

All Age Worship at Home

(AAWH043)

The Big Story of God 43: “The Restoration of Peter”

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THE BIG STORY OF GOD 43

“The Restoration of Peter”

Introduction:

This short act of worship has been prepared for people of all ages to take part in at home. Below you will find instructions and the things that you will need to collect beforehand in order to take part. Adapt the script as is suitable for your situation and the age of those taking part.

Through this Coronavirus outbreak, we are seeing “the story” of a pandemic and how it is affecting the nations. But above this story is God’s big story; His story of Creation, the Fall, Redemption, and Restoration that continues until the end of time.

These short acts of worship have been written to follow the major themes of “The Big Story of God”. There will be 53 themes taking us through a year beginning with Palm Sunday.

In order to accommodate the church’s festivals, you may find that some of the themes don’t run in a chronological order, but where it is possible, they will.

Instructions:

1. Find a place where you can gather together without interruption. You may choose to sit around a table or sit on the floor in a circle.
2. Choose one of you to read out the leader’s words which are in black type. **Everyone** reads the words in **black bolded type**. Instructions are in purple type. Vary who leads each time you meet.
3. Under the “Exploring the Bible Reading” section, there are a few questions to reflect upon (REFLECTING TOGETHER), a short talk for the leader to read out (LEARNING TOGETHER) and some thoughts on how to respond (RESPONDING TOGETHER)
4. It may be helpful to choose a regular time to meet, for example 10.30am on a Sunday morning that you keep to each week.

Aim of act of worship:

To teach that Jesus calls ordinary people to serve Him and doesn’t give up on them when they mess up.

What you will need to collect beforehand:

- A copy of the complete act of worship for the person leading and a copy of **Appendix 1** of this act of worship for each person taking part (who is able to read.)
- A way for people to watch YouTube worship videos eg. Smart phone, tablet, laptop....
- A candle that is placed in the centre of the group and a way to light it.
- A Bible.
- A “net” of some sort eg. the net packaging around fruit/vegs, a piece of garden netting or a paper on which you have drawn a picture of netting, and a few card fish (see **Appendix 2**), and an L sign (see **Appendix 2**)
- A rucksack with 3 bricks (or 3 other very heavy things eg. large books) in it.

“The Restoration of Peter”

Opening Prayer:

(The candle is lit)

Alleluia. Christ is Risen!
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!
 Alleluia. Christ is Risen!
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Songs:

Choose one or two worship songs that you enjoy singing together. Below are some ideas of YouTube songs with lyrics that you can sing along to:

1. “O Praise The Name (Anástasis)” (Dean Ussher, Marty Sampson & Benjamin Hastings)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cNkdKr9QP3w>
2. “Mighty to save” (Reuben Morgan & Ben Fielding)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnXX8TbUX-E>
3. “What a beautiful name” (Ben Fielding & Brooke Ligertwood)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUBBlddm_rM
4. “Waymaker” (Kids worship – Martin Smith)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wyotu9Twko>
5. “I could sing of your love for ever” (Hillsong Kids)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnPVJYTW9s8&list=PLXJYj0dEY4WrE2NUpLE9s06WP3O2BllMz&index=22>

Bible Reading 1:

You will be storytelling **Matthew 4:18-20** and **Matthew 26:69-75**. You will need your net and card fish.

Today we are going to be exploring some of the things that happened to one of Jesus’ 12 disciples called Peter and see what we can learn from his life.

Now Peter was a very ordinary man, no different really from men today. He wasn’t a superhero; he was a fisherman. In the days of Jesus, fishermen used nets that they threw over their boat to catch the fish. So, here’s our fishing net and a few fish. *(Lay out net and fish caught in the net, in the centre of your gathering)*

One day when Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw Peter with his brother Andrew. Jesus said, *“Come, follow me, and I will send you out to fish for people.”* (Matthew 4:19) At once, Peter and his brother left their nets and followed Jesus.

Let’s take away the net and the fish as Peter has stopped fishing now to follow Jesus. *(Remove the net and fish from the table.)*

We’ll put an “L”, which is a learner sign, on the table to remind us that Peter, as a disciple was learning to follow Jesus and do the things that Jesus did. *(Put L sign on the table)*

- 1) What do you think the best bits about following Jesus would have been for Peter?
- 2) Which miracle do you think Peter enjoyed seeing the most?

Having had a wonderful three years with Jesus, one evening everything went wrong for Peter. Jesus told Peter that something bad was going to happen to Him. He said that all the disciples would run away. Peter said that he would never run away. But Jesus said: *“Peter before the rooster crows.....you will deny me three times.”* (Matthew 26:34)

That night Jesus was arrested, and Peter found himself outside the High Priest’s house. Three times Peter was asked if he knew Jesus and three times Peter denied it, saying, *“I don’t know the man!”* (Matthew 26:72) And then the rooster crowed.

Exploring the Bible Reading 1:

a) Reflecting together

- How do you think Peter felt after He had said that He didn’t know Jesus?
- Have you have felt really guilty after you have done something wrong?

b) Responding together

You will need the rucksack with 3 large bricks (or 3 other heavy items in it)

After Peter had said that he didn’t know Jesus he went and cried. He felt so awful about what He had done.

- In his heart Peter carried the weight of guilt that he had let Jesus down, the person who had loved him the most.

Inside this rucksack are 3 large bricks (or other items) and it is very very heavy.

- Who would like to try and put this rucksack onto their back?
- See if you can walk easily carrying that heavy rucksack.

It isn’t easy walking carrying a really heavy rucksack on our backs is it?

- That heavy rucksack reminds us that it isn’t easy carrying heavy loads of guilt in our hearts, like Peter did on that night.

Peter was so upset and weighed down with guilt that He decided to go back fishing. (Remove the L sign from the table and put back the net and the fish).

- I wonder why Peter went fishing.
- Perhaps he thought that Jesus wouldn’t want him to be a disciple any longer, but let’s find out what happened when Peter met the risen Jesus.

Bible Reading 2:

Read the story about Jesus and the miraculous catch of fish and Jesus reinstates Peter. This can be found in **John 21:1-19**. Choose one of the following ways to read the Bible passage:

1. One person reads the story out loud.
2. Watch a YouTube acted out presentation of the story here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRSLcHyf_Nc
3. Scroll through the pictures that you will find in the website below, one picture at a time. You will find the words of the story to read at the bottom of each picture: <http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/peter-reinstated/>

Exploring the Bible Reading 2:

a) Reflecting together

- Which bit of the story did you like best?
- Why do you think Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him three times?
- Did Jesus want Peter to go back to fishing, or did Jesus still want Peter to be a disciple even though Peter had messed up?
- How do you think Peter felt after He had spent time with Jesus?

b) Responding together

(You will need the rucksack with the 3 bricks or other heavy items)

When Jesus talked with Peter at the end of breakfast, He gave him a second chance.

- Instead of being angry with Peter, or condemning Peter for disowning Him, and messing up, Jesus gave Peter a chance to put things right.

Three times Jesus asked Peter the question: *“Do you love me?”*

- Three times Peter was able to say, *“Yes Lord, you know that I love you.”*

Jesus made it possible for Peter’s guilt rucksack to be emptied. (Remove the bricks from the rucksack and put them on the table)

Jesus told Peter that He still wanted Peter to follow Him; in fact, Jesus wanted Peter to look after God’s people, the church. (Remove the net and the fish from the table and put back the L sign).

What about us? We are ordinary people like Peter was, who will mess up from time to time. The good news for us is that even when we have messed up, Jesus still loves us and wants us to be His followers.

Prayers:

Let’s be quiet for a moment and we are going to take it in turns to hold one of the heavy bricks. When you hold the brick, ask yourself the questions:

- 1) Am I weighed down inside with any guilt?
- 2) Is this guilt stopping me from following Jesus?

When you have had enough time, pass the brick on to the person sitting next to you.

Let’s pray together and say sorry for the wrong things we have done:

**Lord Jesus please forgive us for the ways that we have let you down.
We are sorry for the wrong things we have done,
the unloving words that we have spoken,
and the bad attitudes that we have held.
Help us to follow you again. Amen.**

Jesus says to each one of us:

“I forgive you. Be free from your sin and your guilt. Follow me.”

When Jesus walked on the earth, He spent a lot of time healing people who were ill, so let’s pray for people we know who are ill at the moment. **PRAY.**

We’ll end our prayers by praying the Lord’s pray together:

**Our Father in heaven,
 Hallowed be your name,
 Your kingdom come,
 Your will be done on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Lead us not into temptation
 but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
 now and for ever. Amen.**

Something to do during the week:

This week make a L (Learner) sign like I have done and write on it all the things that you have learnt about Jesus. See how many things you can write down.

Final Song:

Choose a final song to sing together. Below are some ideas from YouTube:

- 1) Christ is enough for me (Jonas Myrin & Reuben Morgan)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbzsiRoTSPc>
- 2) Every move I make (Kid's worship)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPvnZILn6EY>
- 3) Loved before the dawn of time (Stuart Townend)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WWehzQbQ6IA>

Blessing:

End with the Blessing. Choose one of the ways below:

1. The leader of the act of worship says:
*"The LORD bless us and keep us;
 the LORD make his face shine on us and be gracious to us;
 the LORD turn his face toward us and give us peace."* (Numbers 6:24-26)
2. Watch the Blessing song (Kari Jobe)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0paOY5y4hol>
3. Hold hands together and say the Grace together:
**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 and the love of God,
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.**

Finish by blowing out the candle.

Appendix 1 – Words for everyone taking part “The Restoration of Peter”

Opening Prayer:

(The candle is lit)

Alleluia. Christ is Risen!
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!
 Alleluia. Christ is Risen!
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Prayers:

Questions:

- 1) Am I weighed down inside with any guilt?
- 2) Is this guilt stopping me from following Jesus?

**Lord Jesus please forgive us for the ways that we have let you down.
 We are sorry for the wrong things we have done,
 the unloving words that we have spoken,
 and the bad attitudes that we have held.
 Help us to follow you again. Amen.**

We'll end our prayers by praying the Lord's pray together:

**Our Father in heaven,
 Hallowed be your name,
 Your kingdom come,
 Your will be done on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Lead us not into temptation
 but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
 now and for ever. Amen.**

Blessing:

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 and the love of God,
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore.
 Amen.**

Appendix 2 – Pictures

