

## *SIMON PETER, RESTORED DISCIPLE*

He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

—John 21:17 KJV

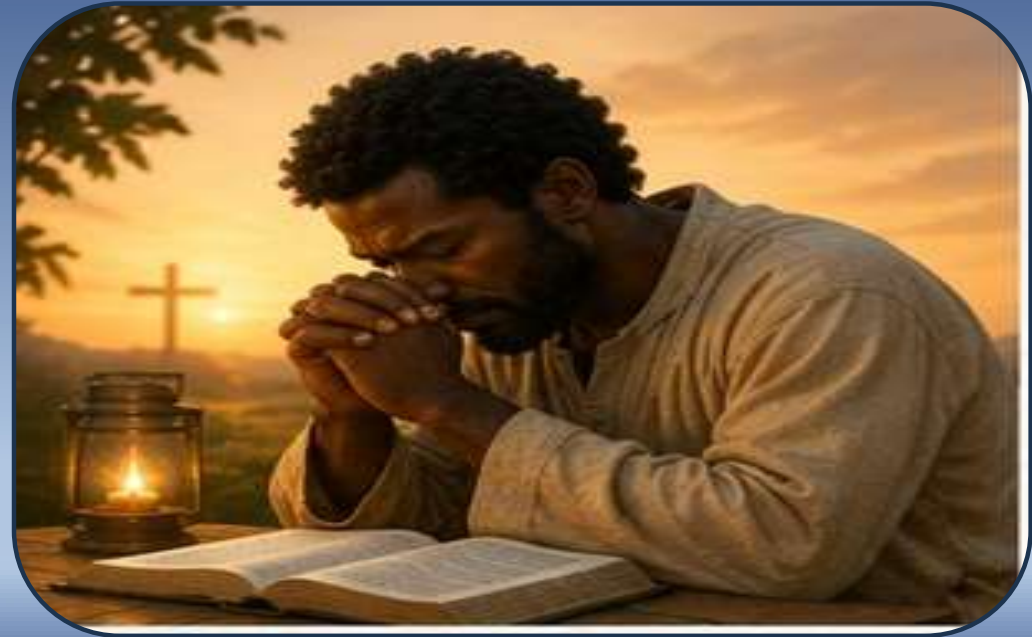
God's mercy  
knows no end.

# PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You are our Healer. You restore brokenness. Thank You for the testimony of Peter. We need Your healing power, and we pray that You will restore, renew, and strengthen us so that we may help others and direct them to You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## THOUGHT TO REMEMBER

Never underestimate what God can do with our weaknesses.



**LESSON SCRIPTURE:** MARK 8:27–29; LUKE 22:31–34; JOHN 18:25–27; 21:15–17

**LESSON FOCUS:** JESUS RESTORES AND RENEWS US WHEN WE FAIL. LIFE

**APPLY THE MESSAGE :** EVEN LOYAL DISCIPLES NEED RESTORATION AND FORGIVENESS.

**LIVE IT OUT :** ACCEPT GOD’S AMAZING GRACE, AND LET IT TRANSFORM YOU.

REVIEW

INTRODUCTION

LESSON CONTEXT

OVERVIEW

PETER’S CALLING AND CONFESSION - MATTHEW 4:18–20; 16:16–18 KJV

PETER’S CHARGE AND CHALLENGE - JOHN 21:15–18; 2 PETER 3:14–15; 3:18 KJV

BIBLE APPLICATION

CONCLUSION

QUESTION & ANSWERS

**BROKEN MADE BEAUTIFUL**

Kintsugi is a centuries-old Japanese technique of pottery repair. The process involves using a special lacquer mixed with gold, silver, or platinum to repair damages to broken or cracked pieces. Other methods of ceramic restoration aim to hide the damage or make it less noticeable as if the object were “like new.” Kintsugi, however, highlights the imperfections and brokenness of the pottery, transforming them into a new artifact. The restoration process transforms the damaged pottery into something whole, with the lacquered repairs serving as a visual reminder of the item’s history and use. Rather than obscuring the damage, this technique celebrates it, making the once-broken pieces beautiful and usable for many more years.

Similarly, God’s work of salvation brings healing and reconciliation to sinful humanity. Today’s account demonstrates how God restored one of the first apostles, Peter. Through Christ’s forgiveness and restoration, Peter’s story becomes more beautiful than he could have imagined.

# LESSON INTRODUCTION

*SIMON PETER, RESTORED DISCIPLE*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**WEEK OF 13 THROUGH JULY 18**

**Exodus 22:1–6—God Calls for Restitution.**

**Isaiah 58:3–7—Let the Oppressed Go Free.**

**Luke 6:20–26—Blessings and Woes.**

**Hebrews 13:1–6—Love, Hospitality, and Contentment.**

**1 John 3:14–18—Put Love Into Action.**

**Psalms 37:1–5, 18–22—Commit Your Way to God.**

God calls His people to demonstrate authentic faith through justice, compassion, generosity, contentment, and unwavering trust in Him.

Throughout these passages, Scripture presents a consistent picture of God's character. He is just, merciful, faithful, and compassionate, and He expects His people to reflect those same qualities. Justice requires making wrongs right through restitution. Worship is genuine only when it produces compassion for the oppressed. True blessing comes from dependence on God rather than earthly wealth or popularity. Christian love is demonstrated by hospitality, generosity, purity, and practical care for others. Finally, believers are called to trust God's faithful provision instead of envying those who prosper through unrighteousness.

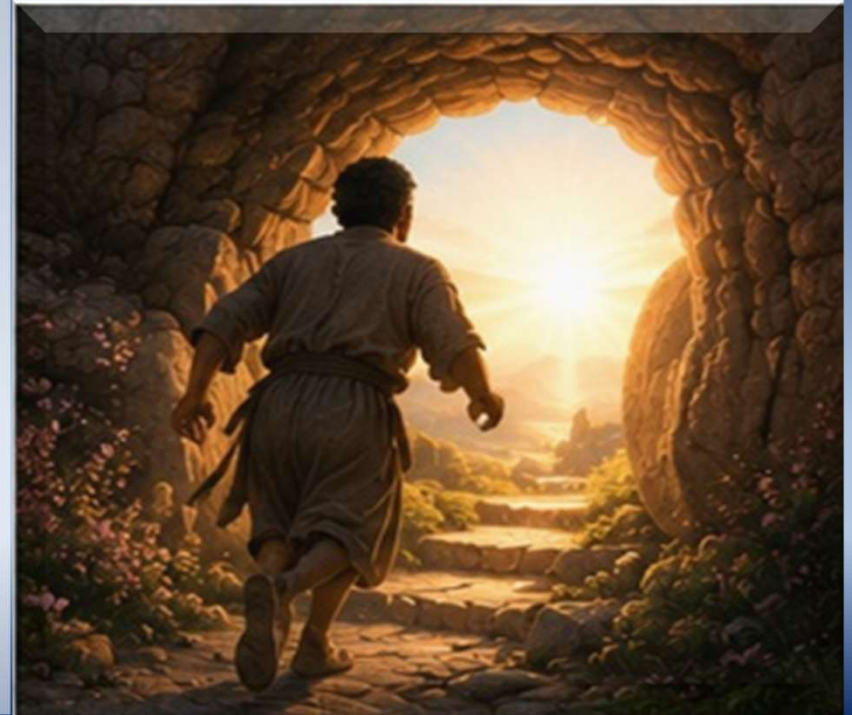
Peter is so relatable. He was one of Jesus' closest followers. Peter saw, heard, and experienced amazing things. He loved Jesus and was deeply committed to Him, but Peter's faith was not perfect. The Gospel writers don't shy away from describing Peter's experiences. Peter has a powerful testimony to share: God had fully forgiven him in Jesus. Jesus restores and renews His followers.

Peter was a fisherman from Bethsaida, a village on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee (John 1:44). Here, Peter worked with his brother Andrew (Mark 1:16). While fishing on the Sea of Galilee, Peter and his brother are called by

Jesus to follow Him and become "fishers of men" (Matthew 4:18–22; Mark 1:16–20; Luke 5:1–11; John 1:35–42).

We also know that Peter was married (Mark 1:30; 1 Corinthians 9:5). At some point, Peter, his wife, and at least one other family member moved to Capernaum (Matthew 8:5–14), a town approximately five miles southwest of Bethsaida.

The New Testament notes three names for Peter. His Hebrew name is Simon or the variant Simeon (Mark 1:16; Acts 15:14). Later, Jesus calls him Peter, a designation based on an ancient Greek word meaning "rock" or "stone" (Matthew 16:18; Mark 3:16); this is his most frequently occurring name in the New Testament, found over 160 times. The third name is Cephas, an Aramaic word for "stone" (John 1:42; 1 Corinthians 1:12; 3:22; etc. ).



## LESSON CONTEXT

## SIMON PETER, RESTORED DISCIPLE

### A PROPHET LIKE ELIJAH—

When crowds call Jesus a prophet, they are thinking of other mighty heroes of the past. Elijah—the prophet taken up to heaven without dying (2 Kings 2:11)—was expected to return before the Day of the Lord (Malachi 4:5–6). Some Jews speculated that a former prophet might return to life and fulfill the role of the “prophet like Moses” mentioned in Scripture (see Deut. 18:15–22).

But Peter declares that Jesus is the “Christ” (KJV) or “Messiah” (NIV), a term associated with the anointed king from the line of David. This person (or, for some Jews, persons) would free Israel from foreign oppressors, purify the people, and restore the independence and glory of Israel. The suggestions of the rest of the people (Mark 8:28) reflect the complexity of Jewish ideas about this. Many different figures were thought to play a role in the last days.



### BROKEN AND CHOSEN—

In 1 Corinthians, Paul writes about God’s way of using the “weak” and “lowly” (1:27–28). One way to draw encouragement from Scripture is to notice the clay feet of so many characters. This is just a short sample:

- Aaron—The brother of Moses led the Israelites in idolatry, helping to make a golden calf and calling it God (Ex. 32:1–4). God used him as Israel’s first high priest.
- David—In his most shameful episode, David orchestrated a murder to cover his earlier crime of adultery (2 Sam. 11:1–17). God received his prayer of repentance and allowed him to be an ancestor of the Messiah.
- Jonah—As a prophet who received a message from God, Jonah does not immediately obey (Jonah 1:3). Yet Jonah gets another chance to complete the mission of bringing warning to Nineveh.
- Paul—He persecuted Christians and locked them in prison (Acts 9:1–2). God used him as an exceptional missionary and writer of Scripture.

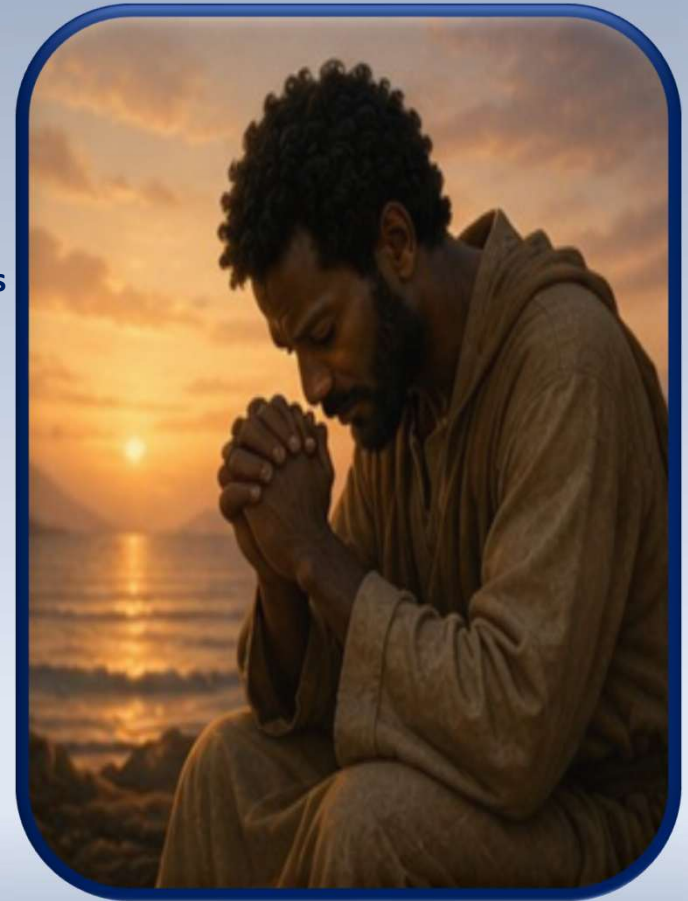


## DIFFERENT KINDS OF LOVE?

In English, we have one word. But in Greek, there are multiple words for love. For instance, you might have heard of *agapaō* (for agape love) and *fileō* (for ordinary, platonic love). When Jesus asks whether Peter loves Him, Jesus uses one word (*agapaō*), and Peter repeatedly answers with a different word (*fileō*).

Some commentators have claimed that Jesus is trying to challenge whether Peter has the right kind of love— the selfless kind of love that God shows. But think of how strange it would be to imagine Peter’s response as lackluster. Why would Peter be saying, “I love you Jesus, but not as deeply as you are asking”? When we examine the rest of the Gospel of John, we find that John treats these two Greek words for love more synonymously. For example, John 16:27 uses the word *fileō* for the love of God: “the Father loves you. ” It surely doesn’t mean a lesser kind of love in that case.

So what else could be going on? John is probably just showing stylistic variation. Good writers in Greek try not to repeat the same words when telling the same information; John writes with this in mind. The takeaway is that English translations like the KJV or NIV are doing a good job of translating the underlying text by just using the English word love.



# LESSON OVERVIEW

SIMON PETER, RESTORED DISCIPLE

## DO YOU KNOW HIM? - MARK 8:27–29; LUKE 22:31–34; JOHN 18:25–27 KJV MARK 8:27–29

### Mark 8:27–29

27 And Jesus went out, and his disciples, into the towns of Caesarea Philippi: and by the way he asked his disciples, saying unto them, Whom do men say that I am?

28 And they answered, John the Baptist; but some say, Elias; and others, One of the prophets.

29 And he saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Peter answereth and saith unto him, Thou art the Christ.

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### Luke 22:31–34

31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

33 And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.

34 And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.

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### John 18:25–27

25 And Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. They said therefore unto him, Art not thou also one of his disciples? He denied it, and said, I am not.

26 One of the servants of the high priest, being his kinsman whose ear Peter cut off, saith, Did not I see thee in the garden with him? 27 Peter then denied again: and immediately the cock crew.

- Peter is destined to be a great leader of the early church, but he started out as a fisherman whom Jesus chose as a disciple.
- In Scene One, Peter correctly identifies Jesus as the Messiah, which means God’s chosen king.
- In Scene Two, Jesus warns Peter of a coming temptation, even though Peter acts willing to die with Jesus.
- In Scene Three, the night that Jesus is betrayed, Peter loses his nerve. Three times he affirmatively denies ever knowing Jesus.

### DO YOU LOVE HIM? - JOHN 21:15–17 KJV

**15** So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

**16** He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

**17** He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

- ❑ We have skipped ahead in time, to the days and weeks following Jesus' resurrection.
- ❑ Peter hasn't yet heard Jesus address the way that he denied Jesus.
- ❑ While Peter and the disciples are fishing, Jesus appears on the shore.
- ❑ They share a breakfast of fish with Jesus, and He begins to question Peter.
- ❑ Three times, Jesus asks Peter whether he loves Jesus.
- ❑ Three times, Peter says he loves Jesus; and Jesus reminds him to look out for the good of others, as a shepherd.
- ❑ Peter's three denials are in the past, but Jesus wants him to show gracious leadership in the future.



## ONE BIBLE, ONE STORY

### The Messiah

Peter stated that Jesus was the Messiah (or Christ). Christ is the Greek word meaning “anointed one.” In Israel’s past, various figures were anointed for special roles: priests (see Lev. 4:3), kings (see 1 Sam. 16:6), and prophets (see 1 Kings 19:16). Given that anointing was appropriate for these different roles, some first-century Jews anticipated that God would send more than one “messiah”—perhaps a replacement priest and a replacement king.

It starts to make sense why the author of Hebrews explains Jesus’ superiority with respect to Moses as prophet and leader (Heb. 3:1–6), angels as heavenly beings (Heb. 1:3–4), and high priests serving in the temple (Heb. 4:14). The reason that God sent only one Messiah is that Jesus alone, God’s Son, is able to bring together all of the important leadership roles. Jesus is the Messiah, and He surpasses all expectations.

## Grace to Restore

No one is beyond God's redemption. Over and over, God seems to delight in bringing back those who have lost their way. But like Peter, perhaps we worry that the past determines how Jesus includes us. Perhaps, we shudder to remember that God knows us completely.

Reading about Peter reminds me of the testimony of the great hymn writer, minister, and abolitionist, John Newton. Before Newton would write some of the most famous hymns of all time, he was a captain of a ship transporting African slaves. In his youth he was hard to manage, known for crude behavior, and his Christian conversion at sea did not immediately change everything about him. For instance, it is well-known that he made three additional trips across the Atlantic as a slave-ship captain after 1748 (the year of his Christian conversion). When he would later write the words about a "wretch" who had been lost, he knew them better than anyone.

The amazing grace that Jesus shows is not to count our failures as disqualifying. Notice that Peter did not hide from Jesus or offer excuses. Jesus didn't need to hear Peter express remorse, but He wanted Peter to look to his future role as a leader. Jesus offers the grace that a friend would offer. He doesn't ask Peter to try harder, bury his face in shame, or go to the back of the line. Jesus just wants him to love as he had been loved.

I like to think that Peter's favorite verse of "Amazing Grace" (by John Newton) might be this:

The Lord hath promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

Grace to Restore

**1 What is your testimony of God's amazing grace?**

**2 What self-doubt or unhelpful narratives might hold us back from receiving the grace of Jesus?**

**3 What does God want in response to the grace you have been shown?**

**CONCLUSION: TIME TO CHANGE THE STORY**

Following Jesus' ascension, Peter demonstrated his love for Christ and commitment to God's people. He played a key role in the first-century church (Acts 1:21–22; 2:14; 3:12; 4:8–20; 10:47–48). His declaration of commitment to Christ, even while imprisoned, came to fruition (5:17–42; 12:1–11). He grew from being “unlearned and ignorant” (4:13) to being the author of the two letters in the New Testament that bear his name. Although we don't know the circumstances of Peter's death, tradition suggests that he was crucified in Rome.

Peter's story following Jesus' ascension is an important milestone marking his spiritual maturity. But we must not miss the formative issues of today's lesson. The most significant aspect of Peter's story may not be its beginning or ending but rather the remarkable turning point in the middle.

Peter faced a painful low point in his life when he denied his Savior. We too will experience painful lows on our road to spiritual maturity—every Christian does. When such a low happens, the primary issue is how we respond. Peter heard Jesus speak of four possible outcomes in hearing the Word (see Matthew 13:1–9). Three of those are quite negative, but they need not be considered irreversible. God redeemed Peter's failure and used his weakness to strengthen his faith. The same can happen with us.

**LIVE IT OUT:** ACCEPT GOD'S AMAZING GRACE, AND LET IT TRANSFORM YOU.

*For all those moments when we wonder whether our past invalidates our future potential, we have the testimony of Peter to encourage us. As we use this week to contemplate God's forgiveness, let us go forth in gratitude for what God can use imperfect people to accomplish.*

## NEVER TOO FAR GONE

Jesus' reinstatement of Peter is an incredible encouragement to us. No matter how far we may have strayed from God, through repentance we can still be used for His kingdom. What parts of your story—past or present—make you feel unworthy to be used by God? Take the opportunity to review the words of Amazing Grace as you offer this prayer in the week ahead.

# PRAYER

*Father,*

*We identify with Peter's shame and regret for denying You in Your darkest hour. Like Peter, we have had moments or seasons when we have turned our backs on You. Thank You for the incredible gift of forgiveness and reinstatement into Your kingdom work. Use us for whatever purposes You have in store for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*



***The Lord bless thee, and keep thee:  
The Lord make his face shine upon  
thee, and be gracious unto thee:***

***The Lord lift up his countenance  
upon thee and give thee peace.  
- Numbers 6:24-26,***

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DAVID C COOK

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## Do You Know Him?

### 1 What does Peter know about Jesus that others don't know (Mark 8)?

Peter knows that Jesus is the Messiah and not merely a prophet. To call Jesus a prophet means to recognize the God-given power and authority that He possesses. Israel has had many prophets, but Jesus is different. Jesus is the rightful king and God's Son.

### 2 What does Jesus know about Peter (Luke 22)?

Jesus knows that Peter's self-assurance is hiding a fearful spirit. While Peter talks a big talk, when he really sees the coordinated opposition to Jesus, he won't want to join Jesus in persecution and death. Peter will deny his Lord to save his own skin.

### 3 Why is Peter so afraid to admit that he knows Jesus (John 18)?

Jesus is being questioned by the highest religious authorities in Judea. Jesus' captors will make the final hours of His life excruciatingly painful and humiliating. Peter was willing to defend Jesus while hope remained, but he does not want to be known as Jesus' disciple at this dangerous time.

## Do You Love Him?

### 1 Do you love Jesus? And how does it feel to be asked?

This is probably a surprising question to be asked. It seems simple, but there are many layers to this question. Feelings of uncertainty, worry, and confusion may be rising to the surface. Or perhaps this question is one that you have been waiting to be asked because you have something remarkable to share about who Jesus is and what He has done in your life.

### 2 If you love Jesus, how do you show it?

When we say yes to following Jesus, the Holy Spirit begins to change us from the inside out. Our love for Jesus will be revealed by our words and actions. Loving Jesus can mean giving words of encouragement to a friend. It can mean a prayer or blessing spoken over a stranger. It can be shown by putting someone else's needs before your own.

### 3 What does the witness of Peter teach us about loving Jesus?

Peter needed to be asked this question three times to really hear what Jesus was asking. We are invited, like Peter, to "take care of [Jesus'] sheep," to be a shepherd of God's love to others. Peter was expecting Jesus to bring up what he had done, but Jesus wants Peter to see himself as Jesus sees him.

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