountability conversation with a mentor or friend.

Ask a trusted mentor or friend to provide feedback on a specific area of your spiritual maturity. Commit to prayerfully receiving and acting upon it.

□ **Memorize 2 Peter 1:10** – *Make every effort to confirm your calling and election.*

SESSION SIX Found in the Wrong

READ:

Key Truth:

When we are found in the wrong, Jesus calls us to humility, repentance, and alignment with His truth.

Peter misunderstands Jesus' mission and rebukes Him.

2 Peter 2:1-22

Matthew 16:13-23

Peter warns against false teachers who distort the truth.

REFLECT:

Peter warns the Church about false teachers who twist the Gospel for selfish gain (2 Peter 2:1-3). These teachers confidently preach deception, leading people away from God's truth. But Peter knew firsthand how easy it is to be convinced you're right and still be completely wrong.

(Matthew 16:13-23) – At first, Peter got it right by declaring, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." But moments later, when Jesus explained He must suffer and die, Peter rebuked Him, refusing to accept that truth.

Peter thought he was helping Jesus, but he was actually opposing God's plan. Jesus' response was direct: "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me because you are not thinking about God's concerns but human concerns" (Matthew 16:23).

But being wrong about Jesus wasn't the end of the world for Peter. He was willing to repent, learn, and be corrected. Later, he would warn others not to stubbornly hold onto falsehood but to align with God's truth.

- We can be passionate about something and still be completely wrong.
- God's truth challenges us—it doesn't always fit our expectations.
- Spiritual maturity means having the humility to be corrected and realigning our beliefs with Scripture.

- 1. Have you ever been certain about something, only to later realize you were wrong? How did that feel?
- 3. Why do we sometimes resist correction, even when we know we need it?
- 3. What does it look like to be humble and open to realignment with God's truth?

 What is one belief, assumption, or expectation about God that He may be asking you to rethink?
For example, "God is angry with me," "I must earn God's love," "God is disappointed in me," "God is distant in my struggles," "God only blesses me when I get it right."

Prayer prompt: Pray for the humility to release misconceptions about God and align with His truth.

NEXT STEPS:

Choose practical ways to apply what you've learned this week—whether through personal reflection, encouraging someone else, or taking a step of faith.

□ Reflect on a past belief or assumption you had about God that has changed. Write about what led to that growth.

□ Have an open, honest conversation with someone about an area where you may need correction.

□ **Memorize 2 Peter 2:2** – Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute.

SESSION SEVEN

READ:

Key Truth: When we are found in waiting, Jesus calls us to trust in His timing and remain faithful.

Acts 12:1-17

Peter is imprisoned but rescued by an angel.

2 Peter 3:1-18

Peter reminds believers to live in expectation of Jesus' return.

REFLECT:

Peter writes to believers who were struggling to understand God's timing. Some were doubting if Jesus would return at all, and others were losing patience in their suffering (2 Peter 3:3-4). Peter reassures them: "The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, He is patient with you" (2 Peter 3:9). Peter understood what it meant to wait for God's timing. (Acts 12:1-17) – He was thrown in prison, not knowing if he would live or die. Meanwhile, the Church prayed fervently for him—yet when God miraculously rescued Peter, they were shocked, as if they hadn't expected their prayers to work.

Peter had learned: Waiting is not passive—it's active trust. God's delays are not denials. His timing is perfect, and He calls us to remain faithful while we wait.

- Waiting on God is not wasted time—it deepens dependence on God.
- · God's timing is different from ours, but He is always faithful.
- Doubt and impatience can creep in when waiting takes longer than expected.
- + Faithfulness means actively trusting God, even without visible results.

- Can you share a time when you felt stuck waiting on God? How did that shape your trust or understanding of His character?
- 2. Why do you think we struggle so much with God's timing?
- 3. What does active trust (not passive resignation) practically look like for you during seasons of waiting?

• Share briefly with the group a situation where you are currently struggling to trust God's timing.

Prayer prompt: Pray specifically together for deeper trust, patience, and strength to remain faithful during waiting period.

NEXT STEPS:

Practical ways to apply what you've learned this week whether through personal reflection, encouraging someone else, or taking a step of faith.

□ Identify clearly what you're currently waiting on God for. Spend intentional daily time this week surrendering your waiting to God in prayer.

Practically encourage someone else who is waiting (call, write, or meet to support).

□ **Memorize 2 Peter 3:9** – *The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, He is patient with you.*

□ Read Set aside time to read and reflect on Psalm 27 and Psalm 40.

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