



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - April 1, 2012

Sermon

"The Apostle Peter"

John 1:40-41 &
Matthew 14:22-33
by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember
about this sermon...

Monday 4/2/12

John 1:40-41

Peter's brother, Andrew, was the one who told him about Jesus. Do you listen to your siblings when they speak to you? Do you give them credit for knowing some things that you might not know or be aware of at the time? Siblings often do not get along for a variety of reasons--competition, jealousy, etc. What about you? Do you listen to your siblings? It was a good thing Peter listened to Andrew!

Tuesday 4/3/12

John 1:42

This is the verse in scripture where Jesus gives Simon his new name: Peter. In the Greek language, Peter meant "rock." It was on this foundation that the church would eventually be built upon. Peter had a strong personality and he would eventually become the foundation of the early church. How do you think this made the other disciples feel? Are there other descriptions for "rock" that you can think of right now?

Wednesday 4/4/12

Matthew 14:22-23

Here we read about Jesus sending the disciples out on a boat while he left the crowds to withdraw to a mountain to be alone to pray. Jesus often did this. He recognized and modeled the importance of solitude, self-reflection, and prayer. These are solid disciplines that are appropriate for us to practice anytime but particularly during the Lenten season. Do you practice the disciplines of solitude, self-reflection, and prayer in your daily life? How can you engage in these disciplines this week? What can you do to imitate the examples Jesus set before us by living them out in your own life?



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Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

Why was Simon's name changed to Peter?

Did Peter have a strong faith?

How does your faith compare to Peter's?

Thursday 4/5/12
Matthew 14:24

The disciples were out in the middle of the sea and a storm arose. One translation of this passage reads, "the boat... was troubled by the waves." Little boats and big waves do not mix! What is troubling you today? What rocks your boat? Trouble can come from a variety of different directions and trouble can come at any time of day or night. What troubles you? Can you share this trouble with someone else? Pray about your troubles today before the waves get too big.

Friday 4/6/12
Matthew 14:25

It was the fourth watch of the night. Originally the Jews divided the night up into three watches, but they later adopted the Roman division of the night into four watches. The watches started at 6pm--the first watch, then 9pm, midnight, and 3am, which was the fourth watch and continued until 6am. So you can see that this story took place between 3am and 6am. And what happened then? Jesus was walking on the sea!

Saturday 4/7/12
Matthew 14:26-33

This is a wonderful story! Jesus is walking on the water, the disciples think they are seeing a ghost, then they realize it is Jesus who then calls Peter to come out of the boat, Peter takes a few steps on the water but begins to sink, Jesus reaches out his hand and saves Peter, he reprimands Peter for having too little faith, and then Peter exclaims that Jesus is the Son of God! Wow! What a night! What do you think of Jesus? Who is he to you? How strong is your faith? Do you believe even when the winds howl and waves are building? Jesus is capable of calming even the greatest storms in our lives. Do you trust Jesus today?