

# Short Talk

(SHT200)

## Peace be with you

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ALL AGE WORSHIP  
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## SHORT TALK: “Peace be with you”

- Aim of Short talk:** To encourage people to turn to Jesus when they are scared, in order to receive His gift of peace.
- Use of Short talk:** This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.
- Main themes:** Jesus, Fear, Peace
- Biblical references:** John 20:19-31
- Lectionary:** Year A – The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter
- Props:** Some props of things that make people scared eg.
- A snake (plastic or picture)
  - A spider (plastic or picture)
  - A picture of a dark room
  - A picture of lightening
  - A picture of a wasp

I wonder what makes you feel scared.

- Are any of you afraid of spiders? *(Show spider)*
- Or how about snakes? *(Show spider)*

Are any of you afraid of the dark? *(Show picture of a dark room)*

- Or thunderstorms? *(Show picture of lightening)*
- Or wasps? *(Show picture of large wasp)*

What other things are you afraid of? *(Receive responses)*

- We are all afraid of something aren't we?

I don't know what you do when you are scared, but some people hide from the thing that they are frightened of!

Over two thousand years ago, on the very first Easter evening, some of Jesus' disciples were hiding away in a room.

- They were all really scared.
- They had even locked the door so that no-one could come in.

They were really scared that they were going to be arrested and put to death, like Jesus had been a few days earlier.

- These men had seen the way that the Jewish leaders had worked together against Jesus to get Him arrested and killed, and they thought that the same thing might happen to them.

And then something really wonderful happened.

- The Bible tells us that “Jesus came and stood among them and said, *“Peace be with you!”*” (John 20:19b)

The last thing that the disciples expected was to see Jesus again, having seen Him crucified 3 days earlier,

- yet here He was, in the room with them.
- He had come into the room, through a locked door!

When Jesus saw how frightened His followers were,

- He gave them His gift of peace,
- peace that set them free from their fear.

Now Jesus is the same today, as He was yesterday.

- So, when we are really scared, we can turn to Jesus and ask Him to come close to us.
- When Jesus does that, He gives us His gift of peace, like He did to the first disciples.

So today, I wonder whether you are feeling afraid of anything.

- I’m not talking about spiders now but about situations in life that leave us feeling really scared,
- like an illness or bullying or money worries or losing a job.

Let’s be quiet for a moment and ask Jesus to come close to us. PAUSE

Lord Jesus would you come close to us now and help us to receive the gift of peace that You want to give to us, in place of our fear. Help us hear Your voice saying, *“Peace be with you,”* Amen.