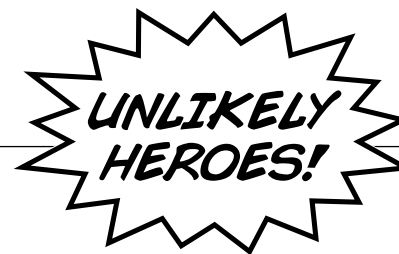


Saturday

Please read Ephesians 2:1–10. What connections do you see between today's passage and the passage we've been studying all week in Matthew 16?

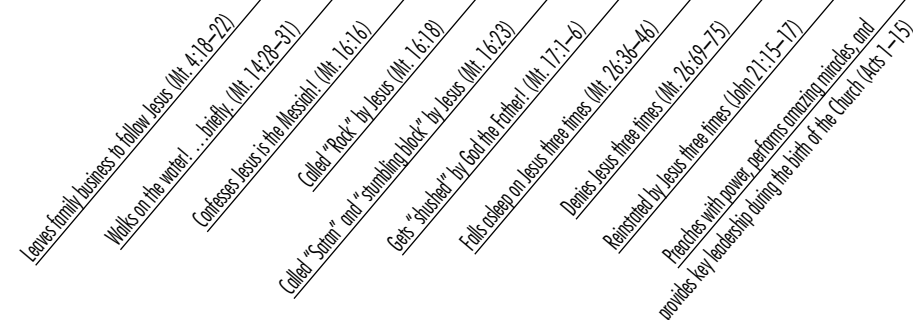
Thank God today for His grace to you. Please pray for the services this weekend. Pray that as we conclude our Unlikely Heroes series and take communion, people will be encouraged and challenged. Pray that through these summer months our church will continue to grow both physically and spiritually.



WEEK 7
Peter

July 24 & 25, 2010 • Mark Spurlock

Some ups
and downs in
Peter's life...



Peter became a hero of the faith...

1. _____
When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." *Matthew 16:13–14 (NIV)*
2. _____
"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven." *Matthew 16:15–17*
For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God... *Ephesians 2:8*
3. _____
"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." *Matthew 16:18–19*
As you come to him, the living Stone — rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him — you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. *1 Peter 2:4–5*

The question Jesus asks all of us . . .

?

Daily Meditations

Spend some time each day this week meditating on the topic

Monday

Please read some of the incidents in Peter's life: Mark 1:16–20, Matthew 14:28–31, John 21:15–17 and Acts 2:14, 36–41. What do you learn about Peter's life from these passages?

In what way do you relate to Peter's life?

How does Peter's story encourage you?

What is something that stood out to you in last weekend's sermon and why?

Thank God today for the opportunity to study the Bible and grow. Thank Him for the life of Peter and the encouragement and hope you receive from it. Pray that God will use the ups and downs in your life for His glory.

Tuesday

Please read Matthew 16:13–14. What are some of today's common views of who Jesus is?

Take a moment and write in for each era of your life what you believed about Jesus. For example, did you believe He was someone you knew about? Someone you followed? Someone you studied? Someone you avoided? Someone you loved?

Childhood:

Teens:

College:

Young Adult:

Middle-Age:

Retirement:

Senior:

Thank God today for Jesus. Thank Him for the opportunity to grapple with questions about who Jesus is. Thank Him for the journey of faith He's leading you on. Pray that your heart will be soft to Jesus and that your faith in Jesus will impact your actions.

Wednesday

Please read Matthew 16:15–17. What difference does it make what you believe about who Jesus is?

In what way is coming to faith—and understanding the truth about Jesus—a supernatural event?

What is one way you could make a public statement of your faith this week?

Thank God today for His grace towards you. Pray that you would be as bold as Peter in telling others about who Jesus is.

Thursday

Peter has often been remembered for his mistakes. Please read Acts 9:32–43. How does it encourage you to see the change in Peter's life? How do you see Peter fulfilling the purpose Jesus had for him?

Please read Acts 15:1–2; 6–11. How do you see Peter living out his role as a “rock” in the Church?

Thank God today for the opportunity to study the Bible. Pray that God will grow your understanding of His word. Specifically, ask God to help you grow in your understanding of His purpose for you in His Church.

Friday

Please read 1 Peter 2:4–10. It's interesting that Peter would use the illustration of stones to describe the Church and our relationship with Christ. In what way does the “Stone” (Christ) cause some people stumble?

How is Christ precious to you? Why?

According to verse 9 how does God view you and where does He call you?

Thank God today for seeing you as chosen and belonging to Him. Pray that you will “declare His praises” with those you encounter today.



“But what about you?” he asked.
“Who do you say I am?”
Simon Peter answered,
“You are the Christ,
the Son of the living God.”
Matthew 16:15–16 (NIV)