

Short All Age Worship Service

(ShortAAW013)

Encountering Jesus (1) Simon Peter

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Encountering Jesus

(1) Simon Peter

Service Aim:

To enable people to discover that Jesus is awesome, holy and merciful and to respond to Him. The service is around 30-40mins long.

Biblical Reference(s):

Luke 5:1-11, Isaiah 55:9

Outline of Service:

Welcome:	Introduce the theme
Opening Prayer:	Matthew 18:20 and prayer
Opening songs:	<u>A couple of songs to draw people into worship</u> (See Appendix 1)
Warm up:	<p>“Oh wow” moments that we have experienced through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What we have seen • What we have heard • What we have tasted
Bible Reading:	Luke 5:1-11
Talk 1:	Peter encountered the awesomeness of Jesus.
Song:	<u>Song worshipping Jesus</u> (See Appendix 1)
Talk 2:	<p>Peter encountered the holiness of Jesus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Jesus’ light, Peter saw his sinfulness (with shoebox illustration) <p>Peter encountered the mercy of Jesus (with broken plate illustration) and was accepted and invited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter’s response to Jesus of leaving everything to follow Him.
Response:	Encountering Jesus through the story.
Song:	<u>Song worshipping Jesus</u> (See Appendix 1)
Prayers:	Praying for people to come to know Jesus with fish.
Lord’s Prayer:	
Summary:	<p>Peter discovered that Jesus is awesome, holy and merciful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is the same today, so let’s follow Him.
Final song:	<u>Final song</u> (See Appendix 1)
Blessing:	Numbers 6:24-26

Notes for the service:

General notes and instructions for the service are in black font.

Prayers or responses said by the congregation together are in bold purple font.

The full script of a talk or other activity is in purple font.

.....

Welcome:

Welcome everyone to the service. Explain that the theme of the service is “The encounter that Simon Peter had with Jesus beside the Sea of Galilee.”

Opening Prayer:

You may choose to open the service with:

- an informal prayer
- a prayer from a book like “New Patterns for Worship”¹ that the congregation can say together,
- or the following verse and prayer:

Jesus said, *“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them”*
(Matthew 18:20)

As you promise to be with us Lord Jesus,
Make us aware of Your presence today.

**Help us Lord to worship you,
To listen to your Word,
And to pray in faith,
That we might grow in our love for you and for one another.
Amen.**

Opening Songs:

A couple of songs to draw people into worship as per Appendix 1

Warm up:

For the “warm up” you will need either all or a selection of the following:

- 1) A couple of “breath-taking” pictures that you can project (see Appendix 2)
- 2) A very short YouTube clip of an ordinary person auditioning on a show like “Britain’s got talent”, opening their mouth and singing in an amazing way. (For example, the 1st audition on “Britain’s got talent” of Susan Boyle², Paul Potts³ or of a young shy girl⁴)
- 3) A bowl of “popping candy”⁵

Many of us have probably experienced an “Oh wow” moment at some point in our lives.

- We may have **seen something** amazing, that made us go, “Oh wow”, like this girl probably did when she got to the top of the mountain and looked down.
(Show picture 1 from Appendix 2)

¹ Church House Publishing – ISBN 9780715123263

² You can find this on YouTube at www.youtube.com and by searching “Susan Boyle 1st audition.”

³ You can find this on YouTube at www.youtube.com and by searching “Paul Potts 1st audition.”

⁴ You can find this on YouTube at www.youtube.com and by searching “Young shy girl 1st audition.”

⁵ You can purchase popping candy from a variety of online sweet stores.

Many of us would say: “Oh wow” on seeing this beautiful flower tunnel in Japan wouldn’t we? *(Show picture 2 from Appendix 2)*

Our “Oh wow” moment may have happened when we **heard something** amazing,

- a bit like the audience and judges did when they heard Susan Boyle / Paul Potts / a young shy girl sing for the 1st time on the television show “Britain’s got talent.” *(Play YouTube clip)*
- They didn’t expect to hear such an amazing voice, and when they did, you could see people reacting in amazement.

Our “Oh wow” moment may have happened when we **tasted something** amazing.

- I have something very ordinary looking here in this bowl.
- Who would like to come and taste it? *(Receive a couple of volunteers and encourage them to take some popping candy and put it into their mouths, then get their reaction)*

When you looked at those ordinary pieces in my bowl, you wouldn’t have expected that taste sensation in your mouth would you?

- If that was the first time you have tasted popping candy, it might well have been an “Oh wow” moment! *(Send back volunteers)*

Some “Oh wow” moments last for a short time, while others, especially if they are completely unexpected, can have a dramatic effect upon our lives.

- Today we are going to look at the story from the Bible where Simon Peter experienced an “Oh wow” moment that completely changed the course of his life.

Bible Reading:

The Bible reading is Luke 5:1-11 and can be read by a child, young person or adult.

Alternatively, you could show a Bible animation of Luke 5:1-11⁶ or a video of Luke 5:1-11⁷

Another way of presenting the Bible reading would be for a person to re-tell the story as the character of Peter. (See Appendix 3) This person could either learn the words or use a computer screen in front of them as an “auto-cue.”

Talk1:

You need a fish (a cardboard cut out would work fine) for this talk

Simon Peter’s “**Oh wow**” moment happened at his place of work,

- on the Sea of Galilee, or as Luke’s Gospel calls it, Lake Gennesaret.

It happened after a night when he had caught no fish at all, even though he was an experienced fisherman.

- It happened after he did exactly what Jesus told him to do.

Having let down the nets, out of nowhere appeared large numbers of fish;

- so many in fact that once caught, they filled and nearly sunk two fishing boats!
- You can imagine his eyes nearly popping out of his head in astonishment.
- All of this came about because of Jesus’ presence in Simon Peter’s boat.

⁶ You can find this on YouTube at www.youtube.com and by searching “Luke 5 1-11 animation”

⁷ You can find this on YouTube at www.youtube.com and by searching “Lumo Gospel of Luke chapter 5:1-11”

On that day Simon Peter experienced **Jesus' awesomeness**, and I don't know about you, but if I had been there, I would have said: "Oh wow!"

- Here's a fish to remind us of Jesus' awesomeness. (*Hold up fish*)

Now Jesus may have looked like an ordinary man, but an experienced fisherman like Simon Peter was astonished at the catch of fish.

- Could Simon Peter be standing in the presence of someone holy?

Let's worship our awesome God as we sing again

Song:

Songs worshipping God and focusing upon how awesome He is as per Appendix 1.

Talk 2:

You will need a shoebox with a lid on it, filled with either some rubbish out of your kitchen bin, or from your vacuum cleaner. You also need a plate; either in one piece (if you are going to smash it during the talk) or in two halves (having broken it earlier).

I need a volunteer please. (*Receive volunteer and hold up shoebox*)

- Would you tell me what is inside this box? (*Keep the lid on*)
- Have 3 guesses (*Volunteer guesses*)

When something is in the dark, like inside this shoebox, we cannot see what it is can we?

- However, if we take the lid off the box and let the light in, what can you see? (*Volunteer tells you that there is dirt inside the box. Send them back to their seat*)
- The dirt remained hidden while it was in the dark but as soon as the light was let in, the dirt could be seen.

That little illustration helps us understand Simon Peter's reaction to Jesus when he fell down at Jesus' knees and said: "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" (Luke 5:8)

Simon Peter not only experienced the awesomeness of Jesus as he looked at the huge number of fish caught,

- he also experienced **Jesus' holiness**.

It was like in the brilliant light of Jesus' perfect goodness and kindness, Simon Peter realised that Jesus could see everything about him.....

- the good bits but also the "dirt" of his sin. (*open lid of shoebox to show the dirt inside*)

Because of this, Simon Peter was really afraid.

- He may of thought that Jesus wouldn't want to know him anymore, now that Jesus had seen what sort of man he was.
- We might think like that too, mightn't we?
- So, let our shoebox remind us of the holiness of Jesus. (*hold up shoebox*)

But Jesus didn't push Peter away and tell him to get his life sorted out.

- Instead, Jesus did something totally unexpected.
- He did something that I think would have given Simon Peter an even greater "oh wow" moment than seeing all of those fish.

Jesus accepted Simon Peter as he was, even though He knew everything about him.

- He said *“Don’t be afraid”* (Luke 5:10b)

Jesus then went on to tell Simon Peter that He had a new job for him to do.

- He would no longer be fishing for fish, but fishing for people,
- In other words, Jesus wanted Simon Peter on His team, doing the work of bringing people into God’s Kingdom.
- Peter experienced **Jesus’ mercy**.

Now the word mercy means that we aren’t treated as we deserve to be treated.

- So, for example, imagine that yesterday you smashed one of the plates in your kitchen when you were in a mood. *(Either smash the plate or hold up the pieces of the broken plate)*
- You deserve to be punished for doing something like that don’t you?
- At the very least, you would expect to have to give up some of your pocket money to pay towards a replacement.

Imagine now that your mother chooses to forgive you and says that she will pay for the replacement.

- She is showing you mercy.
- She is giving you something that you don’t deserve.

Jesus showed Peter mercy.

- Although Jesus could see Peter’s heart and knew all about the sin inside him, Jesus chose to accept Peter, bring him onto His team, and involve him in His work.
- You see Jesus’ ways are very different from our ways. (Isaiah 55:9)

Having experienced Jesus’ **awesomeness** *(hold up fish)*,

- Jesus’ **holiness** *(hold up shoebox)*,
- and Jesus’ **mercy** *(hold up broken plate)*,
- when Peter got back to shore, he left everything and followed Jesus.

Peter left the biggest catch of fish of his life to follow the One who knew Him and yet who loved Him.

You know Jesus is the same today as He was in Peter’s day.

- He is still awesome and does amazing things. *(hold up fish)*,

Jesus is still holy, *(hold up shoebox)* which means that He is totally good.

- There is nothing bad in Jesus at all.

Jesus is also still merciful, *(hold up plate pieces)*, which means that although Jesus knows everything about us, He loves us more than anyone else does.

Maybe, our biggest “Oh wow” moment will be, or has been, the day when we come to accept Jesus’ love for ourselves, and His invitation to follow Him.

Response:

This next section is an All-Age version of responding to the Scripture using an Ignatian style of imaginative prayer. You may like to use the words below:

I am going to give you an opportunity now to respond to Jesus for yourself.

- The way we will do that is by using our God-given imaginations to enter into the story.
- So, make yourself comfortable and shut your eyes.
- Take a moment to be still and know that you are in the presence of God.
PAUSE

I want you to imagine now that you are Peter in the story we have heard today.

- Imagine that you have just got back from spending all night at sea fishing, but you haven't caught anything.
- How are you feeling? PAUSE

You turn your attention to your nets that need cleaning from bits of seaweed and other debris caught up in them.

- As you are cleaning your nets, you become aware of people gathering....
- They have come to listen to Jesus, who has appeared by the seashore.

The next thing you know, there is a tap on your shoulder and when you look up, Jesus is standing in front of you and asking if he can use your boat to teach from.

- How do you feel about that? PAUSE

You put down your nets, help Jesus into your boat, and you row a few metres away from the shoreline. Jesus sits down and starts teaching again.

- What do you do? PAUSE

And then you hear Jesus' voice, speaking to you saying: *"Put out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch"*

- Now, fishing is your life. You know all about when and where to catch fish and you are tired after a night's fishing, so you say to Jesus: *"Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets"*
- How are you feeling? PAUSE

You row out to the deep water and then you let down the nets into the sea.

- All of a sudden you see hundreds of fish flocking into your nets.....
- They are filling up so quickly that your nets are struggling to hold them and are starting to break.
- Is this an "Oh wow" moment for you? Are you starting to realise how awesome Jesus is? PAUSE

There are way too many fish for your boat to carry so you call out to your friends James and John to come and help you.

- Watch as they help you bring the fish safely aboard your two boats. PAUSE

With the fish filling your boat and all around you, turn to face Jesus. He is looking at you with His gaze of love.....but there is something else. You realise that Jesus is holy. He knows every single thing about you; the good bits but also the bits that you hide from everyone else.

- How does that make you feel? PAUSE

What do you want to say to Jesus? Speak to Him in your heart. PAUSE

Listen to Jesus as He tells you not to be afraid. PAUSE

- Listen to Jesus as He tells you that you have a part to play on His team. What is He asking you to do? PAUSE
- What do you say to Jesus? PAUSE

Now slowly open your eyes again.

When you get home, you might like to write down anything that Jesus has spoken to you today and then pray about it in the weeks ahead.

- If you need any help to think further about what Jesus has said to you, do get in touch with one of our church leaders.

Song:

Song worshipping God and focusing on His holiness and mercy as per Appendix 1.

Prayers:

Every person will need two paper (or card) A5 fish (See Appendix 4) and a pen / pencil / crayons. You will also need to either project the responses below or print them out for people to say.

Today as we pray, we will be using fish, which I will pass around now. *(Pass around fish)*

- You each need two fish, and a pen / pencil or crayons.

Inside the first fish I want you to write your name on the dotted line. PAUSE

- Outside the fish I have written three words that we have learnt about Jesus today.....that He is Awesome, Holy and Merciful.
- As you hold your fish, let us pray.

We praise you Lord Jesus for You are awesome:

You are awesome

We look at your beautiful world and praise You saying:

You are awesome

We hear the birds singing, and feel the warmth of the sun and praise You saying:

You are awesome

You are good and there is no darkness in you at all. We praise You saying:

You are holy

Your ways are so much higher than our ways. We praise You saying:

You are holy

You are kind and faithful. We praise You saying:

You are holy

You do not treat us as our sins deserve.

You are merciful

You know us by name and invite us into Your kingdom. We praise You saying:

You are merciful

You give us a new purpose in life; to join you in Your work. We praise You saying:
You are merciful
Lord Jesus, help us to follow You.
Amen.

Now pick up your second fish.

- Who do you know who doesn't yet know all these wonderful things about Jesus?
- Write down their name on the dotted line of your fish. PAUSE
- As you hold your fish, let us pray:

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for the person, whose name I have written on my fish.
 Please bless them and help them to know how much you love them.
 Help me to share with them how awesome, holy and merciful you are.
Amen.

Take your fish home. May they be a reminder of how much Jesus loves you and also a reminder to pray for the other person.

Lord's Prayer:

End by saying the Lord's Prayer together.

Summary:

You could summarize the teaching points of the service as follows:

One day, Peter discovered some wonderful things about Jesus.

- Peter learnt that Jesus is.....(*hold up fish*) **awesome.**
- Peter learnt that Jesus is.....(*hold up shoebox*) **holy.**
- Peter learnt that Jesus is.....(*hold up plate pieces*) **merciful.**
- Jesus is the same today....let me encourage you to keep following Him.

Final Song:

Final song about following Jesus as per Appendix 1.

Blessing:

Pray a simple prayer to end the service, something like the blessing prayer from Numbers 6:24-26 ie:

The LORD bless you and keep you;
 The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;
 The LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. **Amen.**

[Notices: If your church gives out verbal notices my suggestion is that you do that just before the final song. That way the flow of worship is unbroken]

Appendix 1 - Ideas for Songs and Hymns:

i) Opening songs. Ideas include:

- Bless the Lord O my soul (Jonas Myrin | Matt Redman © 2011 Thankyou Music)
- Come people of the risen King (Keith Getty | Kristyn Getty | Stuart Townend © 2007 Thankyou Music)
- Let our praise be your welcome (Jesse Reeves | Matt Maher | Matt Redman | Tim Wanstall © 2011 Chrysalis Music Ltd.)
- Lord we lift your name on high (Rick Founds © 1989 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing)
- Thankful (Jay Stocker. ©2008, 2019 Group Publishing)

ii) Songs worshipping God and focusing upon how awesome He is. Ideas include:

- Bigger than big (Jay Stocker © 2008 Group Publishing, Inc)
- Creator God (Becky Drake | Nick J. Drake © 2007 Song Solutions Daybreak)
- Our God is a great big God (Jo Hemming | Nigel Hemming © 2001 Vineyard Songs)
- Our God is an awesome God (Rich Mullins © 1988 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing)
- Praise Him you heavens (Russell Fragar © 1998 Hillsong Music Publishing)
- The splendour of the King (Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves © 2004 sixsteps Music)
- There's nothing that our God can't do (Brandon Lake | Jonathan Smith | Kristian Stanfill © 2020 Be Essential Songs)

iii) Song worshipping God and focusing on His holiness and mercy. Ideas include:

- Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God (Lift up His name) (Nathan Fellingham © 1995 Thankyou Music)
- Jesus You are mercy (Brenton Brown & Don Williams © 2005 Thankyou Music)
- What a beautiful name (Ben Fielding | Brooke Ligertwood © 2016 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia)

iv) Final song. Ideas include:

- I have decided to follow Jesus (Jay Stocker © 2016 Group Publishing, Inc.)
- I will follow (Jason Ingram, Reuben Morgan & Chris Tomlin © 2010 worshiptogether.com Songs)
- O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder (Stuart K Hine © 1949, 1953 / The Stuart Hine Trust)

Appendix 2 – Beautiful Pictures

1. Breath-taking view in the Bavarian Alps



2. Breath-taking flower tunnel in Japan



Appendix 3 - Peter's Re-telling of Luke 5:1-11

Cast: Peter dressed in a tunic, or dressing gown

.....
(Enter Peter who walks centre stage)

Hello, my name is Simon Peter, and I am, or should say, I was a fisherman in Galilee.

I want to tell you about an amazing day that I experienced. It started out the same as many other days had done, down at the water's edge washing out my fishing nets, after a hard night of trying to catch fish.

Not only were we fishermen working on the shore, but Jesus was there too. A crowd had gathered around Him which was getting bigger and bigger as He taught them.

The next thing I knew was that Jesus had got into my fishing boat. He asked me to put out a little from shore which is what I did. Jesus then sat down and taught everyone from my boat.

After a while, when He had finished teaching, Jesus turned to me and said: *"Put out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch."*

Now I told Jesus that we had worked hard all night and hadn't caught a thing....not one single fish, but there was an authority about Jesus and so I said to Him: *"but because you say so, I will let down the nets"*.

We put down the nets into the water and imagine our surprise when the next thing we knew was that we had caught so many fish that our nets began to break.

We called across to James and John my partners in the other boat, to come and help us, which they did. We filled both boats so full that they almost sank. We were all astonished at this catch of fish.

In that moment I suddenly became aware that in Jesus, I was standing before someone who was different, holy. I fell down before Him (*fall down on knees*) and said: *"Go away from me, Lord; for I am a sinful man!"*

But Jesus said to me: *"Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people"* (*Stand up again*)

When we got back to shore, we pulled up our boats, left everything and followed Jesus.

(Exit Peter)

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Appendix 4 – Fish Template

Jesus is: Awesome
Holy
Merciful

