

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God, we should commit to reading Scripture every day. There are questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and one will be given to you. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number of the book. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.

Monday, March 19th - Matthew 10:2-8 and Matthew 16:17-18

What is in a name? Well in Peter's case a lot. Peter's given name was Simon. Jesus' name for Simon becomes Peter. Hence, we have the name Simon Peter or Simon the Rock. Jesus says in Matthew 16 that he will build the church on the rock. Have you ever wondered what the rock is? Can it be Peter, if Jesus is the cornerstone? Peter the Rock is one of the stones that the church is built on. But the rock that the church is built on is what Simon Peter tells us about Jesus in Matthew 16:16, "You are the Christ, the son of the Living God." The rock is our faith in this statement of who Jesus is. Take time to consider who and what Simon Peter says is the true rock on which the church is built. How does God use this revelation of Simon's to build his church and how is Simon a part of that? How are you being called to be a living stone in Christ's church? What makes you a living stone? Spend time asking God to show you how you can be a living stone in his church today.

Tuesday, March 20th – Matthew 14:28-33

One thing that makes Simon Peter endearing is his never-ending ability to get it right and then mess it up. That is why so many of us understand Simon Peter. Today is no exception. We meet Jesus and Peter out on the water. Peter calls out to Jesus and Jesus calls Peter out onto the water. Now without thinking, Peter stands up and steps out of the boat and begins walking to Jesus. Then the wind stirs around him and draws his attention away from Jesus. Immediately, Peter begins to sink. Consider if you will, how many times you have wanted to get out of the boat like Peter did. What stopped you? In most cases, it is because we are distracted immediately with the reality of the wind. But we learn from Peter that the winds are going to blow no matter what, so why not get out of the boat and walk on water through the wind? Take time in prayer and spend the day looking at Jesus. Stare into his eyes today and get out of the boat! Remember Peter only sinks when he is distracted, so when you are tempted to do that, remind yourself to keep your eyes on Jesus. And remember, if you fail and begin to sink, call out to Jesus and he will give you the hand up you need.

Wednesday, March 21st – Matthew 16:16-28

It is another day where Peter gets it right and then gets it wrong. But we are more like Peter in this example than we may be in the others. As we read today's passage, we revisit the great proclamation of Peter regarding Jesus' identity. And Jesus rejoices that the Holy Spirit has revealed this to Peter. Then in the next part of this scene, we have Jesus explaining what the son of the Living God is going to have to do. He is going to have to die. Peter immediately speaks without thinking or listening, and starts correcting Jesus, telling him that would never happen. Peter has left the spiritual realm and has returned to the worldly sphere. How many times have we had that moment with God, where we were as close as possible, only to zap it by returning to worldly thoughts and actions and rationalizations? What if we could learn, as Peter eventually did, to discipline ourselves to stay connected with the Holy Spirit? What would that look like in your life? What worldly things would fade away? What changes would be made in your life? What stops you from striving to be there?

Thursday, March 22nd – Luke 5:1-11

Luke's sharing of Peter's story tells of an obedient Peter. Even when he doesn't want to be obedient and with what he believes are good reasons. This again stems from our worldly rationalizations. In Peter's shoes most of us would have said the same thing to Jesus. In fact, many of us may very well have not obeyed. What would Peter have missed if he had just shook his head and went home? By being obedient, what blessing did he receive? What kind of an encounter did he have with Jesus after this blessing? Consider what blessings you miss out on because you choose to not be obedient? Remember, it doesn't have to be big things. It can be simple things like getting up and going to worship or Bible Study or inviting someone to join you. It might be making that phone call you are trying to avoid. Who should you go fishing for, but fear prohibits you from obedience? When things seem to be going wrong, consider where you might be disobeying, thinking you know better. Take time today to consider what Jesus may be telling you to do that you are resisting and making excuses to justify disobeying. Then just do it and find out what blessing Jesus has in store for you.

Friday, March 23rd – John 6:60-71

With so many preaching how easy it is to follow God, how does this passage portray discipleship? Yet even with its difficulties, Peter says something most profound. Peter asks Jesus if they don't follow him, "then to whom would they go?" Have you ever considered whom you follow, if you are not following Jesus? When it gets tough or the real-world mentality kicks in – who are you following then? And how's that working for you? Why is Jesus the answer we need? How does following Jesus, not the world, fulfill us? What is the purpose in your life for following Jesus? What is the purpose in your life for following the world? Which purpose do you like better and why? Which purpose is best for you?

Saturday, March 24th – Prepare for tomorrow by reading Luke 19:28-40.