

The Rock, Sunday 4th October 2020

The disciple Peter

Warm up

Dance to, join in with the actions
and sing our Rock song.

This video has the words:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcAG4PbNXaA>



This video has the actions: <https://youtu.be/8dbOgbRxC1M>

Getting started

Equipment

Baby name book or access to baby name lists online

Ask the children if any of them already know what their names mean. If not, take a look at the book or website to try to discover their name meanings. You could extend this to look at middle names, if appropriate, as well as taking the opportunity to talk about whether anyone knows why they were given their particular name. Explain that in today's story, we will meet a man whose was changed by Jesus and given a new meaning, just as his life was changed!

The Point: Introduces the idea of Peter's name being changed.

Story/ teaching time

Today we are looking at a person who didn't just meet Jesus once, he spent lots of time with Jesus and became one of His closest friends, while Jesus was on earth.

Explain that Peter was one of Jesus' disciples. Explain that the first time we hear about Jesus and Peter meeting, Jesus performs a miracle and Simon (as he was called then) is amazed. Together with his friends, Peter started to follow Jesus. He was one of Jesus' disciples.



Remind the children that over the next three years, Peter sees Jesus perform many miracles. Ask the children if they can remember any of Jesus' miracles, prompting as appropriate.

Tell the children that Peter also heard Jesus teach some pretty challenging messages too, about forgiving people when they did wrong, about loving God with your whole heart and about showing love to other people too.

All of this was an important part of Peter's learning. And even after Jesus died on the cross and came back to life, Peter was still learning more about God. When Jesus returned to heaven, Peter would take a lead in telling other people about Jesus. It's thanks to Peter and the other followers that we get to know about Jesus today!

Explain to the children that we may not get to follow Jesus physically here on earth like Peter did, but we can still be a disciple today; learning from Jesus and discovering what it means to follow Him. Share a little of what this means for you personally and invite the children to talk about this with you further.

Say to the children, when Peter chose to follow Jesus, he didn't know very much, he had a lot to learn! We might feel like that too, but we don't need to know everything from step one, following Jesus means we learn from Him as we go through our lives.

The Point: To introduce Peter as a follower of Jesus and invite the children on their own discipleship journey.

Craft and activity ideas

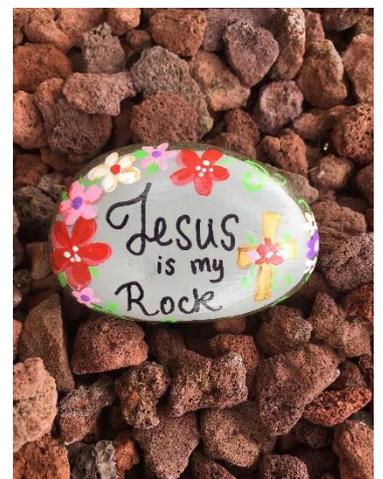
1. Equipment

Pebbles, acrylic paints or markers

Tell the children that Jesus called Simon, Peter, telling him that he was a rock. Peter would have a special job to do in passing on the story of Jesus and beginning what we know as the church today.

Invite the children to decorate a pebble, perhaps with a word or picture related to the story we have explored today, or perhaps with the name 'Jesus.'

They can either put the pebble somewhere as a reminder to themselves of something they have discovered, or they



can be like Peter passing on the story of Jesus and place the stone somewhere for other people to find.

The Point: To provide an opportunity for the children to pass on the story.

2. Equipment

paper plate, scissors, stapler or glue, something to colour with (paint, markers, crayons, etc)

- Cut a triangular shape out of the paper plate -- this will be the mouth.
- Glue or staple the triangle onto the back of the paper plate as the tail
- decorate your plate as a fish.



The Point: To respond to the teaching.

Response and Prayer

Tell the children that one time, when Jesus and Peter were talking, Jesus asked Peter, "who do you say that I am?" Explain that Peter recognised Jesus for who He is; the Son of God.

Invite the children to think for a few moments about what they know about Jesus and explain that this is a question for us to think about too. Who do we think Jesus is? Is He a make believe character? Is He an interesting teacher who lived a long time ago? What about all those amazing miracles He performed? More than anything else; what about the Easter story when Jesus died and came back to life?

Pray for the children, as appropriate, that they would continue to discover more of who Jesus is, for themselves.

The Point: To give the children an opportunity to respond to the teaching of this session.

THE ROCK

(Material taken from Energize by Urban Saints - <https://www.energize.uk.net/>)

