

Peter's Faith—What a Trip!

by Carol Duerksen

MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION:

- Bibles for every student
- Bring the following items: a can of strong-smelling fish, a rock, a fishing net, a life-jacket or flotation device of some type, a rooster and a sheep (don't have to be alive!), a cross, medical thermometer, a coin, No Doz pills, running shoes, the word "naked" on a piece of paper.
- Pencil and paper
- A list of the Bible passages on newsprint or whiteboard

SESSION OUTLINE

FOCUS:

Pass the items around, then hide them out of sight and ask students to write down the items from memory.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE STORY:

Make sure every student has a Bible, pencil and paper, and can see the list of Bible passages. Ask them to look up the passages and make of note of what's happening in Peter's faith at the time. Note: you can do this as a whole group and make the list on newsprint or white board for everyone to see, or you can do it individually, or divide into small groups and give each group several passages. If doing it individually or small groups, report back so the whole group can see all of the notes on Peter's faith trip.

Bible passages:

Matt. 4:17-19	Matt. 8:13-15	Matt. 10:1-3	Matt. 14:22-33
Matt. 16:13-20	Matt. 16:21-23	Matt: 17:1-13	Matt: 17:24-27
Matt: 26:30-35	Matt: 26:36-46	Matt: 26:57-58	Matt: 26:69-75
Luke 24:1-12	John 20:1-10, 19-29	John 21:1-19	Acts 1:12-14
Acts 2:1-47	Acts 3	Acts 4:1-22 (pay close attention to 4:13)	
Acts 5:1-16	Acts 5:28-30	Acts 9:32-35	Acts 10
Acts 12:1-18	I Peter 1:1-2	II Peter 1:1-15	

When you've completed the list of Peter's faith journey as portrayed in these passages, talk about it. What were the major ups and downs? How did he grow in his faith? Was he always successful and really close to God? How did Jesus relate to him when he failed?

APPLY/RESPOND:

Ask students to look back at the list and identify parallels between their life and Peter's.

Examples: When did they feel God talking to them? When did they have a lot of faith? When did they fail? When did they deny Jesus? When were they a spiritual leader?

Invite students to share from this exercise, but respect their right to privacy as well.

Close with a prayer, inviting Jesus to be near them in their faith journey just as he was near to Peter, through the good times and bad, the ups and downs.