



'Peter follows Jesus' – Young and Youth Church Sunday 24th May 2020



1) Introduction:

Hi everyone at St Mary's young and youth church, we hope you are all well and happy. It has been over eight weeks since church had to close and we miss seeing your lovely faces. Rest assured you are all in our thoughts and prayers and we hope you find some joy in these weekly online sessions.

Today's 'social distance' young and youth church is all about...Peter.

There are so many episodes recorded about Peter and Jesus in the Bible. Each of these encounters or episodes adds to Peter's experience of who Jesus is and changes him in some way. Most episodes seem to be faith-building exercises and certainly, it is Peter that vocalises his belief in who Jesus really is in Luke 9 "You are the Messiah sent from God".

But then Peter makes some pretty big mistakes too - he steps out only to trip and stumble, to say something wrong or to demonstrate his own lack of understanding in the situations he finds himself in. And at the end of the gospels, we see him denying Jesus completely. Yet the story does not end there: Jesus reinstates Peter in a big way and leaves him the charge of starting the first ever church - not bad for a man who'd messed up so royally!

We guess most of us like Peter because we identify with him! We know that we mess up. We know that our understanding is limited. We know that we ask God stupid questions only too regularly. More than that, though: we like Peter because we see Jesus' response to him. And if Jesus saw the potential in Peter, then just maybe he can spot the potential in us. If he is willing to bear with Peter's shortcomings, just maybe he will extend the same grace to us.

Jesus was passionate about Peter and he's passionate about us too. He knows we won't always get it right but he's willing to hang on in there with us and keep working until our full potential is released and realised. How cool is that?

Peter was transformed over and over again by his encounters with Jesus and we can be too if we deliberately position ourselves to encounter Him each and every day.

2) Warm up game 'Down on one knee'.

Equipment needed:

A ball

Two or more people.

All the children stand in a circle or facing each other if just two of you. One person has a ball that they throw to any other person in the circle/line. If the person catches it, they throw it to another person.

If they miss, they have to go down on one knee until the ball is thrown to them again and they catch it.

On the first miss, the person goes down on one knee. On the second consecutive miss, they go down on two knees. The third consecutive miss, they put one arm behind their back. The fourth consecutive miss, they close their eyes. However, each time they catch a ball they are able to go back a stage – so if they are on one knee and then catch the ball, they stand up again. If their eyes are closed and they catch the ball, they can open their eyes again, although they have to remain on their knees with one arm behind them.

The Point: Just for fun. A link to forgiveness - if you miss the ball, you don't have to stay on one knee forever.

3) Digging in: – 'Do you really love me?'

Equipment needed:

Access to the Internet to play the videos and listen to the audio retelling.

1) First, watch one the video – Peter is restored.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uIRPKXet8n4>

2) For younger children you may want to join in with some active reading. Here you can listen to the story of Peter and join in with actions, phrases and even a singing verse.

<https://www.diddydisciples.org/storytellingforaprilandmay>



3) Read the chapter and verses below, or read from your own Bible.

John 21:15-19. Jesus Talks to Peter

¹⁵ When they finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John do you love me more than these?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my lambs.”

¹⁶ Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John do you love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

¹⁷ A third time he said, “Simon son of John do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” Peter said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you!”

He said to him, “Take care of my sheep. ¹⁸ I tell you the truth. When you were younger, you tied your own belt and went where you wanted. But when you are old, you will put out your hands and someone else will tie them. They will take you where you don’t want to go.” ¹⁹ (Jesus said this to show how Peter would die to give glory to God.) Then Jesus said to Peter, “Follow me!”

Story telling reflection questions ‘Do you really love me?’...



What do you think Jesus meant when he asked Peter if he loved him?

Why did Jesus ask Peter ‘do you love me?’ three times?

What job did Jesus give to Peter?

How do you think Peter felt after Jesus had given him the job of “taking care of the sheep”?

If you want to, why not respond to a question from this week on our very own Padlet.

- 1) All you have to do is access this page (copy and paste the URL). The page below should come up.

<https://padlet.com/hlgledhill/o6tv3i8qndzdpdpcu>



- 2) Then, double left click on the page and a text box for you to write in should appear. Where it states: Title. Type your first name, so we know who you are! Then answer the question, or just leave us a message. It is one way we can all stay in touch whilst keeping social distancing.



- 3) Bruce has kindly been leaving messages for you, why not have a read and respond?



4) Take away: 'Following Jesus'

There are a few 'take away' activities for you to choose from today. We hope you enjoy looking at one or more of them.

Equipment needed:

- Craft 1 - Junk materials, scissors, glue, cellotape etc.
- Craft 2 - Footsteps PDF. Pens, felt tips or colouring pencils. ([Click Here for the PDF](#))
- Craft 3 – Yes Lord You Know I Love You poster PDF ([Click Here for the Poster](#))
- Activity 4 - Old pennies, a large plastic bowl, mud, water, good quality tomato ketchup, napkins, facilities for hand washing.

Craft idea 1 – Gather junk materials and make it into something that could be useful: for instance, make a desk tidy or a series of small instruments. Everything used was rubbish: it was only worth being thrown away, but you have managed to give it a new life!

When Jesus died, Peter felt that he was a failure. But, after his encounter with Jesus, he was also given a new life – an extremely useful life at that! God never sees us as rubbish: He can always use us in a different way!

Craft idea 2 - Create Jesus' footsteps to follow by drawing around your own or another person's feet. Or print the footprint PDF we have uploaded for you. What would you like to do with your footprints? Decorate them? Make them into a necklace or card? Write on them ideas of what you could do differently to follow Jesus this week.

Craft idea 3 – Print a copy of the poster 'Yes Jesus You Know I Love You' PDF. Colour and display in your home. Although these are the words of Peter, reflect on whether you would like to say those words to Jesus.

Activity 4 – Get some pennies, then squirt a little tomato ketchup onto each penny and polish the ketchup into the penny – both sides! The acid in the ketchup will clean the pennies so they are bright and shiny again.

Look at the pennies again. Jesus forgave Peter and helped him to start again. With the help of Jesus Peter was able to change completely and do amazing things for God. It is the same for us. We mess up and make mistakes, but God does not give up on us! He can completely forgive us and make us clean and new so that we can start again – or carry on!

5) Close prayer and St Mary's key reflections:

What does this teach us about God/Jesus/Holy Spirit?

What do we need to do (this week)?



Closing prayer...

Lord Jesus:

I give you my hands to do your work

I give you my feet to go your way

I give you my eyes to see as you do

I give you my tongue to speak your words

I give you my mind that you may think in me

I give you my spirit that you may pray in me

Above all:

I give you my heart that you may love in me,
your Father and all mankind.

I give you my whole self that you may grow in me,

So that it is you, Lord Jesus,
who live and work and pray in me.

Amen.

[Links to other ways to worship:](#)

<https://www.diddydisciples.org/storytellingforaprilandmay>



Diddy Disciples 'church at home' is a creative and playful worship and Bible storytelling on line resource for babies, toddlers and young children. This is a great resources for all our Young Church children, so we thought we would share. <https://www.diddydisciples.org/thechurchathome>