

K-2 Resource Guide: Who Was Peter?

Who was Peter?

Simon, also called Peter, was a fisherman by trade. He was one of Jesus' first and closest followers or disciples. He was an Apostle. Jesus asked Peter to come and follow him to learn how to bring others to His Father, the Lord. Jesus called Simon by the name "Peter," which means "rock" in the Greek language. Jesus said he would build his church on Peter, the "rock."

Scriptural References:

Matthew 4:18-20

Matthew 16:13-20

John 21:15-19

Acts 1-3

Suggested Activities:

- Students can role play the calling of Peter and Andrew by Jesus.
- Students can cut out fish and glue different colored tissue paper squares on them to symbolize that Jesus' fish (which are His people) are made up of different cultures and nationalities.
- Students can create a sheep drawing using the directions found on <http://www.first-school.ws>. To access this activity, go to the animal link. Click on farm animal and then the "handprint lamb or sheep craft" link. There are also sheep drawings on the coloring pages. (Variation: have the students glue a cotton ball onto a classroom sheep whenever they use "please" or "thank you" or when they have done a good deed.)
- Talk about keys and how they both open and close doors. Things can be locked in or locked out.
- Talk about the effect of the Holy Spirit on Peter at Pentecost. Peter had been a fisherman; now, he was to be a leader of men, a traveler and a public speaker.
- To find a picture of St. Peter and Jesus that relates to Matthew 4:18-20, click on this link: http://www.first-school.ws/t/cp_bible/fishers-of-men-t.htm
- For a song about being a follower of Jesus, go to http://www.dltk-bible.com/follower_of_jesus-song.htm.
- Do a "Fishers of Men" bulletin board.

Related Enrichment Resources:

- http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=5358
- <http://www.dltk-bible.com>
- www.CatholicMom.com
- *Creative Crafts for all Seasons*, Campbell, A., Waite, K.,
- Mikelonis, A., *Resources For Christian Living*, Allen, Texas, 1999.
- *Prayers, Themes and Guided Meditations for Children*, Bretherton, Barbara Ann, Twenty-third Publications, 1998. See page 34 for a meditation on "What's in a Name."

Where Did Peter Go in the World to Spread Jesus' Word?

Peter traveled from Jerusalem through Damascus, Antioch and Corinth, eventually ending up in Rome. During his travels, he spent much of his time speaking to Jewish people about Jesus.

Back in Peter's time, there was not a physical church to attend. People would gather to meet Peter in homes, fields and open areas to hear about Jesus. To keep them safe from those who would harm them, Christians looked for a sign of the fish that was carved in wooden doorways to know where to go to worship. The fish sign was a secret code to let people know where to gather. The Greek word for fish is "*ichthus*" and its letters form an acronym for the words "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior." Since St. Peter and some of the other Apostles were fishermen before Jesus called them, it seemed appropriate to use the fish as a Christian sign.

Suggested Activities:

- Using a world map: trace, key and color Peter's route.
- Sing the song and use gestures for "He Has the Whole World in His Hands."
- Draw a very detailed picture of a house and hide a fish within the house for the children to look for (like the "Hidden Picture Puzzle" you find in the *Highlights Magazine*).
- Draw a picture of a fish on the classroom door with chalk. Explain that the "secret password" to enter your classroom from now on is "fish."

Related and Enrichment Resources:

- *Kid Atlas Important Places in the Bible and Where to Find Them*, Van der Maas, R., Wooding, M., Osborne, R. Zonderkids, www.zonderkids.com.

K-2 Resource Guide: Who is Pope Benedict XVI?

Who is Pope Benedict XVI?

- Born: Joseph Ratzinger, April 16, 1927
- Born: In Marktl am Inn, Germany
- He was ordained with his brother on June 29, 1951
- He is a teacher and an author
- He became the Archbishop of Munich March 1977
- He became the 265th Pope on April 19, 2005
- His hobbies are writing and playing piano
- His favorite composers are Bach, Mozart, and Beethoven
- His favorite drink is Fanta orange soda
- He loves cats and in the past he adopted and rescued several, although he doesn't have any pets in his Papal apartment

Suggested Activities:

- Complete a biography worksheet that includes a picture of the Pope to be colored.
- Color a map of Germany and find the Pope's birthplace, Marktl am Inn, and Munich. For an interactive map of Germany, go to http://www.cometogermany.com/ENU/about_germany/master.htm?gclid=CIO9od6WipECFQMsFQodXioiFQ
- Create a timeline of his life events. You can find a timeline at <http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer>.
- Create a biography card using an index card. Draw a picture on the front and record personal data on the back.
- **Papal Keys:** These keys represent the keys to the kingdom of heaven that Jesus originally gave to Peter. The symbolism continues today as the College of Cardinals is locked in the Sistine Chapel when electing a new pope. The keys are also represented on the pope's coat of arms.

Go to <http://www.first-school.ws> to print a key for each student. The teacher or students write a positive character trait that describes each student. This trait is then be written on the key and made into a necklace using string. Present these necklaces in a "Good Character Trait" ceremony.

- **Papal Ring:** The papal ring is worn on the fourth finger of the left hand. The image on the ring is of St. Peter fishing in a boat. The papal name is imprinted around the perimeter of the ring. It is made of gold and is unique to each pope. Using Crayola fast-hardening modeling clay, have students design a ring with a round face. Use a toothpick to draw the Christian symbol of a fish on the round face of the ring. Or, use a rubber stamp to stamp the fish symbol on the round face.

- **Pectoral Cross:** This is the cross that is worn around the pope's neck and lies on his heart. All bishops wear pectoral crosses. The pope is a bishop. Have students cut out a cross from an index card. Then have students cover the cross with aluminum foil. Punch a hole at the top of the cross. Place string through the hole and tie around the student's neck to fashion a necklace. Make sure the string's length permits the cross to rest on the child's heart.
- **Papal Coat of Arms:** Every pope has his own personal coat of arms. The papal coat of arms traditionally features a gold and silver key, representing the power to bind and to loose on earth (silver) and in heaven (gold). Pope Benedict used the miter and pallium in his coat of arms. Pope Benedict also has a lady and a bear on his coat of arms, plus a seashell. The lady represents the cities of Munich and Freising where Pope Benedict was ordained and later become the Archbishop. The bear represents the burdens of his office and, finally, the seashell symbolizes man's pilgrimage on earth:
www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/elezione/stemma-benedict-xvi_en.html

Have students create their own coat of arms using poster board. Students will divide their shield into 3 or 4 sections. They will decorate each section to illustrate their personal selves. Students can share what their coat of arms represent in small groups.

Related Enrichment Resources:

- *Joseph From Germany- The Life of Pope Benedict XVI for Children*, Claire Jordan Mohan, www.TheCatholicCompany.com
- "Inside the Vatican," National Geographic DVD:
<http://shop.nationalgeographic.com/product/238/774/128.html>
- *Pope Benedict XVI, Servant of the Truth*, edited by Peter Seewald, Ignatius Press, 2006
- *How to be Pope*, Marchant, Piers, Quirk Packaging, Inc. 2005
- www.catholicmoms.com

Where does Pope Benedict live?

The pope lives in an apartment in Vatican City, which is really its own country. Vatican City is located in Rome, Italy. The Pope lives here because he is the Bishop of Rome. It takes an hour to walk around the entire country. There are 1,000 residents. It contains a supermarket, library, railroad, pharmacy, department store, post office, gas station, and museums. But the most important building is St. Peter's Basilica. It is so large it would hold 6 football fields! The Basilica is where the pope celebrates Mass. Underneath the Basilica there is actually another church. This is known as the Tomb of the Popes. Archeological excavation has recently revealed the tomb of St. Peter to be directly below the main altar of the Basilica.

Suggested Activities:

- **Papal Miter:** For Mass and other special ceremonies, all bishops wear a hat called a "miter." Since the Pope is a bishop, he also wears a miter which is a cloth crown with two points to represent the Old and New Testaments.
Use 2 pieces of construction paper and cut each sheet into a spade (shovel) shape. Then staple the sides to fit each individual student's head. Then take a third piece of construction paper. Cut it lengthwise and attach it to the back of the hat. This design can also be used with a brown paper bag.

N.B., A description and explanation of the Papal wardrobe can be found on page 24 and 25 in the book "How to be Pope." Additional resources, lesson plans, vocabulary and coloring pages can be found on the Catholic mom web site at www.catholicmoms.com.

- **Popemobile:** This is a car that was designed to keep the pope safe. It is built with a glass top so that people can still see him from all sides as he rides through the streets. There are 20 of these vehicles in the world and the Vatican has 6 of them.

Use 10 Q-tips, 4 mini marshmallows, 4 "Bulls-Eye" caramel candies. Have students use pictures of the popemobile as a reference when designing their own popemobile.

Related Enrichment Resources:

How to be Pope, What to Do and Where to Go Once You're in the Vatican, Piers Marchant, Chronicle Books, 2005

K-2 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 the Pope.

- **Office of Teaching**

The Pope preaches the Gospel to all people and ensures that the faith is authentically taught throughout the world. He does this 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.

Suggested Activities:

- Students create a newspaper article that answers the question, "If you were the Pope, what message of Jesus would you write about?" Graphic organizers are available at <http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/>.
- Students identify the rules at home, in the community, and in the classroom that keep them safe. Second graders can add Church rules.
- Use a KWL chart to assess understanding of these rules or have students use chart paper and dictate or record the different rules of these three categories (home, community and classroom). Then follow up with a class discussion on the importance of the job of Lawgiver of the Church: www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer.
- Choose a beatitude or a commandment and have the students play a game of telephone to demonstrate how information can be changed when repeated several times. This will demonstrate the importance of passing on the teaching of the Church, the Word of God, the sacraments, and the liturgy of the Mass that has been entrusted to the Pope.

Related and Enrichment Resources:

How to be Pope, What to Do and Where to Go Once You're in the Vatican, Piers Marchant, Chronicle Books, 2005

K-2 Resource Guide: Why is This Visit Important?

Why is this visit important to us?

The Holy Father is a direct successor of St. Peter. As such, he represents the entire Catholic Church. He is the pastor of us all and is paying us a visit as such. He reminds us that we belong not only to a particular parish in a particular diocese, but we also belong to the Catholic Church around the world.

The Pope is also a continuing example of Jesus' mission here on earth. He reminds us that just as he brings the Good News to all people, we also are called to bring the Good News to people we meet. We are all ambassadors for Christ. (2 Cor 5:20, "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.")

Suggested Activities:

- The idea of a successor may be developed by using concrete examples of things the children know. Is there a new teacher at school? This teacher was a "successor" of the last teacher. Or, do teachers take turns with various jobs, perhaps recess, bus or lunch duty? Or, has a child moved into a new house? Who lived in the house before they did? Or, is there a student of the week each week? The next student of the week is the "successor" of the student of the week before. Teachers may want to develop the idea that God provides for us by having many people born with different talents and gifts, so that when one person is finished with their work, another person with a similar gift can do the same work for us.
- To demonstrate that the student understands papal succession, ask them to fold a large piece of paper in half. At the top of each side write the following names: "St. Peter" and "Pope Benedict XVI." Have students illustrate by drawing examples of actions of St. Peter and actions of Pope Benedict to see similarities. Examples might be kind actions, prayers, preaching, leading, serving those in need, etc. Students will share their drawings in pairs.

Why is the Mission of Pope Benedict XVI Important?

- Pope Benedict seeks to restore church unity. He believes that all Christians should be as one in worshiping Jesus regardless of your denomination.
- He promotes church unity with his apostolic visits. An apostolic visit is a trip to different parts of the world to spread God's word and join with other Christians in dialogue and prayer. His trip to Washington will be an apostolic visit.
- This visit of Pope Benedict XVI matters to us because he is the visible presence of the universal Church. He teaches the need for love and hope in the world. Both love and hope are virtues greatly needed in American culture.
- As a sign of our faith, and in honor of the Pope's visit, it has been suggested that we make a special effort to go out into the community and be living examples of our faith.

Suggested Activities:

- To bring love and hope to your community, have your class participate in some type of outreach for those in need. Some mission suggestions are:
 - Make sandwiches for the homeless
 - Make cards for the elderly in nursing homes
 - Donate canned goods for your local food pantry
 - Donate gently used books to children living in poverty.

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Pope Benedict XVI, Servant of the Truth, edited by Peter Seewald, Ignatius Press, 2006