

Study Series: Absolute Surrender

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 Lesson Title: “Peter’s Repentance” (pp. 122-131)

Session 10

May 8, 2022

The main point of this lesson is: Absolute surrender means being humbled before God so He can transform us.

Focus on this goal:To help adults humble themselves before God

Key Bible Passage: Luke 22:61-62

Before the Session

Give each participant a sheet of paper and pen as they arrive. (Steps 1 and 7)

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Instruct participants to draw on their papers a personal life timeline, identifying crucial moments in their lives. Invite volunteers to share some of those crucial moments and state how those crucial moments transformed or shaped them.

State: Some crucial moments can be painful, even humiliating, but if we surrender absolutely to God, He will use those crucial moments to transform us into the image of Christ. That is what happened to Peter in the most painful, humbling experience of his life.

Step 2. Peter

Invite a volunteer to read John 13:36-38. Speculate reasons Jesus said Peter couldn’t follow Him. Relate from Day One (p. 122) the reason the author gave.

Ask a volunteer to read Luke 22:54-62.

Read the pull quote in Day One (p. 122). Invite responses to Day One, activity 1 (pp. 122-123). State: We can see God’s grace as He continually drew Peter further along into a blessed life of absolute surrender.

Organize the group into three teams. Assign Team 1 to read Luke 5:1-11 and come up with descriptions of Peter. Instruct Team 2 do the same with Matthew 14:22-33 and Team 3 with Matthew 16:13-20. Invite teams to share their descriptions.

Declare even this devoted disciple of Jesus still gave in to the pull of the old self.

Step 3. Peter Living the Life of Self

Discuss Day Two, activity 1 (p. 124). Use the author’s remarks in Day Two (pp. 124-125) to add to the discussion.

Invite a volunteer to read Matthew 16:24. Declare there was so much of self that Peter had to deny before he could follow Jesus in absolute surrender. Declare: Denial is at the heart of life’s most crucial moments—will we deny self, or will we deny Christ?

Discuss Day Two, activity 2 (p. 125). Assert we certainly need to determine ahead of time that we will stay true to Christ, but only after we have humbled ourselves, denied our own arrogant self-confidence, and acknowledged we can’t follow Jesus in our own strength.

Step 4. Peter’s Repentance

Read again Luke 22:60-62. Explain Jesus could catch Peter’s eye at that moment because He either looked out a window of the high priest’s house or was outside being transferred to the Sanhedrin.

Discuss: What might Peter have seen in Jesus’s face when the Lord looked at him? What can determine whether sinking into the depths of humiliation will be a negative or positive turning point? State that Peter wept tears not just of regret, but of repentance.

Discuss Day Three, activity 1 (p. 126). Declare that most likely the only way we know about this episode is because Peter shared it, which is evidence that he had humbled and denied himself.

Step 5. Peter Transformed, Part 1

Read the Day Four pull quote (p. 126). State the letter of 1 Peter is evidence of the Spirit’s transformation of Peter’s nature.

Relate from Day Four (pp. 126-128) some of the contrasts between the old and new-in-Christ Peter. Invite a volunteer to read 1 Peter 5:5-11. Explore how Peter wrote those verses out of his own experiences with Christ.

Read the Day Four paragraph (p. 128) beginning with “Dear friend, I beseech you . . . .” Declare that can be the story of every believer who is ready to receive and be an avenue of God’s blessing.

Step 6. Peter Transformed, Part 2

Note that Day Five examines lessons the author wants to emphasize from this brief look at Peter’s story. Request a volunteer read from Day Five the first lesson (p. 128). Explore why this is a sobering truth. Declare all believers need to examine themselves for evidences of the self life that hinder God from working in us as mightily as He wills to work.

Request a volunteer read the second lesson from Day Five (p. 129). Examine ways Jesus worked such a transformation from self-life to self-denial in Peter.

Read once more Luke 22:61a. Ask: That look from Jesus could have haunted Peter for the rest of his life or it could have healed him. Why did it heal him?

Read the Day Five pull quote (p. 129).

Invite responses to Day Five, activity 2 (p. 129).

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Encourage participants to write Deny Self or Deny Christ on their sheets of paper. Declare: That is our challenge at all of life’s crucial turning points.

Examine what it would take to deny ourselves in those crucial times. Emphasize that we can: remember Jesus prays for us just as he prayed for Peter in Luke 22:32; look to Jesus and see the mercy and love in His eyes; and remember the promise of James 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:5. Request adults remind themselves of that promise.

Close in prayer, asking God to help participants humble themselves before Him.

