

Week 5: St Peter and St Paul

Background information:

The feast day of St Peter and St Paul is celebrated this year on Monday 29th June. St Peter and St Paul were both followers of Jesus, but their lives were very different. Peter (who was called Simon) was a humble fisherman on the Sea of Galilee until Jesus called him Peter and chose him as the leader of His Church. Paul (who was called Saul) was a persecutor of Christians until Jesus chose him to be His Church's greater teacher. The power of God transformed both of these great men.

- 1) Start by singing the hymn 'Shine Jesus Shine' or saying a prayer together as you light a candle.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3iB30gCqAc>
- 2) Use the link below if you want to find out more about St Peter and Paul:
<http://www.wednesdayword.org/downloads/features/St-peter-&-paul-pop-up.pdf>
- 3) Read together 'On you I will build my Church'- Matthew 16:13-20.

One day, our Lord Jesus came to a place called Caesarea Philippi. When he got there, he asked his friends, the disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' The disciples answered, 'Well, some think you are John the Baptist. Other people say that you are Elijah. Others think you are Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.' Then Jesus asked them, 'But what about you? Who do you say I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Christ, the saviour of the world, Son of the Living God!' Jesus told Peter, 'You are blessed Peter because you didn't get that answer out of books or from teachers. My Father in Heaven showed you who I am and you believe it in your heart. And now I'm going to tell you who you really are. You are Peter. You are like a rock and on you Peter, I will build my Church.'

4) Key questions:

- What special mission did Jesus give to Peter?
- Why do you think Jesus chose Peter rather than any other disciple?
- What did Peter mean when he said 'Saviour of the World'?
- What did Jesus mean by "on you Peter- I will build my church"?

5) Suggested follow up activities:

- Learn the 'Here's the Church' rhyme: 'Here is the Church, And here is the steeple. Open it wide and see all the people. Here is the Parson (Priest). Climbing the stairs. Here he is saying his prayers.'
- St Peter was a fisherman so cut lots of different fish shapes and annotate these with bible scripture about St Peter and how we can be a good follower of Jesus
- Research into St Peter or St Paul and create a fact file about either saint or write a CV for either saint to describe what they did in their life
- St Paul encouraged many people to read God's word, to pray and build Church communities (see example letter). You could follow St Paul and write a letter to the community encouraging them to follow Jesus and spread the Good News.
- Design an image/ model/ painting to represent St Peter being the 'rock of the Church' (see examples below).

CV of Saint Peter

Job: Fishermen
Home address: Bethsaida, Lake Galilee
Family: Brother (Andrew)
Friends: James and John
Qualities:

- Natural leader
- Good with words
- Practical
- Kind-hearted
- Not always good under pressure
- Sometimes irritable and indecisive
- Lover of travel
- Lengthy spells in jail

St Paul's letter to the Colossians 1:1-10

From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from Timothy*. To the holy and faithful who live in Colossae.

When we pray to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we always thank God for you. We thank God because we have heard about the faith you have in Christ Jesus and the love you have for all of God's people.

We ask God that you will learn what it is God wants for you. We pray that you will also have great wisdom and understanding. Then you will live the kind of life that honours and pleases the Lord in every way. You will produce fruit in every good work and grow in the knowledge of God.

* Timothy was said to be a teenager when he first met St Paul. He became a big help to Paul and an important missionary himself.



