
Prominent People of the Bible

Peter

*Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
(Matthew 16:16)*

One of the more interesting figures we meet in the Bible is Peter. He was a unique individual. At times, he could be impulsive, bold and brash—brushing up against arrogance. At other times, he was a lonely, insecure man. Perhaps, that is what makes Peter so appealing to us because we see a bit of our own selves in him.

Peter was a fisherman, a seasoned veteran who had navigated and fished the waters of the Sea of Galilee. Fishing was his life—or so he thought.

It was after an unsuccessful night of fishing that Peter's life changed—forever. As he and his brother, Andrew, rowed towards shore, a crowd began to gather at the shoreline. The center of attention was Jesus. This wasn't Peter's first meeting with the renowned prophet. A previous encounter had brought the two together. On that occasion, Jesus told Peter that he would be known as Cephas, Aramaic for "rock."

On that day Jesus reached out again to Peter. "Follow me, and I will make you fishers-of-men" were his simple but powerful words to Peter.

Peter, indeed, did follow. He could only marvel at what he observed. He witnessed firsthand the miracles performed by Jesus: changing of water into wine; feeding of the 5,000; healing of the blind, lame and mute; raising of the dead. Peter knew that Jesus was no mere prophet as some had thought. Given the opening to express his faith to Jesus, Peter boldly proclaimed, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Peter's proclamation identified Jesus as the Messiah that the prophets had written about in the Old Testament. He was the Savior, the Son of God, whom God promised to send because he loved the world that he created. Jesus was the "Lamb of God," who came to be sacrificed on a cross to take away Peter's sins and those of the entire world.

Peter needed that Savior. He wasn't always the rock he appeared to be. At times, he was more like shifting sand blown by every wind of thought or brushed aside by selfish pride and arrogance.

In faith, Peter turned to his new friend and Savior who gave him hope and peace—even when his life hit rock bottom. Isn't that the peace you want too? Like Peter, we would like to share it with you!



Graphic for Peter: *Fish*

Peter was a fisherman before Jesus called him. The fish is a symbol for Peter's work of sharing the gospel as a "Fisher of Men".

More information is located online at WhatAboutJesus.com. Look for the *What About ... Prominent People* link.