

## Children's Worship Lesson – August 23, 2020

**Focus Scripture: Matthew 16:13-20**

**Purpose: To discover what it is that keeps us solid as a rock.**

### **An Awesome Adventure: "SEEKERS AFTER JESUS"**

**Clue #1: Where We Find God**

**Clue #2: How Does God Work in Our World**

**Clue #3: Joining God in Creating Shalom**

**Clue #4: Give and You Will Receive**

**Clue #5: Take My Yoke Upon You**

**Clue #6: God's Spirit Grows in Me**

**Clue #7: Weeds and Wheat Together.**

**Clue #8: Glimpse of God's Realm**

**Clue #9: Trust in God's Way**

**Clue #10 God is Always With Us**

**Clue #11 Live in Harmony**

**Clue #12 You Are the Christ**

Summer Sessions: June 7 to August 31



### **Preparation**

Worship Table – green cloth

Pictures for story/activity at the end of the lesson

2 pieces of 30cm/12" string

**Lighting the Christ Candle:** *"We light this candle to remind us that God is always with us."*

### **Prayer**

Dear God,

We are searchers, looking for clues about you and your love.

Guide us in the adventure of following you and sharing your love.

Amen.

### **Song: Like a Rock**

Like a rock, like a rock, God is under our feet.

Like the starry night sky, God is over our head.

Like the sun on the horizon God is ever before.

Like the river runs to ocean,

Our home is in God evermore.

## Introducing the Theme – The String Experiment

Give each child a piece of cut string, and invite them to try to break it. Now give them the second piece of string, but this time we are going to do something different. Have the children collect all the pieces of string and try to break the group of strings together.

There is a clue for us in this experiment. It tells us something about why it is so important for us to come together as a church to learn about following Jesus. We can help each other become strong so when someone suggests doing something we know is wrong, we will be able to say “no”.

## Exploring the Theme – Bible Story



**(Show the teaching picture “Jesus Calls the Fishers”)** Who can tell me what is happening in this picture? **(Jesus is talking to some fishers.)** What did Jesus ask these fishers to do? **(Leave their nets and “Come Follow Me.”)** Do you know the names of these fishers? **(Peter, and his brother Andrew and their friends James and John).** Which one do you

think might be Peter?

Peter’s name wasn’t always Peter. At the time Jesus called him to “Come Follow Me” his friends called him Simon. Today we are going to hear the story about the day his name was changed to Peter.

Read “Simon Becomes Peter” **(attached at the bottom of the lesson).**

Why did Jesus rename Simon, “Peter – the rock”? **(Peter showed faith that was solid as a rock. He understood that Jesus was the Messiah.)** The Jews – the people of Jesus’ day – had been waiting for the Messiah to come and lead them. Some thought the Messiah would be powerful and would lead the Jews to fight their enemies. What kind of power did Jesus say he would have? **(The power of love.)** When Peter felt Jesus’ love, how did it make him feel? **(strong).**

Peter and the other disciples traveled with Jesus watching him heal people, and feed people, and teach them about God’s love. They were also good detectives. They noticed that Jesus thought it was important to take time to pray, to ask God to keep him strong and loving. Jesus liked to pray early in the morning just as the sun was coming up, before the crowds came to see him. Jesus prayed before he divided up the loaves and fishes to give to the people, asking God to bless the food. He liked to pray at night before sleeping and thank God for being with him all through the day. The disciples discovered that talking to God in prayer is what kept Jesus strong and loving. They discovered this was an important clue to help them grow in God’s way.

We have time at the beginning and the end of the lesson to talk to God in prayer, like Jesus did. Do you say a prayer at home before you eat, to say thanks to God for your food? Ask your child to tell you what they say. And when we go to bed it is important to talk to God

about our day. And even when we get up in the morning it is good to thank God for a new day and ask God to keep us strong and loving.

Show the children your "Prayer Rock" and read the poem or explain the idea in your own words.

### **Activity or Craft – "Prayer Rock"**



**Materials:** stones, circles of netting or lace or any sheer material you have, rubber bands and ribbon, copies of "Prayer Rock" poem, construction paper, glue, scissors and hole punch.

Wrap the stone given out in the Theme Conversation in a circle of netting or lace or some sheer material. Use a rubber band to secure it and add a piece of ribbon. Mount the "Prayer Rock" poem on construction paper. Punch a hole and tie the poem to the rock. Have them tell you what they will do with their rock.

### **Closing Prayer**

Thank you God for lips to praise you,  
Hands to serve you and hearts to love you!  
Amen.

## Prayer Rock

I'm your lady "PRAYER ROCK"  
and this is what I'll do...

Just put me on your pillow  
until the day is through.

Then, turn back the covers  
and climb into your bed.

**BONNIE!** your lady "PRAYER ROCK"  
will bump you on the head.

This will remind you,  
as the day is through,

It's time to say your prayers,  
as you wanted to.

Then, when you are finished  
just drop me on the floor.

And I'll stay through the night  
to give you help once more.

When you get up in the morning  
Check! I snub your toe.

So you will remember  
to pray before you go.

Put me back upon your pillow  
when your bed is made.

Your dearer lady "PRAYER ROCK"  
will stay where you have prayed.

Because our good Creator  
cares what we say.

We always must remember  
take the time to pray.

Source unknown

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## Simon Becomes Peter

Simon was mixed up. He had been following Jesus for many months. Simon had listened very carefully when Jesus talked. He tried so hard to understand. But often Simon just didn't know what Jesus was talking about.

Simon was one of Jesus' special friends. A disciple.

Jesus often sat with the disciples and talked to them about God. It was like going to school. Or church.

Simon didn't really like this kind of school. "I feel so stupid," he told Jesus one day. "You explain things. Everybody else knows what you mean. But I don't!"

"What don't you understand, Simon?" asked Jesus.

"Well, I've been trying to figure out who you are. Are you a prophet? Are you a teacher? Are you a doctor?"

"Let's see what the others think," said Jesus. Jesus asked all his friends to sit down under an olive tree with him. "Now tell me," said Jesus. "When you are talking to the people who gather around - who do people say I am?"

"Some say you are John the Baptist."

"I heard someone say, 'Jesus is really the prophet Elijah come back to life.'"

"And I've heard people say you are the prophet Jeremiah." Each of the disciples had heard something different.

Jesus was laughing. "Well, I can't be all those people. Who do you think I am?"

Simon's face lit up. He had a new idea. "I know. I know. You are the Christ. You are the Messiah. You are the one God is sending to save us all." Simon was very excited.

Jesus was quiet for a long time. He looked at his friends. Then he looked hard at Simon.

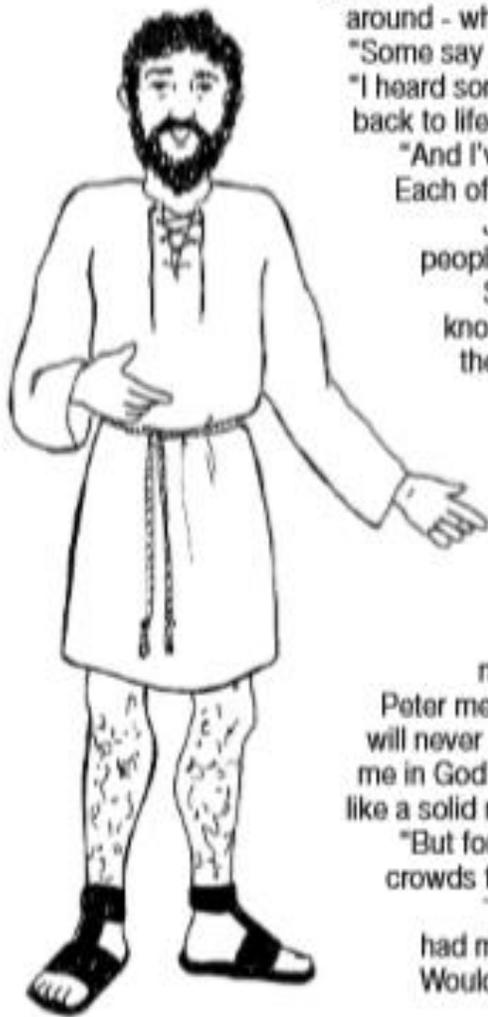
"Simon. My friend. God gave you that new idea. You didn't get that idea all by yourself. It's a big idea. It's a hard idea. Your idea is like a big, hard, solid rock.

"So I am going to give you a new name. Your name will not be Simon anymore. It will be Peter.

Peter means 'rock'. This idea, Peter, this big rock of an idea, will never go away. All my friends, all the people who follow me in God's way, will remember your idea. Always. It will be like a solid rock they can stand on.

"But for now," said Jesus, "this has to be our secret. The crowds that come to hear me wouldn't understand."

The disciples and Jesus talked for a long time. They had many questions. Would Jesus live in a big palace? Would he have soldiers to fight for him?



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## Simon Becomes Peter (Cont'd)



"No, no!" said Jesus. "That's not the kind of Messiah God wants me to be. Listen, friends. It is going to be very hard for all of us. The people who have lots of money, the rulers who have big armies, will get angry at me. They will kill me."

"No way!" yelled Peter. "That won't happen to you. No way!"  
"Peter!" Jesus sounded angry. "When you talk like that, you are not being my friend."

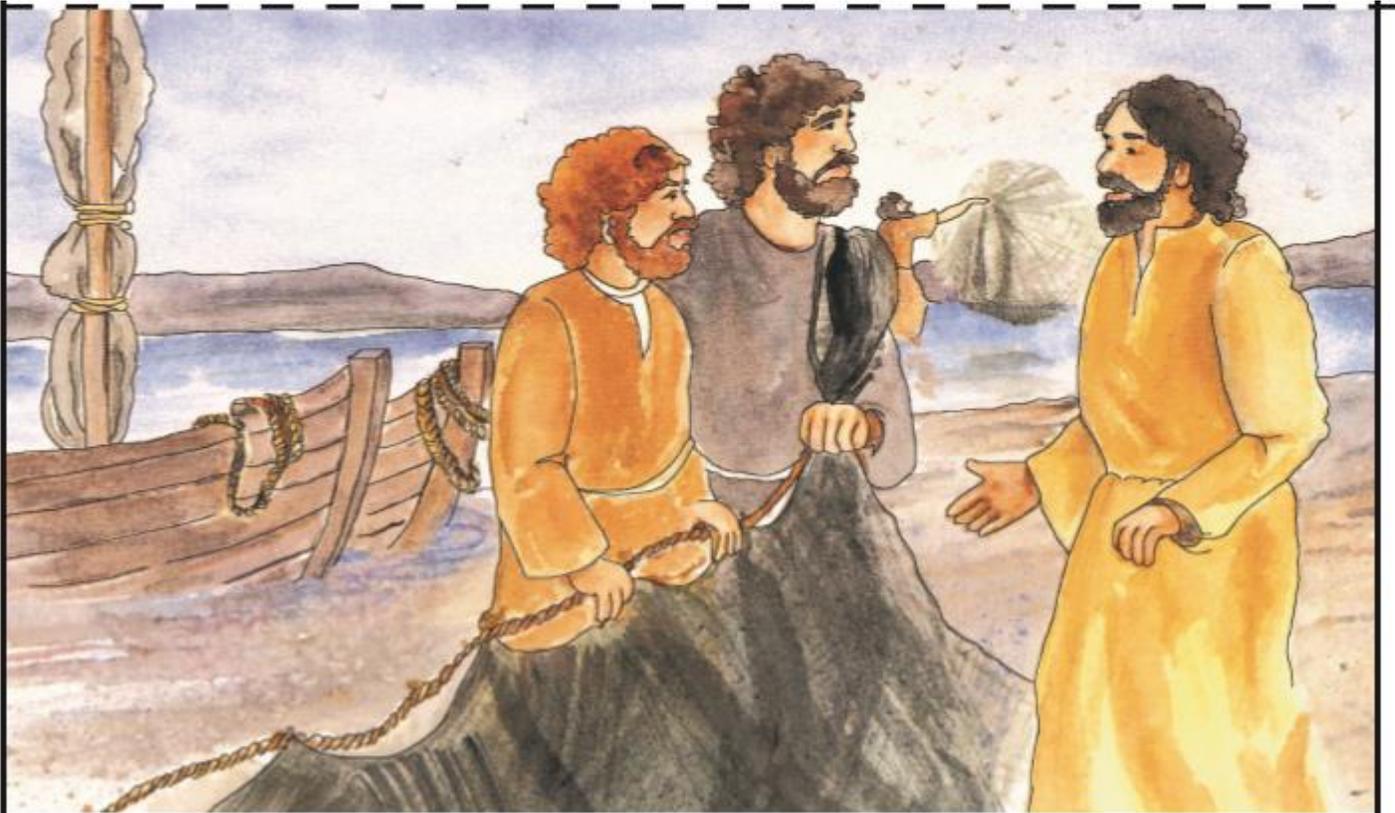
Poor Peter. Now he was really mixed up. Then Jesus sat down beside Peter. He took Peter's hand.

"It will be very hard for you to be my friends." Jesus spoke very softly. "You won't be rich. You won't be powerful. Many people will hate you. Some people will try to hurt you. Some of you will be killed.

"God's power is the power of love, Peter. That's all. It is very hard to understand. Many people won't like it. It's very hard to live in God's way. Those who live in God's way have only one kind of power. It is the power of love."

Peter was still mixed up. He didn't know how Jesus could be the Christ and still let people hurt him.

But Peter could feel the power of Jesus' love. So Peter felt strong inside. Strong as a rock.



**Jesus Calls the Fishers (Mark 1:14–20)**