

## Disciple Series Week 3 Readings

### Day 1

This week our daily readings are taken from the life of Peter. Read the passage twice and then reflect on what you can learn from Peter in the passage. Each day there will also be an exercise designed to help you become just a little more like Jesus.

#### **Read:** Peter Obeys Jesus

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. (Luke 5:1-11)

**Ask:** What 3 things can you learn from Peter in this passage?

**Do:** Here is something you can do tomorrow when you are at school (or at work if you are a leader). When you have a decision you need to make, pause and ask this question: What Would Jesus Do?

### Day 2

Hey there, take some time before you turn in for the night to read, reflect and do an exercise to help you on the journey of becoming Christ-centered!

#### **Read:** Peter Walks on the Water

During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." (Matthew 14:25-33)

**Ask:** What can you learn from Peter in this passage?

#### **Do: The 3-2-1 Reflection**

What 3 things did I do that made Jesus proud today?

What 2 things does Jesus want me to do differently tomorrow?

What 1 thing have I learnt about becoming Christ-centered today?

**Pray:** Thank God for all he is doing in your life and ask him to help to become more like Jesus.

### Day 3

Here is the reading and the exercise for today.

**Read:** Peter Confesses Faith in Jesus and Corrects Jesus

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven." From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. "Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." (Matthew 16:13-17; 21-23)

**Ask:** What can you learn from Peter in this passage?

**Do:** The 3-2-1 Reflection

What 3 things did I do that made Jesus proud today?

What 2 things does Jesus want me to do differently tomorrow?

What 1 thing have I learnt about becoming Christ-centered today?

**Pray:** Thank God for all he is doing in your life and ask him to help to become more like Jesus.

### Day 4

Here is a reading and an exercise for today. First there is a reading from Peter's life to learn from a dark moment in his life; and then a short reading from Jesus' life which will help you become more like Jesus when you identify what he was like and think about how you can become like more him.

**Read:** Peter Denies Jesus at the Trial

Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him." You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said. But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said. Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!" After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away." Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly. (Matthew 26:69-75)

**Ask:** What can you learn from Peter even though this story is about a failure in his life?

**Exercise:** As you read this story from Jesus' life stop and ask what you can learn from his example to become more like him.

**Read:** Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:35-38)

**Ask:** What was Jesus like? How can I become like him?

**Pray:** Ask God to help you become more like Jesus.

## Day 5

Here is the reading and an exercise to do before you go to bed this evening.

### **Read:** Peter is Restored by Jesus

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." (John 21:15-17)

**Ask:** What can you learn from Peter and Jesus in this passage?

### **Do:** The 3-2-1 Reflection

What 3 things did I do that made Jesus proud today?

What 2 things does Jesus want me to do differently tomorrow?

What 1 thing have I learnt about becoming Christ-centered today?

**Pray:** Thank God for all he is doing in your life and ask him to help to become more like Jesus.

## Day 6

Here is the reading and exercise for today.

### **Read:** Peter Heals a Lame Beggar

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer - at three in the afternoon. Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. (Acts 3:1-8)

**Ask:** What can you learn from Peter's example in this passage?

**Do:** You could do the 3-2-1 Reflection exercise again today or you could apply the WWJD? question to a situation you are facing.

**Pray:** Thank God for all he is doing in your life and ask him to help to become more like Jesus.

## Day 7

Here is the reading and exercise for you to do today.

### **Read:** Peter's Prejudices are Challenged

About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles of the earth and birds of the air. Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." "Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean." The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to

heaven. While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon's house was and stopped at the gate. They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there. While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them." Peter went down and said to the men, "I'm the one you're looking for. Why have you come?" The men replied, "We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. A holy angel told him to have you come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say." Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests. The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa went along. The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. But Peter made him get up. "Stand up," he said, "I am only a man myself." Talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with a Gentile or visit him. But God has shown me that I should not call any man impure or unclean. So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?" Cornelius answered: "Four days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me and said, 'Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor. Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, who lives by the sea.' So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us." Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right." (Acts 10:9-35)

**Ask:** What can we learn from Peter in this story?

**Do:** The 3-2-1 Reflection

What 3 things did I do that made Jesus proud today?

What 2 things does Jesus want me to do differently tomorrow?

What 1 thing have I learnt about becoming Christ-centered today?

**Pray:** Thank God for all he is doing in your life and ask him to help to become more like Jesus.