

# Grades 3-5 Resource Guide: Who Is Peter?

## Who was Peter?

- Simon, called Peter, was a fisherman by occupation when called by Jesus to be his follower and to become a “fisher of men”
- First among the apostles
- Bishop of Rome
- Vicar of Christ on earth
- Became a tremendous leader of the Church after learning to “follow” Jesus’ way
- Died in Rome as a martyr

## What was Peter Like?

- Impulsive (story of the transfiguration, incident in the garden of Gethsemane, denial of Jesus)
- Human (When Peter says, “Lord depart from me, for I am a sinful man”)

## 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

## Suggested Activities:

- Read the scriptural passages related to Peter and make a collage of the symbols associated with him (e.g., fish, boat, rock, net).
- Role-play or perform a skit of a gospel story involving Peter.
- Discuss Peter’s hope and faith.
- Make a “St. Peter” trading card. On one side, draw a picture of Peter or symbols to represent him. On the other, list the major “stats” of Peter’s life.
- Discuss with students how at important times in one’s life the event is marked by a change in name. (Examples: Abram became Abraham, Saul became Paul, Karol Wojtyla became John Paul II, and Joseph Ratzinger became Benedict XVI; at Confirmation we choose a saint’s name.) Have the students consider their own name, and investigate how they were named.
- Discuss with students achievements in their own lives. Have they become a cub scout, a brownie, a violinist? What changed in their lives with this achievement?

**Related Enrichment Resources:**

[www.findinggod.org/m\\_frmwork.asp?id=82986](http://www.findinggod.org/m_frmwork.asp?id=82986)

[www.findinggod.org/m\\_frmwork.asp?id=107239](http://www.findinggod.org/m_frmwork.asp?id=107239)

[www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer](http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer)

[http://www.lifeteen.com/default.aspx?PageID=FEATUREDETAIL&\\_\\_DocumentId=17194&\\_\\_ArticleIndex=5](http://www.lifeteen.com/default.aspx?PageID=FEATUREDETAIL&__DocumentId=17194&__ArticleIndex=5)

[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)

# Grades 3-5 Resource Guide: Who is Pope Benedict XVI?

## Who is Pope Benedict XVI?

- Born Joseph Alois Ratzinger on April 16, 1927, in the town of Marktl am Inn, Germany
- Parents were from lower Bavaria; his father was a policeman and his mother was a cook
- Discovered the beauty and truth of faith in Christ from his family's attitude of giving a clear witness of goodness and hope rooted in the Catholic Church
- Ordained a priest on June 29, 1951, with his brother Georg
- Named Archbishop of Munich and Freising on March 25 by Pope Paul VI, and a Cardinal the same year
- Elected Bishop of Rome on April 19, 2005
- Accomplished pianist
- Theological scholar and writer
- Lives in an apartment in Vatican City, which is really its own country

## Suggested Activities:

- Create a storyboard using selected facts of the Pope's life. (Each frame might include a picture, or symbol as well as textual material.)
- Design a commemorative plate in honor of the Holy Father. Paste a picture of Pope Benedict in the center of a paper plate. Add radiating lines each highlighting a fact about him.
- Make a *Power Point* presentation on the life of Joseph Ratzinger. Consider including his love of music, his scholarship, and his faith as a journey of hope.
- Study the meaning of the papal coat of arms and have each student make a personal coat of arms.
- Locate Germany on a map of the world. Find the region known as Bavaria, where Joseph Ratzinger was born. Identify five important places in the Pope's life or five facts about the country of Germany.
- Have students research the history and geography of Vatican City. Design a travel brochure entitled "A Visit to Vatican City."

Facts about Vatican City: It is located in Rome, Italy. It takes an hour to walk around the entire country. There are 1,000 residents, who are mostly male. It contains a supermarket, library, railroad, pharmacy, department store, post office, gas station, and museums. 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.

## Related Enrichment Resources:

[www.findinggod.org/assets/fg\\_comp/pdf\\_37120.pdf](http://www.findinggod.org/assets/fg_comp/pdf_37120.pdf)

[www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/elezione/stemma-benedict-xvi\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/elezione/stemma-benedict-xvi_en.html)

[www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer](http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer)

[www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/atlas/](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/atlas/)

[http://www3.nationalgeographic.com/places/maps/map\\_country\\_germany.html](http://www3.nationalgeographic.com/places/maps/map_country_germany.html)

[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)

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

[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)

# Grades 3-5 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. 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

*(If younger students have trouble with the concept of how the Pope leads the Church in various ways, teachers may want to begin with examples of how the pastor teaches, says Mass and celebrates the Sacraments and guides members of the parish.)*

## Suggested Activities:

- Make a “Pope-Mobile.” Cut out cardboard shapes of papal symbols (examples: hat, miter, ring, etc.) and place titles of the Pope on the symbols. Hang these shapes on a metal hanger.
- Place a picture of the Pope on the center of a paper plate, with radiating lines, each highlighting a title of the Pope with an appropriate symbol.
- Make a three-column chart with the headings, **Teach, Worship, and Guide**. Have students place the following duties in the appropriate category: encyclicals, beatify and canonize saints, weekly audience, World Youth Day, appoint bishops, World Message of Peace on New Year’s Day, celebrate Christmas Eve Mass.
- Use papal vocabulary words to make a crossword puzzle (<http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/>)
- Create an acrostic poem based on the title “Bishop of Rome.”
- Visit the CNN website (<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2005/church/interactive/map/>) to find an interactive map of the world. Have students click on various countries and continents to see the number of Catholics in each area.
- On a classroom map of the world, indicate the nations and continents where the Church is present by placing a sticker or star on that area. Discuss the truly “catholic” nature of the Church. (*Do the learners realize that the readings at Mass each Sunday are the same throughout the world? Have children pay special attention to the readings for the coming weekend, and then report back, particularly if they went to a different parish that weekend.*)
- Divide a piece of paper into fourths. Label each section with one of the following words: “One,” “Holy,” “Catholic” and “Apostolic.” After doing this, explain the Marks of the Church:
  - The Church is One because God is one: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
  - The Church is Holy because she is united to God who is all-holy.
  - The Church is Catholic because Christ is in her and has sent her on a mission to the whole world.
  - The Church is Apostolic because she is founded on the apostles. Peter and the other apostles are present in the Church in their successors, the Pope and the college of bishops.

Have students work in small groups to name examples of these concepts in the life of the Church. For example, “Catholics all over the world profess the same faith” and “All members of the church share in the work of the church to spread the Gospel message.” Each group should choose one example and draw a symbol for it.

- Design a picture that shows the relationship between the parish, the archdiocese, and the global Church. Consider making concentric circles in which parish and pastor are named, archdiocese and archbishop, then Roman Catholic Church and the pope’s name.
- Choose a service project to be completed in honor of the Pope’s visit (e.g., collect food for a needy family, visit a local nursing home, or make cards for a nursing home about the Pope’s visit).
- Design posters, bumper stickers or buttons promoting the Pope’s visit.

- Design a bulletin board with a picture of Peter holding a net. Have each student cut a fish out of colored paper and then write a short prayer on the fish. Put the fish in the net. Each day have a child take a fish out of the net, and say that prayer in honor of the Pope's visit.
- Trace the journey of Peter in the Acts of the Apostles. Have students keep a "travel journal" as if they were Peter.
- Share with students a chart showing papal succession from Peter to Benedict XVI.

**Related Enrichment Resources:**

[www.findinggod.org/](http://www.findinggod.org/) (This link will only work for users of the Finding God texts that are logged in. Joining this site is free.)

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

<http://www.usccb.org/catechism/text/glossary.htm#p>

[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)

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

[www.adw.org](http://www.adw.org)

# Grades 3-5 Resource Guide: Why Is This Visit Important?

## Why is This Visit Important to Us?

Students will be able to make a connection between the importance of the papal visit and the practice of their own Catholic faith. (*To prepare younger students: Why do people travel instead of just making a phone call or sending an email? Do any of the students have parents who have to travel for their work? Where do they travel? Did anyone have a relative visit for Christmas or a birthday? Why is a visit from a relative more special than a phone call or even a video from the same relative?*)

## Why is the Visit of Pope Benedict XVI Important to the Church of the United States?

- The Pope signifies the visible unity of the Church and of the spiritual communion of all of the faithful who are members of the Body of Christ.
- Pope Benedict's visit will remind us of our union with the universal Church.
- Pope Benedict is the chief shepherd of the Church, and his visit reminds us of his love and care for us.

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

The Pope is coming to the United States to

- Meet with the local Church
- Celebrate the Eucharist
- Teach his people directly
- Encourage the Church to remain faithful to the Gospel
- Spread the message of Christ our Hope
- Encourage those who have fallen away from the faith to return
- Meet with the President of the United States
- Make a presentation to world leaders at the U. N.
- Visit the site of the World Trade Center bombings
- Celebrate his birthday

## Suggested Activities:

- The Holy Father arrives in Washington, DC on April 15<sup>th</sup>. His birthday is April 16<sup>th</sup>. Make birthday cards for Pope Benedict.
- Make prayer cards in honor of Pope Benedict. Write your own prayer on one side, and then draw or place a picture of the Holy Father on the other.
- In his encyclical called *Spe salvi (On Christian Hope)*, the Holy Father writes that our Blessed Mother, Mary, is the "Star of Hope." He concludes the encyclical with the following prayer:  
"Holy Mary, Mother of God, our Mother, teach us to believe, to hope, to love with you. Show us the way to his Kingdom! Star of the Sea, shine upon us and guide us on our way!"

Pray this prayer daily in preparation for the Pope's visit. Copy the prayer and illustrate it.

- Discuss with students what questions they would ask the Pope if they were able to meet him
- We share in the apostolic work of the church. Spread the good news of our faith by designing a marketing campaign – posters, bumper stickers, pennants, TV commercials –all of which are designed to promote God’s message to the modern world.

**Related Enrichment Resources:**

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

[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

[www.adw.org](http://www.adw.org)

# Grades 3-5 Resource Guide

## Additional Resources for Teachers

### Websites

#### Pope Benedict XVI

[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/biography/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_bio\\_20050419\\_short-biography\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/biography/documents/hf_ben-xvi_bio_20050419_short-biography_en.html)

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

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

#### The Papacy

[http://www.catholic.com/library/Apostolic\\_Succession.asp](http://www.catholic.com/library/Apostolic_Succession.asp)

[http://www.catholic.com/library/Origins\\_of\\_Peter\\_as\\_Pope.asp](http://www.catholic.com/library/Origins_of_Peter_as_Pope.asp)

[http://www.catholic.com/library/Peter\\_and\\_the\\_Papacy.asp](http://www.catholic.com/library/Peter_and_the_Papacy.asp)

[http://www.catholic.com/library/Peter\\_Successors.asp](http://www.catholic.com/library/Peter_Successors.asp)

#### USCCB Glossary

<http://www.usccb.org/catechism/text/glossary.htm#p>

### Books

Marchant, Piers. *How to Be Pope*. Quirk Packaging, Inc. 2005

Rossini, Ellen. *100 Activities Based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Ignatius Press, 1996

### Video/DVD

“Fishers of Men,” Grassroots Production, USCCB

“Inside the Vatican,” National Geographic