

# Sunday School Lesson

January 25, 2026

Call and Growth

**Matthew 4:18-20; 16:16-18; John  
21:15-18; 2 Peter 3:14-15, 18**

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

# **PREVIOUS Sunday School Lesson**

**January 18, 2026**

**Prayer and Humility**

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**Genesis 18:25-27; Luke 18:9-14;  
1 John 5:14-15**

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

# **NEXT Sunday School Live Lesson**

**February 1, 2026**

**The Christian Church**

**Mark 4:26-32; Ephesians 4:4-6, 11-18**

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Instructor: Ralph Gordon

# **TODAY'S Sunday School Lesson**

**January 25, 2026**

**Call and Growth**

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**Matthew 4:18-20; 16:16-18; John  
21:15-18; 2 Peter 3:14-15, 18**

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

# Questions for Us Today

**January 25, 2026**

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Have you received a Calling from the Lord?

If so, how have you responded?

# Sunday School Lesson Objective

**January 25, 2026**

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To understand the growth of Peter – from being a fisherman to a disciple to a church leader – and to apply the lessons to our own lives.

# **Sunday School Lesson Segments – 1**

**January 25, 2026**

1. Bibliography

2. Points of Information: Peter

# Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

**January 25, 2026**

3. Lesson Context

4. Lesson Text

5. Remember These Things

# Bibliography - 1

9

1 & 2 Peter and Jude. Carolyn Nystrom.

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Tokunboh Adeyemo, General Editor.

All the Men of the Bible. Herbert Lockyer.

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# Bibliography – 2

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Dictionary of Biblical Imagery.  
General Editors: Leland Ryken,  
James Wilhoit, Tremper Longman III.

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# Bibliography – 3

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## Bibliography – 4

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Commentary – Matthew.

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Men in the Bible. Don Charles.

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New Testament, The. Stephen L.  
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# Bibliography – 5

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Standard Lesson Commentary.

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Writings of the New Testament,  
The. Luke Timothy Johnson.

## Points of Information – Peter

Peter's original name was "Simon." Jesus gave him the surname of "Peter," after the word for a stone or a rock: Greek = "petros." John 1:42. Aramaic = "Cephas."

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Peter preached a powerful sermon on the historic Day of the Pentecost. Acts 2:14-41.

## Points of Information – Peter

Peter, along with John and James, was a member of an inner circle of the original twelve Disciples. Jesus took only these three with Him: 1) Into the Garden of Gethsemane [Matthew 26:36-37; Mark 14:32-33]; 2) up onto the Mount of Transfiguration [Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-13; Luke 9:28-36]; and 3) to the house of Jairus, for a healing of the man's daughter [Mark 5:37; Luke 8:51].

## Points of Information – Peter

Peter fervently declared his devotion to Jesus. Yet, as our Savior predicted, Peter denied the Christ three times [Matthew 26:33-34, 69-75; Mark 14:29-31, 66-72; Luke 22:31-34, 54-62; John 13:36-38]. Still, it was Peter's devotion that drove him to follow Jesus (when others would not) into a dangerous situation.

## Points of Information – Peter

Peter was impulsive in his discipleship. At one point, in a wayward move to protect Jesus, Peter grabbed a sword and cut off the ear of one of the men (Malchus) who had come to arrest our Savior in the Garden of Gethsemane. Matthew 26:51; Luke 22:50; John 18:10.

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Peter grew and matured. He became a powerful preacher and pastor. Evidence of this is presented in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles and in the Letters in Scripture which he wrote.

# Call and Growth

## Lesson Context – Matthew 4

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In the earlier Verses of Matthew 4, Satan attempted to tempt Jesus in the wilderness. Naturally, Jesus resisted.

Our Savior came out, heard of the imprisonment of John the Baptizer and began His ministry by preaching in Galilee.

## Matthew 4:18 [NIV]

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.

## Matthew 4:19 [NIV]

“Come, follow Me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”

## Matthew 4:20 [NIV]

At once they left their nets and followed Him.

# Call and Growth

## Lesson Context – Matthew 16

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After departing from another testing period with Pharisees and Sadducees, Jesus engaged in more teaching of His Disciples.

First, Jesus asked who did people in general say that He is. Then, He asked who did the Disciples themselves say that He is.

## Matthew 16:16 [NIV]

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.”

## Matthew 16:17 [NIV]

Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by My Father in Heaven.

## Matthew 16:18 [NIV]

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

# Call and Growth

## Lesson Context – John 21

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Following the Crucifixion, the Resurrected Jesus was with several of His Disciples beside the Sea of Galilee. The Lord served them with a breakfast meal of bread and fish.

## John 21:15 [NIV]

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love Me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “You know that I love You.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

## John 21:16 [NIV]

Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love Me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, You know that I love You.”

Jesus said, “Take care of My sheep.”

## John 21:17 [NIV]

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 21:18 [NIV]

“Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.”

# Call and Growth

## Lesson Context – 2 Peter 3

It is believed that Peter wrote this letter in Rome, not long before his death.

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Peter addressed a gathering, whom he called “dear friends,” and told them what he foresaw for the Day of the Lord.

## 2 Peter 3:14 [NIV]

So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him.

## 2 Peter 3:15 [NIV]

Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him.

## 2 Peter 3:18 [NIV]

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever!  
Amen.

## Remember these things:

Like Peter, we each need to respond to the Call of the Lord.

Then, we need to grow in our faith, in our commitment to the Lord, and in our service for Him.