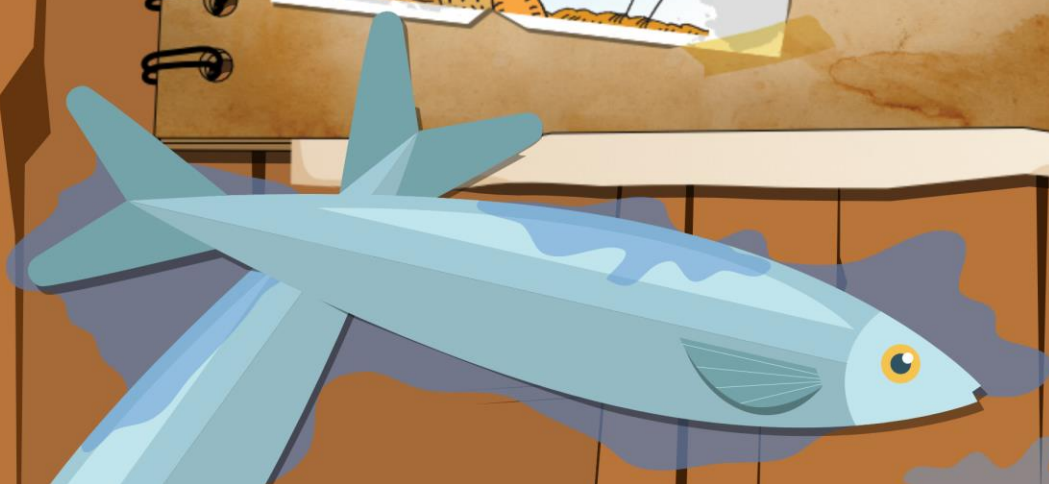




# THE LIFE OF PETER

*an ordinary  
man*



# The life of Peter

## Contents:

<b>Letter to the leaders</b> .....	3
Peter skits: .....	4
Lesson 1: Jesus calls Peter to fish for men .....	5
Lesson 2: Peter sees the transfiguration of Jesus.....	10
Lesson 3: Peter sees Jesus do many miracles.....	14
Lesson 4: Peter denies but Jesus protects our faith .....	19
Lesson 5: Peter has breakfast with Jesus .....	24
Lesson 6: Peter preaches at Pentecost.....	28
Lesson 7: Peter heals in the name of Jesus .....	31
Lesson 8: Peter goes to Cornelius .....	36
Lesson 9: Peter’s friends pray and God answers .....	39
Lesson 10: Life of Peter (Reasons to love Jesus).....	43

### **PETER**

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## Letter to the leaders

“The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the scriptures, they also recognised that they were men that had been with Jesus” Acts 4:13

In this series we will be taking an in depth look at the life of Peter. Peter was just an ordinary, uneducated fisherman but Jesus called him to follow Him. For three years Peter travelled with Jesus and saw Jesus do many incredible miracles like heal the sick, raise the dead, calm a raging storm, provide lunch for thousands of people and Peter even walked on water with Jesus.

When the religious leaders saw the boldness that Peter had to tell others about Jesus they were amazed and it was obvious to them that this man had been with Jesus. (Acts 4:13)

Peter knew Jesus personally and he had a revelation from God that Jesus was God’s son, the promised Messiah. Because of this revelation that Peter had he was able to teach others from his personal experience.

There are many things we will learn from Peter’s life but the most important lesson we will learn is how easy it is to love Jesus. Each story will give us “Just another reason to love Jesus”.

Jesus has called us to be fishers of men too. As you work through this series allow God to give you and your children a revelation of who Jesus is. Then you can boldly tell others about Him, because you know Jesus personally and you have so many reasons to love Him.

Dress up one of your leaders as Peter to come and visit the children at the end of every week and tell them “Just another reason to love Jesus” based off the part of his story they have just learnt. See the table on the next page for the skit ideas and the poster for each week. Alternatively, play the end of each online video where “Peter” will make an appearance.

**Peter skits:** Dress up as Peter each week to show the children why it is easy to love Jesus.

Weekly Poster	Peter Skit	Weekly Poster	Peter Skit
<p><i>Jesus makes us fishers of men</i></p>  <p><i>Jesus calls us just as we are! Just another reason to love Jesus!</i></p>	<p><i>Comes in with fishing props while smelling his stinky hands.</i></p> <p>Shew, I was really stinky and sweaty from all that hard work fishing. And yet Jesus called me just as I am! <b>And that's another reason to love Jesus! He calls us just as we are.</b></p>	<p><i>Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit</i></p>  <p><i>Jesus has given us the Holy Spirit to be with us always. Just another reason to love Jesus!</i></p>	<p>I wanted to tell a lot of people about Jesus but there was no way I could tell <b>everyone</b> on my own. But on Pentecost Jesus sent the Holy Spirit and 3000 people got saved that day! <b>And that's another reason to love Jesus! He sent us the Holy Spirit just like He promised.</b></p>
<p><i>Jesus is the Saviour we have been waiting for</i></p>  <p><i>Jesus tells me and He shows me who He is. Just another reason to love Jesus!</i></p>	<p><i>Pull the crown out of the bag as in the hands on.</i></p> <p>Jesus not only told me who He is but He also revealed and showed His full glory to me too! <b>And that's another reason to love Jesus! He tells us and shows us who He is.</b></p>	<p><i>There is power in the name of Jesus</i></p>  <p><i>Jesus works through us so people will praise Him. Just another reason to love Jesus!</i></p>	<p><i>Healed lame man jumping and singing behind Peter.</i></p> <p>I know that Jesus' name has power and so when a lame man reached out to us for help, we spoke in Jesus' name and the man was healed! <b>And that's another reason to love Jesus! His name has power.</b></p>
<p><i>Jesus can do the impossible</i></p>  <p><i>Blind men made to see, sick people made well, walking on water and even dead people coming alive again. Just another reason to love Jesus!</i></p>	<p><i>Come in pointing in disbelief of what you have just seen outside.</i></p> <p>Uh... did you... just see... 5000 people fed from a boy's small lunch?! If you saw the miracles that I saw Jesus do, you'd know <b>that's another reason to love Jesus! He can do the impossible.</b></p>	<p><i>Jesus has no favourites</i></p>  <p><i>Jesus loves everyone and wants everyone to be saved. Just another reason to love Jesus</i></p>	<p><i>Show material of dream.</i></p> <p>I thought that I was only supposed to tell the Jews about Jesus, but God showed me a vision that everyone needs to hear about Jesus. <b>And that's another reason to love Jesus! He wants everyone to be saved.</b></p>
<p><i>Jesus guards our faith</i></p>  <p><i>Even when we mess up Jesus still loves us. Jesus prays for us! Just another reason to love Jesus!</i></p>	<p><i>Pull out a list. People have done so many wrong things against me. Pull out the picture with the rooster.</i></p> <p>Ahh, but then again, so have I. But Jesus forgave me when I did something awful... <b>And that's another reason to love Jesus! He loves us and guards our faith.</b></p>	<p><i>Jesus answers our prayers</i></p>  <p><i>Jesus is always listening and answers our prayers. Just another reason to love Jesus!</i></p>	<p><i>Peter knocks on the door and a friend opens and closes it again in shock.</i></p> <p>The friend then speaks. We prayed for Peter to get out of prison and God sent an angel to set him free. <b>Peter shouts through the door And that's another reason to love Jesus! He hears and answers our prayers.</b></p>
<p><i>Jesus forgives us</i></p>  <p><i>Jesus forgives us and restores us even when we mess up. Just another reason to love Jesus!</i></p>	<p><i>Have the pile of blocks from the hands on.</i></p> <p>When I sinned, I fell apart. I may have let go of Jesus but He never let go of me. <b>And that's another reason to love Jesus! He forgives us and restores us.</b></p>		

# Lesson 1: Jesus calls Peter to fish for men

- Peter, an ordinary person like us, followed and told others about Jesus.
- Jesus wants us to follow and tell others about Him too.

## 1) Memory Verse

- Acts 4:13

***“The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ORDINARY men with no special training in the scriptures, they also recognised that they were men that had been with Jesus”.***

### Idea to teach the memory verse.

When Peter was on trial, the council people could see that Peter was an ordinary person just like we are. They could also see that he didn't have any special training. But there were two more things that they could see too. Listen to the verse and see if you can work out what these things are. They could see he was bold. They could see that he was a man who had been with Jesus.

Do you think God wants to use us to be bold and to let others see that we spend time with Jesus? Yes, God wants to use ordinary people just like you and me.

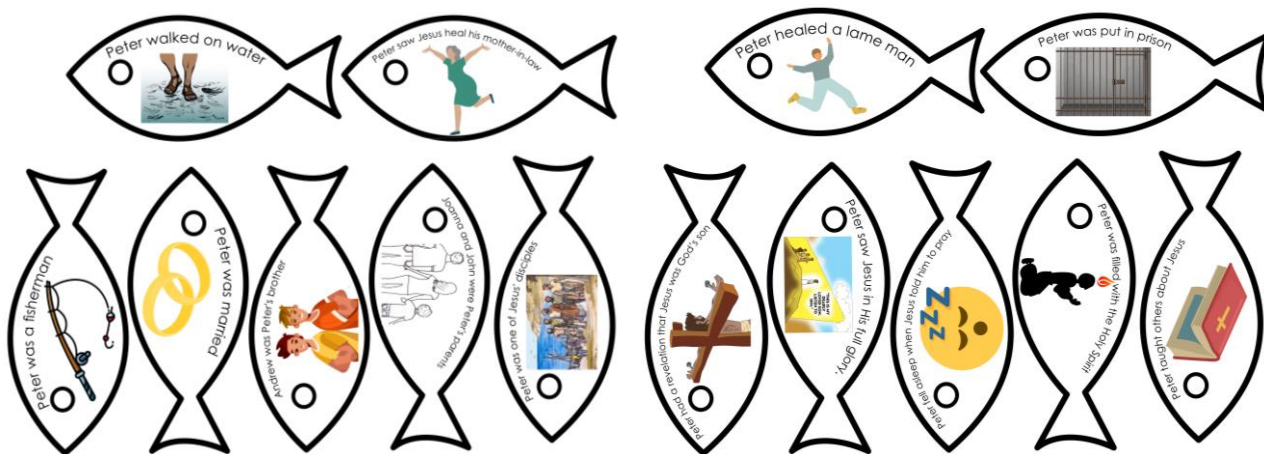
Play a game of stuck in the mud. One person will be on. They will run around and touch a child softly on the shoulder. If a child gets touched, then they have to stand still. To unstick them another child has to run up to them and tell them that “God wants to use ordinary people just like you”. Then the child is free to run around again.

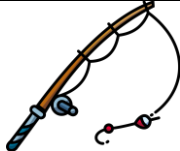










## 2) Hands On

### What you need:

- Cut-out fish with Peter facts
- Paper clips added onto the cut out fish
- Rods (stick with a magnet on the end)

Set up the “Fishing for Facts” fishing game. The children will take turns to use the magnetic rod to fish for a fact about Peter. They can share this with the rest of the class and see how many facts they can remember.



Event	Scripture	Picture
Peter was a fisherman	Matthew 4:18	
Peter was married	Luke 4:38	
Peter had a brother named Andrew	John 1:40	
Peter had a mother and father, named Joanna and John	Matthew 16:17	
Peter was one of Jesus' disciples	Matthew 10:1-2	
Peter walked on water	Matthew 14:29	
Peter saw Jesus heal his mother-in-law	Matthew 8:14-15	
Peter had a revelation that Jesus was God's son the one sent to save us	Matthew 16:16	
Peter saw Jesus in His glory.	Matthew 17:1-4	
Peter fell asleep when Jesus told him to pray	Matthew 26:40	
Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit	Acts 2:4	

Peter taught others about Jesus	Acts 2:14	
Peter healed a lame man in Jesus' name	Acts 3:7	
Peters is put in prison	Acts 4:3	

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

To show the children that Peter was an ordinary person just like them stop and ask what they would do throughout the story.

See how to prepare the bag <https://youtu.be/6QVoDwqHqKo?si=WlSiGssCGTx7uL4V>

#### You will need:

- Fisherman Pictures
- Cut out fish
- Two paper bags, one placed inside the other. Make it look like a net.
- Fresh water and a way to sprinkle it
- Tin of fish labelled Tilapia

The main part of the bag remains empty with the cut out fish slipped down the side into the outer bag. Later in the story you will push the inner bag to the side so that the fish in the outer bag can fall out.



#### Jesus calls Peter to fish for men (Luke 5:1-11)

The people we read about in the Bible are not just made up stories but they are about actual people. And to show you that Peter was just an ordinary person let's see what a day in the life of Peter would have been like.

Peter would have been rocked from side to side. *Get them to link arms and rock side to side.* And most of the day would be in the hot sun but he would also get sprayed with water. *Splash them a little bit.*

Was the water salty or fresh? *Let them taste a little off their finger.* The water was from the sea of Galilee, which was a freshwater lake, and so it was not salty like the ocean.

Peter would have smelt like Tilapia by the end of the day. *Let them smell some tuna or fish but label it Tilapia.*

Can you guess what Peter's job was? Peter was a fisherman and he would go out on his wooden boat and use big nets to catch fish.

Do we have fishermen nowadays? Yes.

Peter would eat some and sell some of the fish he would catch. Have you ever eaten fish? (*Let the children answer*) A fisherman like Peter would have caught it.

If you thought this Tilapia smelt strange you probably wouldn't have liked what it smelt like once it was left in the hot sun to ferment so they could make a fish sauce called Garum which they would then sell.

Does your family make sauces or use them on their food? *Let the children answer.*

Do you see even though it was a long time ago that Peter lived, Peter was an ordinary person just like us.

Here are some pictures so that you can get a really good idea of what Peter's job would have looked like.



One day, Peter and his brother, Andrew, went fishing like every other day. But this time they put their nets in the water but when they brought it up again there was not even one fish inside.

*Show them inside the brown paper bag to show them that it is empty.*

What would you do if you put your net in and didn't catch any fish? Would you try again? Yes, and just like you, Peter tried again. But still he caught nothing. *Show the brown bag again.*

*Repeat this a few times.*

Just like you Peter kept on trying and trying until eventually he gave up and went to wash his nets.

A big crowd came there. They were following Jesus, who was teaching them the Word of God. Jesus stepped into Peter's boat and asked Peter to push it out into the water so the crowd could hear Him teaching.

Would you have listened to Jesus and pushed the boat out? Yes, and just like Peter pushed the boat out.

When Jesus had finished speaking He said to Peter, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish."

Remember, Peter had been fishing all day, right on the spot where Jesus wanted him to fish. And fishing was Peter's job so he knew that there would be no fish there. What do you think Peter said to Jesus? *Let the children answer.*



Just like we would expect Peter replied "Master, we worked hard all night and didn't catch a thing." *Turn the brown bag upside down but holding it so none of the hidden fish will come out.*

And then Peter continued by saying "But if You say so, I'll let the nets down again."

When Peter pulled the nets up he was amazed as they were so full of fish that he had to call for help. There were fish everywhere that it filled two boats. *Topple the brown bag so all the fish fall out all around the children. Let them collect them and calm them down before continuing.*





What would you do if this miracle happened to you? *Let the children answer.*  
Just like Peter we would be amazed at how wonderful Jesus is. Peter even fell to his knees.

Jesus then told Peter "From now on you'll be fishing for people!"  
Just like Jesus made it possible for Peter to catch fish that day, Jesus was going to make it possible for Peter to be used to help other people know and follow Jesus too!

Jesus wanted Peter to leave everything and follow Him. Would you follow Jesus? *Let the children answer.* Peter left everything and followed Jesus.

We saw in our story today that there were so many times where Peter was someone just like us. He as an ORDINARY man with NO special training in the scriptures. And Jesus asked him to follow Him.

Do you know that Jesus also asks you to follow Him by loving and living a life that pleases Him? *Help the children understand what this means and give them a chance to choose Jesus as the person who they will follow daily.*

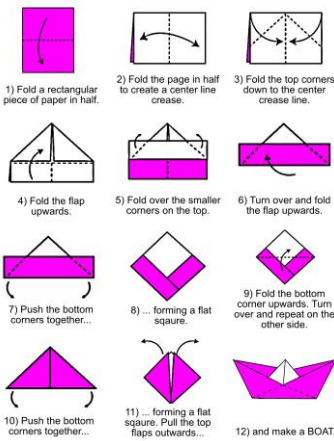
#### 4) Review Questions

- Do you think Peter is very different to the people that live around us and even to us? *(No, he ate fish, had a job, used sauce and acted the way we would have.)*
- What did our verse say about Peter? *(He was ordinary, with no training but he was bold and you could see he had been with Jesus.)* Can people say this about you too?
- Does Jesus want you to follow Him? How do we do this? *(Yes, by spending time speaking to Him, reading the Bible and living lives that please Him.)*
- Is it still important for us to be fishers on men? *(Yes, Jesus wants us to help others know and love Him too.)*

#### 5) Crafts

##### Option 1: Origami boat

###### How to FOLD A BOAT



##### Option 2: Turning Cups

On the inner cup children will draw the empty net on half the cup and the net full of fish on the other half. Cut a hole on the outer cup and children draw the empty net. Slip them into each other and turn.



## Lesson 2: Peter sees the transfiguration of Jesus

- The truth about Jesus and His Kingdom was revealed and confirmed to Peter.
- Peter taught others this truth.
- God tells us and He shows us His truth too so we can believe it and tell others.

### 1) Memory Verse

- 2 Corinthians 4:6

***“For God, who said, ‘Let there be light in the darkness,’ has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.”***

#### Idea to teach the memory verse.

*Have a torch or use the torch on your phone. Each time you turn it on they say a bit of the verse. When you turn it off they stop. Continue until they have repeated the verse a few times.*



*Use a picture of a light bulb to explain. Often in a comic they draw a little light bulb when someone has an idea or understands something. It is like a light goes on and everything you didn't know or understand you all of a sudden now know and understand. This verse is telling us that God does the same in our hearts. We have this little light bulb moment where all of a sudden we know, understand and see God's glory in His son Jesus. We see His love, we see His authority, His glory, His perfection. God reveals Himself to us through His son Jesus.*

### 2) Hands On

*Make sure children understand the words “reveal” and “confirm”. Reveal means to make something that is unknown, known. Confirm means to prove that it is true and real.*

*See this in action at <https://youtu.be/SRTmDXN91aQ>*

*Have a crown in a bag (can even be a paper crown you have made). Choose a volunteer and quietly tell them some facts about the item in the bag, but not enough that the class will guess what it is. E.g. It is gold, it has pointy bits, it has a circle on it. It is nice. They then go and tell the class what they know about the item.*



*Then let this same volunteer come and see the item in the bag and now give clues for the class to guess what it is.*

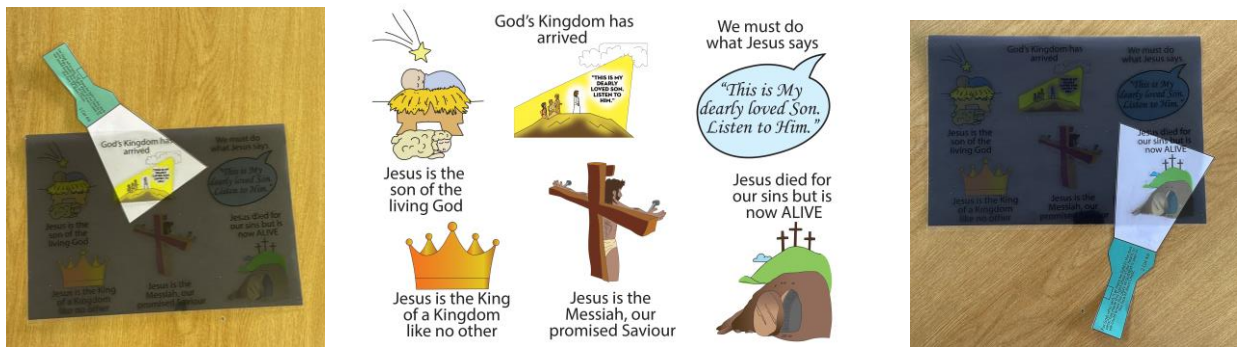
*Did the volunteer explain the item better when they were just told about it or when they saw it for themselves? Definitely when they saw it for themselves.*

Peter was one of the disciples who was chosen to follow Jesus so that they could help others know and love God too. And in order for him to do this well, God revealed and confirmed truths to Peter. When the time came for Peter to teach others about Jesus, he could teach them the truth that Jesus is God's son, the promised Saviour, the King of all kings who we must listen to and even what God's Kingdom was like.

Why was it easy for Peter to teach these things? Because God had revealed and confirmed each of these. God had told Peter and then showed Peter and so he could first-hand share all he knew and loved about Jesus.

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

Print the pictures on a transparency and staple it to a black piece of card, leaving the top and bottom open. Slip the torch shape in between to reveal what God told and showed Peter.



Can you imagine having read day after day about a Saviour who would come and then finally seeing Him standing right in front of you calling you to follow Him. And then seeing for yourself that everything that was said about what He would be like was true. This is what it must have been like for Peter: hearing what the Saviour would be like and then walking with, watching and learning from Jesus every day, confirming everything God had said and revealed about Him.

And when Jesus asked Peter, "Who do you say I am?", Peter got the answer right! Let's read why in Matthew 16:15-18

**15**Then Jesus asked them, "But who do you say I am?" **16** Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

**17** Jesus replied, "You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. **18** Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.

Use the torch to show them the pictures of God's son and the promised Messiah.

Wow. This verse teaches us that it was **God** who revealed, or made known, to Peter that Jesus is His son and is the Messiah or promised Saviour. It was on **this** revelation of knowing the truth about Jesus that God would build His church and **nothing** would be able to stop this from happening.

Because Peter knew the truth about Jesus, he was going to be able to help others know and love Jesus too.



Use the torch to show them the picture of the crown.

Peter then followed Jesus and learnt a lot from Jesus. Jesus told Peter about His Kingdom which was like none other. In His Kingdom there was love and kindness. The poor and weak people were valued, loved and seen as important. In His Kingdom, God and people lived together. His Kingdom was so great that you would give up everything to be a part of it. No one had ever seen a kingdom like this.

One day Jesus told His disciples that some of them would see the Kingdom of God arrive in great power. Let's read what happened next.



Have the pictures from the story jumbled up and stuck on the wall. As you read the story to them from the Bible, they have to guess which picture shows or confirms what happened.



Mark 9:2-10 (NLT)

<sup>2</sup> Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone.



As the men watched, Jesus' appearance was transformed, <sup>3</sup> and His clothes became dazzling white, far whiter than any earthly bleach could ever make them.



<sup>4</sup> Then Elijah and Moses appeared and began talking with Jesus.

<sup>5</sup> Peter exclaimed, "Rabbi, it's wonderful for us to be here! Let's make three shelters as memorials—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup> He said this because he didn't really know what else to say, for they were all terrified.



<sup>7</sup> Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is My dearly loved Son. Listen to Him."

<sup>8</sup> Suddenly, when they looked around, Moses and Elijah were gone, and they saw only Jesus with them.



<sup>9</sup> As they went back down the mountain, He told them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. <sup>10</sup> So they kept it to themselves, but they often asked each other what He meant by "rising from the dead."

Up until now look at what Peter had heard and seen. Use the torch to show them all the truths that Peter was told and shown about Jesus.



Told (Revealed)	Shown (Confirmed)
Peter heard prophecies (messages from God) which <b>told</b> him what the Messiah (Saviour) would be like.	Peter <b>saw</b> Jesus do all these things.
God <b>revealed</b> to Peter that His son, Jesus, is the Messiah, the promised Saviour.	Jesus <b>confirmed</b> that He was the Messiah and later He showed Peter too.
Jesus told Peter about His Kingdom and then <b>told</b> them they would see the Kingdom of God arrive in great power.	On the top of the mountain it was <b>confirmed</b> , Peter got to <b>see for himself</b> the Kingdom of God arrive.
Jesus then <b>told</b> Peter that He would rise from the dead.	Peter did not understand what this meant. How do you think Peter would know this was true? He would <b>see</b> Jesus die and come alive again.

Can you see how over and over again God **revealed** to Peter something and then **confirmed** it. Peter was **told** and then **shown**.

Why do you think God did this? (Either do the hands on object lesson with the crown in the bag here or remind them that hearing and seeing something first hand helps us tell others better.)

Peter knew first-hand the truth about Jesus and the truth about His Kingdom. And now Peter had a glimpse of Jesus as the glorified King that He is. When the time came for Peter to help others know and love Jesus, do you think Peter was able to do so?

Yes! Because God had revealed and confirmed the truth. 2 Peter 1:16 <sup>16</sup> We told you about the power of our Lord Jesus Christ. We told you about His coming. The things we told you were not just clever stories that people invented. No, we saw the greatness of Jesus with our own eyes.

When the time comes for you to tell others about Jesus and His Kingdom, will you be ready? *Yes, because even today God has revealed and confirmed the truth about Jesus.*

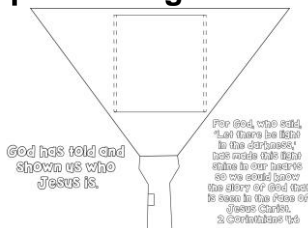
#### 4) Review Questions

- What did you learn from Peter's story today?
- What will help you tell others the truth about Jesus and His Kingdom? (*Asking God to reveal and confirm the truth to you.*)
- If the children ask, "Why was Moses and Elijah there?" here is a simple explanation.

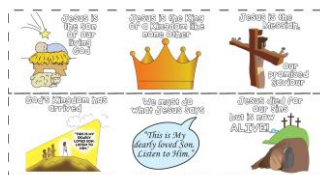
Moses had lived many years ago. God gave Moses the laws that people had to follow in order to be forgiven. Elijah had also lived many years before. God gave Elijah messages to pass onto people so they would know what God would do and know about the Saviour who would come. We call these messages from God prophecies. Jesus did everything the law and the prophecies said. By Moses and Elijah being there God was showing and confirming that Jesus fulfilled (completed) the law and prophecies. In that moment on the mountain God told the disciples to listen to Jesus and do everything He said.

#### 5) Crafts

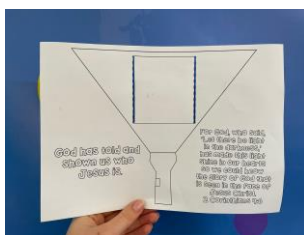
##### Option 1: Light reveals truth about Jesus



Cut the slits along the dotted line so the pictures can slide through.

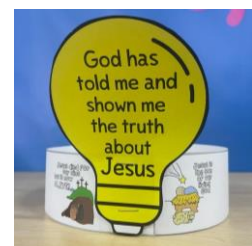
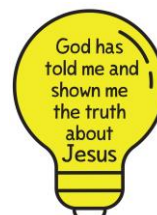


Cut the pictures along the two strips and join them together. Slide them through the slits and stick them as a loop at the back.



##### Option 2: Headlamp

Children cut out the strips and stick them together so the band fits on their head. On the join they will paste the light bulb.



## Lesson 3: Peter sees Jesus do many miracles

### Main focus for the lesson:

- Jesus has power over impossible situations.
- Knowing Jesus' power first hand makes it easier for us to trust Jesus and tell others about His power.

### 1) Memory Verse

- Luke 18:27

***“He (Jesus) replied, ‘What is impossible for people is possible with God.’”***

### Idea to teach the memory verse.

Give the children different challenges that will be impossible for most/ all of them. After each challenge they shout out the verse.

- Lick your elbow.
- Go down on knees and elbows, lift arms.
- Star Trek hands.
- Twist your tongue.
- Wiggle your ears.
- Squint your eyes.

### 2) Hands On

*Tip: Do the hands on after the Bible story and lesson section. See how this works [https://youtu.be/CtUldw3GGB8?si=56bxU54FwMV\\_yBm1](https://youtu.be/CtUldw3GGB8?si=56bxU54FwMV_yBm1)*

### What you will need:

- Bowl of water
- Tissues
- Pen
- Paper clips

What if I told you I could make this paper clip float on the water? Would you say that is impossible? *Let the children answer.*

We know that Peter spent a lot of time with Jesus. He saw Jesus do the impossible more than once. Peter saw Jesus heal people, raise people from the dead and even provide in miraculous ways. Can you think of any other miracles Jesus has done, whether when He was here on earth or even in your own lives? *Let the children answer.*

*Place a small piece of tissue with the word “faith” written on it onto the surface of the water.*

Because Peter had witnessed all of these things he had faith that Jesus could do anything.



Matthew 14: 22 -33

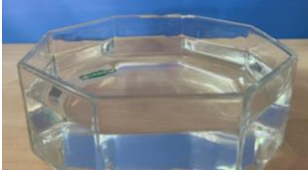
One evening Jesus told His disciples to get into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake without Him. The wind came up and the disciples were fighting big waves. At about 3 o'clock in the morning Jesus came walking towards them on the water.

When the disciples saw this they were absolutely terrified and they thought it was a ghost coming towards them.

"But Jesus spoke to them at once. 'Don't be afraid,' He said. 'Take courage. I am here!'

Then Peter called to Him, 'Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water.'

'Yes, come,' Jesus said. Matthew 14:27-29



Peter went to the side of the boat and he put one foot on the water and then the other. *Place a paper clip on top of the tissue.*

Peter looked at Jesus and he started walking towards Him. *Using another paperclip, gently push the tissue down. The water's surface pressure would have changed and the paper clip will float.*



But the wind was strong and the waves were big and Peter stopped looking at Jesus and he focused on the storm and then he began to sink. *Push the paper clip to break the surface tension and the paper clip will sink.*

Peter called out for Jesus to save him. What do you think Jesus did? Did Jesus save him or let him drown? *Let the children answer.*

Yes, Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed Peter.

We might face some impossible situations in our lives too. There will be things that are out of our control.

A family member might get sick or things might be really difficult at home. Perhaps there is someone you want to tell about Jesus but you feel really scared.

Do you think Jesus still does miracles today? Do you think Jesus still has the power to do impossible things now? *Let the children answer.*

Yes, Jesus is alive and full of power. *Add a tissue to the surface of the water.*

We can pray and trust Him no matter how impossible our situations might seem, because "What is impossible for people is possible with God." *Repeat the experiment and leave the paperclip floating.*

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

For each of these stories you will ask "**Where was Peter?**". Each time the children will find Peter in the picture, right there building his faith as He saw Jesus do these miracles.

#### 1) The miracle of fish (Luke 5:1-11)

Jesus was preaching on the beach when He told Peter to take his boat out to the deeper water and let down his nets. Peter told Jesus that they had tried to catch fish all night long but had caught nothing. But Peter got into his boat and did what Jesus had told him. Before long his nets were so full that he called for his friends to come and help him.

Jesus did the impossible by providing for Peter.



**Where was Peter?** Peter was right there being obedient to Jesus and seeing the power Jesus has over creation.

2) **Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law** (Matthew 8:14-15, Mark 1:30-31, Luke 4:38-39)

Jesus was at Peter's house when He was told that Peter's mother-in-law was very sick and she had a high fever. Jesus touched her hand and helped her to sit up. She was immediately healed and she got up out of bed.

Jesus did the impossible by healing Peter's mother in law.



**Where was Peter?** Peter was right there seeing the power Jesus has over sickness.

3) **Jesus healed a woman who had been sick for twelve years** (Mark 5:25-34)

Jesus was walking and a crowd formed around Him. A sickly woman had spent all her money on doctors but nothing had helped. Although she had been sick for twelve years she had faith that if she could just touch Jesus' clothes she would be healed. So she pushed through the crowd and touched the hem of Jesus' garment. She was immediately healed.

Jesus realised that healing power had left His body so He stopped and asked who had touched Him? The woman admitted that it was her and Jesus told her that her faith had healed her.

Jesus did the impossible by healing a woman who had been sick for twelve years.



**Where was Peter?** Peter was right there in the crowd with everyone else seeing the power Jesus has over sickness.

4) **Jesus raised Jairus' daughter from the dead** (Mark 5:22-24; 35-43)

Jesus was on His way to Jairus' daughter because she was very sick. By the time Jesus arrived the little girl had already died. But Jesus took her parents and three disciples (Peter, James, John) and went in the room where she was lying down. Jesus took her hand and said, "Little girl, get up". Immediately she got up started walking around.

Jesus did the impossible by raising a little girl from the dead.



**Where was Peter?** Peter was right there in the room with Jesus seeing the power Jesus has over death.

5) **Jesus fed the 5000** (Matthew 14:14-21, John 6:5-15)

Jesus was sitting on a hill with His disciples when a huge crowd came looking for Him. The crowd included about 5000 men, that's not even counting all the women and children. Late in the afternoon the people were tired and hungry. A little boy offered his small lunch of two fish and five loaves to one of the disciples. They gave it to Jesus, who gave thanks to God and started breaking the fish and loaves and handing it to all the people. Everyone ate until they were full and when the disciples gathered the leftovers there were twelve baskets leftover.

Jesus did the impossible by providing enough food for everyone.



**Where was Peter?** Peter was right there with Jesus seeing the power Jesus has to provide.



6) **Jesus calmed the storm** (Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-41)

Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat while He and the disciples were crossing over to the other side of the lake. Soon, there was a huge storm and the waves and winds began to beat against the boat. The disciples were terrified and they woke Jesus up in a panic. Jesus commanded the waves and the wind. Immediately there was calm. Jesus did the impossible by simply speaking and calming the storm.



**Where was Peter?** Peter was right there in the boat with Jesus and all the other disciples seeing the power Jesus has over nature and the weather.

7) **Jesus healed the servant's ear** (Luke 22:50-51)

Jesus was praying in the garden of Gethsemane when the chief priests came to arrest Him. When Peter saw what was happening he drew his sword and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his ear. But Jesus told Peter to put away his sword and then He touched the servant's ear and healed him?



Jesus did the impossible by healing the servant just by touching his ear.

**Where was Peter?** Peter was right there in the garden with Jesus seeing the power Jesus has to heal our bodies.

In each of these stories where was Peter? *Right there with Jesus as He did the miracles.*

Do you think this would have made it easier for Peter to trust and know that Jesus could do the impossible? *Yes*







What do you think will help you trust and know that Jesus does the impossible? *Read these stories, spend time with Jesus and trust Jesus more so when He answers our prayers we are there to see it.*

**4) Review Questions**

- Do you think God can do the impossible? (*Luke 18:27 - Jesus replied, "What is impossible for people is possible with God."*)
- Has God ever done a miracle in your life?
- Do you want prayer for things you are trusting God to help you with?

## 5) Crafts

### Option 1: Peter sees miracles Mini-book

<p>Jesus replied, 'What is impossible for people is possible with God.'</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>I HAVE SEEN JESUS DO THE IMPOSSIBLE</p>	<p>JESUS HAS POWER TO HEAL OUR BODIES</p>  <p>PETER SAW JESUS DO THE IMPOSSIBLE</p>	<p>JESUS HAS POWER OVER THE WEATHER</p>  <p>PETER SAW JESUS DO THE IMPOSSIBLE</p>
<p><b>PETER SAW JESUS DO THE IMPOSSIBLE</b></p>  <p>Jesus has power over creation</p>	<p><b>PETER SAW JESUS DO THE IMPOSSIBLE</b></p>  <p>Jesus has power over sickness</p>	<p><b>PETER SAW JESUS DO THE IMPOSSIBLE</b></p>  <p>Jesus has power over death</p>	<p><b>PETER SAW JESUS DO THE IMPOSSIBLE</b></p>  <p>Jesus has power to provide</p>

### Option 2: Match the columns

Jesus raised Jairus' daughter from the dead



Jesus healed the woman with the blood issue



Jesus healed Peter's mom in law



Jesus filled the nets with fish



Jesus calmed the storm



Jesus provided food for 5000 people



Jesus healed the soldier's cut off ear



Match the story to the truth about Jesus

- Jesus has power over creation
- Jesus has power to heal our bodies
- Jesus has power over the weather
- Jesus has power to provide
- Jesus has power over death
- Jesus has power over sickness

## Lesson 4: Peter denies but Jesus protects our faith

- Our faith is protected by God's power.
- Jesus prays for us.

### 1) Memory Verse

- 1 Peter 1:5

***“And through your faith, God is protecting you by His power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.”***

#### Idea to teach the memory verse.

Have each phrase of the shortened verse written down with the options written separately.

And through your \_\_\_\_\_ (“nagging” “faith” “good deeds”)

God is \_\_\_\_\_ you (“protecting” “talking to” “ignoring”)

By His \_\_\_\_\_ (“words” “power” “walls”)

In small groups, children must work out which words complete the phrase. Let them use their Bibles to confirm it is correct.

Next, let them come up with their own actions to teach to the other teams. For example

Verse	Action
Through your faith	Praying hands
God is protecting you	Cross arms in front like a shield
By His power	Strong muscle pose

### 2) Hands On

#### What you will need:

- Two eggs with “faith” written on
- Egg box with tissue inside
- Parachute made from a shopping bag and string
- Something to clean up the mess

Use the link to find instructions on how to make the parachute

<https://youtu.be/4g-9KwQDB0E>



God wants us to have faith in Him. But what is faith? The Bible tells us that faith is believing and being sure of something even though we can't see it with our eyes. (Hebrews 11:1)

Firstly, God wants us to have faith or believe that Jesus is His son, faith that Jesus died for our sins. And faith that Jesus rose from the dead and is now alive in Heaven.

God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Ephesians 2:8

The Bible tells us that when we believe or have faith in Jesus we are saved. It is important to remember that we can **NEVER** lose our salvation. Once God gives us this gift He will never take it back. Once we believe in Jesus we are His forever.

But God also wants us to trust and have faith in Him daily. Faith and trust in who He is and what He says He will do. He wants us to trust that He will help us, protect us and provide for us

and so much more. This is the faith we want to talk about today. *Write the word "faith" or trust on the egg*

But can this kind of trust and faith fail? Can we sometimes doubt He can help us? Can we act in a way that shows perhaps we're not sure He will do what He says? Yes, there are times when Jesus can say to us "Where is your faith?" *Drop the egg and let it break.*

Jesus knew Peter loved Him and believed in Him but He also knew there would come a time when Peter would be so scared that he would find it hard to have faith and trust Jesus. Listen to what Jesus said.

"But I, Jesus, have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to Me again, strengthen your brothers." Luke 22:32

Wow! How wonderful is it that Jesus prays for us? Jesus prays that our faith does not fail. Our faith and trust in God is protected by the prayers of Jesus. *Take the egg box with a parachute attached and place the egg inside.*

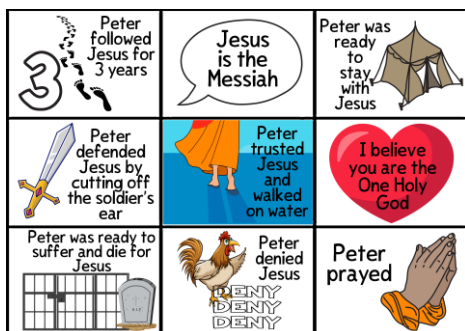
When we remember who we are having faith in and who is praying for us we can be sure that our trust and faith in Him will not fail. *Drop the parachute with egg and it should now not break.*

**Note:** Please test this beforehand to make sure it does not break. If still it does happen to break on the day you can say, "Thankfully, it is Jesus who protects our faith and it is not reliant on us. His protection is a lot better than a tissue and an egg box!"

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

*Let the children recap what they know about Peter to answer the following questions.*

From what you have learnt about Peter do you think that Peter loves Jesus? Do you think Peter believes in Jesus and has faith that He is God's son? Do you think Peter believes Jesus is the promised Messiah who will save us from our sins?



*Put up the headings YES and NO and get the children to help you place the pictures under the correct heading.*

Does this sound like Peter loves and has faith in Jesus? Yes or no?

Peter has left everything and has followed Jesus for three years.

Peter has said Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. (Matthew 16:16)

Peter was ready to put up a tent on the mountain and stay with Jesus. (Mark 9:5)

Peter went to defend Jesus when He got arrested and cut off one of the soldier's ears. (John 18:10)

Peter trusted Jesus and stepped out of the boat and walked on water. (Matthew 14:28-29)

One time some of the people didn't like what Jesus was saying and they chose to not follow Him anymore. When Jesus asked the twelve if they wanted to stay Peter said, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." (John 6: 68-69) Do you think Peter loves and has faith in Jesus? Yes

Peter and the disciples had been following Jesus for three years. Jesus had told them about His death before, but now the time had come where He called them all for supper and told them all again.

At this supper Jesus spoke to Peter. Let's read Luke 22:31-34

<sup>31</sup> "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. <sup>32</sup> But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers."

<sup>33</sup> Peter said, "Lord, I am ready to go to prison with You, and even to die with You."

Does this sound like Peter loves and has faith in Jesus? Yes. Do you think Peter really meant what he was saying? Yes, *his life has shown that he truly does love and have faith in Jesus and so it seems like he really means what he is says.*

<sup>34</sup> But Jesus said, "Peter, let me tell you something. Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me."

Even though Peter wanted to show he loved and had faith in Jesus, Jesus knew that Peter would fail, his actions would not show what he truly believed in his heart. Jesus knew Peter's faith would be tested and Peter would deny Him. Not once, not twice but three times. *Add the three deny pictures each time.*

Does this sound like Peter loves and has faith in Jesus? *Let the children answer.*

But what did Jesus say He did to help Peter? Let's read Luke 22:31-32 again.

<sup>31</sup> "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. <sup>32</sup> But **I have pleaded in prayer for you**, Simon, that **your faith should not fail**. So when you have **repented and turned to Me again, strengthen your brothers.**"

Wow! Jesus says He has prayed for Peter. Jesus has prayed that Peter will not lose the love and faith he has for Jesus. Jesus has prayed that what Peter knows and believes in his heart will never change. Jesus has prayed this so that when Peter is sorry for what he has done, when Peter repents and follows Jesus again, then he will be able to encourage other believers too.

Jesus also told Peter that he should pray too. Luke 22:39-40

Then, accompanied by the disciples, Jesus left the upstairs room and went as usual to the Mount of Olives. There He told them, "Pray that you will not give in to temptation."

Do you think praying shows you love and have faith in Jesus? Yes

But when Jesus comes back Peter and the disciples are not praying they are asleep. Does this sound like Peter loves and has faith in Jesus? *Let the children answer.*

*Move the hands praying picture under the "no" heading if the children say that was not showing faith.*

When the time came Peter believed that he would never deny Jesus and that he would even die for Him but let's read what happens in Luke 22: 54-61. *Read the story straight from the Bible.*

<sup>54</sup> So they arrested Jesus and led Him to the high priest's home. And Peter followed at a distance. <sup>55</sup> The guards lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat around it, and

Peter joined them there. <sup>56</sup> A servant girl noticed him in the firelight and began staring at him. Finally, she said, "This man was one of Jesus' followers!"

<sup>57</sup> But Peter denied it. "Woman," he said, "I don't even know Him!"

<sup>58</sup> After a while someone else looked at him and said, "You must be one of them!" "No, man, I'm not!" Peter retorted.

<sup>59</sup> About an hour later someone else insisted, "This must be one of them, because he is a Galilean, too."

<sup>60</sup> But Peter said, "Man, I don't know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.

<sup>61</sup> At that moment the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Suddenly, the Lord's words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know Me." <sup>62</sup> And Peter left the courtyard, weeping bitterly.

Do you think after Peter denied Jesus he still loved and had faith in Jesus? *Yes. He even left the courtyard weeping bitterly for what he had done.*

Did Peter's actions show this? No, in his weakness he denied Jesus. He did not do what he promised to do.

Do you think Jesus still loved Peter? Yes! Jesus loved Peter so much He even prayed for Peter even though He knew Peter would deny Him. Jesus loved Peter and loves us enough to die for us.

Jesus knows that we, like Peter, are weak. Sometimes we tell Jesus we will do things for Him and even though we really mean to, sometimes we do not do them. Other times we promise not to do wrong things but then we do.

When we are weak, here are some important things to remember from Peter's story.

Jesus is praying for us! Our faith is guarded by Jesus. Our salvation is protected by God's power!

Jesus tells us to pray so that we are not tempted.

Jesus wants us to repent and return to Him when we do wrong things.

Jesus wants us to strengthen others to do these things too.

No matter what, Jesus loves us and because Jesus died and came alive again we can be forgiven. We will learn more about this next week.

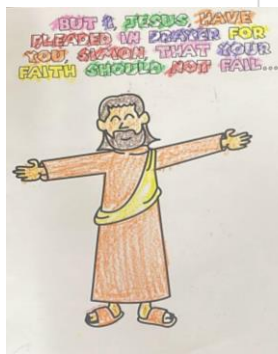
#### 4) Review Questions

- a) How do you show Jesus that you love and have faith in Him?
- b) What should you do when you have sinned or done something that doesn't show love to Jesus? *(Just like Jesus wanted Peter to repent and return to Him, Jesus wants us to do the same. Speak with Jesus and tell Him how sorry you are and then follow Jesus once again.)*
- c) Can you love Jesus and still sin? *(Yes, Peter still loved Jesus but he loved himself more in that moment and he let fear lead him to deny Jesus. Thankfully when we repent we are forgiven of those sins and get to try again to love Jesus better.)*

## 5) Crafts

### Option 1: Peter's faith is guarded by Jesus

Print the template back to back. You will cut around Peter's arms and head so that when you fold along the line it shows Jesus welcoming Peter back.



### Option 2: Wordsearch

#### Jesus protects our faith

Use the verse below to search for the words in **BOLD**

P R O T E C T I N G  
 F S R E C E I V E S  
 P E N R X U F Z K A  
 P E O E S O X B X L  
 O S C V X K D N M V  
 W P W E F A I T H A  
 E E A A E T M P I T  
 R T N L F M L A D I  
 C E E E X U N H Y O  
 W R Z D B X N I H N

And through your **FAITH**,  
 God is **PROTECTING** you by His  
**POWER** until you **RECEIVE** this  
**SALVATION**, which is ready to be  
**REVEALED** on the last day  
 for all to **SEE**.  
 1 PETER 1:5

## Lesson 5: Peter has breakfast with Jesus

- Even when we make mistakes, Jesus is always there to forgive us and to give us a new beginning, a fresh start in Him.
- Jesus never stops loving us and wants us to love Him too.

### 1) Memory Verse

- 1 Peter 5:10

***“In His kindness, God called you to share in His eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, He will restore, support, and strengthen you and He will place you on a firm foundation”.***

**Idea to teach the memory verse.**

**What you will need:**

- Posters for the words “restore” “support” “strengthen” and “place you on a firm foundation”.



- Lay the posters on the floor for the children to take turns to hop from one to the other.
- Leader reads the verse replacing the word “you” with the child’s name who is next.

E.g. “In His kindness, God called you “child’s name” to share in His eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you “child’s name” have suffered a little while...”  
The child will then say the words as they do the actions as shown in the table.

What they say	Action
God will restore me	Child wiggles from crouched to standing upright
God will support me	Child puts their fists on their hips
God will strengthen me	Child does a strong muscle pose
God will place you on a firm foundation	Child stamps their feet

### 2) Hands On

**What you will need:**

- Building blocks or boxes

*Build a man from blocks (or boxes) with some left over that you will use later to build a base as a firm foundation. He will be Peter and you will use him to explain the scripture.*



Hello, my name is Peter.

The night before Jesus died, I told 3 different people that I didn’t know who Jesus was. I denied Him, just like He said I would. When I heard that rooster crowing I was so sad. It was like I fell apart. *Knock the block man over so that it falls apart.*



The amazing thing is Jesus, who had died, rose again! Yes! He is still alive in Heaven now. I would have thought He would have never spoken to me again after what I did, but Jesus came and had breakfast with me on the beach.

Did you know that Jesus died for our sins so we can be forgiven? And even though I didn't deserve it, look at what Jesus did. *Rebuild the man as you mention the following and add the extra blocks as the firm foundation.*

**Jesus restored me, He supported me, He strengthened me and He placed me on a firm foundation.**

And this is exactly what He does for all of us.

"In His kindness, God called you to share in His eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, He will restore, support, and strengthen you and He will place you on a firm foundation" 1 Peter 5:10

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

**What you will need:**

- Brown paper bag and fish used in Lesson 1
- Pictures of the four different grips which you can show or you can act out as you tell the story.



Imagine Jesus saying to you "All you of you will desert Me, you are all going to leave Me and abandon Me."

What would you say to Jesus? *Let the children answer.*

Before Jesus was killed, He said this to His disciples. "All of you will desert Me. But after I am raised from the dead, I will go ahead of you to Galilee and meet you there." Mark 14:27-28

And just like you they promised they would never leave or deny Jesus. Peter even said that even if everyone else deserted Him, he never would. He would even die for Jesus.

Peter thought that his love for Jesus was enough. He even suggested that he loved Jesus more and his love was stronger than everyone else's. *Demonstrate that Peter thought this is what his love for Jesus was like, strong enough to not do anything wrong.*



But we know that just like Jesus said, Peter did deny Jesus. Three times even. Peter's love was not strong enough. He was weak and Peter let Jesus down. And this is how it felt to Peter. *Demonstrate Peter's hands separate and letting go of Jesus.*

Peter decided to go back to his old job as a fisherman in the Sea of Galilee. Some of the other disciples decided to go with him.

While they were fishing a man stood on the beach and called out to them “Friends, have you caught any fish?”

Peter and the others told him they had not. *Turn the paper bag upside down and show that the nets were empty.*

So the man said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.”

Who do you think the man is? Do you think they will catch fish this time? Yes, it was Jesus and it was just like the miracle He had done the first time when Jesus called Peter to follow Him. *Turn the paper bag upside down so all the fish fall out.*

When Peter realised it was Jesus, he jumped in the water and rushed to Jesus.

Even though all the disciples had deserted Jesus, Jesus came to them at Galilee just like He had promised. Jesus even had breakfast prepared for them and they ate there on the beach together. Peter had thought it was the strength of his love for Jesus that mattered, but actually it was Jesus who would still be holding onto him even when he was weak and disappointed Jesus.



*Demonstrate Jesus holding onto Peter even when Peter messed up.*

After breakfast Jesus asked Peter, “Peter, do you love me more than these?” Remember Peter had said before that he loved Jesus more than the others but had he shown it? No. *Demonstrate him holding Jesus’ arm and then letting go.*

How do you think that would have made Peter feel? *Let the children answer.* Perhaps he felt embarrassed, sorry, humbled that he wasn’t as strong as he thought he was.

Peter answered, “Yes Lord, you know I love you.”

Again Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him. And again Peter said, “Yes Lord, you know I love you.”

Peter was hurt when Jesus asked him for a third time “Do you love me Peter?”. Perhaps Jesus asked him three times for each time Peter denied Him.

And Peter replied, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”



*Demonstrate two hands holding each other.* This is the relationship Jesus wanted from Peter. He wanted Peter to know that He loved him and even died for him to be forgiven. And it was the strength of His love that would **restore** Peter, **support** Peter, **strengthen** Peter and place Peter on a **firm foundation**. These things were to be found in the love of Jesus for him and not in Peter’s love for Jesus.

Jesus then sent Peter to tell others about Him and to encourage other Christians to do the same. And Peter went, relying not on his own strength, but on Jesus as the one who restores, supports, strengthens and places him on a firm foundation.

Like Peter, remember even when you mess up, Jesus is always holding onto you. He forgives you, restores you, supports you, strengthens you and will place you on a firm foundation. Jesus will never let go of you.

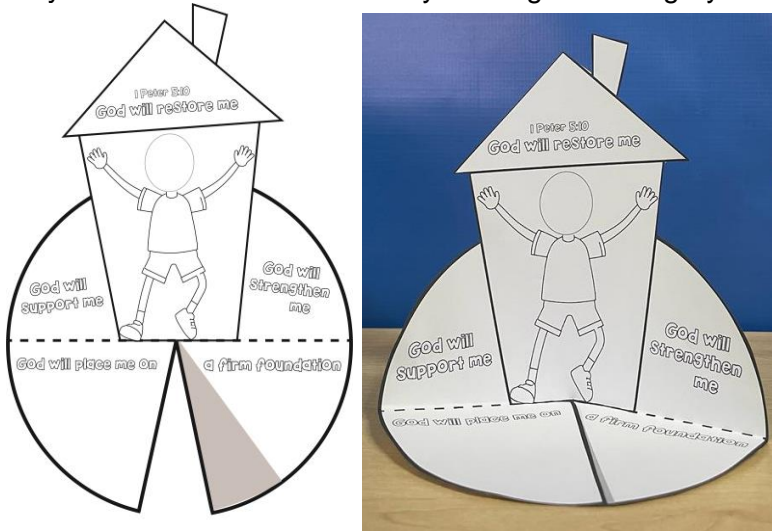
#### 4) Review Questions

- a) Did Jesus know that Peter would deny Him? And did Peter deny Him? *(Yes, Jesus said before and then Peter denied Him.)*
- b) Jesus said before Peter even denied Him that He would meet him in Galilee once He was alive again. Did Jesus keep His promise even though Peter had denied Him? *(Yes, Jesus' promises and love does not change because of our actions. He loves us no matter what.)*
- c) What does Jesus do when you are weak and let Jesus down? *(Jesus keeps loving you, He restores you, supports you, strengthens you and places you on a firm foundation.)*

#### 5) Crafts

##### Option 1: God restores standing circle

Children cut along the outer solid line and the white wedge. They then fold along the dotted line. Next they will slide the circle closed by sticking it on the grey wedge.



##### Option 2: Codebreaker (1 Peter 5:10)

Peter & Jesus have breakfast on the beach

Use the code below to fill in the missing words to complete the verse: 1 Peter 5:10

Jesus will \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ , and  
 \_\_\_\_\_ you  
 and He will place  
 you on a \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ .

R	P	S	U	O
E	G	T	N	H
F	i	M	D	A

# Lesson 6: Peter preaches at Pentecost

- God has given us the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us tell others the Good News.
- Be obedient like Peter and be led by the Holy Spirit to tell others.

## 1) Memory Verse

- Acts 1:8

**“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**

### Idea to teach the memory verse.

Children get into smaller groups. One person starts and points to someone in their circle and does the actions as follows:

Verse	Action
You will	<i>Point to someone</i>
Receive power	<i>Do the action of strong muscle arms</i>
When the Holy Spirit	<i>Point to the sky</i>
Comes on you	<i>Use your hands to show something washing over you</i>

Then that child points to another child and repeats the whole verse again until everyone has had a turn.

## 2) Hands On

**The Power of the Holy Spirit helps spread the Good News** (See this in action at <https://youtu.be/FI-VTy8AOkI> )

### What you will need:

- A plate
- Milk
- Food colouring
- A small dish with dishwashing liquid inside
- Cotton buds



*Pour the milk onto the plate.*

This plate of milk is like the world. It’s plain, dull and waiting for some Good news.



*Add dots of food colouring.*

You and I know this Good News and we believe in Jesus. And some others do too. But can you see how many people do not?



*Use the ear bud to mix the colours.*

Jesus tells us to go and share with others what Jesus has done for us all on the cross. We call this sharing the Good News. We have a lot of work to do and it doesn’t seem possible that we will be able to reach everyone.



*Dip the cotton bud into the dishwashing liquid.*

But God doesn't send us to do this on our own. We have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us go out and spread the Good News!

*Dip the cotton bud into the milk and the colours will spread easily across the plate.*

It is the work of the Holy Spirit in us that takes our world from where it is to where it needs to be. It's not by our own power or what we can do in our own strength, but it's the power of Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit living within us.

We obey Jesus and tell others and it is the power of the Holy Spirit that changes people's lives and the world.

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

*Have the laminated pictures stuck up so they can all be seen. The children listen as you read each verse from the Bible (NLT) and then together will decide which picture should be added. Later read the story again and they can build their own craft page.*

Picture	Verse
<p><i>Add Peter and the people</i></p>	<p>On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Acts 2:1</p>
<p><i>Add picture of word roar</i></p>	<p>Suddenly there was a sound from Heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm and it filled the house where they were sitting. Acts 2:2</p> <p>Did the verse say there was a windstorm or it sounded like a roaring wind? <i>Sounded like a roaring windstorm.</i></p>
<p><i>Add flames for the Holy Spirit</i></p>	<p>Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. Acts 2:3</p> <p>Did the verse say there were flames or it looked like flames? <i>Looked like flames</i></p>
<p><i>Add speech bubbles with different languages</i></p>	<p>And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. Acts 2:4</p>
<p><i>Add those confused</i></p>	<p>The devout Jews stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other. Acts 2:12</p>



The people were very confused. Peter was there. Do you think he said something?

Add Peter's speech bubble



Peter stood up and said, "God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. Now He is exalted to the place of highest honour in Heaven, at God's right hand. And the Father, as He had promised, gave Him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today. Acts 2:32 -33

The Bible says Peter's words pierced their hearts and they asked what must they do? Peter went on to tell them.

<sup>38</sup> Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38

That day 3000 people believed and chose to love Jesus. Do you think this was because of Peter? Peter was obedient but it was the power of the Holy Spirit that 3000 people believed.

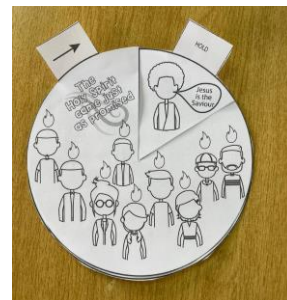
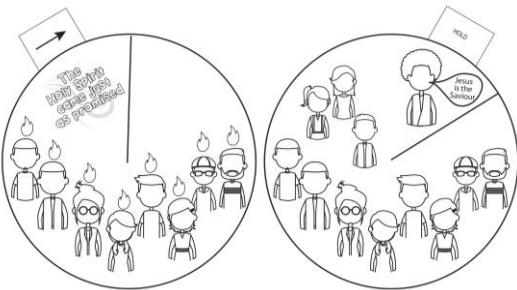
#### 4) Review Questions

- What did Peter do after the Holy Spirit filled him? *(Peter told others about Jesus and he let the Holy Spirit lead him.)*
- What did Peter tell them to do to receive the Holy Spirit? *(Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38)*
- Do you have the Holy Spirit living in you? Will He help you to tell others? *(If you believe in Jesus then the Holy Spirit lives in you. He will help you.)*

#### 5) Crafts

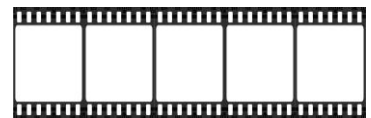
##### Option 1: Holy Spirit came as promised.

Cut the circles out and along the slits. The circle with the arrow will be at the back and will slip through the slit. Then you will slide in the direction of the arrow so that the bottom circle now becomes on top. (See craft instructions at <https://youtu.be/PWJUUnbTxTwQ>)



##### Option 2: My Story

Children draw their own story of them telling their friends and family about who Jesus is to them and how the Holy Spirit helps them.



## Lesson 7: Peter heals in the name of Jesus

### Main focus for the lesson:

- When we speak in the name of Jesus, we are speaking under His authority.
- It is the power of Jesus at work in us, not our power, that makes things happen.

### 1) Memory Verse

- Proverbs 18:10

***“The name of the LORD is a strong fortress; the godly run to Him and are safe.”***

### Idea to teach the memory verse.

*Set out some sturdy items which the children can climb onto as their fortress such as chairs, tables, mats etc.*

Children run and dance around as the music plays. An option could be *The name of Jesus* by Motion Worship: <https://youtu.be/QgHwkwGnGuQ>

When the music stops the children have three seconds to run and climb onto something strong so they are safe and if your venue allows, with their feet no longer on the floor.

Once everyone is on their fortress, have the children repeat the memory verse. Repeat the game until the verse is learnt.

### 2) Hands On

#### Option 1: Jesus' power was not lost

#### What you will need:

- Two pieces of paper with the word “POWER” on it. One you will tear and fold as you teach the lesson. The other you have pre-folded.
- A picture of the tomb stuck onto a box. Cut a hole in the box to hide the torn picture in.

*Show the children the page with the word “Power” on it. We know that Jesus has power and Peter got to see Jesus' power when he followed Him. He saw Jesus use His power to heal people, to forgive people, to teach people, even to raise people from the dead. He saw Jesus' power in the many miracles Jesus did. Jesus' power showed them how great God is and made many people believe in God.*

*As you say the next part tear the page into small pieces and fold them together so it looks like the pre-folded page.*

But then Jesus was arrested. And because He loves us He let them treat Him like He had no power at all, even though He still did. They killed Jesus on the cross and they buried Him in a tomb. *Place the torn piece in the hole of the box and swop it without the children seeing for the pre-folded one.* I wonder how Peter felt? I wonder if He thought that Jesus' power was gone? We don't really know how Peter felt but we do know that he went back to be a fisherman like he was before he had followed Jesus.

But was Jesus power gone? Definitely not! Three days later Jesus came alive again! *Unfold the new page to show the word “Power”.* Everyone got to see how powerful Jesus is.

Jesus is still alive and His name is still full of power as we will see in our lesson today.

## Option 2: Jesus' name comes with authority

### What you will need:

- Handwritten letter saying "Civvies day 2morrow. Signed by: ME".
- Official looking school letter with a signature.

*Either get the leaders to perform this as a skit or try and convince the children that they have civvies day (no school uniform) tomorrow and would they believe you if you had a signed newsletter from their principal?*

Leader 1	Guys guys guys! I have great news! At school tomorrow all of you get to wear civvies and get a cupcake! How amazing, right?
Leader 2	Woah woah woah wait- who told you? How is it that I'm only hearing about this now? <i>(Turn to the children and ask)</i> Guys, I'm not sure. Do you think I should go in my civvies tomorrow? Wait. Leader 1, how did you know it was civvies?
Leader 1	What if I just decided that I wanted it to be civvies day and that we are getting cupcakes, so I said it. I mean who doesn't want that?
Leader 2	Guys, do you believe that you're having civvies day tomorrow?
Leader 1	Okay wait, I have a letter right here! <i>(Show a handwritten note saying "Civvies day 2morrow. Signed by: ME".</i> Do you believe me? (No) Just kidding, I have a newsletter from the principal saying that there is a civvies day tomorrow. Do you believe me now? <i>(Show them the official newsletter)</i>
Leader 2	<i>(Take newsletter)</i> No way guys! Look, it's even signed! If you got a newsletter from your school that said your principal said it's civvies day tomorrow, would you believe it? (Yes) Yes, because the principal is in charge of the whole school and they have the power to make a civvies day at school. And when you show your parents the newsletter, they know that it is not just you saying so because you want one. Instead, they know you're speaking on behalf of the person who is in charge of the whole school.  This is similar to when we speak in the name of Jesus. When we pray and say "in Jesus' name" we are saying that we, who believe in the power of Jesus, are speaking on behalf of Jesus. We know how awesome and powerful He is and we are speaking His power over the situation. And this pleases Jesus. He wants us to rely on His power and on His name.  Remember our verse today. The name of the LORD is a strong fortress; the godly run to Him and are safe." Proverbs 18:10



### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

#### What you will need:

- A few dress up items for Peter, John and the lame man

*Choose some of the children to help you tell the story as they act it out and repeat phrases after you. The rest of the class will be the council.*

Today we are going to learn about a time when Peter spoke in the name of Jesus and Jesus' power was shown. You can find this story in Acts 3.

Peter and John were walking down to the temple in the afternoon. *Have two volunteers walk across.* As they were walking they saw a man who couldn't walk from birth sitting outside the temple gates. This man was begging for money from the people who were going into the temple. *Have a third volunteer sit on the floor and beg them for money.*

When the lame man saw Peter and John he asked them "Please can I have some money?" *Get the volunteer to say this.*

Peter said, "Look at us!" *Have the Peter volunteer say this*  
And the lame man did because he thought they would give him some money.

But next Peter said, "We don't have any silver or gold for you!" *Have the first volunteer repeat the words.*

Everyone say, "Ah shame". But wait Peter had something better! Can you guess what he had that was better than silver or gold? *Let the children answer.*

Let's read what he had in Acts 3:6 "But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Nazarene, get up and walk!"

When Peter spoke in the name of Jesus Christ, he wasn't just saying a magic word that made everything better. Peter wasn't just throwing Jesus' name in the sentence. Peter had faith in the power that Jesus had to heal people.

Just as Jesus healed people, Peter was going to speak with the power and authority of the Holy Spirit who now lived inside of him (Acts 1:8), so that Jesus' power could heal the lame man.

And what do you think happened next? Yes, the man was healed!

The man began to walk and then jump and then he began to shout praises to God. *Have the lame man jump and dance.* The man even joined them as they went into the temple.

The people who saw this were amazed! Peter asked them "What is so surprising about this? And why stare at us as though we had made this man walk by our own power or godliness?" Acts 3:12

Peter gave all the glory to God and took the opportunity to tell them about Jesus' raising from the dead. He also told them "Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed—and you know how crippled he was before. Faith in Jesus' name has healed him before your very eyes." Acts 3:16

Many people came to believe in Jesus because they had seen the works of God's power through Peter.

But the council of Sadducees didn't want Peter and John to talk about the eternal life that Jesus gives us. So they had them arrested. *Have another volunteer pretend to chain their hands and go on their knees. The rest of the class can be the council.*

When the council questioned Peter and John they answered "There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under Heaven by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

The council were amazed. *Ask the class, who are the council, to give their best amazed face and then repeat the following.* Then they said, "they are so bold!" and, "they are just ordinary men!" And then they said, "They have no special training" and finally they said, "these men have been with Jesus!"

The council recognised the power of Jesus' name in what Peter and John had said and done! And when they saw the lame man now dancing and praising they had to set Peter and John free. *Let the volunteers all sit down. Remember to remove dress up items so they do not distract the other children.*

This story about Peter is about healing but we can speak Jesus' name over any person and circumstance. This story teaches us that when we speak in the name of Jesus, we are saying that we have faith in Jesus and we believe in the power Jesus has to do the impossible. When we speak in the name of Jesus it is to bring glory to Jesus alone and is not because of our own power or anything we did. And we don't have to be super fancy or smart to speak in the name of Jesus, all we have to do is believe in Jesus and His power will be shown.

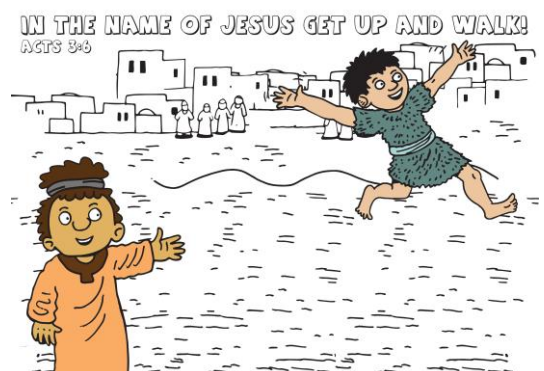
#### 4) Review Questions

- In what situations can we pray in Jesus' name? *When someone is sick, when we feel lonely, afraid, when we want others to come to know Jesus, etc.*
- What does it mean to say, "in Jesus' name"? *Recognizing and having faith in the authority and power of Jesus.*
- How does it make you feel to know that you have the Holy Spirit inside of you, just like Peter?

#### 5) Crafts

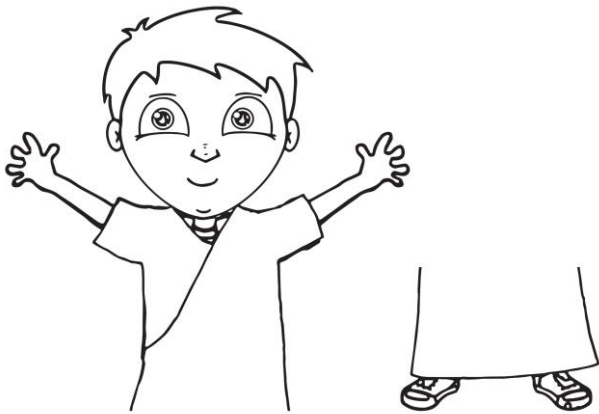
##### Option 1: Leaping lame man scene

- Cut the lame man out.
- Cut out the small rectangle. Fold along the dotted line and stick it to the back of the lame man. Now, stick the long flaps together to make a tag to hold.
- Cut a slit along the curved line in the path.
- Slip the tag of the lame man into slit and slide.



**Option 2: Lame man with wiggle legs**

Use a split pin to join the legs so that he can dance and praise Jesus.



## Lesson 8: Peter goes to Cornelius

- God has no favourites and gives everyone the chance to be forgiven and have eternal life through Jesus.

### 1) Memory Verse

- Acts 11:18

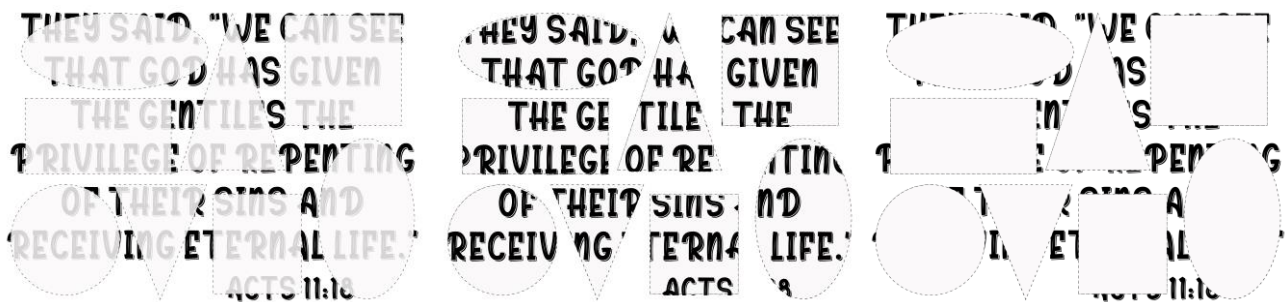
***“They said, ‘We can see that God has also given the Gentiles the privilege of repenting of their sins and receiving eternal life’”.***

#### Idea to teach the memory verse.

**What you will need:** Bible verse board and missing pieces cut out

- Divide the children into teams, giving each member a cut out piece from the verse.
- Place the Bible verse board on the other side of the venue.
- Children take turns to run to their Bible board, say the verse and add their shape.
- Once all the pieces have been added, have all the children say the verse together.

Everyone, no matter where they are from or what they have done, are loved by God. God gives everyone the chance to say sorry to God and believe in Jesus so they can eternal life with Him too.



### 2) Hands On

#### Option 1: Rhyme

Get children to sit in a circle and each one will have a turn to name something that everyone can see about them. E.g. freckles, glasses, brown eyes, etc.

Teach them this rhyme: "I am special, so are you, whoever has (child names something), stand up too."

Everyone who has that physical attribute should stand up, and then it is the next child's turn.

This game shows that we have some things similar to each other but also we are in many ways different to the people around us. The great news is that God made us each this way and has no favourites. God loves everyone!

#### Option 2: Coin object lesson

**What you will need:**

- A handful of coins that are all the same value.
- Shoe polish which you will smear on some of the coins to make them look unclean.
- A cloth to clean.

I have some coins. Can you see that some of them are clean and some of them are dirty, or "unclean"? If I asked you to pick your favourite, which one would you choose and which ones

would you definitely NOT choose? I am sure you would choose the clean ones as your favourites and that you would leave the “unclean” ones out.

If I went to a shop and tried to pay with them the shopkeeper wouldn't have a favourite. They would accept any of these coins as payment for my shopping. That's because they all have the same value.

And this is how God sees all of us. God has no favourites. He sees us all as valuable and He knows He is the only one who makes us all clean and without sin because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. *Wipe the coins clean.*

In our story today, Peter learnt that even though he was taught that Jews were God's favourites and Gentiles were “unclean” the truth is God loves everyone and wants everyone to hear about Jesus!

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

#### What you will need:

- Piece of material with unclean animals drawn on it
- Cornelius outfit



One day, when Peter was praying, God gave him a picture of a big sheet coming down from Heaven with different animals on it and a voice said, “kill and eat”. *Hold up the sheet.*

God didn't show him this picture just once but three times. Do you think God wanted Peter to get the message? *Yes*

To you and me if God gave us a picture like this and said “kill and eat” we would be very confused, but God knew that it would definitely mean something to Peter.

Peter was a Jew who is someone who loved and followed God. The Old Testament Jewish laws clearly said that there were some animals that they were not allowed to eat and others that they could, but they had to kill them in a certain way. When Peter saw this sheet with animals that are forbidden or “unclean” he thought he was being tested and quickly assured God that he had never eaten those animals. Peter believed that if he ate those animals he would be going against God. In the same way, Jewish people in those times believed they were not allowed to preach to the Gentiles as they did not follow all the Jewish laws like they did. They would have eaten all of these foods. But the voice spoke again and said, “Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean” Acts 10:15

God is so awesome because He was teaching Peter something very important. The lesson was that God does not separate people into two groups like these animals. God does not see people as “clean” and “unclean”. God loves all people and He wanted Peter to tell everyone about Jesus not just some people – such as good people, Christians, etc.

Up until then Peter had only been telling Jewish people about Jesus but God was about to change that. The Holy Spirit told Peter that people were about to arrive at the gate and that he should go with them. These men were sent by Cornelius. Cornelius loved and feared God but he was a Gentile. Gentiles did not follow the Jewish rules and therefore they were considered unclean. Do you think Peter should go to Cornelius' house? *Let the children answer.*

*Cornelius enters in and interrupts walking through the children and searching for Peter.*

Peter! Peter? Has anyone seen Peter? Oh, you're not Peter! Mmmm... It looks like Peter has left! My name is Cornelius and I'm looking for Peter because while I was praying, an angel told me to send men to go and find Peter and bring him back to me in Joppa. And so I did! I had all my family come over, I was so excited to meet Peter!

When Peter arrived he told us all about the Good News of Jesus Christ! He told us all about how Jesus died and came back to life and how Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit. This was very special because Jews never stepped foot inside of a Gentile's home, it was against the Jewish law, but God had shown Peter that he should no longer think of anyone as impure or unclean. (Acts 10:28)

We were then filled with the Holy Spirit and we began praising God and speaking in tongues! Many other Jewish believers saw that we were also filled with the Holy Spirit and Peter and his friends baptised us.

I am so glad that Peter was obedient to God that day and even more pleased that God does not have favourites! He loves all of us! It was so wonderful getting to tell you all about how Peter's obedience changed our lives but I have to go now and find Peter! Bye!

It would have been difficult for Peter to have gone and spoken to the Gentiles, but he did it because he loved God and knew obeying Him was more important than anything. Peter also relied on the Holy Spirit to help him. And three thousand people chose to believe and love Jesus.

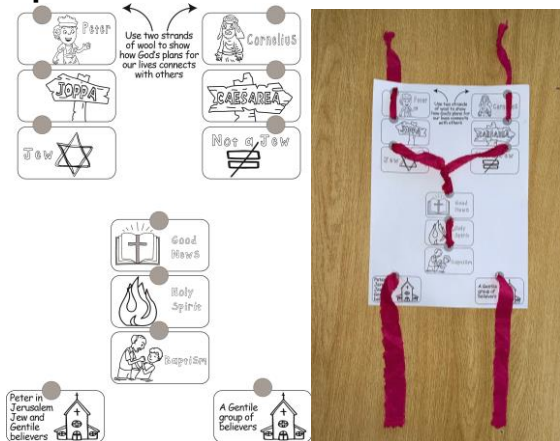
God wants us to tell others the Good News about Jesus too. Remember God has no favourites, so that means He wants you to tell anyone and everyone about Him and He will do the rest!

#### 4) Review Questions

- Does God have favourites? Does He want us to tell some people or everyone the Good News of what Jesus has done for us? *(God does not have favourites and He wants us to tell everyone about the forgiveness and eternal life we have through Jesus.)*
- Is it easy to tell everyone about Jesus?
- Who promised to always be with us? *(The Holy Spirit has been given to us to be with us always and help us)*

#### 5) Crafts

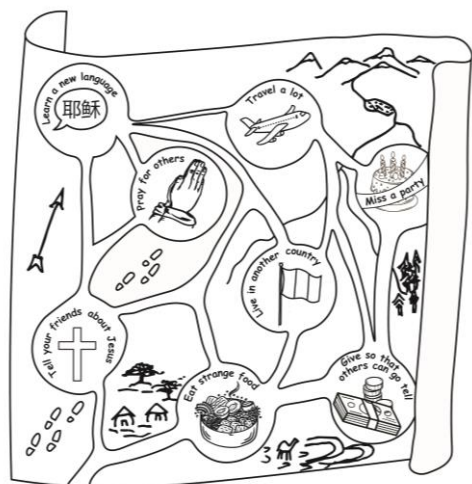
##### Option 1: Lives intertwined



##### Option 2: Map activity Page

On the map, put a star next to the things you would be happy to do for Jesus.

Put a ? next to the things you are willing to try with the help of the Holy Spirit.



## Lesson 9: Peter's friends pray and God answers

### Main focus for the lesson:

- Remember to pray with faith as it is God who is listening.
- Pray with faith for others.

### 1) Memory Verse

- 1 John 5:14-15

***“And we are confident that He hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases Him. And since we know He hears us when we make our requests, we also know that He will give us what we ask for.”***

### Idea to teach the memory verse.

<i>Children repeat each part after you as it written directly from the Bible.</i>	<i>Children point to themselves and repeat each line after you.</i>	<i>Children point to someone else in the room and repeat each line after you</i>
And we are confident	And I am confident	And you are confident
that He hears us	that He hears me	that He hears you
whenever we ask	whenever I ask	whenever you ask
for anything that pleases Him.	for anything that pleases Him.	for anything that pleases Him.

### 2) Hands on

#### Who am I asking?

#### What you will need:

- Leader 1: Sitting in front of the three other leaders.
- Leader 2: Give them a big floppy hat.
- Leader 3: Give them a bag.
- Leader 4: Give them a cream pie.

Leader 1 sits on a chair while the others stand behind holding their items so that the children can see them. They will hand leader 1 the items when he asks.

Leader 1	There are some things that I need. Please can the leaders behind me each pick one up. <i>(Each leader picks up their item as listed above)</i>  I need something to put my books into. Leader number 2 give me what you have to put my books into please?
Leader 2	<i>Leader 2 acts surprised that Leader 1 wants the hat but gives it anyway. Leader 1 tries to use it to carry the books but they fall on the floor.</i>
Leader 1	Hmm that didn't work. I am quite hungry. Leader 3 can you please give me what you have so I can eat?
Leader 3	<i>Leader 3 gives Leader 1 the bag and he tastes it.</i>
Leader 1	Yuck, that wasn't what I expected. Phew. It's very hot and I'm going to get sunburnt. I need something to put on my head. Leader 4, please put what you have on my head? <i>The children see that the only thing that Leader 4 has in his hand is the cream pie! Leader 4 hesitates and then splats the cream pie onto Leader 1's head!</i>

Did Leader 1 really consider who he was asking to give him the things he needed? No, he didn't even pause to ask what they had or look and see if it was what he needed. If he had known whom he was talking to he would have asked the right person for the bag, the hat and the cream pie!


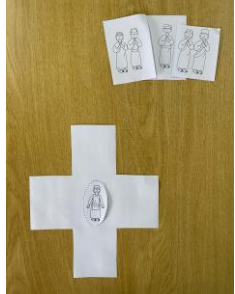
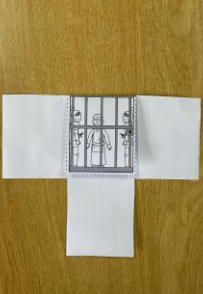



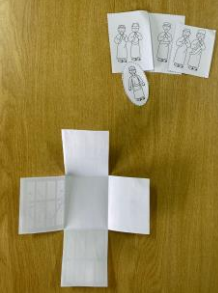
When it comes to things we need, who is the one we should ask? Yes, God is always the right person to ask!

Sometimes we forget who we are speaking to. We can sometimes say we are praying but in fact we are just saying words and hoping for the best. But how different are our prayers when we really think about who it is we are praying to.

Next time, before you pray, pause and think about who you are saying the words to. Are you asking God, the King of everything? Because if that is who you are speaking to how much more then can they be prayers filled with faith because God says you can pray for anything and if you have faith you will receive it.

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

*Use a large version of the folding craft as you tell the story.*

			
<p>Cut out the template.</p>	<p>Turn the central piece over and place Peter in the middle. Place the friends far away praying for Peter.</p>	<p>Fold the top flap down to show Peter is thrown in jail.</p>	<p>Fold the right hand flap to show that Peter was chained between two guards.</p>
			
<p>Fold the left hand flap to show that Peter trusted God and fell asleep.</p>	<p>Fold the bottom flap up to show an angel appeared and told Peter to wake up and get dressed.</p>	<p>Now unfold all the flaps and free Peter walks from prison. He goes to the friends praying for him.</p>	

Today our story comes from the book of Acts chapter 12 where Jesus has died and risen again and the disciples have been telling the people that Jesus is the Saviour who God promised. They have also been performing miracles in Jesus' name. And because they are doing what Jesus told them to, many people are believing in Jesus!

This, however made the people in charge very cross. The evil King Herod even captured and killed Jesus' disciple, James.



This same evil king captured Peter and planned to kill him too. *Fold down the prison bars flap.*

Things seemed hopeless and Peter's friends were very worried about him. What do you think they should have done? *Let the children answer.*

While Peter was in prison they decided to meet in a house and pray earnestly for him. (Acts 12:5)

But Peter was outnumbered by prison guards. He was even chained between two of the guards. *Fold down the picture of the guards and chained up Peter.* Do you think it was even worth the friends praying for him? *Let the children answer.*

Yes, because remember who they were praying to. They were praying to God, the creator and ruler of everything. And when we pray to God we can be confident that He hears us and will answer!

"And we are confident that He hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases Him. And since we know He hears us when we make our requests, we also know that He will give us what we ask for." 1 John 5:14-15

You would have expected Peter to be in a panic but instead he fell fast asleep! *Fold down the flap with the zzzzz's.*

Would you be able to sleep knowing that the king wanted to kill you? *Let the children answer.* Peter had faith in Jesus!

Suddenly a bright light appeared and an angel stood in front of Peter and told him to wake up. *Take away the zzzzz's flap and add the angel flap.*

Peter was surprised but obeyed the angel. The chains fell off and he gets up and put on his clothes. *Take away the chains and guards flap.*

The prison gates opened and Peter walked straight out of the prison. *Take away the prison bars flap.*

Peter went to the house where all his friends were praying for him. He knocked on the door. The servant girl came to the door and called out: "Who is it?" When she recognised Peter's voice, she was so happy that she ran back to the friends without even opening the door!

She shouted that Peter was at the door! The friends didn't really believe her!

Finally, they opened the door and were amazed! Peter told them the whole story of how an angel of the Lord had set him free.

#### **4) Review Questions:**

- a) What can we do before we begin praying to remind ourselves who we are praying to?
- b) Who are the people in your lives that pray for you?
- c) Have you ever prayed for something and your prayer was answered?

## 5) Craft

### Option 1: Folding craft

Children make their own version of the story aids so they are able to retell the story.



### Option 2: Prayer owl

Who? Who? Who?

Who are you praying to? Who are you praying for? Who is praying for you?

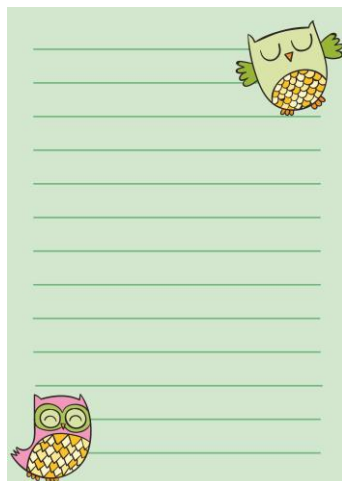
Children fold a paper plate to make a prayer owl to remind them who they are praying to and who they are praying for.

There is the story of D L Moody, who had 100 people on his prayer list. He was trusting God for each one of them to give their hearts to Jesus. While he was alive 97 of them gave their hearts to the Lord. Isn't that just incredible. But what is even more wonderful is that at his funeral the remaining 3 friends gave their hearts to Jesus. Who is on your prayer list? Who are you trusting will give their lives to God?



### Option 3: Owl note paper

Children write a list of who they will pray for.



## Lesson 10: Life of Peter (Reasons to love Jesus)

- Peter's story gives us so many reasons why it is easy to love Jesus.
- Our love for Jesus should be what motivates us to live lives that please Him.

### 1) Memory Verse

- Psalm 103:1

***“Let all that I am praise the LORD; with my whole heart, I will praise His Holy name.”***

#### **Idea to teach the memory verse.**

Here is a song and some actions to help the children learn the verse.

<https://youtu.be/MBc-y5KRsf4> All that I am

### 2) Hands On

#### **What you will need:**

- Plastic bottle car (Use the link for instructions to make this car <https://youtu.be/wnKnxTbYYRA> - Balloon Car)



Peter gave up everything to follow Jesus. He was willing to be thrown in prison and even killed, just so he could live a life that pleased Jesus. Why do you think he did this? Do you think it was because his parents told him to? Do you think it was because he wanted to be thrown in prison or hurt by others? Or was it because he felt guilty that everyone else was doing it and he wasn't?

Peter did these things because he loved Jesus. His love for Jesus was the driving force or the motivation for him to not worry about anything else but live for Jesus.

Let's pretend that this plastic bottle car is you. Now you have a choice to make. Do you want to just stand still and do nothing? Or do you want to do things for Jesus and live a life that pleases Him? *Let the children answer.*

Most of us would agree that we want to live lives that please Jesus. Just like a car needs fuel/petrol in order for it to move forward, you also need a driving force or motivation that changes you from saying you are going to do it to actually living a life that pleases Jesus. So what is your driving force or motivation?

Is it because your parents tell you to? Is it because you feel guilty? Is it because you want to be obedient or a good person? Is it because you are scared of getting in trouble if you don't? Did the car move?

While these can be good things there should be one thing driving you to live for Jesus more than anything else. Do you know what that is? *Let the children answer.*

*Add a puff of air to the balloon each time you mention a way to show Jesus' love.*

By spending time with Jesus and praying, you show you love Him.

By reading His word, the Bible you learn more about Him and you show you love Him.

By worshiping and singing praises to Jesus, you show you love Him.

*Pinch the end of the balloon closed and put the car on a flat surface.*

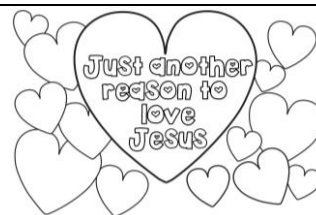
When you love Jesus with all your heart, you forget about everything else and live every moment for Him. *Let go of the balloon. The air should push out and push the car forward.* Loving Jesus should be your driving force or your motivation.

Let's look at Peter's story to see why he loved Jesus so much.

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

#### What you will need:

- A piece of string or ribbon
- Pegs or paper clips



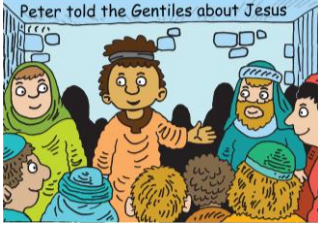

Use the string and pegs to build a timeline as you recap Peter's stories from this series.

After each story ask the children **"What does Peter's story give us?"** and they will reply **"Just another reason to love Jesus"**.

There are many things we can learn from Peter's life. These few stories we have learnt about this series teach us one important thing. That is how easy it is to love Jesus.

Picture	Summary	Reason to love Jesus
<p>Jesus called Peter to follow Him</p>	<p>Peter didn't have any superpowers. He was just a fisherman and he even needed Jesus to help him catch fish! Yet, Jesus chose Peter to follow Him and be close to Him.</p> <p>We can see from Peter's story that Jesus loves us and calls us to come to Him as we are.</p> <p><b>"What does Peter's story give us?"</b></p>	<p><b>"Just another reason to love Jesus"</b>.</p> <p>I love Jesus because He loves me and calls me as I am.</p>
<p>Jesus showed Peter who He is</p>	<p>When Jesus asked, "Who do you say I am?" Peter got the answer right. He said Jesus was God's son, the saviour. Can you remember how Peter knew the answer? Yes, God had revealed and made this known to him.</p> <p>Peter also got to see Jesus transform into His full glory on the mountain. Again God revealed and made known to Peter what His Kingdom would be like.</p> <p>We can see from Peter's story that God tells us and shows us who He is. He helps us know Him who is the perfect King of a perfect Kingdom.</p> <p><b>"What does Peter's story give us?"</b></p>	<p><b>"Just another reason to love Jesus"</b>.</p> <p>I love Jesus because He tells me and shows me who He is.</p>
<p>Jesus did the impossible</p>	<p>Blind men made to see, sick people made well, walking on water and even dead people coming alive again. Peter's story is filled with times when Jesus did things that are impossible for man but possible for God.</p> <p><b>"What does Peter's story give us?"</b></p>	<p><b>"Just another reason to love Jesus"</b>.</p> <p>I love Jesus because He does the impossible.</p>

<p>Jesus prayed for Peter, guarded his faith and loved Peter even when he messed up</p> 	<p>Peter said he would never deny Jesus. He was willing to go to jail or even die for Jesus.</p> <p>Jesus knew that Peter would fail. Jesus knew Peter would deny Him and yet Jesus didn't stop loving Peter. He even prayed for Peter and guarded His faith.</p> <p>Peter's story teaches us that Jesus prays for us and guards our faith too. Even when we mess up, Jesus still loves us.</p> <p><b><i>“What does Peter’s story give us?”</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>“Just another reason to love Jesus”.</i></b></p> <p>I love Jesus because He guards my faith and loves me even when I fail.</p>
<p>Jesus forgave Peter and Jesus restored Peter</p> 	<p>After Peter denied Jesus, he went back to fishing like he used to. It was almost like Peter thought that because he had let Jesus down he could not do things for Jesus anymore. But Jesus met with Peter on the beach, forgave Peter and told Peter to teach others about Him.</p> <p>Peter's story shows us that Jesus forgives us and restores us even when we mess up.</p> <p><b><i>“What does Peter’s story give us?”</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>“Just another reason to love Jesus”.</i></b></p> <p>I love Jesus because He forgives me and restores me even when I mess up.</p>
<p>Jesus sent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost and 3000 people were saved</p> <p>The Holy Spirit came like Jesus promised</p> 	<p>When Jesus ascended into Heaven, He promised that the Holy Spirit would come.</p> <p>On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came! When Peter taught the people, with the help of the Holy Spirit, 3000 people believed in Jesus!</p> <p>Peter's story shows us that Jesus kept His promise and the Holy Spirit has been given to us too.</p> <p><b><i>“What does Peter’s story give us?”</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>“Just another reason to love Jesus”.</i></b></p> <p>I love Jesus because He has given me the Holy Spirit to be with me always.</p>
<p>Peter spoke in Jesus' name and the lame man was healed.</p> 	<p>Peter was on the way to the temple. A lame man asked for some money but Peter replied: “I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I will give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ, get up and walk.” Acts 3:6</p> <p>And the lame man jumped up because he was healed!</p> <p>Peter's story shows us that there is power in the name of Jesus.</p> <p><b><i>“What does Peter’s story give us?”</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>“Just another reason to love Jesus”.</i></b></p> <p>I love Jesus because His name has power.</p>

 <p>Peter told the Gentiles about Jesus</p>	<p>Peter would never go into someone's home who did not obey all the rules of those times. Well that was until God told him in a dream that he should. Why? Because God has no favourites.</p> <p>Peter's story shows us that God loves everyone and wants everyone to hear the Good News about Jesus and be saved.</p> <p><b>"What does Peter's story give us?"</b></p>	<p><b>"Just another reason to love Jesus".</b></p> <p>I love Jesus because He loves everyone and wants everyone to be saved.</p>
 <p>Jesus answered Peter's friends' prayers</p>	<p>When Peter was in jail his friends prayed for him but yet they were so surprised when God answered their prayers and set Peter free from jail.</p> <p>Peter's story shows us that God hears and answers our prayers.</p> <p><b>"What does Peter's story give us?"</b></p>	<p><b>"Just another reason to love Jesus".</b></p> <p>I love Jesus because He hears and answers my prayers.</p>

#### 4) Review Questions

- Do you think that Jesus deserves to be loved by you? Why?
- Do you think your story gives others a reason to love Jesus? Who will you share it with?
- What did you learn from Peter's story that you will teach to someone else?

#### 5) Crafts

##### Option 1: Timeline

Children make their own timeline and recap what they have learnt this series.



The craft materials include:

- Two rows of cloud-shaped thought bubbles. Each bubble contains mirrored text: "I love Jesus because He loves me and I love Him".
- Cartoon illustrations of biblical events:
  - Jesus called Peter to follow Him.
  - Jesus did the impossible (healing the lame man).
  - Jesus forgave Peter and Jesus restored Peter.
  - Jesus sent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost and 3000 people were saved.
  - The Holy Spirit came like a flame.
  - Jesus showed Peter who He is.
  - Jesus prayed for Peter, guarded his faith and loved Peter even when he messed up.
  - Peter spoke in Jesus' name and the lame man was healed.
  - Jesus answered Peter's friends' prayers.
  - Peter told the Gentiles about Jesus.
- A completed banner with small pictures of the events above.