

Sunday School Lesson, July 12, 2026
Rev. Mark A. Seals, Instructor/Teacher
Mike Moore, Superintendent

Lesson—From and Rock to a Hard Place¹
Text: Matthew 8:5-13

I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, we will...

1. Discover from Peter's life that saying yes to Jesus is full of ups and downs.
2. Celebrate trial and error as a learning tool in saying yes to Jesus.
3. Claim our shortcomings as opportunities to say yes to Christ.

Why This Lesson Matters: It often seems impossible to overcome one's failures and regain respect. Aware of Peter's shame and remorse for his betrayal of him, Jesus forgave Peter and commissioned him to “feed my sheep.”

Key Verse: *“He said unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus said unto him, feed my sheep. (John 21:17, KJV).*

II. Topical Outline of the Lesson

1. Introduction
2. A bold confession and a brash promise (Mark 8:27-29; Luke 22:31-34)
3. A devastating denial and a gracious restoration (John 18:25-27; 21:15-17)

III. Prominent Character(s) in the Lesson

Jesus: God's only son and the sacrificial lamb who died, was buried, and was resurrected to restore humanity to a right relationship with the Father.

Disciples: Followers or learners of Jesus Christ who seek to imitate his example.

Simon Peter: One of Jesus' initial 12 apostles and the first leader of the early church, Simon Peter is also known as Cephas, the rock.

¹ Outline Content courtesy of the Sunday School Publishing Board Teacher Manual, which should be purchased at www.sspbnbc.com

IV. Key Terms in the Lesson (KJV)

Christ
Sift

Denied
Strengthen

Pronounce

Questioned

V. Historical/Biblical Background and Lesson Context

The biblical background of this lesson is found in three gospel accounts of Jesus life and ministry: mark, Luke, and John. Christian tradition attributes the authorship of the gospel of mark to John mark, Barnabas cousin, who left Paul and his companions during their first missionary journey. The loop passage was written by Luke, opposition and Paul's traveling companion. Luke depicts Jesus as the savior for everyone, emphasizing his concern and compassion for the marginalized, the poor, and the outcast. The final passages are from the gospel of John, written by the apostle John, which highlights Jesus as God's son, savior, and stresses the importance of believing in him for salvation.

Food for thought/question for consideration: (What have we learned, Charlie Brown?)

Have you ever knowingly betrayed the Lord Jesus Christ? With this in mind would you also be willing to forgive Peter on the basis that you also may or may not be forgiven? This lesson teaches us that the love of Christ has no limits when it comes to his mercy grace and forgiveness. However, we should not take advantage of this extension of the Lord's grace when it's in our decision as to whether or not to openly acknowledge Jesus is Lord of our life.

Closing Hymn: *Blessed be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

Sunday School Slogan: *To Sunday School to Sunday School, we all should go; we have classes for all ages, help us to grow.*