

**Next Steps:** What steps do you need to take on your journey of faith?

- The first step to take is at the crossroads of “belief.” Read through Matthew 16:13-20, John 1:1-18 and Romans 10:9-13. Who do you say Jesus is? Have you made a confession of belief? If not, what is holding you back? If you have made this confession, how has God been changing your life since then?

- Our journey of faith is rarely a straight line. And so it was with Peter. After he made his confession of faith, Jesus gave him a new name and a new purpose. Jesus also explained his own future involved pain, suffering and death (Read Matthew 16:21-23). This is where Peter experiences the “agony of defeat” very shortly after he had experienced the “thrill of victory.” Why was Peter so strongly reprimanded by Jesus? Compare the experience of Jesus in Matthew 4:1-11 with what Jesus says about Peter. Where have you taken 3 steps forward and 2 steps backward in your spiritual journey?

- Read Matthew 16:24-28. Do you want to be a disciple of Jesus? What are three things you need to do to stay on the path with Jesus? Of these three things, where is your biggest struggle? Do you have a trusted friend you can ask to help you in that area? Is the sacrifice in this life worth the reward in the next life?

**Next Week:** Matthew records a very powerful story about Jesus in 17:1-13. Sometimes we need a reminder of Jesus as God in the flesh. Please join us next week as we see Jesus in “All His Glory!”