



## SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

November 12, 2023

**Sermon Title:** The Greatest Story Ever Told

**Sermon Series:** Tell Me A Story...

**Preacher:** Youth

---

### Theme/concept

- Peter had a story to tell (Luke 22:54-62, John 21:15-18, Acts 2)
- Peter shared boldly in the face of criticism and conflict (Acts 2:14-36)
- Peter proclaimed the story every human heart longs to hear (Acts 3:5-11, Acts 2:37-41)

### Application

Respond to the gospel in attitude, words, fellowship, and actions. (See Acts 2: 42-47)

**Icebreaker (for groups)** Knowing when to speak and when to remain silent can be challenging. Tell about a time when you remained silent but wish you had spoken up. Alternatively, tell about a time when you spoke, but then regretted it.

**Reflections on the Sermon** What were your take aways from the sermon?

### Scripture New International Version

Luke 22:54-62

<sup>54</sup> Then seizing him (Jesus), they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. <sup>55</sup> But when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. <sup>56</sup> A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him."

<sup>57</sup> But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him," he said.

<sup>58</sup> A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them."  
"Man, I am not!" Peter replied.

<sup>59</sup> About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean."

<sup>60</sup> Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. <sup>61</sup> The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." <sup>62</sup> And he went outside and wept bitterly.

John 21:15-18

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said "Feed my lambs."

<sup>16</sup> Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

<sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> I tell you the truth, 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."

Acts 2:14-36

<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd; "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

<sup>15</sup> These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> " 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

<sup>20</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

<sup>22</sup> "Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.

<sup>23</sup> This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. <sup>24</sup> But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. <sup>25</sup> David said about him:

" 'I saw the Lord always before me.

Because he is at my right hand,

I will not be shaken.

<sup>26</sup> Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope,

<sup>27</sup> because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

<sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.'

<sup>29</sup> "Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. <sup>30</sup> But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup> Seeing what was ahead, he spoke

of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. <sup>32</sup> God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. <sup>33</sup> Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. <sup>34</sup> For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, “ ‘The Lord said to my Lord; “Sit at my right hand <sup>35</sup> until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.’ “ <sup>36</sup> “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

#### Acts 3:5-11

<sup>5</sup> So the man gave them (Peter and John) his attention, expecting to get something from them. <sup>6</sup> Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” <sup>7</sup> Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. <sup>8</sup> He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. <sup>9</sup> When all the people saw him walking and praising God, <sup>10</sup> they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. <sup>11</sup> While the beggar held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon’s Colonnade.

#### Acts 2:37-41

<sup>37</sup> When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” <sup>38</sup> Peter replied, “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. <sup>39</sup> the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” <sup>40</sup> With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” <sup>41</sup> Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

### **Reviewing the Scripture**

1. Summarize what Peter does in the Luke passage. In what way was Peter fulfilling prophecy at this time?

2. Summarize what takes place in the John passage. Why do you think Jesus asks Peter to declare his love for Jesus three times? Why do you think Jesus shares unpleasant information about Peter's future in verse 18?
  
3. Summarize what happens in Acts 2:14-36.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. In Acts 3:5-11, what does the beggar hope to get from Peter and John? What does he get instead? What was the reaction of the people who were present?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Tell about a time when you asked God for something and received something far better instead.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. In Acts 2:37-41 how do people respond to Peter's message? In verse 38 what does Peter instruct them to do? In verse 41 about how many people were added to their number that day?

### **Going Deeper**

1. Looking again at the Luke passage, what slight hint of boldness, if any, does Peter display in this interchange? Why do you think he didn't leave the courtyard after the first time he was identified? Since Luke probably wasn't present in the courtyard, how do you think he learned of Peter's experience there?

2. How has Peter changed between the Luke passage and Acts 2:14-36? How does he connect his message to Old Testament scriptures? How do you think he has acquired all of this knowledge and wisdom?
  
3. As you write your own story, think about a time when you could have spoken boldly about Jesus but didn't. How do you wish you had responded? Think about a time when you did speak boldly about Jesus. Write about what happened.
  
4. Imagine Peter writing his reflections on these 5 passages. What would he say and how would he recall each event?

### **Self-reflection**

With which depiction of Peter do you mostly identify? Why?

### **Closing Prayer**

Lord, thank you for the way you worked through your apostle, Peter, to share the TRUE story of our resurrected Jesus. Thank you for preserving Peter's story for us to learn from today. Thank you for giving each of us a story. Help us to recall our stories and to share them, even when they show our vulnerability and weaknesses. Help us to learn from and to apply lessons learned as we listen and share. We love you, Lord.

In Jesus' name, Amen

### **Writing My Story...**