



Week 7:

Peter's Denial
Luke 22:54-62

OPEN

This is the seventh week in our series called "Unfit." In this series, we are looking at how God continues to invite unlikely, undeserving, and UNFIT people to play a part in what He is doing in this world. **As you trace God's story throughout the Scriptures, you meet a long list of broken and imperfect people whom God includes in His perfect plan.** This week we look at Peter's denial of Jesus. We all have blown an opportunity to share our faith with someone. Getting past timidity and sense of failure is challenging. All of us have gifting, abilities, strengths and weaknesses. Some are naturally outgoing, others shy. Some have the spiritual gift of evangelism, but many don't. As we examine Peter's life we learn that the Holy Spirit can transform our fears into a strong faith that enables us to share Jesus with others. Although we may not publicly deny Christ as Peter did, when we learn to live by the Spirit as Peter does, we find a courage and boldness to share Jesus with others in a way that is beyond us because it comes from God himself.

READ

Let's look further at the before and after picture of the Apostle Peter and see how Jesus changed him.

Before Pentecost: Peter wanted to do what he thought would please Jesus, yet he failed under his own strength and ability. At times he even seemed erratic. Peter experienced some amazing things but did not know how to react or process them.

- **Read Matthew 14:22-33.**
 - Although Peter started out with a strong desire to do what Jesus did, to walk on water, it didn't last.
 - What changed Peter's confidence?
 - Why did he flounder? What does this teach you?

REFLECT

- **Read Matthew 16:13-23.** How can Peter go from someone who in one moment confesses Christ, "**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God**", but a few verses later get rebuked by Jesus? What does this say of Peter's character or the maturity of his walk with Jesus at this point?

Peter was a passionate disciple who lived out a bold faith that walked on water (Matt 14), boldly confessed Christ (Matt 16), and even defended Jesus with a sword (John 18). With that picture of Peter in your mind read the passage of Peter's denial of Jesus.

- **Read Luke 22:54-62.** Knowing the bold faith that Peter demonstrated in his life, what strikes you about how he now crumbles under public pressure? When has your faith felt publicly tested? How did you respond?

After Pentecost (Acts 2)

After Peter and the disciples are filled with the Holy Spirit they boldly and publicly proclaim the gospel of Jesus.

- **Read Acts 4:8-13.** How does the Holy Spirit transform Peter and fill him with courage and boldness? How does this story compare to the denial narrative we read earlier (Luke 22)?
- Reflecting on Peter's life, can you think of a situation when you lacked the courage to share your faith with someone? What happened? What did that experience teach you?
- Can you think of an example when you were able to tap into the Spirit's boldness and power, and share the gospel, even though this is something you normally don't do? Share about that.

PRAY

- God gifts us all differently. Take turns and share with each other how you see Jesus made known through each member. Pray for each member for even greater boldness through the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for each other for a further filling of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18) and an openness to be used by him in the lives of others.
- Pray for one another. Please continue to pray for the Board of Elders, Staff, and leaders as we discern the the Holy Spirit's leading during this time of transition.

