



Unexpected Leaders: Peter

Pastor Brian

June 3, 2018

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. "We learn from our failures." How true is this statement in your life? Does it make failure any easier to heart these words?
3. Read **2 Peter 1:5-8**. If these were the only words we had from Peter, what would your impression of him be?
4. Read **Matthew 4:18-20, 14:22-31; Mark 8:27-33, 9:2-9; Matthew 18:21-22; Mark 14:27-31; Matthew 26:69-75**. After reading these passages you hopefully have a fuller picture of who Peter was. Describe him.
5. **John 21:15-19**. What is so significant about this interaction with Jesus?
6. Read **Acts 2:1-47**. Discuss the power and impact of Peter's first sermon and how incredible it is in light of Peter's journey with Jesus. Who is the power in Peter? What is the heart of his message here?
7. Reflect on your life's journey (consider asking each individual to write down 3 highlight and 3 low points in chronological order). How could you allow God to redeem and use all that you have been through to bring Him glory and share the gospel with others?

Next Steps: Commit to using the reading plan for this sermon series as we dive together in the lives of key leaders in the Bible.

Prayer Thought: Praise God for His holiness, His sovereignty, His mercy and grace. Confess areas of self-reliance, sin, failure. Thank Him for giving your life purpose and meaning. Thank him for His forgiveness and for renewing you heart, mind, soul. Ask Him for a hunger for wisdom and truth and a growing daily walk in the Spirit.



UNEXPECTED LEADERS: Esther

Kristin Hesch

June 10, 2018

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. **Read Esther 2:5-12; Esther 2:15-17 & 20 Esther 4:4 & 10-17; Esther 5:2-4; Esther 7:2-6; Esther 8:3-6; Esther 9:29-32.** After reading these verses how would you describe Esther? What qualities do you admire?
3. **Read Esther 1:12; Esther 2:7-9; Esther 2:17; Esther 2:22.** In her study on Esther, Beth Moore writes, "Coincidences are miracles in which God prefers to remain anonymous." She says of the book of Esther, "God's name might not be in it but it is ON it." What are some of the ways these verses show our sovereign God was working in Esther's story? What are some of the reversals and twists in her story?
4. **Read Esther 3:8-10 and review Esther 4:1-17.** : What events in Esther's life support Mordecai's comment in vs. 14 "who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Why was Esther an unlikely choice for this mission? Why was she the perfect choice?
5. **Read Esther 2:10,11; Esther 2:21,22; Esther 4:1-5; Esther 4:12-16.** How did Esther seek wise advice? Why did she ask all the Jews to fast for three days and nights before she went to the king? How have you used fasting as a way to seek God's wisdom?
6. **Read Esther 8:1-8; Esther 9:1-5; Esther 9:29-32.** Esther risked her life to save her people, but what if she'd chosen NOT to take the risk? —Jim Elliot, a missionary who was martyred at age 28 said, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." Discuss what this means when it comes to taking a risk to obey Jesus.

Next Steps: a) Share a way God is calling you to take a risk for Him.

b) Commit to pray for each person in your group to take the risk to encourage or share Christ with at least one person in his/her circle of influence this week.

Prayer Thought: Use the ACTS model to pray as a group. First ADORE and praise God for how He plans our lives. Then CONFESS the ways you have wasted opportunities. THANK Him for giving you new chances to share His love and then SHARE YOUR NEEDS and in Jesus' name ask God to work through you to bless others and tell them about Jesus.



Unexpected Leaders: Stephen

Preacher: John

Date: June 17, 2018

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. Read **Acts 6:1-7**. Stephen was recognized as a person ready to serve the church in a special way. Have group members identify people who encouraged them to serve. How did that encouragement impact their spiritual growth? Also, have them recall people who they have encouraged to serve.
3. Read **Acts 6:8-7:2**. Stephen was filled with grace and power from the Holy Spirit to proclaim truth in a volatile situation. This wasn't part of the job description when he said "yes" to taking care of people in the church. Have the group share about times their ministry took them to an unexpected calling. How did they respond? How did God help them through it?
4. Read **Acts 7:51-53**. Throughout chapter 7 Stephen demonstrated that he knew the Old Testament and how it related to everyone's need for a Savior. He then got right to the point and exposed those around him of rejecting Jesus as the Messiah. How can a Christian prepare themselves mentally and spiritually to share the gospel directly to those around them?
5. Read **Acts 7:54-60**. Stephen suffered death for following Christ. Christians in America today are not dying for sharing their faith but what kind of sacrifices can we expect? How can your group encourage and support each other to live a life of devotion like Stephen did? What rewards can we expect for that kind of life?

Next Steps: Have group members share any commitments they have made to shadow a ministry or a person they want to encourage to serve God in ministry.

Prayer Thought:

- **ADORATION:** Praise God for equipping us to do all service He calls us into.
- **CONFESSION:** Confess our fears and doubts about accepting his call to greater sacrifice.
- **THANKSGIVING:** Thank the Lord for calling us to serve Him.
- **SUPPLICATION:** Ask God to fill all of us with His presence and power so that we can serve Jesus like Stephen did.

Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 12:24: *Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you.*



Unexpected Leaders: Moses

Pastor Malcolm Beall

June 24, 2018

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. We know Moses to be one of the true giants of the Scriptures. Consider his accomplishments, his leadership and his service to God and the Israelites. Now **Read Exodus 3:1-12** and describe the Moses we first meet in Exodus.
3. Discuss the deep doubts that Moses expressed, even in the presence of the God of the Universe.
4. **Read Exodus 4:1-9** How did God address Moses' doubts and concerns? How did God equip Moses to accomplish his tasks?
5. Ask for a volunteer in the group to share a personal parallel to an Aaron in their life. Discuss how God provides people in our lives to aid and support us in our areas of weakness.
6. Also, discuss situations where God has helped group members to grow into positions of leadership. Do we consistently attribute our growth and accomplishments to God's will and provision?

Next Steps: Ask each Life Group member to be bold and share an insecurity or two that keeps them from leading or from answering God's call to lead at the next level. Ask for a volunteer to pray with confidence to God to remove the doubts and obstacles that group members may be feeling.

Prayer Thought: Lord, we know that you are the creator of all that we know and experience. Guide us in our prayer as we strive to discern your plans for us. Show us these plans and strengthen our faith so that we may boldly move into positions of leadership. Position us to best serve you and your church.