**Series Road Map**

**Series Overview:** What does it take to have the courage to go first? In a world that so often tries to pressure us onto certain paths, how do we blaze our own trail? How do we walk the straight and narrow path that Jesus set before us? Lean in as we learn from some of the heroes of the faith of what it means to be #TRAILBLAZERS.

**Week Overview:** Peter spent Jesus’ last hours continually denying that he knew Jesus. Yet, that didn’t stop Jesus from using Peter to serve as the rock of his Church. Why? Because he knew Peter was a Trailblazer who wouldn’t just go first but would endure forever.

***Outline:***

**Grab the Room (Intro):** Pentecost came, the Holy Spirit filled the apostles, but it was Peter who went first and preached (v 14).

**Tension (what’s the struggle):** When the time comes, will we be willing to go first?

**Text:** Acts 2

**THP**: #TRAILBLAZERS ENDURE FOREVER

**Supporting Points:**

Contrast: Denial to boldness.

Thousands saved.

**Application (call to action)**:

When we go first, when we step into the calling God has for us, Christ gives us the strength to endure forever.

*Red – Scripture*

*Blue – Personal Story*

*Green – Prop*

*THP/Main Points – Bold*

**Intro:**

Northview Students make some noise if you love Jesus!!! Awesome, awesome. It is SO good to see you! Welcome to CHURCH!

You know, we’ve been diving into this collection of talks over the last month talking about different figures in Scripture who we deemed as #TRAILBLAZERS. Now, almost every person we read about in Scripture is a Trailblazer in some form or fashion. But, over the last few weeks, we’ve picked out and studied some of the best of the best. People who literally changed the course of eternity through their faithful actions and obedience to what the trail God was calling them to blaze. And this week is no different as we’re going to take a look at the life of the first Disciple called by Jesus. His name is Simon but we know him better as the Peter—the name Jesus gave him.

Peter’s story is a fascinating one. Peter—like so many of us—experiences the highest of highs and the lowest of lows. And yet, like many of us, still manages to maintain a holy conviction of his faith in Jesus.

**Personal Story:**

*(Personal Fishing Story)*

*To fully appreciate Peter’s story, we have to look at who Peter really was. See, Peter was a fisherman. Now, I don’t know about you but when I think of a fisherman, I think of my granddad. He used to take me fishing all the time growing up. He was brash, blunt, quick tempered but skillful and tactful. He didn’t know how to deal with people well but on the water, he was a master of the life living in it. Honestly, a lot like Peter. I was and am the opposite. The only kind of fish I enjoy are Swedish. The only kind of water I enjoy is Fiji. The only sort of fishing skill I have is fishing for a deal at the mall, okay? I am NOT like my granddad…or Peter for that matter.*

**Tension:**

Fishermen in Peter’s day were manly men. They were uneducated, had hot tempers, cussed a lot and possessed an uncanny amount of bravery and courage from the time they spent out on the sea battling Mother Nature’s most brutal waves. In short, they some of the toughest dudes around. Every stereotype that you could think of when thinking of a “sailor, a man’s man, a wild man” that was Peter. But Peter not only talked the talked, he walked it and he knew it too. In Luke 5, Jesus and Peter have their first encounter. Upon realizing who Jesus is, Peter says,

*“Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!”*

To which Jesus responds and says,

*“Don’t be afraid; from now on, you will fish for people.”*

It’s this powerful exchange and honestly, it’s the first of many where Peter comes before God and says, “This is who I am and I’m not enough.” And Jesus responds time after time, REMINDING Peter of his identity IN CHRIST. He says, “Peter, you aren’t a fisherman, you are a FISHER OF MAN!” Jesus’ first command to Peter in Matthew 4:19 is to, “Follow me!” But after Peter makes mistake after mistake, he feels unworthy. To which Jesus’ last words to Peter are once again, “Follow me!”

See Peter—like so many of us—struggled to grasp his true identity in Christ. Jesus had to remind Peter over and over and over again, “HEY! THIS IS WHO YOU ARE. You are loved, you are forgiven, I died for you, I saved you.” But he goes further with Peter because remember, I mentioned earlier, Peter’s name wasn’t Peter. It was Simon—until Jesus said it wasn’t. In Matthew chapter 16, starting in verse 18 Jesus says,

*“And I tell you that you are PETER—which means ROCK—and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”*

Peter said, “I am…fill in the blank.” What do you say? “I am unworthy. I am stupid. I am ugly. I am insecure. I am afraid. I am weak.” And Jesus is looking back at you tonight the same way he looked at Peter and he’s saying, “NO!! YOU ARE MY SON. YOU ARE MY DAUGHTER. YOU ARE MY DELIGHT. YOU ARE BRAVE. YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL. YOU ARE WORHTY. YOU ARE MINE. YOU ARE THE ROCK ON WHICH I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH!”

That’s who God says you are. And I’m telling you students until you’re able to grasp that your identity doesn’t rest in your looks, your performance, your achievements, your mistakes or your failures but in CHRIST ALONE, you will never be able to fully step into the future and purpose God has for you. And that doesn’t mean we won’t have doubts or hard days but it does mean that at our very core—we KNOW—beyond the shadow-of-a-doubt, that we are God’s child.

See, there was a moment for Peter where it finally clicked. He realized that his identity didn’t rest in his mistakes. Peter was the disciple who denied knowing Jesus 3 TIMES while Jesus was going to the Cross. That could have very well been his legacy! But it wasn’t. Why? Because Peter understood that his identity in Christ was bigger than his biggest stain and regret. And that assurance propelled him to becoming a Trailblazer who was able to ENDURE FOREVER!

I want to preach a message tonight that I’ve entitled, ENDURE FOREVER. Everybody say, “Endure Forever.” Awesome. Will you pray with me?

*Prayer.*

*Amen.*

**Text:**

If you have a Bible, go ahead and turn with me to Acts Chapter 2. Acts Chapter 2 is what we’re going to be dissecting tonight. And the context has been laid out for you guys. Right? Like we know who Peter is. Brash, burly, take-names, kick-butt kinda dude. He’s tough. Real tough. But throughout his journey with Jesus he’s shown that his true purpose isn’t to be a fisherman but a fisher of men. And Acts 2 records the moment where Peter steps up, goes first and begins to blaze the trail that God set before him. Right? To serve as the rock and foundation of the Church.

So, Acts 2, starting in verse 1, it says this, it says,

*When the day of Pentecost came, they* (the Disciples) *were all together in one place.****2****Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.****3****They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.****4****All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+2&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26954a)*] as the Spirit enabled them.*

***5****Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.* (In other words, people from all over the world were there). ***6****When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.****7****Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans?* (AKA, these dudes are NOT from my hood. How do they know my language?!?) Verse 8:***8****Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?****9****Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontusand Asia,[*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+2&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26959b)*]****10****Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome****11****(both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!”****12****Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”*

Check this out now: ***13****Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”* Pause. What’s happening? Jesus has died and resurrected. He visited the Disciples and he said, “Yo! I’m bout to hook y’all up. I got a gift coming for you. Just wait and you’ll see.” The Disciples are like, “whattttt is he talking about?” They have no clue. But they wait. Well, one day, God ushers in the Holy Spirit and it overcomes the Disciples and the Holy Spirit gives the men the ability to speak another language.

It’s like if I just started speaking Chinese all of the sudden, it was crazy. And people from all over the world are in the city and they can hear the disciples talking (they must have been talking pretty loud) and they start saying, “Hey! Wait a minute! I know that language! That’s my language! But how do they know my language? They’re not from where I’m from! And people start getting confused. The Bible says the people became “amazed and perplexed.” But look here—SOME PEOPLE—some people, the cool kids on the block were like, “nahhhh fam. THEY’RE JUST DRUNK!” Seriously! That was their rationale! Buncha dudes talking jibberish? Nah, they’re just drunk! This is literally in the Bible y’all, it’s crazy!

Verse 14: This is where it gets real. This is where Peter steps up. It says,

***14****Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:* Wait, wait, wait. Peter? No, Peter’s just a fisherman. Remember? Noooo, Peter has a temper. No, Peter denied Jesus not once, not twice, but 3 TIMES! What’s Peter doing standing up amongst the 11 and speaking on behalf of Jesus’ Disciples? Who gave him the right to blaze this trail? Oh wait, Jesus. Right? Why’s his name Peter? “ON THIS ROCK—ON THIS FOUNDATION—I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH.”

I just picture Peter in this moment, stepping up, going first and Jesus looking down on him so proud saying, “There he goes! That’s my Petras—that’s my foundation. That’s my rock!” And we see in real time Peter step into the future God had always known he was capable of. Peter goes on and says,

*“FELLOW JEWS”* (How y’all think he said this? Right? Like is Peter feeling himself at this point? Like is he like, “aw yeah, I’m Peter. Bout to do my thing. FELLLOOWWWW JEWSS!) Alright, I’m letting my imagination get a little too out hand. Peter said, “*FELLOW JEWS and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.*(Extra emphasis, everyone is probably leaning in at this point. Right? When I’m up here speaking, you’re listening but then I say, “HEY! REALLY LISTEN TO THIS!” You’re probably tuned in.

And Peter—with the full attention of the crowd says, ***15****These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning!* WHATTTT!!!! That’s how you start your talk, Peter? By telling everyone that they’re not drunk?! Aye yi yi. Not only that though, Peter doesn’t stop there, no, He says, “we’re not drunk dummies. It’s only 9 IN THE MORNING!” Translation = We are not alcoholics. We aren’t drunk at 9 in the morning, y’all. C’mon! You know better than that. Gosh, this like the best opening to a sermon ever, right? Okay, but in all seriousness, Peter continues on and he says, ***16****No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel…*

And y’all, no joke, for 24 verses, Peter gives this INCREDIBLE sermon—way better than the one I’m giving—right off the top of his head. It’s 24 verses of God-driven, Holy Spirit-infused, Jesus-leading HEAT that’s coming out of his mouth. He quotes Joel and David and for 24 verses, eloquently communicates WHO Jesus is and what THEY—as his Church—are to do. Peter gets to the middle of his talk and the people are hallelujah’ing and amen’ing like crazy. It’s getting real, the Bible says that, *“When they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’”*

Peter looks at the crowd and he says, *“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.****39****The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”* Boom. Mic Drop, Peter. That’s the foundation of the Church talking right there!

But here’s the part I want to focus on with our remaining time tonight. Because it says in verse 40, *“With many other words he warned them;* (AKA, the dude had a lot more in the tank. He was just getting started. And he probably went on for so long that Luke didn’t’ even find it necessary to record the rest of his message. Luke wrote down the fire points, the IG worthy quotes and then was done, haha). It continues, “*And he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”****41****Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.*

**Truth:**

Wow. That’s Incredible, isn’t it? Those who accepted his message were baptized and about three thousand were added to their number that day. That’s incredible. You know, we talk a lot about what it would look like if revival took place today. And that’s really where this idea of being Trailblazers came from. I felt the Holy Spirit impressing upon me saying, “Listen, y’all keep praying for revival. You keep asking for it. You keep declaring you want it. IT’S HERE. Who’s going to take it?!” And I just felt this challenge from the Holy Spirit like, “why not you?” And by you, I mean us. All of us. Collectively here at Northview Students. Why not you? Why not us? Why can’t WE go first, why can’t we step up, why can’t we give the call, why can’t we blaze the trail and watch God work?

And that’s really what I want to challenge us with tonight students because over the last month, we have read time after time these ordinary people (with the exception of Jesus) doing extraordinary things. And I continue to wonder, “why is it that those people were able to do what they did but we can’t?” And it just felt like the Holy Spirit was saying to me, “because they said yes to being uncomfortable.”

And that’s so true, isn’t it? PETER WAS A FISHERMAN. He wasn’t suave, he wasn’t put together, he wasn’t eloquent. The dude was ROUGH. He was probably worn, his hands were probably rugged, he was probably missing teeth, he was rude, he was blunt, he was not who you would pick first to lead a revival. But Jesus did. And over and over, Jesus reminded Peter who he was to the point where Peter owned it and stepped up and went first.

And Peter shows us that when we go first, when we step fully into what God has called us to, God will give us the strength to **THP: ENDURE FOREVER.** He will give us the strength to courageously step into our calling and play our part in leading a movement, a revolution, an enlightenment that will endure FOREVER. That’s the gift of being in Christ. The work that we’re doing for him—the work Peter was doing for him—is eternal. To this day, it’s still talked about and forever, it will be talked about. The three thousand who were saved that day are in Heaven right now THANKING GOD for sending Peter. And all Peter had to do was say yes.

Jesus told Peter, “I’m going to use you as the focal point. I’m going to use you as the lynch pin. I’m going to use you as the momentum swing to usher in the new age of my CHURCH.” And Peter—in FAITH—boldly proclaimed the words the Holy Spirit gave him and that day was the beginning of a race that Peter endured the rest of his life—building the Church of Jesus Christ. Peter’s obedience was met by God’s grace that gave him the strength to blaze the trail and ENDURE FOREVER.

**Application:**

In the 17 and 1800’s a movement was sparked in America that was called, “The Great Awakening.” It was this period of time where huge masses of people came to personal realizations of their sin and shame and desperate need of a savior and thousands upon thousands of people were saved. Similar to Acts 2. Since then, if you look throughout American Histroy, every 50ish years, another revival of some kind has taken place. The last wave of the “Great Awakening” came in the early 1900’s and the most recent revival—while debated by some—ended in the late 1960’s at the peak of the great reverend and evangelist—Billy Graham.

Friends, 50 years from then, is now. For whatever reason, God has sparked revival every 50 years here in America. Now, God can spark revival whenever he wants, I’m not saying that he’s bound by time. But, at the same time, I look at history and see it repeating itself. I see God using time in 50 year increments to draw us back to him and using revivals to save millions of lives.

So students, what if? What if the time is now? What if revival is here? Are you ready?

What if we chose to lean into prayer?

What if we choose to lean into fasting?

What if we chose to lean into community?

Into intercession?

Into solitude?

Into worship?

Into study?! WHAT IF???

Because I whole-heartedly believe that the people in this room could serve as the Trailblazers for this next wave. That this revival could be led by the STUDENTS of Northview Church and that we choose to step up, as we choose to go first, as we choose to be obedient to the call that God has placed on our lives, he, in turn, will give us the strength the **THP: ENDURE FOREVER!** Do you believe it?!

**Landing:**

Who are you telling God you are, students? Are you coming before him with your excuses? Your mistakes? Your failures? Can you not get over how ugly, how stupid, how ashamed, how hurt, how anxious, depressed, fearful you are? Because I’m telling you, God is HERE—waiting to infuse in you a supernatural grace—to OWN who HE has called you to be! You say you’re Simon but God is declaring, “You are PETER!”

Students, the time is now to step up and step into your calling. You may not experience the fullness of it until you’re 40, 50, 60 years old. But God is asking you to say yes NOW! God is asking you to go first now so that you can build up the strength to ENDURE FOREVER on the Trail he calls you blaze.

**Closing:**

As we close, I simply want to pray a prayer of commission over all of us. Jesus, during his last few moments on earth, gathered his disciples together one final time and he COMISSIONED them out into the world to be the fishers of men he had told them they were for the last 3 years. Students, we’ve spent the last 5 weeks REMINDING you of the Trailblazers you are. And this certainly won’t be the last time we’re together but I do hope it’s the last time we’re together like this. Because I want to commission us out that this school year, we will be ON MISSION for Christ like never before.

This year, we will have over 1,000 7th-12th graders who call Northview home blazing trails that have never been traveled. Starting new waves, walking new paths and with that, bringing thousands more with them to experience and be saved by the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

Students, could you imagine? Could you imagine what this room could look like if we all-collectively—were on MISSION this year to be the Trailblazers God called us to be? To step up and have the courage to go first? To have the strength to endure forever? Let’s believe—in faith—that this is just the beginning of something BIG God is going to do.

But understand that it’s not just me telling you to be fishers of men. It wasn’t Jesus just telling the disciples to be fishers of men. It was Peter—the rock—stepping up and stepping into his identity as a fisher of men. Preaching and evangelizing with PASSION to help bring THOUSANDS home. What if all of us adapted that mindset? The world will never be the same.

Let me pray over you.

*Father,*

*We are so grateful for the ways that you’ve spoken to us, taught us and humbled us over the last couple weeks. Jesus, we believe you are the ultimate Trailblazer and that as followers of you, you’ve called us to do the same. Jesus, give us the courage to go first. Give us the strength to choose faith over fear, to submit to sacrifice and endure to the end. God, we believe that you are starting something incredible. You are starting something new. Revival is here God and you’re asking us to be a part of it. Thank you, Father, for the gift of allowing us to participate in something as great as this. We’re asking now that you enter into this space, that you infuse your Spirit into us and that as we leave this place, we become a generation that is bold and ready to blaze the trail set before us to change this world forever. We love you Father.*

*It’s in your name that we pray,*

*Amen.*