

Name _____



A Life Transformed
(1st Peter)
Week 1

4G Series - 2021 - www.cbcfamily.net/4g.html
Calvary Baptist Church
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Introduction to the series:
A Life Transformed (1st Peter)

When we read about Peter in the Gospels, we find an entirely different “Peter” than the one who wrote 1st and 2nd Peter. In the Gospels, Peter was anything but a rock. He wasn’t very dependable. He often spoke or acted in a way that would be misguided. His actions disguised an underlying insecurity despite his outward confidence.

As we read 1 Peter, we see a different person, a transformed man, and the faith which turned his thinking and lifestyle upside-down. It can do the same for all who read his words with an open heart and mind, searching for the truth of the Gospel of Jesus. Most of all, Peter changed because he came to know and trust Jesus. It is our hope that as we investigate these writings, Peter’s text will help us all know Him more as well.

Phillip Cole

Campus Pastor – CBC Smithville

Introduction To The 4G Guide

GATHER – GOD – GROUP – GIVE

It's important that we *GATHER* each week as a church family. Still, God has so much more for us! He wants us to take what He's teaching and apply it to our lives. This is the heart of the 4G Guides. These guides are written to encourage you in your personal *GOD TIME* and in your small *GROUPS*. They are designed to help you understand what God is teaching and apply it to your daily life. Understanding and application allows you to then take what God is teaching and *GIVE* it to others.

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture references are from the *English Standard Version* (ESV Text Edition: 2016) Bible.



How To Use The 4G Guide

Each week is divided into four sections:

Gathering Time



God calls us to corporate worship. On Sunday mornings we gather (in person or online) to worship, hear God's message, and be challenged to apply His word. This booklet includes weekly sermon guides.

God Time



Personal worship is vital to the Christian walk, so we have written five daily devotionals for each weekly topic. This is your time to meet with God one-on-one in a guided devotional format. Once the devotional time is finished, we encourage you to pray, seeking direction for the day.

Group Time



We learn from one another! Each week, either on Sundays or at various other times, 4G Groups meet to dig deeper into the weekly material. This booklet features weekly lesson outlines in a "three-thirds" discipleship format. In addition, links to short video guides, sermon recaps, and other helpful resources are posted on our 4G web page. *

Family Time



Family worship glorifies God. To help, we have created simple, once-a-week devotionals just for families. In addition to the weekly outline, video or story guide links may be posted on our 4G web page* to help get the conversations flowing.

* 4G Groups, video links, resources, and 4G Guides are posted weekly on our 4G web page: www.cbcfamily.net/4g.html.



THE 4G GUIDE

The 3-Step Encouragement Process

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:23-25

1. Participants partner-up to ask five short and simple questions. Partners should be of the same gender. If there is an odd number, triplets are OK but need to work swiftly.
2. Partners ask each other these five questions:

	"Did you spend specific personal time in the BIBLE <u>each day</u> this past week?"	These are "Yes" or "No" questions.
	"Did you spend specific time in PRAYER <u>each day</u> this past week? – not just for meals"	Any hesitations or "Well..." responses are circled "No."
	"Did you do something specific to show Godly LOVE to someone this past week?"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If so, the partner briefly shares the encounter(s) with their partner and, on the provided line, writes the name(s) of the person(s) they showed love to, shared the gospel with, or disciplined. • If not, leave the line blank.
	"Did you intentionally share the GOSPEL with anyone this past week?"	
	"Did you DISCIPLE anyone this past week?" (E.g.: Sharing any of the God, Group, or Family Times)	

3. To finish, each partner prays for the other. No matter how or what the partner has done over the past week, this is an intentional prayer of **encouragement** for the coming week!



Gathering Time (Sermon Notes)

Gathering Notes

Date: _____

A Life Transformed

A Life _____

- _____ Out
Matthew 14:28-32

- _____ Up
Matthew 16:16-18

- _____ Up
Acts 2:32-38

_____ Forward

- _____ Out

- _____ Up

- _____ Up

WEEK 1: PETER – A LIFE TRANSFORMED

God Time: Day 1 – Peter Jumped Out



God is in the business of transforming lives! When we place our faith in Him and respond to Him in obedience, He changes us from the inside out. Peter from the Bible is a great example of a life transformed.

There's an awesome story in the Book of Matthew that shows Peter's courage to pursue Jesus. During a storm, Jesus was crossing the Sea of Galilee – walking on the water. When the disciples saw Him, Peter, an experienced fisherman, got a wild idea.



Read Matthew 14:28-32
28And Peter answered him [Jesus], "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." 29He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. 30But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." 31Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.



Circle what Peter asked Jesus in verse 28.

In verse 29, put a box around Jesus' response.

Underline what Peter then did.

Look in verse 30. This is the verse that people usually focus on. Fill in this blank:

But when he saw the wind, he was _____.

Also in verse 30, underline the result of his fear.

What did Peter cry out at the end of verse 30?



Though Peter was afraid, notice this: Peter was the only disciple courageous enough to jump out of the boat to get to Jesus! He pursued Jesus over safety.



Name one way you are staying "safe in the boat" instead of courageously pursuing Jesus.



Pray this week about changing that. Let's jump out of the boat to pursue Christ!

God Time: Day 2 – Peter Spoke Up



There is another story in the Book of Matthew that gives us a glimpse at how Peter is a picture of a life transformed. In the story, Jesus asked His disciples who people said He was and they told Him what the people were saying. Then, Jesus asked a different question.



Read Matthew 16:15-18
15He [Jesus] said to them [the disciples], "But who do you say that I am?" 16Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. 18And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

In verse 16, underline what Peter says in response to Jesus.

Peter speaks up, answering what (likely) all 12 Disciples know. First, he says that Jesus is "the Christ." The term Christ is simply the Greek translation of the Old Testament word *Messiah*. The Messiah was the anointed one – a promised deliverer that God would send to rule His people in righteousness.

Secondly, Peter says that Jesus is the Son of God. Peter's declaration was huge! He was basically saying, "You are the one that God promised! You are the Savior we've been waiting for."

Peter may not have understood all of the details of what he was saying, but he spoke the truth with courage. God used Peter's declaration and his willingness to speak up, and as Jesus would tell him, to "build my [Jesus'] church."

Peter was willing to speak the truth. Are you?

Or do you let fear hold you back from speaking the truth in love?

Either way, it starts with prayer. Prayer is speaking up.



When we speak up like Peter, God can use us as He transforms lives. This week, pray for three people that you know personally who need to hear about Jesus.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

WEEK 1: PETER – A LIFE TRANSFORMED

God Time: Day 3 - Peter Lifted Jesus Up



If you know Peter's story, you know that he passionately followed and proclaimed Christ. But when Jesus was arrested and about to be crucified, Peter denied knowing Him because he was so afraid of all that was happening. Yet, Jesus forgave Peter when he repented. Today we'll see how God's forgiveness and grace (undeserved love) transformed Peter's life even more. Not only did Peter jump out and speak up, he also "lifted up" Jesus.



Read Peter's words in Acts 2:32-33 (NLT)

³²God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. ³³Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God's right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today.

When the Holy Spirit was first given to the followers of Jesus, people saw and heard (verse 33) some miraculous effects. Many passed it off as drunkenness. They saw 120 disciples gathered together and heard them speaking in languages those disciples didn't even know, spreading the message of Christ to a huge crowd that included thousands of foreign visitors to the city.



Read Acts 2:36-38

³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." ³⁷Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."



The gospel changed Peter's life and also "cut others to the heart" (convicted and changed their hearts).



Look carefully at verse 38. Circle what Peter says to do and why.

Though the passage doesn't specifically say that Peter is "lifting up" Jesus, we see it! He stood in front of thousands, exalting Jesus (lifting Him up).



Name one thing that makes you afraid of sharing Christ. Write a prayer asking God to help you overcome this fear. Remember, God transformed Peter from a fearful person to a bold one. He can transform you too!

God Time: Day 4 – Let Your Failures Push You Forward



Peter was often impulsive and hasty (like when he jumped out of the boat). But he loved Jesus! When he messed up (like when he denied Jesus), he showed true repentance and allowed his failures to push him closer to Christ. We can do the same.

If we fail because we've sinned, we can confess our sin and allow the Father's forgiveness to pull us closer into fellowship with Him. But not all failures are sin. If we fail (or "fall") because of other troubles, we can get back up and keep pursuing Christ.



Read Proverbs 24:16

For the righteous falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble in times of calamity.

What will you do today to get back up and keep going forward, pursuing the Lord? (E.g., stop dwelling on a failure, thank the Lord for what you've learned, etc.)



And/or, what sin do you need to confess to pursue Jesus?

Remember: God isn't done with you. Keep going!

God Time: Day 5 - Jump Out, Speak Up, and Lift Up



This week we've seen Peter jump out of a boat, speak up by confessing Jesus as the Christ, and lift up Jesus before thousands of people. As followers of Christ, God calls us to courageously follow Jesus, proclaim who Jesus is, and lift Him up before others.

To apply these principles, choose one or more of the following:

1. Over the next three days, pray for five minutes a day and ask God to help you "jump out" of your comfort zone to follow Jesus.
2. Speak truth and proclaim Christ over the next week. (Keep a journal of how and when you do this.) Ask God for willingness and courage.
3. Recall the three people you started praying for on Day 2 who need the Gospel. Ask the Lord for the opportunity to proclaim and lift up Christ to them.



Reread Matthew 16:16 out loud. Let it be your worshipful declaration:

"Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

WEEK 1: PETER – A LIFE TRANSFORMED



Group Time

ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See page 47 for directions):

Y / N Y / N _____

_____ _____

LOOK BACK:

Point: We are all broken. God specializes in using the broken. Every person in the Bible – except one – was broken!

- Review last week’s lesson. What excuses have you been using? What is God calling you to do?

Question: Think of someone you know who is like a modern-day Peter. What is it that makes them like Peter?

LOOK UP: Watch this week’s Group Guide video on our 4G web page.

Recap: When we think about Peter the Disciple, we often think of his failed attempt to walk on water, or when Jesus had to say, “Get behind me Satan,” or when he denied knowing Jesus three times. But remember, each of these was preceded by something great; Peter was the only one to get out of the boat, he claimed Jesus was “the Christ, the son of the living God,” and he declared he would die for Jesus.

While these instances may have each ended in imperfect failures, Peter the Apostle (what we call him on the other side of the cross), acted and spoke in such a way that literally thousands came to faith in Jesus Christ.

LOOK IN: Discussion Questions

How do each of these statements reflect the life of Peter?

- *It is better to get out of the boat and sink in pursuit of Jesus than to stay safe in the boat while Jesus walks by.*
- *It is better to speak imperfectly than quench the Spirit’s work through you.*
- *It is better to lift up the name of Jesus and be rejected than remain silent and watch people go to Hell.*

How are they reflected in your life? How do you compare to Peter?

LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: God’s greatest victory in your life may be on the other side of failure!

Make An Eternal Difference In The World Today

- How will you jump out?

Do you need ideas? ASK!!!

- How will you speak up?

Do you need training? ASK!!!

- How will you lift up?

Do you need encouragement? ASK!!!

Happy Father’s Day



Family Time

Main Idea: Have the Courage to pursue Jesus.



Key Verse: Matthew 14:27

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

Set it Up:

Peter was a very special disciple to Jesus. Peter was a man that had fears just like all of us do. Let's watch this video together and see what happened to Peter and the other disciples while they were in a storm.



Watch: Week 1 Video

This week's video is on the playlist of the CBC YouTube channel or go to cbcfamily.net and click on 4G Guides for the video link under the Family Guide section.



Ask:

- What stood out to you the most about this story?
- Do you think you would have gotten out of the boat? Why or why not?
- Do you think you might have sunk like Peter did?



Encourage:

Having courage when things are going well is pretty easy. Peter showed us what true courage looks like when things are crashing in all around us. It took courage for Peter to take every step to get out of the boat and start walking towards Jesus.

When God is asking us to take a risk, it can be tough for us to have courage when we cannot see the end result.

- Is God asking you to start taking walks and pray for your neighbors?
- Is He is asking you to talk to the neighbor that you have not met yet?

Whatever it is that God is asking us as a family to do, we need to be more like Peter than the other disciples.



Challenge:

Where is God asking your family to take a risk?

Take some time praying as a family that God will give you the boldness to follow through where He is calling you all to take a risk.



Family Activity:

Set up a "Dad jar" for one week and each day, have each person write a short note to Dad. At the end of the week, let Dad open it and read each message. He will look forward to reading those notes for a very long time.