

# The Apostle Peter

## Peter Follows Yeshua



Simon (later called Peter) and his brother Andrew were fishermen who lived in a town called Capernaum, by the Sea of Galilee. Yeshua called them to follow Him and become fishers of men. They knew there was something very special about Yeshua, so they left their nets and their boat and followed Him.

As Yeshua began His ministry, He chose Peter and eleven more of His followers to become apostles (meaning “sent forth”, because they would be sent forth by Yeshua). The other eleven men He chose were: Peter’s brother Andrew, James and John (the sons of Zebedee), Phillip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot (who later betrayed Yeshua). Yeshua chose these twelve men to be with Him and so that He might send them forth to preach. He also gave them power to heal sickness and to cast out demons. Peter and the other apostles followed Yeshua throughout His ministry and saw Him do many miracles and heard Him teach many wonderful lessons.

Sadly, Judas betrayed Yeshua and handed Him over to the Jewish leaders to be put on trial. He was then crucified by the Roman leadership. Later, Judas realized what a terrible thing he had done, and he ended his life. When Yeshua was arrested, Peter became afraid and three times he denied he knew Him (just as Yeshua had previously told him he would do). Peter went through great torment and sadness because Yeshua had been killed, and Peter had run away instead of standing by Him as he had promised he would. However, on the third day after Yeshua’s death, a wonderful, miraculous thing happened; God raised Him from the dead. He appeared to Peter and to many others, showing them that He was alive!

When Yeshua appeared to Peter, He made it very clear that He loved Peter and forgave him for denying Him. He also told Peter and

the other apostles that they would be witnesses of Him throughout the world, preaching the gospel to every man. He instructed them to wait in Jerusalem until they received the Holy Spirit, Who would give them the courage and strength to do the ministry they were being called to do. Then Yeshua left them and was taken up into heaven.



### **Peter and the Others Choose a Replacement for Judas**

Peter and the other apostles waited in Jerusalem as Yeshua had instructed them. While they waited, Peter spoke with the others about replacing Judas, who had been one of the twelve apostles, but who had died. They agreed that the person they chose needed to be someone who had been with Yeshua since the beginning of His ministry after being baptized by John the Baptist. They selected two men, then prayed that God would show them which one should become an apostle. Following God's guidance, they chose Matthias to join the other eleven apostles.

### **The Apostles are Filled with the Holy Spirit**

On the Day of Pentecost (a Feast designated by God; Leviticus 23: 15-22), the disciples were all gathered to worship. Suddenly there was a sound like a mighty wind in the house and they saw something looking like flames of fire which settled on each of them, and they started speaking in different languages as the Holy Spirit gave them the ability. At this time there were men from every nation who were in Jerusalem. When they heard Yeshua's followers speaking in their own language, they came to see what was going on. They wondered how these men could know all the different languages.



When Peter saw the crowds, he boldly got up and began preaching to them about Yeshua. He reminded them of the wonderful things they had heard Yeshua say and the miracles and wonders they had seen Him do. However, even with all these miraculous signs and wonders, the people did not believe Yeshua was the Messiah. Peter explained that even though the people rejected Yeshua and

allowed Him to be beaten and crucified, three days later God raised Him from the dead, making Yeshua both Lord and Messiah.

Many of the people in the crowd believed what Peter said and asked he and the other apostles what they should do. Peter told them to repent and be baptized in the name of Messiah Yeshua so their sins could be forgiven, and they could receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The people did as Peter said and that day, about three thousand souls became believers.

### **The Healing of the Lame Man**

One day as Peter and John went to the temple to pray, they met a man who had been lame all his life. Every day friends brought him to the gate of the temple called Beautiful, to ask people for money. When Peter saw him, he told the man, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: in the name of Messiah Yeshua of Nazareth rise up and walk" (Acts 3:6) Peter took him by the hand and helped him to stand, and the man was immediately healed! As the man followed them into the temple he was walking and leaping and praising God.



When the people saw that the man had been healed, they were amazed, and a crowd gathered around Peter and John. Once again, Peter began preaching to the crowds, explaining that he did not heal the lame man, the healing came through the power of Yeshua Whom they had rejected and crucified, fulfilling what had been foretold by the prophets. Peter told them that God raised Messiah from the dead and that they could be blessed by Him if they turned from their sinful ways and believed. Many of the people (about 5,000 men) heard Peter's message and believed.

### **Peter and John are Arrested**

The Jewish leaders were jealous and angry about what the apostles were doing, so after the healing of the lame man they arrested Peter and John and put them in jail. The next day they were brought before Annas the High Priest, Caiaphas, & others. Annas asked them by what power or whose name they were able to do this miracle.

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, began speaking boldly and told them that the lame man was healed by the power of Messiah Yeshua Whom they had crucified, but God had raised from the dead. He also told them that belief in Yeshua was the only way to be saved. The leaders knew that Peter and John were not well-educated men so they were amazed that the apostles could speak so bravely and wisely. This was a testimony to the leaders that the Holy Spirit gave them wisdom, knowledge, and boldness. Since the Jewish leaders could not find a reason to keep them imprisoned, they released Peter and John.



After being released, Peter and John went to the other apostles and believers and told them everything that happened. They all began to praise God for Who He is and all that He has done. They also prayed that He would give them boldness to keep speaking God's word and that, through them, He would perform healings, signs, and wonders. When they were finished praying, the place where they were was shaken, they



all were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they continued boldly speaking the word of God.

### **The Apostles are Imprisoned Again**

As Peter and the other apostles continued preaching and healing, the church continued to grow. This made the high priest and the Sadducees angry. They again arrested the apostles and put them in prison. However, during the night, an angel of the Lord came, opened the prison doors, brought the apostles out, and told them to go to the temple in the morning and continue preaching the Good News.



The next morning the high priest, together with other Jewish officials and leaders, met and called for the apostles to be brought before them. When some officers went to the prison to get the apostles, they discovered that Peter and the others were not there! They went back and reported this to the council. At that time someone came and reported that the apostles were in the temple, teaching the people, so the council sent the captain and officers to bring them back to the council.

The apostles were brought before the council and the high priest asked them why they were still preaching when they had been commanded not to do that anymore. Peter and the other apostles answered that they must obey God, rather than men, and they again shared the truth about the Lord Messiah Yeshua. Again, the leaders became very angry, and they wanted to kill them.



At that point, a Pharisee named Gamaliel spoke to the council. He pointed out that, in the past, there had been false teachers and prophets that had gained followers, but when they died, their followers fell away. He pointed out that if Yeshua was also a false prophet, His disciples would also eventually fall away. However, if He was truly who He claimed to be, the council needed to be careful, otherwise they might find themselves fighting against God.

After hearing this, the council decided that what Gamaliel said made sense. They brought the apostles in again, beat them, warned them to stop preaching in the name of Yeshua, then let them go. As the apostles were leaving, they were rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer for Messiah.

### **Peter Performs Miracles of Healing and Raising the Dead**

As Peter travelled, he came to a place called Lydda, where he found a man called Aeneas who had been sick for 8 years. Peter prayed in the name of Messiah Yeshua and the man was healed. Many people who lived at Lydda and Saron heard of this miracle, and they turned to the Lord.

In a nearby town called Joppa, there was a Godly woman named Tabitha (also known as Dorcas), who got very sick and died. Some disciples came from Joppa to Lydda to ask Peter to come with them to Joppa. He agreed, and when they got to Joppa, they took him to the upper room where Tabitha's body was. Peter had everyone leave the room, then he kneeled next to the body, told her to arise, and she opened her eyes and sat up. Peter helped her to stand up, then he called for the others to come back in so they could see that she was alive! This wonderful news spread throughout Joppa and many people believed in the Lord Yeshua.



### **Peter is Sent to the House of Cornelius**

There was a man named Cornelius, a centurion (a Roman officer), who lived in Caesarea. He was a very Godly man who gave money to the poor, and who prayed to God every day. One day an angel of God came to him and told him that God had heard his prayers. Cornelius was told to send some men to Joppa to find Peter and bring him back with them so Peter could teach Cornelius and his household what they should do. Immediately he did as the angel instructed him.

The next day, while Cornelius's men were nearing Joppa, Peter went on the rooftop to pray. He was becoming hungry and, as he prayed, he saw a vision from God: a vessel looking like a great sheet, knit at the four corners, being let down from heaven to earth. In the vessel were many kinds of wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. Peter heard a voice that told him to kill and eat but he refused, saying that he had never eaten anything that is common or unclean. The voice answered him saying, that what God has cleansed Peter should not call common. This happened three times, then the vessel was drawn back up into heaven.

After this happened, as Peter was considering what the vision meant, the men Cornelius had sent arrived at the home where Peter was staying. The Spirit told Peter that the men had come for him, and he needed to go with them and not to doubt, because God had sent them. Peter went down and greeted the men who explained to him why they had come. After they spent the night there, Peter went with the men to Caesarea, bringing some of the brothers with him.



When Peter first entered the house, Cornelius fell at his feet to worship him, but Peter told him to get up, because he was also just a man. He began speaking to all who were in the house, who had gathered to hear him. Peter reminded them that it was unlawful for a Jew to go into the house of a Gentile, but God had shown him that he should not call any man common or unclean.

Peter asked Cornelius why he had sent for him. Cornelius told him about the vision he had, and how, following the angel's instructions, he had sent men to Joppa to get Peter. Now that Peter had come, Cornelius and all those at his house waited to hear the words he had to share with them.

As Peter began to speak, he shared that God had revealed to him that He is no respecter of persons, that all who fear Him and strive

to live righteously are acceptable to God. He then told them of Messiah Yeshua, the Son of God, anointed by God with the Holy Spirit and with power, Who went about doing good, Who was crucified, but Whom God raised from the dead on the third day. Peter explained that many saw Messiah after He had risen, that the Lord commanded them to preach the gospel to the people, and through the name of Messiah Yeshua, all who believe in Him shall receive forgiveness for their sins.

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit came upon all who heard him, and they started speaking in tongues. The Jews who had come with Peter were amazed that the Holy Spirit was also poured out on the Gentiles, as He had been on the Jews. When Peter understood that God had blessed the Gentiles in that way, he commanded they be baptized in the name of the Lord.

### **Believers in Jerusalem challenge Peter**

When Peter went up to Jerusalem, the Jewish believers argued with him about going to the Gentiles, teaching them, and eating with them (which was against their practices). Peter responded by telling them his story, starting from when he had been in Joppa praying, to going with the men to Caesarea, to teaching the household of Cornelius, and finishing with the news that the Holy Spirit came upon all the Gentiles who heard him there, and they began speaking in tongues. When the believers heard this, they quit arguing with Peter and they glorified God for also granting salvation to the Gentiles.

### **Herod the king imprisons Peter, but an Angel frees him**

At this time Herod the king started oppressing the church. When he killed James, the brother of John, he saw that it pleased the Jewish leaders, so he decided to arrest Peter as well. This was during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, so the king decided to wait until after the festival, then he would turn Peter over to the people. Herod had Peter arrested, put into prison, and placed under a constant watch of guards (there were always two inside the cell with him and two outside the door). During this time the other believers were praying constantly for Peter.



The night before the king was going to bring him out to the people, Peter was sleeping, bound in chains, between two soldiers, while two other soldiers were standing just outside the cell door. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shined in the cell. The angel nudged Peter to wake him up, telling him to get up quickly. The chains fell off



Peter's hands and he got up, put on his sandals and cloak, and followed the angel. At this time, Peter thought he was having a vision. After they had passed by the guards in the cell and outside the door, they came to the main prison gate which opened by God's power. They walked down a street, then the angel left him. At that point, Peter realized that it was not a vision, that God had truly rescued him.

Once he realized he was really out of the prison, Peter went to the house of Mary the mother of John where many believers were gathered to pray. He knocked at the gate and a young lady named Rhoda came to see who it was. When she heard Peter's voice, she immediately recognized him, but she got so excited she ran to tell the others in the house, and she left Peter standing at the gate.

When she told the others that Peter was outside, they thought she



was crazy. When she kept insisting he was there, they thought Peter had been killed and that it was his angel at the gate. Peter kept knocking and when they finally went and opened the gate and saw that it truly was him, they were astonished. Peter told them how the Lord had brought him out of prison, and he instructed them to tell these things to James and to the other brethren. After that Peter left and went to another place.

Peter spent the rest of his life sharing the gospel of Messiah with others. Many people who heard him believed and were saved. No matter how many times men tried to stop Peter from telling the people about Yeshua by imprisoning or beating him, he continued to do the work God had for him to do.

### **Lessons we can learn from Peter**

Just as Yeshua the Messiah called Peter and the others to follow Him, He is also calling us to follow Him. Just like the first disciples, we need to hear His voice and be willing to do the things that are pleasing to Him, according to His Word (the Bible). However, He knows that no matter how much we want to do right, there will be times we stumble and do something we should not do. The good news for us is that just as He forgave Peter's denial of Him, Yeshua will also forgive us when we repent and turn from our sin.

Like Peter, we need to pray that God would show us what He wants us to do in our lives, leading us to fulfill His plans for us, and that He would give us the strength and courage to do whatever He desires us to do.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

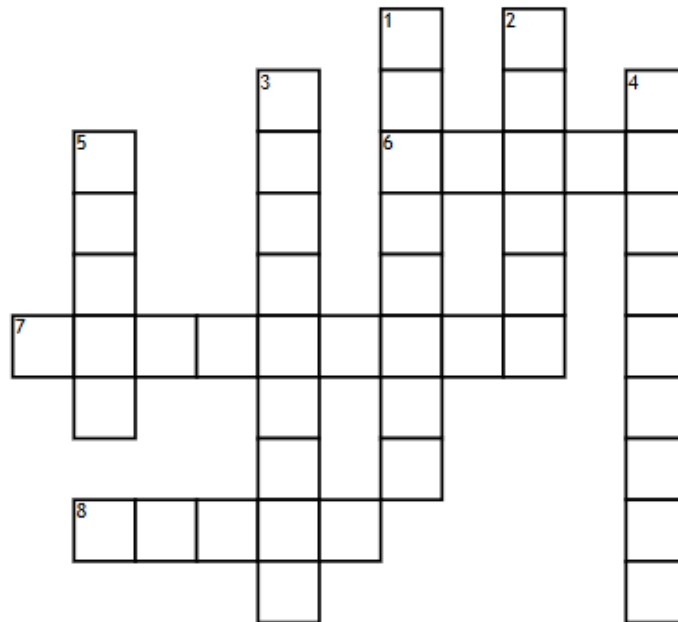
# Twelve Apostles

1. EASJM OSN FO EEDZEEB \_\_\_\_\_
2. ONHJ NSO FO EEZBEDE \_\_\_\_\_
3. THATMEW \_\_\_\_\_
4. EREPT \_\_\_\_\_
5. IPLHLPI \_\_\_\_\_
6. AASDEUHDT \_\_\_\_\_
7. EDWRNA \_\_\_\_\_
8. MOTHAS \_\_\_\_\_
9. UDASJ ICORSAIT \_\_\_\_\_
10. SMONI ETH AETANNCIA \_\_\_\_\_
11. AWLBHERTOOM \_\_\_\_\_
12. ESMAJ ONS FO AHPLSEAU \_\_\_\_\_



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Peter the Apostle



## Across

6. Number of times Peter denied Yeshua

7. A Roman centurion who learned about the Messiah

8. The apostle who betrayed Yeshua

## Down

1. The man the apostles chose to replace Judas

2. Woman Peter raised from the dead in Joppa

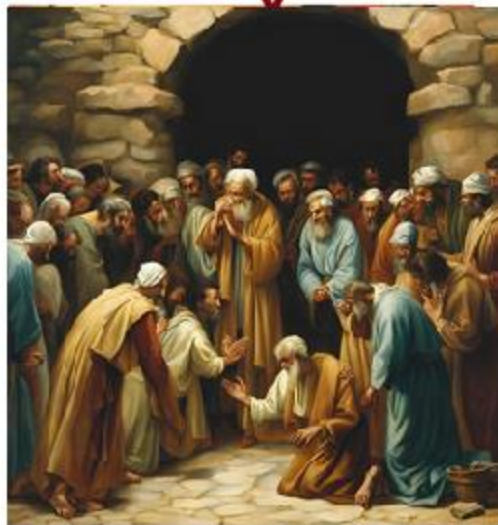
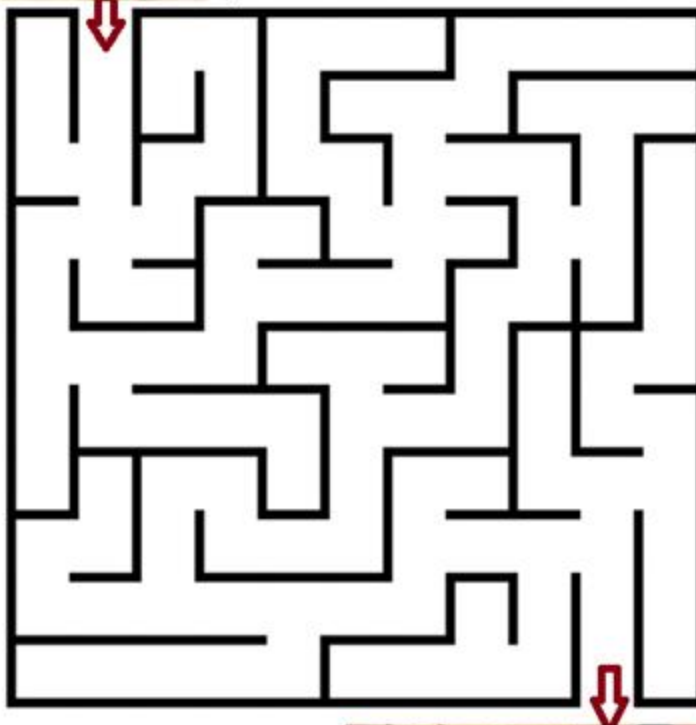
3. Peter's job before he started following Yeshua

4. Day when the Apostles received the Holy Spirit

5. King who imprisoned Peter, intending to hand him over to the Jews



**Help Peter get  
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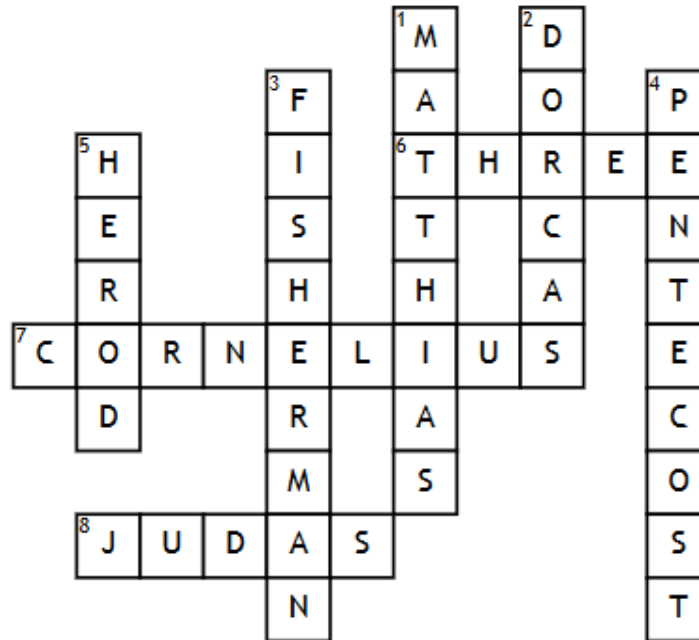
## ANSWER KEYS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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2. ONHJ NSO FO EEZBEDE John son of Zebedee
3. THATMEW Matthew
4. EREPT Peter
5. IPLHLPI Phillip
6. AASDEUHDT Thaddaeus
7. EDWRNA Andrew
8. MOTHAS Thomas
9. UDASJ ICORSAIT Judas Iscariot
10. SMONI ETH AETANNCIA Simon the Canaanite
11. AWLBHERTOOM Bartholomew
12. ESMAJ ONS FO AHPLSEAU James son of Alphaeus

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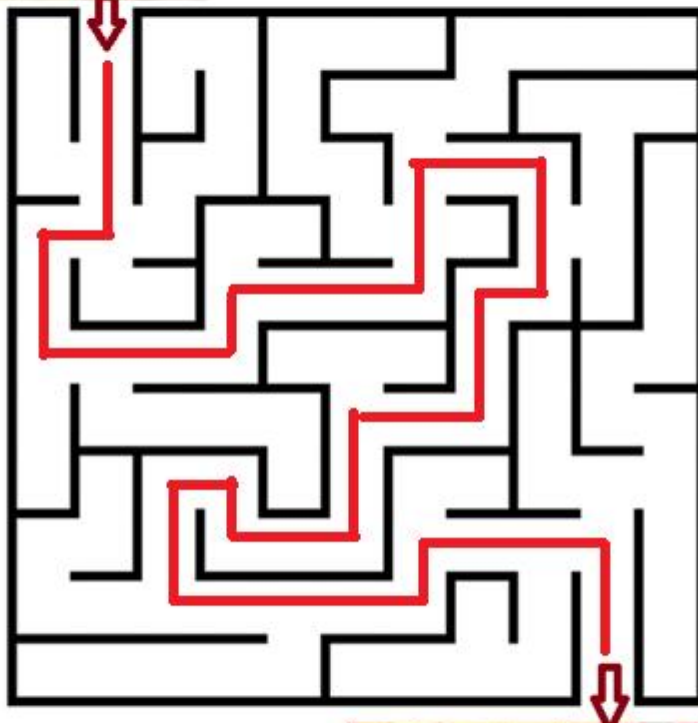
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## **Scriptures used in the lesson on The Apostle Peter**

**Peter meets Yeshua** Matt 4:18-20; Mark 1:16-18

**Peter is chosen as one of the twelve apostles** Mark 3:13-[19](#); Luke 6:12-16

**Peter denies Messiah** Matt 26:56, 58, 69-75; Mark 14:66-72; Luke [22:54-62](#);  
John 18:15-18, 25-27

**The Apostles choose a replacement for Judas** Acts 1:15-26

**The Apostles are filled with the Holy Spirit & Peter speaks to the crowds** Acts 2:1-36

**Three thousand believe and are baptized** Acts 2:37-41

**Lame man is healed** Acts 3:1-11

**Peter again preaches to crowd (after healing the lame man)** Acts 3:12-26

**Peter & John arrested** Acts 4:1-22

**Peter & John are released and return to other [believers](#) and they all pray for boldness to continue witnessing** Acts 4:23-31

**The apostles are arrested again** Acts 5:17-42

**Peter prays and Aeneas is healed-many in Lydda & Saron turned to the Lord** Acts 9:32-35

**Peter prays and Tabitha (Dorcas) is brought back to life: miracle is known throughout [Joppa](#) and many believed** Acts 9:36-42

**Peter goes to the home of Cornelius** Acts 10:1-48

**Peter is challenged by believers in Jerusalem for being with [Gentiles](#) so Peter tells what happened in Joppa** Acts 11:1-18

**Herod imprisons Peter, planning to hand him over to the Jews after Passover** Acts 12:1-5

**An angel of the Lord frees [Peter](#) and he goes to the house where believers are praying**  
Acts 12:6-12