



Group Guide

Chosen and Scattered

January 11, 2026

Main Passage: Luke 5:1-11; John 21:15-19; 1 Peter 1:1-2

Theological Theme

God chooses to work through imperfect people for His purposes.

Introduction

- ? What other stories of “unlikely candidates” can you think of, in the Bible or otherwise?
- ? Why was Peter an unlikely candidate to be a church leader?

1. Fisher of Men (Luke 5:1-11)

Luke referred to Peter as “Simon.” We might know this disciple as “Peter” or “Simon Peter.” Simon was his given name, and Peter is the name Jesus gave him in Matthew 16:13-19. Simon’s new name (“Cephas” in Aramaic, “Peter” in Greek) meant “rock.” Simon Peter would go on to have a foundational role in the church Jesus built, and this passage tells how he came to be a disciple of Jesus.

- ? What can we learn about Simon in this passage?
- ? What does it mean to “catch people” and how did Simon go on to do that? How are we called to do the same today?
- ? What tempts you to believe that God can’t use you for His purposes? How have you seen Him use you despite these things?

2. Feeder of Sheep (John 21:15-19)

Peter’s restoration on the beach followed perhaps his biggest failure . . . denying Jesus three times. Jesus warned Peter this would happen (Matthew 26:33-35). At the time, Peter protested, saying he would never deny Jesus, but when the time came, He acted just as Jesus predicted. When the rooster crowed (which Jesus also foretold), Peter realized what he had done and “broke down and wept” (Mark 14:72).

- ❓ Why did Peter's relationship with Jesus needed restoration here (see John 18:15-27)?
- ❓ When was a time you needed restoration with Jesus?
- ❓ How does this passage remind us Jesus is always willing to restore? How does that change what you believe about how He can use you?

3. The Rock (1 Peter 1:1-2)

Peter encouraged his readers to stand firm in the face of cultural difficulties and persecution. Though we don't find ourselves facing the same persecution today, in modern-day America, we do find ourselves in a Rome-like society, where our culture values (and even promotes) morals that do not align with what Christ teaches. We have hardships of our own (the Christian life is guaranteed to have them!). This calls to mind that we are living in the world but not of the world. We, too, are "exiles" of a sort, living temporarily in a world that is not our long-term, eternal home.

- ❓ How did Peter address the church in these verses? How might his experiences with Jesus have shaped these words?
- ❓ How would His experience with Jesus have given Him greater confidence in the security and faithfulness of life in Christ?
- ❓ How have you experienced God's grace? How can you share it with others?

Conclusion

- ❓ How can we exhibit more of an "if you say so" kind of faith when we are called by Jesus? How might you do that now?
- ❓ How can we encourage one another toward faithfulness by reminding one another of God's use of Peter?
- ❓ Who is God calling you to pursue a gospel conversation with? How will you show simple obedience in that area?