

# The People of God

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Move around the room to read the material at Stations 1–4. Use the information at each station to answer the questions below.

Station	Questions
1	<p>Who are the people God named as his “own possession”? <u>The Israelites</u></p> <p>How did God appear to his people? <u>In a thick cloud</u></p> <p>Where did God appear to his people? <u>On Mount Sinai</u></p>
2	<p>Who are these People of God? <u>The Israelites</u></p> <p>Who was their leader? <u>Moses</u></p> <p>What type of land did God promise them? <u>A land flowing with milk and honey</u></p> <p>What was the place where they gathered to be with God? <u>The tent of meeting</u></p>
3	<p>What did this Christian community do together? <u>Devoted themselves to the teachings of the Apostles, broke bread together (Eucharist), shared fellowship with one another, devoted themselves to prayer, and shared their possessions</u></p> <p>Where did they gather to pray? <u>At the Temple and in their houses</u></p>
4	<p>What does the word “Church” mean? <u>“Convocation” or “assembly”</u></p> <p>What people made up the first assembly of God? <u>The Israelites</u></p> <p>How is the Catholic Church related to the Chosen People of God in the Old Testament? <u>Those in the Catholic Church, starting with the first community of Christian believers, are heirs to the Chosen People whom God assembled at Mount Sinai.</u></p>

**Summary:**

**How are the communities of believers in the Old Testament (Stations 1 and 2) and the New Testament (Station 3) similar?**

**Answers may vary.**

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Ex 19:1-9,  
16-20

**19** <sup>1</sup>On the third new moon after the sons of Israel had gone forth out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. <sup>2</sup>And when they set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, they encamped in the wilderness; and there Israel encamped before the mountain. <sup>3</sup>And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the sons of Israel: <sup>4</sup>You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup>Now therefore, if you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my own possession among all peoples; for all the earth is mine, <sup>6</sup>and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”

<sup>7</sup>So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the LORD had commanded him. <sup>8</sup>And all the people answered together and said, “All that the LORD

has spoken we will do.” And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD. <sup>9</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you for ever.” . . .

<sup>16</sup>On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, and a thick cloud upon the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. <sup>17</sup>Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God; and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. <sup>18</sup>And Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire; and the smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. <sup>19</sup>And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. <sup>20</sup>And the LORD came down upon Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain; and the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

## STATION #2

Ex 33:1-11

**33** <sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses, “Depart, go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought up out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘To your descendants I will give it.’ <sup>2</sup>And I will send an angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>3</sup>Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; but I will not go up among you, lest I consume you in the way, for you are a stiff-necked people.”

<sup>4</sup>When the people heard these evil tidings, they mourned; and no man put on his ornaments. <sup>5</sup>For the LORD had said to Moses, “Say to the sons of Israel, ‘You are a stiff-necked people; if for a single moment I should go up among you, I would consume you. So now put off your ornaments from you, that I may know what to do with you.’” <sup>6</sup>Therefore the sons of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments, from

Mount Horeb onward.

<sup>7</sup>Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp; and he called it the tent of meeting. And every one who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. <sup>8</sup>Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose up, and every man stood at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he had gone into the tent. <sup>9</sup>When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the door of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses. <sup>10</sup>And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the door of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, every man at his tent door. <sup>11</sup>Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tent.



### STATION #3

Acts 2:42-47

**2**<sup>42</sup>They held steadfastly to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers.

<sup>43</sup>And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

<sup>44</sup>And all who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>and they sold their possessions

and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.



### ***Catechism of the Catholic Church, 751***

The word “Church” (Latin *ecclesia*, from the Greek *ek-ka-lein*, to “call out of”) means a convocation or an assembly. It designates the assemblies of the people, usually for a religious purpose.<sup>1</sup> *Ekklesia* is used frequently in the Greek Old Testament for the assembly of the Chosen People before God, above all for their assembly on Mount Sinai where Israel received the Law and was established by God as his holy people.<sup>2</sup> By calling itself “Church,” the first community of Christian believers recognized itself as heir to that assembly. In the Church, God is “calling together” his people from all the ends of the earth.

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Acts 19:39.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Ex 19.

# Who Is Saint Peter?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Read the passages below. In the right column, summarize what each passage teaches us about Saint Peter.

## Scripture Passage

Mt 4:17-20

**4**<sup>17</sup>Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" <sup>18</sup>Now as he was walking beside the sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers: Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother. They were casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>20</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

## What do we learn about Saint Peter?

**He left everything to follow Christ.**

**6**<sup>67</sup>Jesus said to the Twelve, "Will you also go away?" <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; <sup>69</sup>and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

Jn 6:67-69

**He recognized that Jesus is God.**

Mt 14:28-31

**14**<sup>28</sup>Peter answered him and said, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the waters." <sup>29</sup>And he said, "Come!" And when Peter stepped out of the boat, he walked on the waters and came to Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he saw the strong wind, he was afraid. And beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" <sup>31</sup>And immediately Jesus stretched out his hand, took hold of him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

**Peter trusted Christ and asked for his help after faltering.**

Mt 26:69-75

**26**<sup>69</sup>Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." <sup>70</sup>But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." <sup>71</sup>And when he went out to the gateway, another servant girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This man was with Jesus the Nazarene." <sup>72</sup>And again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man!" <sup>73</sup>After a little while, those who were standing by came and said to Peter, "Truly you also are one of them, for your accent gives you away!" <sup>74</sup>Then he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know the man!" And immediately the cock crowed. <sup>75</sup>Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

**Peter denied knowing Jesus. Upon realizing what he had done, Peter felt great sorrow and repented for his wrongdoing.**



**21** <sup>7</sup>That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his clothes, for he was stripped for work, and sprang into the sea.

Jn 21:7

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**Peter loved Jesus and  
could not contain his  
joy at seeing him.**

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**21** <sup>15</sup>When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup>A second time he said to him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." <sup>17</sup>He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

Jn 21:15-17

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**Peter told Jesus he loved  
him. Jesus instructed  
him to care for his sheep.**

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#### **For Discussion:**

Jesus chose Saint Peter to be the first pope. **What makes a man spiritually fit to be pope?**

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**Answers may include humility, remaining faithful to Christ, modeling  
repentance, a deep prayer life, and docility to the direction of the  
Holy Spirit.**

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Think about the instructions Christ gave to Peter. **What do they tell us about the role of the pope?**

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**The pope's mission is to lead and care for the members of the Church,  
helping them with his teaching so they live a life worthy of  
the Gospel.**

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# Gentile Pentecost

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

The events recounted in Acts 10 at the house of Cornelius have been called “the Gentile Pentecost” by some. Indeed, Peter would later tell other Jewish Christians in Jerusalem, “As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning” (Acts 11:15).

Compare the account of Pentecost in Acts 2 (pages 8–9 of the Student Text) with the events recorded in Acts 10 (pages 17–18 of the Student Text) in order to complete the table below.

Acts 2		Acts 10
<b>Peter</b>	Who preached the Gospel?	<b>Peter</b>
<b>Jews</b>	To whom was Peter preaching?	<b>Gentiles</b>
<b>Peter shared the Good News about Jesus Christ: his life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension.</b>	Summarize Peter’s teaching.	<b>Peter shared the Good News about Jesus Christ: his life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension.</b>
<b>The Apostles began speaking in other tongues.</b>	What effect did the presence of the Holy Spirit have on those gathered?	<b>Cornelius and his household began speaking in other tongues.</b>
<b>Repent and be baptized.</b>	What did Peter command those gathered to do?	<b>Be baptized.</b>

Acts 2		Acts 10
Jews who were baptized in the name of Christ.	Who was then included in the Church?	Gentiles and Jews who were baptized in the name of Christ.

Summarize what Acts 10 reveals about the new understanding of the Church.

God invites all people to be united in one Church, through which we  
will be healed and redeemed.

# Three Chances for Repentance

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Read Luke's account of Saint Peter's threefold denial of Jesus and answer the questions that follow.

Lk 22:54-62

**22** <sup>54</sup>Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. Peter followed at a distance; <sup>55</sup>and when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. <sup>56</sup>Then a maid, seeing him as he sat in the light and gazing at him, said, "This man also was with him." <sup>57</sup>But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." <sup>58</sup>And a little later some one else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I

am not." <sup>59</sup>And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." <sup>60</sup>But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. <sup>61</sup>And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." <sup>62</sup>And he went out and wept bitterly.

**Why do you think Peter denied Jesus, to the point of claiming he did not even know him?**

**Peter saw Jesus arrested and didn't want the same to happen to him.**

**Describe how you imagine the expression on Jesus' face when he looked at Peter.**

**Answers may vary.**

Read John's account of the Risen Jesus' appearance to Peter and answer the questions that follow.

**21** <sup>15</sup>When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup>A second time he said to him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said

to him, "Tend my sheep." <sup>17</sup>He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

Jn 21:15-17

Jesus predicted that Peter would deny him three times. Here, after the Resurrection, three times Jesus offers Peter the chance to repent and receive his mercy for his sins. Jesus also reminds Peter of the role he must faithfully carry out: to tend and feed his sheep.

Why was Peter grieved when Jesus asked him the third time?

**The question reminded Peter of his threefold denial (which, in turn, revealed Christ's complete forgiveness of Peter's sin).**

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How can you show mercy to others in the same way Jesus showed mercy to Peter?

**Answers may vary.**

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How can you invite others to come to Jesus to receive mercy for their sins?

**Answers may vary.**

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