Preface	3
Table of Contents	5
References and Abbreviations	12
Reprint Guidelines	14
1. The Call of Peter (in each Gospel)	15
1.1. Peter Meets Jesus in Judea (John 1:42)	16
John the Baptist	16
Behold, the Lamb of God (John 1:29)	16
Andrew and His Brother Simon Peter	17
You Will Be Called Cephas (John 1:42b)	17
Peter's Names	18
1.2. Set Free by the Blood of the Lamb (1 Peter 1:18-19)	18
1.3. Fishers of Men (Mark 1:16-20)	20
Fishers of Men (Mark 1:16-18 = Matthew 4:18-20)	22
1.4. Leaving Everything (Matthew 19:27-30)	24
1.5. The Miraculous Catch of Fish (Luke 5:3-8)	25
1.6. Healing of Peter's Mother-in-Law (Mark 1:29-30)	29
1.7. Peter Searches for the Missing Master (Mark 1:35-39)	31
2. Peter's Growth as a Disciple (Matthew 14-18)	35
2.1. Chief of the Twelve Apostles	35
Inner Circle – Peter, James, and John	35
2.2. Peter as a Spokesman for the Disciples	37
2.3. Peter Walks on the Water (Matthew 14:22-34)	38
Phantom on the Water (Matthew 14:22-27)	38
Walking on Water (Matthew 14:28-30)	40
Faith for Miracles (Matthew 14:31)	41
You Are the Son of God (Matthew 14:32-34)	42
2.4. Peter and the Temple Tax (Matthew 17:24-27)	43
Temple Tax (Matthew 17:24-25a)	43
So That We May Not Offend Them (Matthew 14:27)	45
2.5. 77-Fold Forgiveness (Matthew 18:21-22)	46
On Forgiving One's Brother (Matthew 18:21-22)	47

Seven Times vs. Seventy-Seven Times	48
Who Must We Forgive?	50
3. Peter's Confession and the Keys to the Kingdom (Matthew 16:13-27)	53
Withdrawing to Caesarea Philippi	53
3.1 Peter's Confession in All the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew 16:13-15, 20-27)	54
1. Question: Who do people say Jesus is? (Matthew 16:13-14)	54
2. Confession: Peter's Confession of Jesus as the Messiah (Matthew 16:15-16)	55
3. Secrecy: Jesus commands them to keep this Messianic secret (Matthew 16:20)	56
4. Prediction: Jesus says he must suffer, be killed, and rise from the dead (Mt. 16:21)	57
5. Objection: Peter refuses to accept Jesus' prediction of suffering (Matthew 16:22-23)	58
6. Requirement: Deny self, take up cross, and follow (Matthew 16:24-25)	60
Forfeiting One's Life (Matthew 16:25-27)	62
3.2. Jesus' Special Words to Peter (Matthew 16:16-19)	63
1. Jesus blesses Simon Bar-Jonah (Matthew 16:17)	64
2. Jesus calls Peter the rock upon which the Church is built (Matthew 16:18)	64
3. Jesus grants Peter the keys of the Kingdom (Matthew 16:19a)	67
4. Jesus grants the power to bind and loose (Matthew 16:19b)	68
Interpretation of the Passage on the Keys	70
Qualifying My Interpretation	71
Further Questions	72
The Legend of St. Peter at the Pearly Gates	73
3.3. Peter's Other Confession (John 6:67-69)	74
4. Peter's Glory and Humiliation (Luke 9:27-36; John 13:1-17)	77
4.1. The Transfiguration (Luke 9:27-36)	77
Coming in Glory (Luke 9:26-27)	77
Up onto a Mountain to Pray (Luke 9:28)	78
Jesus' Appearance Is Transfigured (Luke 9:29)	79
Talking with Moses and Elijah (Luke 9:30-31)	80
Peter's Plan for Three Shelters (Luke 9:32-33)	80
The Cloud and the Voice (Luke 9:34-35)	81
Why Is the Transfiguration Necessary?	81
Glimpses of Glory	82
Eyewitness to Christ's Glory (2 Peter 1:10-18)	82
4.2 Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet (John 13:1-17)	83
Washing the Disciples' Feet (John 13:4-5)	84
St. Peter's Objection (John 13:6-9)	85
Washed by Jesus (John 13:8b-10a)	86
An Example of Humble Service (John 13:14-17)	87

4.3. Humble Yourselves (1 Peter 5:1-7)	88
Not Power but Example (1 Peter 5:1-5a)	88
Clothed with Humility (1 Peter 5:5)	89
God as Adversary to the Proud (1 Peter 5:5b-6)	89
God as Sustainer of the Humble (1 Peter 5:6b-7)	90
5. Peter's Crisis and Denial (Luke 22; Mark 14)	93
5.1. Peter Seeks to Know Jesus' Betrayer (John 13:24)	93
5.2. Peter's Denial Predicted (Luke 22:31-34)	94
Sifting as Wheat (Luke 22:31)	95
Strengthen Your Brothers (Luke 22:32)	97
A Benediction about God's Strengthening (1 Peter 5:10)	97
Peter's Bravado (Luke 22:33-34)	98
Predicting Peter's Denial (Luke 22:34)	99
Weakness and Strength	99
5.3. Sleeping in Gethsemane (Mark 14:32-42)	100
Gethsemane	100
Jesus Deep Distress (Mark 14:33-34)	101
Stay Awake (Mark 14:34-42)	102
5.4. Resisting Temptation (1 Peter 5:8-11)	104
5.5. Cutting Off the Servant's Ear (John 18:10-11)	106
Buy a Sword (Luke 22:36b)	106
Malchus, the High Priest's Servant	107
Peter's Courage and Cowardice	108
5.6. Peter's Denial	108
At the Cross	110
5.7 Peter's Betrayal Differs from Judas's	110
6. Peter and the Risen Christ (Luke 24; John 20-21)	114
6.1. The Empty Tomb and Graveclothes (John 20:4-7; Luke 24:12)	114
The Testimony of the Graveclothes	115
Comprehending the Resurrection	116
The Resurrection Foretold	117
6.2. Jesus' Appears to Peter (Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5)	118
6.3. Jesus Appears to the Disciples in Galilee (John 21:1-14)	118
Go to Galilee (Matthew 28:10)	119
Throw Your Net on the Right Side of the Boat (John 1:4-6)	120
Fish on the Fire (John 21:7-14)	121

6.4. Jesus Restores Peter (John 21:15-17)	123
6.5 Jesus Prophesies Peter's Death (John 21:18-19)	124
A Death that Glorifies God (John 21:19)	125
6.6 Peter Inquires about John's Death (John 21:20-22)	126
7. Peter's Leadership in the Early Church (Acts 1-4)	129
7.1. Appointing a Twelfth Disciple (Acts 1:15-26)	129
Qualifications for a Replacement Apostle (Acts 1:20-22)	130
Leadership Style	131
7.2. Peter's Pentecost Sermon (Acts 2:14-37)	132
Jesus the Crucified Messiah	133
Jesus' Resurrection (Acts 2:24-31-35)	133
Deep Conviction (Acts 2:36-37)	134
Repent, Be Baptized, and Receive the Spirit (Acts 2:38-39)	134
Salvation from a Corrupt Generation (Acts 2:40)	137
7.3 Ministry Preparation of Peter and the Apostles (Acts 2:41-47)	138
7.4. Peter and John Heal the Lame Beggar (Acts 3:1-10)	140
Walking, Leaping, and Praising God (Acts 3:7-10)	142
Decreeing Miracles	142
7.5. Peter's Sermon in Solomon's Porch (Acts 3:11-26)	143
7.6. Peter and John before the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:1-22)	145
Interrogation before the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:5-7)	145
Peter's Declaration before the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:8-12)	145
Christ the Cornerstone (Acts 4:11; Psalm 118:21-22; Isaiah 28:16)	146
Salvation in No Other Name (Acts 4:12)	146
The Sanhedrin's Response (Acts 4:13-22)	147
Obeying God Rather than Man (Acts 4:19-20)	147
7.7. On Giving Testimony (1 Peter 3:15-18)	148
7.8. A Prayer for Boldness (Acts 4:23-31)	150
8. Peter's Authority and Power (Acts 5-8)	154
8.1 Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5)	154
Sharing Everything (Acts 4:32)	154
Lying about the Gift (Acts 5:1-11)	155
8.2 Peter's Shadow Heals (Acts 5:15)	157
Healing via Proximity to Holy People and Objects (Acts 5:15)	158
8.3 The Apostles' Arrest (Acts 5:17-29)	160
Peter's Clear Testimony (Acts 5:30-32)	162
Gamaliel's Counsel (Acts 5:33-42)	163

Persecution Doesn't Stop the Apostles (Acts 5:41-42)	164
Appointing the Seven (Acts 6:1-6)	165
Intense Persecution (Acts 8:1-4)	165
8.4 Peter and John Minister in Samaria (Acts 8:5-25)	166
The Holy Spirit Falls (Acts 8:14-17)	167
8.5 Peter Rebukes Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8:9-11, 18-24)	168
Rebuke (Acts 8:18-24)	169
9. Peter's Ministry to the Gentiles (Acts 9-11)	173
9.1 Paul Meets Peter in Jerusalem (Acts 9:26-27; Galatians 1:18-19)	173
9.2 Healing of Aeneas (Acts 9:32-35)	174
9.3 The Raising of Dorcas (Acts 9:36-43)	176
Dorcas the Giver (Acts 9:36, 39)	176
Resurrection (Acts 9:37-42)	177
9.4 Staying with Simon the Tanner (Acts 9:43)	178
Patient Teaching on Godly Living	179
9.5 Peter and Cornelius the Centurion (Acts 10-11)	180
Caesarea Maritima	180
Cornelius the Centurion (Acts 10:1-2)	181
Cornelius's Vision (Acts 10:3-8)	185
Peter's Rooftop Vision (Acts 10:9-16)	185
Peter Addresses Cornelius's Friends (Acts 10:27-29)	187
Call No One Common and Unclean (Acts 10:28-29)	188
God Doesn't Show Favoritism (Acts 10:29-43)	189
Peter Preaches Jesus (Acts 10:36-43)	189
Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection (Acts 10:39-43)	190
The Holy Spirit Comes upon the Gentiles (Acts 10:44-46)	191
Criticism from the Jewish Believers in Jerusalem (Acts 11:1-18)	192
10. Peter's Escape, Hypocrisy, and Counsel (Acts 12-15)	196
Herod Agrippa (ruled 37 to 44 AD)	196
Herod Kills the Apostle James (Acts 12:1-2)	197
10.1 Peter's Imprisonment and Deliverance (Acts 12:1-17)	197
Peter's Escape from Prison (Acts 12:6-17)	198
10.2. Rejoicing in Suffering (1 Peter 1:3-9)	200
Growth Despite Persecution (Acts 12:24)	202
10.3. Peter in Antioch	202
Antioch of Syria	203

Peter's Hypocrisy in Antioch (Galatians 2:11-14)	203
10.4. Peter's Word at the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15:1-29)	205
Danger from Judaizers	205
Peter's Testimony to the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15:7-11)	206
James' Summation (Acts 15:12-29)	207
10.5. Peter's Emphasis on Faith and Grace	208
11. Peter's Death and Legacy (John 21:18–19; 1 and 2 Peter)	212
11.1. Peter's Ministry in Antioch, Asia Minor, and Greece	212
Peter's Ministry in Antioch	212
Peter's Ministry in Asia Minor	213
Peter's Ministry in Corinth	214
11.2. Peter's Ministry in Rome	215
Babylon = Rome	215
Mark as Peter's Interpreter	216
Length of Peter's Ministry in Rome	217
11.3. Preaching, Miracles, and Evangelism	218
11.4. Peter's Opposition to False Teachers	220
The Legend of Simon Magus	220
Condemnation of False Teachers (2 Peter)	221
11.5. Peter's Teachings on Practical Christian Living (1 Peter)	221
The Theme of Priesthood (1 Peter 2:5, 9)	222
The Theme of Holiness	223
The Theme of Submission (1 Peter 2:13-3:7)	224
The Theme of Following in Jesus' Steps (1 Peter 2:21-25)	225
11.6 Peter's Death by Crucifixion	227
The Quo Vadis Legend	227
Rome Burns; Christians Are Blamed	228
Peter's Crucifixion	229
11.7. Peter's Exalted View of Jesus (1 Peter)	230
1. Jesus as the Lamb of God (1 Peter 1:18-21)	230
2. Jesus as the Sin-Bearer (1 Peter 2:24-25)	231
3. Jesus as our Atoning Sacrifice (1 Peter 3:18a)	232

Appendix 1. Participant Handouts	237
Appendix 2. References to Peter in the New Testament	238
Appendix 3. Chronology of the Apostle Peter's Life	240
Appendix 4. The Synoptic Problem	242
Appendix 5. Primacy of Peter vs. Papal Primacy	244
From Elders to a Monarchical Episcopacy	244
Father, Pope, and Pontiff	244
Gradual Ascendancy of Roman Influence	245
Peter's Primacy and Roman Primacy	245
Appendix 6. The Legend of Peter's Upside-Down Crucifixion	247
Appendix 7. Can a Human Minister Forgive or Absolve from Sin?	249
Apostles are Given Power to Forgiven and Retain Sins	249
Abuse of the Power of Absolution	250
Penitence Necessary	250
God Alone Actually Forgives Sin	250