

## CHAPTER 10: PETER: THE STORY OF CONVERSION

### GOSPEL READINGS: Luke 5:1-11

1. McKnight refers to our conversion to faith in Christ as either a *birth certificate* or a *driver's license*. How is the difference between these two metaphors significant?
2. Why is Peter's own journey unclear when it comes to pinpointing a singular moment of conversion?

The author also writes that "Conversion is more than just an event; it is a process. Like wisdom, it takes a lifetime. Conversion is a lifelong series of gentle (or noisy) nods of the soul. The question of when someone is converted is much less important than that they are converting."

3. Do you agree with this definition? Why or why not?
4. Can you claim a singular moment when you were "converted"? Or do you claim a *series of moments*?

McKnight continues, "Peter's growth is not consistent. Every time Peter learns something new about Jesus, he reorients his heart and life, but sometimes he lapses and falls backward. Our perception of who Jesus is cannot be charted on a straight-line graph..."

What is to be understood is that we are to respond, in love, to Jesus as we continue to grow in our perception of him. Peter's conversion is a gradual growth of what he understood about Jesus. There is also a gradual growth in his willingness to go public with his faith in Jesus Christ."

5. If Peter's conversion was a matter of going "from private to public", what might that mean for you?

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***The following questions are provided to help groups go deeper following the message at the 9:30am service.***

### **Read 2 Peter 1:15-18. How does Peter reflect on the major events of his time with Jesus?**

The spiritual journey is often marked with "mileposts" – places to gauge your location on the map and perhaps see yourself on track ... or off track. The metaphor of hiking demonstrates how we can find ourselves on climbs and descents, often marked by the troughs and peaks that mark change.

1. Where are you right now? In a trough or a peak? (A climb or descent?)
2. Is there a peak you can look back to and claim a fuller understanding of God or His will?
3. What might God be trying to teach you in the trough to make you the sort of creature He wants you to be?
4. How much do you believe that God is really more concerned with *who you become* rather than *what happens to you*?

Next week: Chapter 11, John: The Story of Love