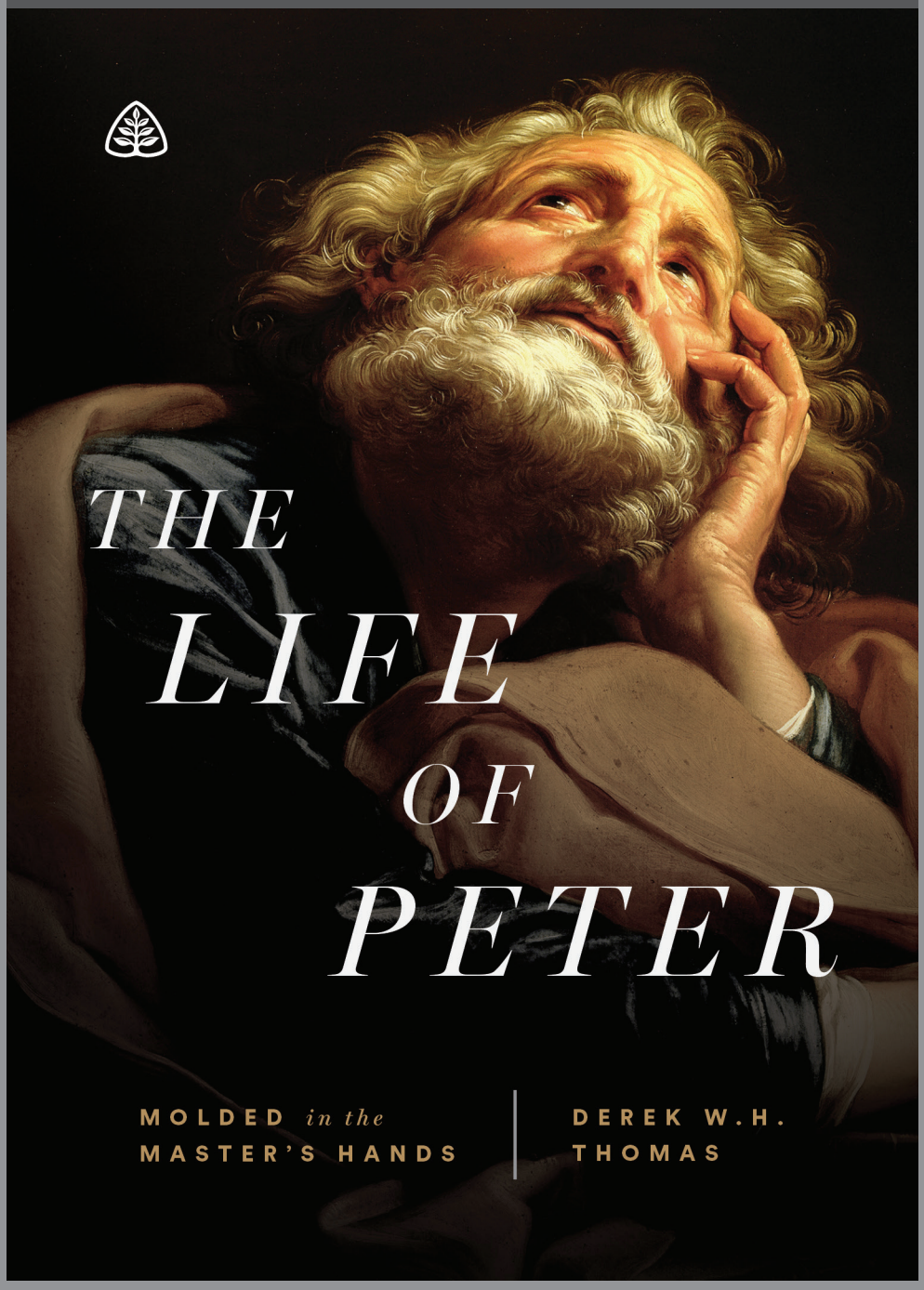
STUDY GUIDE



# THE LIFE OF PETER

MOLDED *in the* MASTER'S HANDS

DEREK W.H. THOMAS

STUDY GUIDE

# The Life of Peter

## Molded in the Master's Hands

Derek W.H. Thomas

LIGONIER MINISTRIES
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# Introduction

Many Christians find it easy to identify with the Apostle Peter. He was at the same time bold yet weak in his faith, but it was not until he fully understood Jesus and was restored by Him that Peter could stand firm on his faith. In this series, Dr. Derek W.H. Thomas surveys the life of the Apostle Peter, following him from his first encounter with Jesus through his defining moments in the book of Acts.

This study guide is a companion to the video teaching series. Whether you are using the DVDs, streaming the videos on Ligonier.org, or going through the course in Ligonier Connect, this resource is designed to help you make the most of the learning experience. For each message in the series, there is a corresponding lesson in this guide. Here is what you will find in each lesson:

| | |
|---|---|
| INTRODUCTION | The introduction is a brief paragraph that summarizes the content covered in the lecture and considered in the study guide lesson.<br><br>**How to use:** Use the introduction to each lesson to get a sense of the big picture before watching the video. Refer to these statements as you work through the study guide to remind you of what you have already covered and where you are headed. |
| LEARNING GOALS | The learning goals are the knowledge and skills that the study guide lesson will endeavor to equip you with as you work through the lecture content.<br><br>**How to use:** Familiarize yourself with the goals of each lesson before engaging its contents. Keeping the overall purpose in mind as you watch each video and reflect on or discuss the questions will help you get the most out of each lesson. |
| KEY IDEAS | The key ideas are the major points or takeaways from the lecture.<br><br>**How to use:** Use these ideas to prepare yourself for each lesson and to review previous lessons. They describe specifically the knowledge that each lecture is communicating. |

| | |
|---|---|
| REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | The questions are the guided reflection and/or discussion component of the lesson that is intended to help you prepare for, process, and organize what you are learning.<br><br>**How to use:** Reflect on individually or discuss in a group the questions in the order in which they appear in the lesson. The time stamps in the right margin indicate where the answers to questions during the video can be found. |
| PRAYER | The prayer section offers suggestions for how to close the lesson in prayer with respect to what was taught in the lecture.<br><br>**How to use:** Consider using each lesson's prayer section as a guide to personal or group prayer. These sections follow the ACTS prayer model, which you can learn more about in R.C. Sproul's Crucial Questions booklet *Does Prayer Change Things?* This helpful guide is available as a free e-book at Ligonier.org. |
| REVIEW QUIZ | The review quiz is a set of six multiple-choice questions that appears at the end of each lesson.<br><br>**How to use:** Use each quiz to check your comprehension and memory of the major points covered in each lecture. It will be most beneficial to your learning if you take a lesson's quiz either sometime between lessons or just before you begin the next lesson in the study guide. |
| ANSWER KEY | The answer key provides explanations for the reflection and discussion questions and answers to the multiple-choice questions in the review quiz.<br><br>**How to use:** Use the answer key to check your own answers or when you do not know the answer. Note: Do not give in too quickly; struggling for a few moments to recall an answer reinforces it in your mind. |

# Study Schedules

The following table suggests four plans for working through *The Life of Peter* video teaching series and this companion study guide. Whether you are going through this series on your own or with a group, these schedules should help you plan your study path.

| | **Extended 21-Week Plan** | **Standard 19-Week Plan** | **Abbreviated 9-Week Plan** | **Intensive 6-Week Plan** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Week** | **Lesson** | | | |
| 1 | * | 1 | 1–2 | 1–3 |
| 2 | 1 | 2 | 3–4 | 4–6 |
| 3 | 2 | 3 | 5–6 | 7–9 |
| 4 | 3 | 4 | 7–8 | 10–12 |
| 5 | 4 | 5 | 9–10 | 13–15 |
| 6 | 5 | 6 | 11–12 | 16–19 |
| 7 | 6 | 7 | 13–14 | |
| 8 | 7 | 8 | 15–16 | |
| 9 | 8 | 9 | 17–19 | |
| 10 | 9 | 10 | | |
| 11 | 10 | 11 | | |
| 12 | 11 | 12 | | |
| 13 | 12 | 13 | | |
| 14 | 13 | 14 | | |

| | Extended 21-Week Plan | Standard 19-Week Plan | Abbreviated 9-Week Plan | Intensive 6-Week Plan |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Week** | **Lesson** | | | |
| 15 | 14 | 15 | | |
| 16 | 15 | 16 | | |
| 17 | 16 | 17 | | |
| 18 | 17 | 18 | | |
| 19 | 18 | 19 | | |
| 20 | 19 | | | |
| 21 | * | | | |

* For these weeks, rather than completing lessons, spend your time discussing and praying about your learning goals for the study (the first week) and the most valuable takeaways from the study (the last week).

1

# First Encounter

## INTRODUCTION

Peter is one of the most well-known figures in Christianity. His life, ministry, and calling have even created divisions between Protestants and Roman Catholics. It is beneficial for us to learn about this follower of Christ, that we, like him, might become better Christ-followers. In this lesson, Dr. Thomas introduces the life of Peter by explaining his humble beginnings and call to follow Christ.

## LEARNING GOALS

When you have finished this lesson, you should be able to:

- Describe the background of Peter's life before Christ and his calling to be a follower of Christ
- Explain the significance of Jesus' changing Peter's name
- Explain the importance of the way Jesus came and how He was identified as the Messiah

## KEY IDEAS

- Peter was a man of humble beginnings.
- Jesus is the Messiah, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world and transforms the hearts and lives of His followers.
- God uses imperfect, sinful people to accomplish His great work.

## REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Before the Video

#### *What Do You Think?*

Take a moment to answer the following questions. They will prepare you for the lecture.

- What do you know about Peter? Describe him, his life, and his ministry.

- What type of people does God call unto Himself and use for His purposes?

### *Scripture Reading*

> *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'")*
>
> —John 1:14–15

- Do you think that the eyewitnesses of Christ had a greater advantage than we do as believers now? Why or why not?

## During the Video

Answer the following questions while you watch the video. They will guide you through the lecture.

### *Peter Encounters Jesus* *0:00–12:03*

- What was John's proclamation about Jesus when He walked by? How did John's disciples respond?

- What do we know about Peter and his background?

- What was the significance of Jesus' being "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29)?

### *Peter Follows Jesus* *12:03–22:08*

- Jesus changed Peter's name. What does "Peter" mean, and what was the significance of this meaning?

- Why was Peter's name change so momentous?

- What do we learn from Peter's infamous threefold denial of Christ?

## After the Video

Answer the following questions after you have finished the lecture. They will help you identify and summarize the major points.

- How did Jesus tend to interact with people and bring about opportunities for ministry?

  If you are in a group, have the members discuss ways in which they follow Jesus' model already and ways in which they can grow in engaging people. Have them encourage one another to seek opportunities to engage the people around them.

- What was so meaningful about John's words that "the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (v. 9) and "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (v. 14)?

  If you are in a group, have the members discuss the significance of John's word for us as Christians today on the other side of Christ's coming as we await His second coming.

- Dr. Thomas shared his story of coming to Christ because a friend invited him to read about Christianity and to consider Jesus. Think about the unbelievers in your life. What kind of invitation might you give?

  If you are in a group, have the members briefly share their stories of coming to Christ. Especially have them highlight the way that God used other believers in their lives around the time of their conversion.

## PRAYER

Commit what you have learned from God's Word in this lesson to prayer.

- Praise God for His faithfulness to change hearts and lives.
- Confess any areas in which you have been prone to fear rather than to faith in engaging with people or extending invitations to people to see Jesus.
- Thank God for sending the Messiah to deliver us from our sin and restore us to fellowship with Him.
- Ask God to help you see the opportunities around you to engage people and invite them to consider Christ.

## REVIEW QUIZ

Use these multiple-choice questions to measure what you learned from this lesson.

1. What was Peter's name originally before Jesus changed it?
   a. John
   b. Simon
   c. Cephas
   d. Andrew

2. Peter is not as significant as John, James, or Paul among the Apostles.
   a. True
   b. False

3. What is the importance of the Gospels in providing eyewitness accounts?
   a. The Gospels all give the same basic accounts.
   b. The accounts are trustworthy and easily validated.
   c. The Gospels do not actually provide eyewitness accounts.
   d. The accounts all match perfectly without any discrepancies.

4. What is the meaning of "the Christ"?
   a. It's the Greek translation for "the Word."
   b. It's the Aramaic translation for "the Word."
   c. It's the Greek translation for "the Messiah."
   d. It's the Aramaic translation for "the Messiah."

5. Dr. Thomas discussed three significant things about Peter in this first lesson. Which of the following is *not* one of the three?
   a. Peter was a seeker.
   b. Peter was an eyewitness.
   c. Peter was going to be a follower of Jesus.
   d. Peter was going to be the first Apostle of Christ.

6. According to Dr. Thomas, what was probably the most significant thing Andrew did?
   a. He brought a sibling to Christ.
   b. He preached Christ to others.
   c. He left his fishing business.
   d. He ministered to fishermen in Galilee.

# Answer Key—First Encounter

## REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Before the Video

#### *What Do You Think?*

These are personal questions. The answers should be based on your own knowledge and experience.

#### *Scripture Reading*

- Do you think that the eyewitnesses of Christ had a greater advantage than we do as believers now? Why or why not?

  *It can be easy to conclude that the eyewitnesses of Christ and of His life and ministry had an advantage over us as believers today. But consider the life of Peter. Did he ever waver in his faith? Yes, he wavered more than once, even to the point of denying his association with Christ. There was also Thomas, who doubted the genuineness of Christ's resurrection until he could see Him and touch Him. Consider this: as believers today, we have the whole counsel of God's Word, giving us "all things that pertain to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3). We have the record of the eyewitnesses and their testimonies preserved for us in God's infallible Word (vv. 16–21). We get to read of how the prophecies of the Old Testament were fulfilled in Christ, and it gives us hope and confidence as we look ahead to the future. God has given us His Word to reveal Himself to us, and we have an even greater glimpse of the full picture of the story from our vantage point. Both walking with Christ in the flesh and living according to God's Word require the same thing: faith.*

### During the Video

#### *Peter Encounters Jesus*

- What was John's proclamation about Jesus when He walked by? How did John's disciples respond?

  *As Jesus walked by John and his disciples, John exclaimed, "Behold, the Lamb of God . . . !" (John 1:29). The disciples responded by following Jesus. When Jesus asked the disciples what they were seeking, they said that they were looking for the Rabbi or Teacher. Andrew then told his brother Simon Peter that they had found the Messiah.*

- What do we know about Peter and his background?

  *Peter was from Bethsaida and had an established fishing business with Andrew,*

*James, and John in Galilee. He was roughly thirty years old—the same age as Jesus. While Peter was just a lowly fisherman, it is not implausible that he had a strong understanding of Greek in addition to Hebrew and Aramaic, possibly even Latin. The Bethsaida area was very Greek, and Peter and his brother had Greek names, which shows that their parents were fairly Hellenized.*

- What was the significance of Jesus' being "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29)?

  *When Jesus was declared to be "the Lamb of God," it would have held great significance for the disciples. This was a theme throughout the Scriptures that they knew well. Genesis 22 taught them about Abraham's sacrificing the lamb in place of his son Isaac. The Passover was celebrated by placing the blood of the sacrificed lamb on doorposts. Isaiah prophesied that the servant of the Lord would be slain as a lamb (see 53:7).*

### *Peter Follows Jesus*

- Jesus changed Peter's name. What does "Peter" mean, and what was the significance of this meaning?

  *Jesus changed Peter's name from Simon to Cephas (Aramaic) or Peter (Greek), which means "rock." It was on Peter's ministry and preaching that the early church was built. When Jesus called him and changed his name, Peter was but a lowly fisherman. After a few years of following Jesus, being an eyewitness to Jesus' miracles, and having his own faith tested and proved, Peter would be a great impetus for the church. Peter faithfully preached the gospel after being transformed by Jesus Himself, the gospel spread, and the church was born.*

- Why was Peter's name change so momentous?

  *In the Old Testament, God changed people's names for redemptive reasons to show that He had a mission for them. It was a sign of His calling on their lives. God changed Abram's name to Abraham, Jacob's name to Israel, and Gideon's name to Jerubbaal. These all occurred at significant moments of calling when God intervened in their lives. Peter would have known this and that Jesus was doing something of great significance in his life.*

- What do we learn from Peter's infamous threefold denial of Christ?

  *As John's readers read his gospel, they would have had the knowledge of Peter's denial of Christ even as they read about Peter's being called to follow Jesus. Peter's denial was public and embarrassing. Yet Peter's failure gives us great encouragement. John's inclusion of Peter's denial reminds readers that God does not use the worthy and great; God uses flawed, imperfect sinners to accomplish the great and mighty work of building His kingdom.*

## After the Video

- How did Jesus tend to interact with people and bring about opportunities for ministry?

  *Jesus was always initiating conversations and engaging people. He didn't just lecture or teach people, but drew them out by engaging their hearts, minds, and affections. We see throughout the Gospels that Jesus excelled at asking questions of the people He encountered. He knew how to engage people in such a way that it led to moments of ministry as He asked thought-provoking and soul-searching questions. He always knew how to perfectly engage people and get to the heart of the matter with them. We have much to learn from Jesus and His wonderful way with people.*

- What was so meaningful about John's words that "the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (v. 9) and "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (v. 14)?

  *John, along with the other followers of Christ, had studied the Old Testament. They learned about the sinfulness of man, God's promise to send the Messiah—the Anointed One, Deliverer, and Savior. John had preached about the coming Messiah, the long-expected Christ. What must John have felt that moment when he saw Christ—the Word become flesh—for the first time? This was a significant moment in John's life that he would never forget. He saw the Promised One that they had been waiting for in hope for so many years.*

- Dr. Thomas shared his story of coming to Christ because a friend invited him to read about Christianity and to consider Jesus. Think about the unbelievers in your life. What kind of invitation might you give?

  *This question is for personal reflection, evaluation, and application. As you consider the unbelievers in your life, pray for their salvation, and ask God for wisdom on how to approach inviting them to Christ. Think about the types of invitations that you might extend to them. Get creative. You might ask a friend to do a Bible study or book study with you. Maybe the invitation would be like Dr. Thomas' friend who gave him a book about Christianity with a simple handwritten note inside. Or perhaps you might ask someone if you can share about Christ with him—all in hopes that the Spirit will bring him to faith.*

## REVIEW QUIZ

1. **B.**
   *Peter, the brother of Andrew, was originally named Simon. Jesus changed his name to Cephas when He called him to be His follower.*

2. **B.**
   *Peter was one of the most influential Apostles and disciples of Christ. He was a man called and changed by Jesus, and he bore witness to the fact that Jesus was indeed*

*the Christ, the Son of the living God. Peter dominates the scene throughout the first half of the book of Acts as the church is forming and being built.*

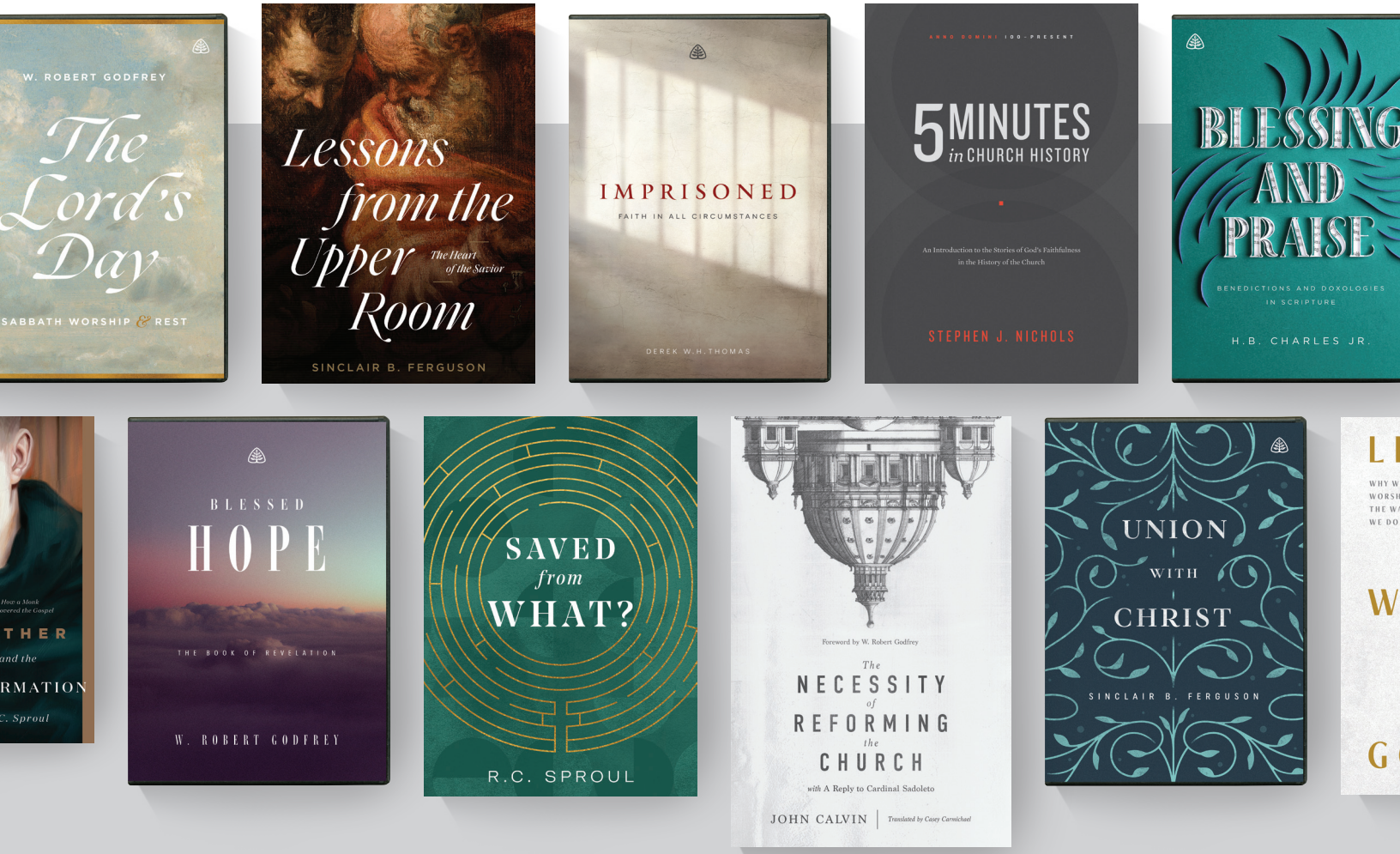
3. **B.**
*The Gospels provide accounts that were, in fact, from eyewitnesses of Jesus' life and ministry. This is significant because an eyewitness account can be trusted and is not easily dismissed. An eyewitness account is easy to verify and validate, unlike an account that is given through hearsay.*

4. **C.**
*"The Christ" is the Greek translation of "the Messiah." John was writing to readers who had become Hellenized, read Greek, and needed a translation for the Hebrew idea of "the Messiah." They would have known about the promised Messiah and had been expecting Him for hundreds of years.*

5. **D.**
*In this first lesson, Dr. Thomas pointed out that Peter was an eyewitness and a seeker, and that he would be a follower of Jesus. Each of these is significant as we learn about Peter and his calling. At this point, Peter is called as a disciple, a follower of Jesus. His calling as an Apostle would come later on.*

6. **A.**
*While we don't know a lot about Andrew, we do know that he brought his brother to Christ. Andrew invited his brother to come and see the Christ, and this invitation had eternal consequences. As a result of this invitation, Simon Peter met the Christ and was forever changed.*

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