

# Thurgarton St Peter

## St Peter

**Aim:** To explore the life of Peter

**Objective:** Pupils will learn about the life of Peter

**Curriculum links:**

KS1 Leaders and teachers

KS2 Inspirational figures

**Activity:** Children will hear the story of Peter and will undertake different activities connected with aspects of his life. They will reflect on his story and its importance for the church.

**Resources:** Depending on the activities chosen:

- Bibles and Bible references
- Tracing paper, felt pens or acetate sheets and OHP pens, black paper
- Paper plates, lollipop sticks, card, straws
- Materials for making sheep
- Card, lollipop sticks, felt pens, shiny gold and silver paper and tinsel
- Card and pens for invites
- Fish shapes, pens, net
- Story of washing feet, bowl, water, towels
- Card, scissors, pens

### Information for Leader

The window at the east end of the chancel, above the altar depicts four scenes from the life of St Peter; starting from the left – his calling by Jesus, walking on the Sea of Galilee, his bidding by Jesus to, 'feed my sheep', his release from prison by an angel.

### Introduction (15 mins)

- As the children arrive give them chance to take off coats, etc. and to sit in the choir stalls where they will be able to see the East Window.
- Welcome the children to St Peter's church. Explain the church is dedicated to St Peter and so the window behind the altar (an important place in a church) shows different events in St Peter's life.
- Read the story of Peter's life (below). As you read ask the children to see if they can hear the events they can see in the window.
- Look at the window again and see if the children have worked out which parts of Peter's life they refer to.

### Activity (30-60 mins)

Choose from the following activities to reinforce aspects of Peter's life. You might choose one or two for the whole group to do, or might like to offer several for children to choose from and rotate around so they have a broader experience of the life of St Peter. You will need at least one adult with each activity. Choose activities depending on the age of children you are working with and the time you have available. Where the children are making something it is often helpful to have one readymade for them to copy. It might also be useful to have Bibles available to read the relevant parts of the story to the children as appropriate.

- Small groups of children could each look up a Bible passage which relates to the life of Paul. They could then act out their part of the story and show the rest of the group. Some of the following passages would be useful ones to include:
  - Matthew 4:18-22 Jesus calls the disciples



heritage learning welcome



- John 1:35-42 Simon is called Peter
  - Matthew 14:22-33 Jesus walks on water
  - Matthew 16:19 Peter given the keys to the kingdom – the symbol used for Peter
  - Matthew 17:1-13 The transfiguration
  - John 13:1-11 Jesus washes the disciples' feet
  - Matthew 26:31-35 and Matthew 26:69-75 Peter's denial of Jesus
  - John 20:1-9 Peter runs to the empty tomb
  - John 21:1-8 Catching fish with the resurrected Jesus
  - John 21:15-19 Jesus says, 'Feed my sheep.'
  - Acts 2:14-36 Peter addresses the crowd at Pentecost
  - Acts 12:6-18 Peter released from prison by the angels
- Children could design another stained glass window to portray a different story about Peter. Felt pens on tracing paper or OHP pens on acetate sheets make good 'stained glass' windows. Use black paper to make frame.
  - Cut a paper plate in half to make a boat shape. Colour it appropriately. Add a mast and sail with a straw and card. Make simple puppets by drawing faces on the ends of lollipop sticks to represent Jesus and Peter. Having made these, children can act out the story of Peter walking on water.
  - Make sheep with the children – there are plenty of ideas of how to do this at: [www.artistshelpingchildren.org/lambsheepartsandcraftsideaskidsforspring.html](http://www.artistshelpingchildren.org/lambsheepartsandcraftsideaskidsforspring.html) Remind the children of Jesus asking Peter to feed his lambs. Discuss what this meant.
  - Make Transfiguration puppets. Stick a drawing of Jesus on one side of a lollipop stick. Stick another on the back, but decorate this one with gold and silver to make it shine. Children can then retell the story, showing how Jesus changed when he was with Elijah and Moses.
  - Make invitations from Jesus to Peter inviting him to follow and become one of Jesus' disciples.
  - On cut-out fish shapes, children can write or draw the most significant part of Peter's story, or explain how they would like to follow Peter's example. Have a large net for the children to put their fish into.
  - Read the story of Jesus washing his disciples feet, then the children can wash each other's feet, thinking about how it feels to allow someone to do this to them.
  - Make pictures of the tomb with a flap to lift to show that it was empty. Children could also add Peter running to the tomb.

## Plenary (5 mins)

- Bring the children back together by the East Window. Ask them to think about what they have learnt about Peter. What was the most significant thing for them? Why do they think Peter did some of the things he did? Why is Peter a good saint to name a church after?

## Peter

Simon was a fisherman. He lived by the lake and went out in the boat with his brothers every day to catch fish. Some days he caught loads of fish and some days he didn't catch any at all.

One day Simon and his brothers had spent hours in the boat and they hadn't caught any fish. They were tired and when they got back to the shore there was a large crowd of people on the beach and they were all listening to a man talking. There were so many people that the man was getting pushed almost into the water. When the man saw Simon and his brothers he asked if he could use their boat. He got in and they moved away from the beach a bit. The man carried on talking to the people.

Eventually it was getting late and the man sent all the people away. He turned to Simon and his brothers and said, 'Move out into the lake a bit further, and then put down your nets for a catch of fish.' Simon argued that they'd been trying for hours and not caught anything, but there was something about the man that made him do as he said. They went towards the middle of the lake and put down the nets and caught so many fish the nets almost broke!

When they got back to the shore Jesus (that was the man's name) said to Simon, 'Leave your nets and come with me and I will make you a fisher of men, and I will call you Peter, which means the rock.'

So Peter (as Simon was now called) followed Jesus and there are lots of stories about what happened next.

Once Peter was on the lake in a boat with their friends, and it got stormy. Through the rain they saw Jesus walking towards them, on the water! Peter always liked to get involved and so he called out that he wanted to join Jesus walking on the water. He did manage a few steps, until he realised what he was doing and Jesus had to help him back into the boat.

Another time they climbed a mountain and at the top met Elijah and Moses. That was an amazing day. Jesus' clothes turned brilliant shining white and his face shone like the sun. Peter thought it was so wonderful that he wanted to build a hut so they could all stay up there, but it didn't happen.

Towards the end of Jesus' life he had a special supper. At a meal like that it was normal in those days for the servant of the house to wash everyone's feet when they arrived. This time the servant hadn't done it, so Jesus got the bowl and a cloth and he began washing his friends' feet. Peter thought that wasn't a good idea, he knew Jesus was a very special person and that he, Peter, should be washing Jesus' feet, not the other way round. But Jesus said, 'No, Peter. I love you very much and this is to show how much I love you. I won't be with you for much longer, and when I've gone, I want you all to look after each other and wash each other's feet. If you don't let me wash your feet, I'll think you don't love me.' Peter loved Jesus very much and he said, 'In that case, Jesus, don't just wash my feet, wash all of me.' Jesus laughed, 'No, you're not dirty, you don't need a wash. This is just to show I love you.'

Jesus said Peter would pretend he didn't know Jesus. Peter was hurt by this. He loved Jesus and couldn't imagine not admitting they were friends. But that evening three times people said he was a friend of Jesus and Peter said, 'No.' It was dangerous to admit knowing Jesus then. He had just been arrested and they were trying to decide what to do with him. To know Jesus then was to be associated with someone who was being treated as a criminal. When Peter realised what he had done he was so upset he ran away and hid for a while.

Then Jesus was crucified. His body was put in a tomb and a huge stone was rolled in front of it. The next day, Peter rushed to see it, and found the stone had been moved, and the tomb was empty. No, the body hadn't been stolen, Jesus was alive and Peter met him.

Jesus knew Peter felt bad about saying he didn't know Jesus, and he gave him a special job to do. He said to Peter, 'Peter, feed my lambs.' He kept saying it to make sure Peter had heard and understood. Jesus meant, 'Look after my friends.' Peter did just that, and carried on some of the special work Jesus had been doing. After Jesus had finally gone back to heaven, Peter made a famous speech about Jesus that made loads more people want to follow what Jesus had been teaching.

Peter carried on telling others about Jesus and helping them live as Jesus had taught them to live. The King didn't like what Peter was saying and had Peter put in prison. One night while Peter was asleep in prison, two angels came to the cell where he was being kept, and led Peter by the hand, past the guards and out of the prison. His friends were amazed when they saw him safe and well. But it made the king very angry and eventually, because of some of the things he was saying, Peter was crucified as Jesus had been. But Peter made them put the cross upside down, because he didn't think he was good enough to die the same way that Jesus had.

