

Living The Story

What does it mean to be a Christian? What does it mean to be a follower of God? Too often we treat it like some kind of certification: read this passage, say this creed, get baptized, take communion and *poof!* you're a Christian! And while doing those things is very important, it is far from what makes someone a Christian. Christianity is about having a relationship with the living God, and living in a way that demonstrates your faith in him. So, how do we do that? What does that look like?

This unit is designed to illustrate Peter as the archetype of the average Christian. He was an ordinary person who God used to do extraordinary things. God took him as he was, all his strengths and weaknesses, and weaved him into His story: yesterday, today, and forever. Students should come out of this unit being able to identify with Peter at various points of his recorded story, as well as with a better understanding of the concepts of call, trust, community, encouragement, grace, and mission. Because this is a unit on living out your faith, it might be a good idea to think up a community project you can do along with the study (e.g. 30 hour famine or a food drive). Whatever it is, get the church congregation involved as sponsors or support and make sure it is something the youth are passionate about.

Lesson 1, **The Call**, is meant to show students that regardless of their past, their skills, or who they think they are, God has a call for their lives. God wants all of us to actively follow him and serve him in some type of ministry.

Lesson 2, **Stepping Out of the Boat**, deals with the amount of courage it takes to follow God, and what a powerful enemy doubt can be, whether we are doubting God or ourselves.

In lesson 3 we talk about something we've all done at one point, **The Denial**. Peter sinned when he denied Christ...we all sin every day. But the point of the cross is that He has

overcome sin for us and it has no hold on us. That truth is incredibly freeing when it is firmly grasped.

In Lesson 4, **Swimming Back to Shore**, we see that Jesus doesn't abandon us when we've sinned against him. He waits for us with arms open. And more than that, he is ready to send us out to be his servants in the world. This lesson has a large emphasis on fellowship and realizing our place in God's ministry.