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*This is a self-study course
designed to help you discover
for yourself, from the Bible,
some important basic truths about
the epistles of Peter.*

how to study the lesson

1. Try to find a quiet spot free from distractions and noise.
2. Read each question carefully.
3. Look up the Scripture reference given after each question. Make sure you have found the correct Scripture passage. For example, sometimes you will find yourself looking up JOHN 1:1 instead of I JOHN 1:1.
4. Answer the question from the appropriate Bible passage. Write, in your own words, a phrase or sentence to answer the question. In questions that can be answered with a “yes” or “no” always give the reason for your answer . . . “Yes, because. . . .”
5. If possible, keep a dictionary handy in order to look up words you don’t understand.

6. Pray for God's help. You *need* God's help in order to understand what you study in the Bible. PSALM 119:18 would be an appropriate verse for you to take to God in prayer.

7. *Class teachers using this course for group study will find some helpful suggestions on page 47.*

how to take the self-check tests

Each lesson is concluded with a test designed to help you evaluate what you have learned.

1. Review the lesson carefully in the light of the self-check test questions.

2. If there are any questions in the self-check test you cannot answer, perhaps you have written into your lesson the wrong answer from your Bible. Go over your work carefully to make sure you have filled in the blanks correctly.

3. When you think you are ready to take the self-check test, do so without looking up the answers.

4. Check your answers to the self-check test carefully with the answer key given on page 48.

5. If you have any questions wrong, your answer key will tell you where to find the correct answer in your lesson. Go back and locate the right answers. Learn by your mistakes!

apply what you have learned to your own life

In this connection, read carefully JAMES 1:22-25. It is only as you apply your lessons to your own life that you will really grow in grace and increase in the knowledge of God.



Introduction — The Life of Peter

Before studying the epistles of Peter, it is important to know something of Peter's life. Our Lord had to mold the life of Peter before Peter could help mold the lives of others. As you study this lesson, look for the ways God works in the lives of His disciples. Then as you study the epistles of Peter, notice how well Peter had learned his lessons from the school of God.

The call of Peter

1. What was Peter's hometown?

JOHN 1:44 _____

The name of this town means "fish town."

2. What was his father's name?

JOHN 1:42; compare MATTHEW 16:17 _____

3. Who brought Simon to Jesus?

JOHN 1:40; compare 1:42 _____

4. Give Peter's full name.

II PETER 1:1 _____

5. What new name did Christ give Peter?

JOHN 1:42 _____

6. What is the meaning of this name?

JOHN 1:42 _____

The word *cephas* is Aramaic, while the Greek synonym is *petros* from which comes the name *Peter*.

The confession of Peter

Although Christ had changed Simon's name to Peter at his call, the significance of this name did not appear until later.

7. Whom did Peter confess Jesus to be?

MATTHEW 16:16 _____

8. Whom did Christ say Peter was?

MATTHEW 16:18 _____

This means "stone" or "a piece of rock."

9. Upon what was Christ to build His Church?

MATTHEW 16:18 _____

10. Who alone is the Rock Foundation of the Church?

I CORINTHIANS 3:11; 10:4; I PETER 2:4; ACTS 4:10, 11 _____

11. Who shared with Jesus in the foundation work of the Church?

EPHESIANS 2:19, 20 _____

12. Did Peter gather from this that Jesus had appointed him to be the foundation of the Church and the first pope? Support your answer.

I PETER 2:3-7 _____

13. When Peter had come to see that he was a stone, that is, one with the Rock, what did he call all true believers?

I PETER 2:5; compare EPHESIANS 2:21, 22 _____

The literal translation of "lively" (I PETER 2:5) is "living."

The denial of Peter

Peter experienced spiritual defeats as well as victories. This was the man God chose to write of suffering and subjection. He had learned lessons the hard way so that later he could pass on meaningful instruction.

14. What prediction did Christ make concerning the faithfulness of His disciples?

MARK 14:27 _____

The word "offend" means "to fall" or "to stumble."

15. Give the special prediction of Christ concerning Peter.

MARK 14:30 _____

16. In the midst of such a trial, what was Peter to do?

MARK 14:38 _____

17. What did Peter do instead?

MARK 14:40 _____

18. When the cock crowed twice, how many times had Peter denied he ever knew the Lord?

MARK 14:66-72 _____

19. How did Peter's sin affect him?

MARK 14:72 _____

20. What is the Christian who has sinned always to do?

I JOHN 1:9 _____

The ministry of Peter

Although we often think of the book of Acts as recording the ministry of the apostle Paul, it contains the post-cross ministry of Peter as well. Peter, tempered by the hand and disciplines of God, was used mightily in the opening years of the early Church.

21. Who preached the sermon on the Day of Pentecost?

ACTS 2:14 _____

22. What was his message?

ACTS 2:36 _____

23. What were the results?

ACTS 2:41 _____

24. Describe some of the suffering of Peter.

ACTS 5:18; 12:6 _____

25. What was the testimony of ungodly men concerning the witness of Peter in Jerusalem?

ACTS 5:28 _____

26. What Christian Jew was the first to give the gospel to the Gentiles?

ACTS 10:34; compare 15:7 _____

27. What was the commission to Peter given by our risen Lord (the final mention of Peter in the Gospels)?

JOHN 21:17 _____

28. What charge did Peter later give to his own fellow workers?

I PETER 5:2 _____

The epistles of Peter

Peter had been receiving the news of the persecution of churches everywhere as well as the assault of false teachers upon them. The very name of "Christian" was being exposed to outrage. In his old age, the apostle took up his pen to send forth words of comfort and counsel. In these letters he shows a heart as warm as when he was young, combined with a deeper self-knowledge and humility.

These letters, written A.D. 60 and 66, are a result of the Lord's command to Peter: "Strengthen thy brethren." No letters in the Sacred Canon come more directly home to those in trial and persecution, and those beset with subtle errors are alerted.

check-up time No. 1

You have just studied some important truths about the life of Peter. Review your study by rereading the questions and your written answers. If you aren't sure of an answer, reread the Scripture portion given to see if you can find the answer. Then take this test to see how well you understand important truths you have studied.

In the right-hand margin write "True" or "False" after each of the following statements.

1. Nathanael was the one that brought Peter to Jesus. _____
2. Peter's name was changed to Cephas by his father. _____
3. Peter recognized Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. _____
4. Peter is the rock on which the Church is built. _____
5. Peter was asked to pray that Christ might not enter into temptation. _____
6. The Christian who has sinned is always to confess his sin to God. _____
7. It was Peter who preached on the Day of Pentecost. _____
8. Although Peter had great blessing, he endured great suffering. _____
9. Even ungodly men testified to Peter's influence on Jerusalem. _____
10. Christ told Peter to feed the sheep of God. _____

Turn to page 48 and check your answers.