

# **Yesterday. Today. Forever.**

## **Module: Living Out Your Faith: The Life of Peter**

### **Lesson 1: The Call**

#### **Objectives:**

- Students will understand that God calls the ordinary to be extraordinary.
- Students will be able to see themselves in Peter's place.
- Students will start to understand God's call in their lives.

#### **Materials Needed**

- ☐ 1 Bible per student
- ☐ Random objects (tables, chairs, etc) to make an obstacle course
- ☐ 1 copy of Appendix A per student or projected onto a screen
- ☐ Flipchart and markers
- ☐ 1 copy of Appendix B divided into group questions (**Leader's note:** If your group is larger than 12, you may have multiple groups answering the same questions.)
- ☐ Paper and pen/pencil per student

## Minds On

Set up an obstacle course using tables, chairs, sports equipment, the layout of your meeting place etc. Just make use of whatever you have available. Pass out blind folds to a few students. Those students need to work their way through the obstacle course blindfolded. Pair up a blindfolded student with one who doesn't have a blindfold and have that person direct them through the course using only their voice. No physical contact is allowed. After one group makes it through, switch blindfolds and try again. If the course is too easy try it backwards, or assign a few students or leaders the role of "deceivers" their job is to make sure the people don't make it through (also no touching).

**Leader's note:** You may need to be prepared to deal with people who have mobility issues. Perhaps you could make a separate course that is wheel chair accessible, or make them one of the deceivers instead of one of the blindfolded.

## Action

**Prompt:** Often it feels like we are going through life blindfolded. God tells us the way he wants us to go, but sometimes we don't listen, or we have a hard time hearing him over the other voices around us. The reality is that God has equipped and called each of us to serve him and he has a direction for our lives. God often calls people just like us to do great things for His Kingdom.

Ask students to list any information they know about Peter (the Apostle) and write them down on the flipchart (e.g. an apostle, walked on water, denied Jesus 3 times).

**Leader's note:** If your students have no idea who Peter is, you can introduce him to your group (using a "CV" e.g. <http://christianity.about.com/od/newtestamentpeople/a/JZ-Peter-The-Apostle.htm>).

**Ask:** Knowing all this stuff about Peter makes it sound like he was a pretty important guy. Does anyone know what he did before he was a disciple? (answer: fisherman. If this fact was also given, you may want to prompt: “So, hold on, wasn't he a fisherman? How did he become so important?”)

Have a student read Matthew 4:18-22.

**Ask:** Would you have found Peter’s reaction odd? If you were him, would you have done the same thing?

**Prompt:** What is the longest thing you've ever memorized? A song? A part in a play? A chapter of a book? How about the Old Testament? Imagine that you had to memorize the entire Old Testament in order to graduate from elementary school.

Distribute Appendix A or project it on a screen for students to read.

**Leader’s note:** The purpose of this is to help students gain a deeper understanding of why Peter responded as he did. As a Rabbi, there was a lot of significance behind Jesus’ invitation. Peter was being asked to be a part of something that was WAY beyond his current situation.

Have students think of their favourite celebrity (e.g. musician, actor, writer, artist, athlete, etc.)

**Prompt:** If that person came up to you while you were at work and asked you to follow them around the country, would you?

(Chances are, they would be more willing to follow this person than a stranger.)

**Ask:** Why is it important that Jesus called a regular guy like Peter? (answer: While rabbis would have typically chosen the best of the best to be his disciples, Jesus chose those society considered lesser to be his disciples.)

Divide students into groups of 3-4. Assign each group one of the group questions (Appendix B). Each group will have one spokesperson to share their answers with the larger group. You may want to assign roles for the group (e.g. one passage reader, one question reader, one recorder, one spokesperson).

## **Consolidate/Debrief**

**Prompt:** Jesus calls the ordinary and ordains them to be extraordinary. What does this mean for your past? What does it mean for right now? How is he calling you today? What do you think he might be calling you to do? What does it mean in terms of God's story? In terms of Eternity?

Give each student a paper and pen/pencil. Ask students to write down their thoughts to those questions. They will keep the paper to themselves if they wish.

## Appendix A

### **The 3 Levels of School for Kids who Lived at the Time of Jesus**

#### **Level 1: The Torah**

By Age 6 or 7 kids would have the first 5 books of the bible memorized!

#### **Level 2: The whole book**

By age 10 they would have the entire Old Testament Memorized

#### **Level 3: The Understanding**

By Age 14 they would know how to Interpret and Understand the scriptures

#### **Level 4: The Rabbi**

After Level 3 they would seek out a Rabbi and ask to be his disciple. If he wanted them he would say “Follow Me”

Most People flunked out before level 3. If you flunked out you would go learn the family business. This made Rabbis sort of like rock stars or celebrities.

Jesus was a Rabbi.

## Appendix B

### **Group 1**

Philippians 1:3-6

When are we ready to serve God?

Often we don't feel ready, what does this verse promise God is doing in us?

What can we do to serve God today? Individually and as a group?

### **Group 2**

Romans 12:5-8

What is this verse talking about?

What are we supposed to do with our gifts?

How can we use our gifts to serve God? How can we use them to serve each other?

### **Group 3**

1 Peter 2:9

What does it mean to be a Royal Priesthood?

(Think about what it means to be a priest. A priest is a worshipper of God, a servant of God, and a minister to their community)

How can we declare the praises of God?