

A better story

JESUS TALKS ABOUT WHO HE IS AND PROMISES PETER

AN IMPORTANT ROLE MATTHEW 16.13-20 • 23-29 AUGUST 2020



Read the [Introduction for leaders](#), or [Introduction for parents and carers](#) for guidance on how to use these ideas.

You will need these items: colouring sheet www.rootsontheweb.com/media/20756/23-aug-2020-colouring-sheet.pdf; sticky notes; key templates printed out (see below) or scissors and paper; (optional: play dough or Lego™/building bricks or paper and pens); images of famous people; cardboard boxes and masking tape or cushions and throws, chunky felt tip pens or pens and paper; the song 'Thank you God' at <https://sameboatmusic.com/pages/roots> and a phone/tablet to play it on.

Part 1

Meet Peter

Use the Colouring Sheet to introduce Peter and think about Jesus' words to him:

www.rootsontheweb.com/media/20756/23-aug-2020-colouring-sheet.pdf

Who am I?

Prepare sticky notes with the names of famous people/characters from fiction, e.g. the Queen, Harry Potter, Pikachu, written on them, one for each person. Stick a name onto each person's forehead. Everyone is allowed to ask the others 10 'yes' or 'no' questions, to help them work out who they are.

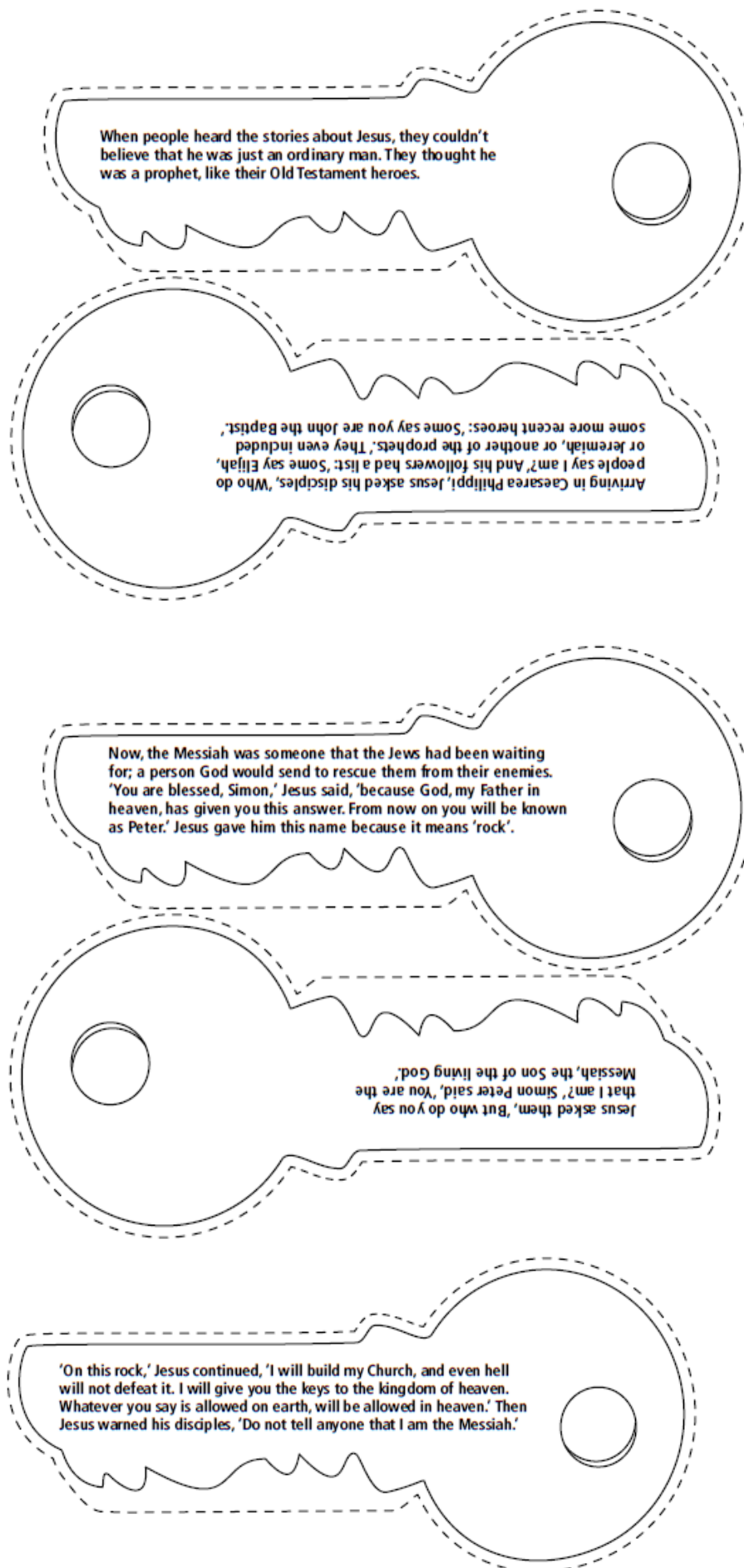
A gathering prayer

Father God,
as we come together here today,
build us together as your Church,
one family, together in this place.
Amen.

Part 2

The key to it all

If you can, use the template below with the Bible passage printed on five key shapes and cut round each key. On the back of each key – in the correct order for the story – write one word of the phrase, 'The keys to the kingdom' then mix them up. Read out the story in full, then ask everyone to read the story again and put the five keys in the correct order to make the phrase. They can then make a hole in each key, and thread a piece of string through it, to tie them together in a loop like a keyring. Together you can use the big keyring to remember the phrase and reread the Bible passage. If you can't use the template, cut out five key shapes from paper, and write one of the words from the phrase, 'The keys to the kingdom' on each key.



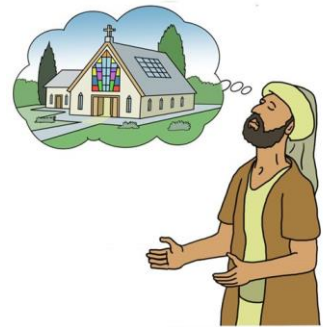
When people heard the stories about Jesus, they couldn't believe that he was just an ordinary man. They thought he was a prophet, like their Old Testament heroes.

Arriving in Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And his followers had a list: 'Some say Elijah, or Jeremiah, or another of the prophets.' They even included some more recent heroes: 'Some say you are John the Baptist.'

Jesus asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?'

Simon Peter said, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'

Now, the Messiah was someone that the Jews had been waiting for: a person God would send to rescue them from their enemies. 'You are blessed, Simon,' Jesus said, 'because God, my Father in heaven, has given you this answer. From now on you will be known as Peter.' Jesus gave him this name because it means 'rock'.



'On this rock,' Jesus continued, 'I will build my Church, and even hell will not defeat it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you say is allowed on earth, will be allowed in heaven.' Then Jesus warned his disciples, 'Do not tell anyone that I am the Messiah.'

Action time

Retell the story in this shortened version, encouraging everyone to join in the actions as indicated in italics.

Jesus and his friends were walking along. (*walk on the spot*)

Jesus said, 'Who do you think I am?' (*turn both hands upwards*)

Simon Peter was the first to answer. (*point one finger up*)

He said, 'You are the Son of God.' (*point a finger on the other hand up*)

Jesus said, 'You will be called Peter – the rock. (*clench one fist to make a 'rock'*)

I will build my Church on you and I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven.' (*clench both fists together and 'build'*)

A prayer for forgiveness

Lord Jesus, we are sorry
that we do not always recognise who you are.

Help us to see you as our Messiah,
the Son of the living God.

Amen.

Part 3

Film it

Work together to create a short film of the action from Matthew 16.13-20. You can do this yourselves by acting it out or create animation using play dough or Lego™ or with paper and pens www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhrpck7mg1c. It can be serious or tongue-in-cheek. You should be able to film using a phone, or use more professional equipment if you have it.

Prayer cairn

Give everyone a small stone. Say together, 'Jesus, help us to build our lives on you'. Then ask everyone to place their stones, one at a time, in a pile to make a prayer cairn. As they do, say, 'May (insert name of person) build their life on you.'

A prayer of praise

Invite everyone to join in with the response: **You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.**

Lord Jesus,
you came to earth and walked among us.
You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.
You have shown us the truth.
You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.
You are living with us, showing us the way to live.
You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.
We thank you and praise you that
You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.
Amen.

Part 4

Who do you trust?

Print a selection of images of famous people, cut them out of magazines/newspapers, or look at them online. Ask everyone to arrange these people in order of how much they trust them. Ask for explanations about why they do or don't trust these people.

Cardboard church

Explain that you are going to build a cardboard church, but you need to build proper solid foundations first. Allow everyone to work together and make a flat base. Then to construct a building on top of it, out of the cardboard boxes, held together with masking tape. Ask everyone to write some of the Bible verses from today's story on their cardboard church, and times when they feel able to trust God on the inside. If you haven't got boxes, use cushions, throws, etc. and write the Bible verses on paper to tuck into your building. Talk and pray about these times of trust.

A prayer for others

To the God we can trust,
we pray for those who
do not have you in their story:
for those who have stories of pain;
for those who have stories of loss;
for those who have stories of fear;
for those who have stories of need.
Help them find a better story in you.
Amen.

Part 5

Sing

Learn and sing the song 'Thank you God' from Same Boat Music:

<https://sameboatmusic.com/pages/roots>

Jump!

Make a large pile of cushions. Allow a few minutes for everyone to pray quietly about anything that's currently worrying them. Afterwards, let them take turns to fall safely backwards onto the cushions as a mark of trusting Jesus with these difficult situations.

A closing prayer

Through our words and actions, make us

Ready to take every opportunity

Under your protection and guidance.

Send us out to share your story

The good news for all people.

Amen.