

## Lesson 2

# Waiting for Instructions

Jesus was gone. The work He had to do on earth was completed, and the disciples were sent to speak the truth about Jesus to the entire world.

They started their job of witnessing right where they lived. They went back to Jerusalem and waited for the Holy Spirit, which Jesus had promised them before ascending into heaven. They met together and prayed with all the believers in Jerusalem.

### The Apostle Peter

One of the main characters in the first several chapters of the Book of Acts is Peter. Do you remember Peter, the disciple who walked on water and later denied Jesus three times? Peter's given name was Simon, but later on Jesus gave him the name Peter, which means "rock." In the Bible, he is referred to as "Simon," "Peter," or "Simon Peter," and sometimes "Cephas."

Matthew 8:14 tells us he was  
 single       married       a grandfather  
*Since he has a mother-in-law, we know that he was a married man.*

John 1:44 says he was from  
 Jerusalem       Bethlehem       Bethsaida  
*From Bethsaida (a town by the Sea of Galilee)*

Luke 5:1-3 shows he made his living as a  
 fisherman       farmer       tax collector  
*Fisherman with his own boat.*

Luke 5:10-11 tells how Peter's life dramatically changed.  
He left everything and  
 became a farmer  
 followed Jesus  
 took a vacation  
*Jesus chose him as one of the Disciples, a fisher of men.*

For three years, Peter and the other disciples followed Jesus wherever He went. On the night Jesus was arrested, Peter was with Him in the Garden of Gethsemane. Read John 18:10-11. What did Peter do? How did Jesus respond?

*Peter drew his sword and slashed off the ear of the slave of the high priest. Jesus stopped him and told him to put the sword away.*

Peter promised Jesus that he would never deny Him. But what did Peter do under pressure? Matthew 26:69-75

*Peter denied that he was a follower of Jesus or even knew him, in spite of his own bold promise to Jesus that he would die before he denied Jesus.*

Peter was often impulsive and outspoken, but Jesus still had a plan for him. Read John 21:15-17. What did Jesus call Peter to do?

*Jesus restored Peter. Just as Peter denied Jesus three times, Jesus tells him three different times to be a shepherd to Jesus flock. and to follow Jesus.*

## Into the Word: Acts 1:12-26

1. Jesus was gone! The one with whom the disciples had spent three years of their lives disappeared into heaven. We might expect to find them desolate. But what does Luke tell us in his Gospel (Luke 24:52)?

*They returned to Jerusalem with great joy.*

2. When the apostles returned to Jerusalem to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit, how did they spend their time? Acts 1:14

*They were continually devoting themselves to prayer.*

3. How many disciples are listed in Acts 1:13? Why weren't there twelve?

*11, Judas, after he had betrayed Jesus in the garden, had gone out and killed himself.*

4. What happened to Judas Iscariot? Matthew 27:3-5

*Upon seeing that Jesus was to die, Judas was sorry for what he had done, returned the 30 pieces of silver, and went away and hanged himself.*

TM REFERENCE:

*Matt. 26:14-16 He took 30 pieces of silver to betray Jesus to the chief priests.*

*Matt. 26:23-25 Jesus told Judas that he would betray Him.*

*John 18:2-3 Judas led the Roman soldiers and Jewish officers to where Jesus was and betrayed Him to them.*

5. What concern did the disciples have? Scan Acts 1:16-21.

*They needed to replace Judas.*

6. In verses 21-22, what qualifications did Judas' replacement need to have? Needed to be . . . (check all that apply)

*This person needed to have been a follower of Jesus through the whole of His ministry.*

from Galilee

a man

a parent

a witness to Jesus' resurrection

a companion of the other disciples and Jesus

educated in Hebrew

7. What two men were nominated? (v.23)

*Barsabbas (also called Justus) and Matthias*

The disciples depended on God to guide them in the right choice for the new apostle. They prayed, confident that God would hear their request for guidance. Then they cast lots, believing the result would indicate the man of God's choosing. Casting lots was a common way for the Jews to make decisions. When the lot was cast, Matthias was chosen to be the twelfth disciple.

[TM Note: In the Old Testament God gave instructions for 2 lots to be placed in the breastplate of the High Priest's garments, they were called the Urim and Thummim and were used to cast lots, to make decisions (Lev 28:30) In Josh 7: 14-15 it is recorded that the sin of Achan was uncovered by casting lots and in I Sam 14:39-42 Jonathan's sin was uncovered. . In Josh 14:2 it is recorded that the Israelites divided the lands among the tribes by casting lots. In Proverbs 16:33 Solomon wrote that when lots were cast the decision was from the Lord.]]

## Memory Verse

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication  
with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.  
Philippians 4:6-7

*Extra Memory Challenge:*

*Psalm 6:9*

*The LORD has heard my supplication, The LORD receives my prayer.*

## New Ideas:

What's so Important About Prayer?

- In Acts 1:14, we read that the believers prayed continually.
- In Acts 1:24, they prayed that the Lord would guide their choice for the new apostle.
- Our memory verse, Philippians 4:6-7, tells us to pray about everything.

Look up these verses to learn what God says about prayer.

Matthew 6:5-7

*Pray to the Lord, not to be noticed by men, pray simply, big words are not needed*

Colossians 4:2

*Remain faithful in prayer with thanksgiving, be watchful as you pray*

I Thessalonians 5:17

*Keep a prayerful attitude always, as God leads, pray for the people, the activities and thoughts of each day.*

Jesus was devoted to prayer. He prayed often. He got up early in the morning to pray. Before His crucifixion, He prayed all night long. He prayed while He was hanging on the cross.

Jesus even prayed for us! In the garden of Gethsemane, He prayed "for those also who believe in Me through [the apostles'] word" (John 17:20). Like Jesus, we should pray that everyone who hears the Word of God would come to believe in Christ, who saves us from our sin.

For three years, Peter and the other disciples followed Jesus wherever He went. On the night Jesus was arrested, Peter was with Him in the Garden of Gethsemane. Read John 18:10-11. What did Peter do? How did Jesus respond?

## Discussion Questions

*Each teacher should encourage, as much as time permits, discussion and inquiry on the part of students. Not every aspect of the following questions is addressed here, and students may have thoughts related to but not mentioned in this guide. The obligation of the teacher, then, is to understand as deeply as possible the Scriptures that are being discussed, in order to answer as well as possible any questions a student might have.*

1. When Jesus ascended into heaven, He would no longer physically walk with the disciples on earth. Yet the disciples were full of joy. How is it possible to be full of joy in difficult times?

*As we focus on what Jesus has done for us by forgiving our sins and giving us life- both in the present and for eternity, we are better able to overcome the trials we face in our daily lives. Also as we pray for and receive strength from God to overcome these bad things in our lives.*

2. The disciples faced a difficult choice when they chose Matthias as the twelfth disciple. What is the first step you should take when facing a difficult decision? Why? Read Luke 11:9-10.

*Bring it to God in prayer. This opens the door for God to come in to that decision making process and opens our heart to seek the choice that he would have for us in that decision.*

3. Is there anything you should not pray about? Why or why not?

*We are not to pray for things that we know would be against God's will for us; such as an outcome that we know is just selfish, or mean. Also, since we are not to take God's name in vain, we should not make a joke or empty habit of prayer.*

## Daily Devotions

Monday	1 Peter 1:1-9
Tuesday	1 Peter 1:18-21
Wednesday	1 Peter 1:22-2:3
Thursday	1 Peter 2:4-10
Friday	1 Peter 2:13-22
Saturday	1 Peter 4:7-11
Sunday	1 Peter 5:5-11

## THE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND ITS CONFESSIONS, CREED, AND CATECHISM

### \* Lesson 2: History and Content of the Nicene Creed

The Nicene Creed was adopted by the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. This creed was written to refute false teachings about the nature of Christ and declared that Jesus was God from eternity. Still today, this creed is a unifying expression of our Christian faith.

1. How can the use of a confession of faith in a worship service bring praise to God?

*Together we praise God by expressing our beliefs in who God is and what He has done for us. To worship God is to bow down in honor of Him. To praise God is to offer a tribute of thanksgiving for who He is and what He has done for our salvation. A confession of faith unifies the congregation in its true worship of Christ by testifying of who He is and what He has done.*

2. According to Ephesians 4:3-6, 13-14, what is the benefit of believing and speaking as one?

*It unites believers in the one true faith (Christianity) and encourages us to grow stronger in our personal faith. Congregational worship is to unify the believers in their belief about God and His work. This is necessary because we have one God and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is beneficial because together we both support and teach one another the truth of God's Word, together we become anchored in God's Word.*