

# Grades 6-8 Resource Guide: Who was Peter?

## Who was Peter?

- A family man; a husband with a wife and mother-in-law
- Fisherman
- Had at least one brother
- Jewish
- Stubborn, hot tempered, loyal, impulsive, and bold
- Became a tremendous leader of the Church after learning to “follow” Jesus’ way
- Died in Rome as a martyr.

## Scriptural Passages:

Simon is called by Jesus: Mt 4:18-20

Peter walking on the water: Mt 14:28-33

Peter’s confession about Jesus: Mt. 16:13-18

Jesus declares Peter “the rock” and gives him “the keys”: Mt 16:18-20

Peter’s denial of Jesus foretold: Mk 14:27-31

Peter’s denial of Jesus: Mk 14:66-72

Washing of the disciples’ feet: Jn 13:1-11

“Feed my sheep” Peter with Jesus: Jn 21:15-19

Choosing Judas’s replacement: Acts 1:15-26

Peter’s preaching: Acts 3:11-26

Peter’s escape from prison: Acts 12:6-19

Council of Jerusalem: Acts: 15:1-35 (esp. 15:6-12)

## Suggested Activities:

- Have students pick cards with the names of Peter’s character traits written on them from a selection of prepared cards. Students will describe personality traits in themselves that relate to traits that are attributed to Peter on their cards. Materials Needed: Index cards labeled with types of character traits. Students may be asked to choose one positive trait they see in another classmate for the purpose of further discussion.
- Have students represent Jesus and Peter as Jesus interviews Peter for the job. Focus on trying to persuade Peter that he can use his characteristics for positive change.  
Read a scripture passage related to Peter. Re-write it as a modern newspaper story.
- Directions: Divide the students into small groups and assign each group (for the more extensive texts more than one group could be assigned) to look up the following scripture passages referring to St. Peter. After the citations have all been read, the teacher can then ask the students to explain what each citation says or reveals about St. Peter. The teacher may then proceed to elaborate upon the student responses and what these passages reveal to us about St. Peter and the ministry of the Pope by highlighting the following key themes: primacy of Peter and his triple ministry - governing, teaching, sanctifying:

- Matthew 4:18-22
- Matthew 10: 1-4
- Matthew 16:16-19
- Matthew 17:1-9
- Matthew 17: 24-27
- Matthew 26:37
- Matthew 28-16-20
- Mark 3:13-19
- Mark 5:37-43
- Mark 8:29-33
- Mark 9:2-7
- Mark 13:2-5
- Mark 14:32-33
- Mark 16:7-8
- Mark 16:14-20
- Luke 6:13-16
- Luke 8:51-56
- Luke 9:28-36
- Luke 22:7-8
- Luke 22:31-32
- Luke 24:10-12
- Luke 24:33-34
- John 1:40-44
- John 11:51-52
- John 20:2-10
- John 20:20-23
- John 21:15-17
- Acts 1:12-15
- Acts 2:14
- Acts 3:1-16
- Acts 3:37-41
- Acts 4:1-20
- Acts 5:1-3
- Acts 5:14-16
- Acts 5:29-30
- Acts 8:18-24
- Acts 9:32-43
- Acts 10
- Acts 11: 1-18
- Acts 15:7-12
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-5
- Galatians 2:7-8
- 1 Peter 1:1-2

**Related Enrichment Resources:**

[http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=5358](http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=5358)

<http://www.ccel.org/s/schaff/encyc/encyc08/htm/ii.xiv.ii.htm>

<http://www.ignatiusinsight.com/authors/cardinalratzinger.asp>

<http://www.ewtn.com/pope/life/index.asp>

<http://www.popebenedictxvifanclub.com/>

[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/index.htm](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/index.htm)

## Grades 6-8 Resource Guide: Who is Benedict XVI?

### Who is Pope Benedict XVI?

Basic chronology of his life:

April 16, 1927	Joseph Ratzinger born in Marktl Inn, Bavaria; his family moved to Traunstein two years later
1943	At the age of 16, he and members of his seminary class were drafted into the German anti-aircraft corps
1945	Escaped from the army and returned to Traunstein. He was briefly held by American forces in a prisoner of war camp. After his release, he re-entered the seminary.
1951	Ordained into the priesthood
1953	Received his doctorate in theology from the University of Munich
1959	Began lecturing as a professor of fundamental theology at the University of Bonn
1962-1965	Participated in all four sessions of the Second Vatican Council as a <i>periti</i> (a special advisor to a bishop)
1977	Named Archbishop of Munich and Freising in March and elevated to Cardinal of Munich in June by Pope Paul VI.
1981	Named Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith by Pope John Paul II.
2002	Elected Dean of the College of Cardinals
April 19, 2005	Elected as the 265th pope and chooses the name Pope Benedict XVI.

### Suggested Activities:

- Make a visual, illustrative timeline of the key dates in Benedict XVI's life
- Make a list to show papal succession from Peter to Benedict XVI
- Make a chart to show the different offices and functions of the papacy and the Roman Curia
- Role play some of the events of the Pope's life
  - a. Research a given era to enhance dialogue and characterization
  - b. Work in groups to script given event in Benedict's early life
  - c. Share scripts to ensure continuity
  - d. Combine scripts to make a cohesive story line
  - e. Role play the completed script, sequentially
- Discuss the fact that Joseph Ratzinger, at age 14, was forced to enroll in Hitler's Youth Corps. He was an unenthusiastic member, who never attended meetings. In groups, discuss the following points:
  - a. How would you feel if you were forced to join a particular youth group?
  - b. What if the group promoted ideas in which you did not believe?
  - c. What would you do? How would you act to show you didn't want to be a member?
  - d. Try to imagine how young Joseph felt.

- e. What would you do to keep from going to the meetings? Try to imagine what excuses Joseph made up.
- f. A member from each group should report on their group's discussion to the larger group.

### **Why did Cardinal Ratzinger choose the name Benedict? What is the significance?**

Cardinal Ratzinger chose the name Benedict in honor of both St. Benedict and Pope Benedict XV. The change in name indicates a change in identity. He is no longer Joseph Ratzinger, but Pope Benedict XVI, the successor of St. Peter. He continues the same mission the Lord entrusted to Peter.

#### **Suggested Activities:**

- Research St. Benedict and identify the reasons why Cardinal Ratzinger would want to honor him.
- Research Pope Benedict XV and identify the reasons why Cardinal Ratzinger would want to honor him.
- Students preparing for Confirmation may relate the selection of new name for Pope with the selection of a new name for Confirmation.
- "What's in a Name?": Create a decorative plaque of one's given name(s) (first and/or middle name). Interview parents to discover why the name was chosen. Suggested interview questions:
  - a. Was I named for a specific person?
  - b. Does my name have a meaning in a certain culture?
  - c. Is my name a combination of two or more names?
  - d. Was I named for a place or thing?

Edit the narrative to fit an index card (sized to fit a plaque) and place it beneath the decorated name.

- Imagine a meeting between St. Peter and Pope Benedict XVI. Write a short story or a scene of a play about what they might discuss.

### **Where does Pope Benedict live?**

As the Bishop of Rome, Pope Benedict lives in an apartment in Vatican City. Vatican City is actually a country with diplomatic ties to other countries. Even though it is an independent country, it is surrounded by the city of Rome.

#### **Suggested Activities:**

- Research Vatican City and its history. Prepare an oral report.

**Related Enrichment Resources:**

Pope's life for teens:

[http://www.findinggod.org/m\\_frmwork.asp?id=37116](http://www.findinggod.org/m_frmwork.asp?id=37116)

Pope Benedict's life: <http://www.usccb.org/comm/popebenedictxvi/timelinebenedict.shtml>

Vatican City:

<http://www.vaticanstate.va/EN/homepage.htm>

[www.infoplease.com/atlas/country/vaticancity.html](http://www.infoplease.com/atlas/country/vaticancity.html)

[www.infoplease.com/ipa/AO108136.html](http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/AO108136.html)

Papal election:

[www.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/europe/04/19/pope.tuesday/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/europe/04/19/pope.tuesday/index.html)

Research St. Benedict:

[www.catholic.org/saints/](http://www.catholic.org/saints/)

Pope Benedict XV:

[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xv/index.htm](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xv/index.htm)

# Grades 6-8 Resource Guide: What is the Mission of the Pope?

## What is the Mission of the Pope?

The office given uniquely by the Lord to St. Peter continues in the Bishop of Rome. He carries out his office of teaching, sanctifying and governing the Universal Church. The other bishops of the Church are united with the Pope and assist him by carrying out the tasks of teaching, sanctifying and governing in local dioceses all the while in union with him.

- **Office of Teaching**

The Pope preaches the Gospel to all people and ensures that the faith is authentically taught throughout the world. This is done through his encyclicals, apostolic letters, exhortations, addresses and homilies. He is the chief shepherd and all are entrusted to his care (Mt. 28:19-20).

- **Office of Governing**

Governance of the universal Church is entrusted solely to the Pope as the successor of St. Peter. By virtue of his office as the Vicar of Christ and as pastor of the entire Church, the Pope possesses full, supreme, and universal power over the whole Church (Mt. 16:16-19). The Pope is the supreme legislator of the Church.

- **Office of Sanctifying**

By virtue of his office and through a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the Pope is entrusted with forming the People of God as a holy nation. Christ imparts his own holiness to the Church through the life of prayer, worship and the Sacraments. The Church's unity under the Holy Father is a sign of unity with Christ from whom holiness flows.

## What Roles or Titles does the Pope Have?

- Bishop of Rome
- Vicar of Christ on Earth
- Successor to St. Peter
- Holy Father
- Supreme Pontiff
- Servant of the Servants of God
- Head of the College of Bishops
- Primate of Italy
- Sovereign of the Vatican City State

## What is the Focus of Pope Benedict XVI?

Among other things, Pope Benedict has a particular focus on the unity of all Christian churches and on rebuilding the Church in Europe. Toward these ends he has held several ecumenical meetings with other Christian leaders around the world, and he has paid pastoral visits to several countries in Europe.

**Scriptural Passages:**

“Feed my sheep”: John 21: 15-17

Apostles preaching and fellowship: Acts 2: 42-46

Peter’s confession about Jesus: Mt. 16:13-18

Jesus declares Peter “the rock” and gives him “the keys”: Mt 16:18-20

Washing of the disciples’ feet: Jn 13:1-11

“Feed my sheep”- Peter with Jesus: Jn 21:15-19

Choosing Judas’s replacement: Acts 1:15-26

Peter’s preaching: Acts 3:11-26

Peter’s escape from prison: Acts 12:6-19

Council of Jerusalem: Acts: 15:1-35 (esp. 15:6-12)

**Suggested Activities:**

- Research where and when Pope Benedict XVI has met with leaders of other Christian churches.
- Research where and when Pope Benedict has visited in Europe. What was his message to those countries? Create a map which documents the travels of Pope Benedict XVI in 2007. List one important person he spoke with or event he attended in each place visited.
- Prepare and lead a prayer service for a younger group. Materials: Responsorial psalms, songs, prayer, petitions, etc.
- Research and prepare a report on Papal missions around the world or make a collage of the missions of the Church.
- On a map of the world, locate areas where the Church is being persecuted.
- Create a “Living Papal Family Tree.” Given short biographies of notable popes:
  - a. Memorize key information in order to be able to speak in the first person
  - b. Dress in the papal wardrobe
  - c. Role-play the given pope
  - d. This could be extended as a Wax Museum exhibit for the entire school. Other grades would visit the museum where 6-8 graders would be dressed as popes throughout history. When they touch a student, that student would come alive to talk about their life and work.
  
- If the Pope were coming to visit your class, to hear about the “work of the Church” in your grade, what would you tell him? What would you show him? Plan a one hour visit for the Pope to your class. During that hour, you can show him anything you like, tell him anything you like, or take him anywhere. What would you do during that hour, to let him know that you and your classmates are personally doing things to teach others about Jesus, and to demonstrate that you intend to live as Jesus did?

## **Related Enrichment Resources:**

<http://www.ccel.org/s/schaff/encyc/encyc08/htm/ii.xiv.ii.htm>

Outreach ideas:

<http://www.faithfirst.com/html/teenCenter/makeADifference/makeADifference.html>

Papal vestments:

<http://www.lifeteen.com/default.aspx?PageID=FEATUREDETAIL& DocumentId=17194& ArticleIndex=5>

Vatican website:

[www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

A list of popes:

<http://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/bishop/spope0.html>

<http://www.vaticanstate.va/EN/homepage.htm>

<http://www.catholicnews.com/>

[http://www.catholic.org/international/international\\_story.php?id=25932](http://www.catholic.org/international/international_story.php?id=25932)

Global Church:

<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2005/church/interactive/map/>

Pope's visit to Turkey with discussion questions:

[http://72.36.140.238/html/catechist/currentEvents/archive\\_2006\\_07/121306currentEvents.html](http://72.36.140.238/html/catechist/currentEvents/archive_2006_07/121306currentEvents.html)

Summary of Pope Benedict's first encyclical with discussion questions:

[http://72.36.140.238/html/family/currentEvents/archive\\_2005\\_06/021506currentEvents.html](http://72.36.140.238/html/family/currentEvents/archive_2005_06/021506currentEvents.html)

# Grades 6-8 Resource Guide: Why is This Visit Important?

## Why is This Visit Important?

- The Pope signifies the visible unity of the Church and of the spiritual communion of all the faithful who are members of the Body of Christ.
- His visit will remind us of our union with others throughout the universal Church.
- As the chief shepherd of the Church, he is making a pastoral visit to us to show us that he loves and cares for us.

## What Will the Pope Do While He is Here?

- Meet with the local Church
- Teach his people directly
- Celebrate the Eucharist
- Encourage the Church to remain faithful to the Gospel
- Spread the message of *Christ Our Hope*
- Meet with the President of the United States
- Meet with other Christian and non-Christian leaders
- Make a presentation to world leaders at the United Nations
- Visit the site of the World Trade Center bombings on 9/11/2001
- Encourage those who have fallen away from the faith to return

## Suggested Activities:

- Discuss these questions in a small group setting:
  - a. What would you expect to experience at the Papal Mass that you could not experience if watching on TV?
  - b. What have you learned when you have traveled that you could not have learned if you did not make the trip?
- As a large group, make a list of the things the Pope might learn by coming here that he could not learn from watching television, surfing the internet, or reading newspapers.
- Pray for the unity of all Christians and for the Holy Father's safe travel
- Prepare a liturgy or prayer service for your group in honor of the Pope's visit
- Have the students reflect on how they can impact their world/lives based on the example and teachings of the Pope (service, conflict resolution, leadership, community building). What concrete things can we do to better our world and assist the Pope in fulfilling Christ's mission?

## Related Enrichment Resources:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/12/AR2007111200528.html>

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/11/12/pope.us.ap/index.html>

<http://papalvisit.cua.edu/news/>

# Grades 6-8 Resource Guide: Key Vocabulary

## Terms and Phrases Relevant to an Understanding of Papal Curriculum:

Vicar of Christ:

Bishop:

Hierarchy:

Infallibility:

Magisterium:

Pope:

Papal:

Encyclical:

Vatican City:

Ecumenical:

Steward:

Apostolic Succession:

Power of the Keys (Matthew 16:17-19):

Vatican City:

The Servant of the Servants of God:

College of Cardinals:

Online Glossary of Terms:

<http://www.usccb.org/catechism/text/glossary.htm#p> or  
*United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, glossary