

Rhythms of Grace Worship • April Year 3

Theme: Peter, The Rock

Scripture: Matthew 16:13-19

Date: _____

Location: _____

Volunteer Roles:

Facilitator _____

Storyteller _____

Celebrant _____

Center Leader _____

Guide _____

Items needed for this Session

Gathering: Building the Church- assorted blocks and/or Legos©

Storytelling: Bible, Jesus doll, Storytelling pages, 3 sticky name tags; one with “Jesus” written on it, one with the word “Messiah” and one with “Son of the Living God” written on it.

Response Activities:

Rock Painting- large rocks, tempera paint, brushes, plastic table cloth, water and towels for cleanup.

Names and their meaning- baby name book, piece of heavy paper, markers and crayons **option:** alphabet beads and cording.

Fishing game- fishing net or sieve/colander, large tub of water, sponge fish.

Human Pyramids- gymnastic mat or some type of cushioning like a sofa bed mattress, etc.

Regathering: Play Red Rover, Red Rover, Jesu, Jesu, elements for the Eucharistic table (see Eucharist-Book 1)

Eucharist: altar table and elements (pita bread/rice crackers, juice, chalice, paten, purificator, corporal, altar cloth), Eucharistic Prayer (see Book 1 p. 100), *Gather our Hearts* song lyrics (see book 1 p. 99)

Dismissal: *Jesus Loves Me* song lyrics (see Book 1 p. 99 and CD Yr. 2 additional resources)

Session Plan • Peter, The Rock • April Yr. 3

Gathering: Using assorted blocks and/or Legos®, allow participants to build various models of the Church.

Storytelling: Using the Bible and the Jesus doll, and Storytelling pages, tell the story of Peter and Jesus using the Jesus doll and name tags described.

Response Activities:

Rock Painting- Decorate rocks gathered from outside with tempera paint. Paint a simple picture of a church, if desired, on the rock.

Names and their meaning- Using a baby name book, look up the meaning of each person's name. Write the name of the person in the center of a piece of paper and add its meaning and characteristics of the person around the name: i.e.: Peter: means "rock", and around the name write Fisherman, disciple, friend, healer, etc. **Option:** using alphabet beads and string, create name bracelets for each participant.

Fishing Game- Use the fishing net to collect the sponge fish in the tub of water.

Human Pyramids- have 3 or 4 participants play this game together. Have 2 larger or older participant get on their fours on the mat. Have the 1 or 2 smaller participants try to get on their fours on top of the two on the mat. (the 2 on the bottom are the "rock" or foundation of the pyramid). Go up one more level with 1 person if there is ability and desire. If necessary just have the base and the Jesus doll on top.

Regathering: Play a version of "Red Rover, Red Rover" and call participants across the room in a series of invitations: "Red Rover, Red Rover, let everyone with blue jeans on, come over...Red Rover, Red Rover, let everyone with a pocket in their shirt, come over, etc. Another option is to use first names. When game ends, singing *Jesu, Jesu* participants pick up an element for placement at the altar, and as the clergy sets the table all create a circle around the altar.

Eucharist: Sing: *Gather our Hearts*

Gather our hearts, oh God
Gather our thoughts, oh God
Bring us together around you

Celebration of the Eucharist

Dismissal: All sing and sign *Jesus Loves Me*

Celebrant provides the blessing:

Celebrant: *"Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord"*

Participant: *"Thanks be to God!"*

Storytelling • Peter, The Rock • April Yr. 3

Place the Bible and Jesus doll by the Storyteller.

Also have three sticky name tags prepared: one with the name “Jesus” written on it, one with the word, “Messiah” written on it and the other with “Son of the Living God” written on it.

Our story today is from the Bible, (*show the Bible*) our book that tells the stories of God and God’s people, of Jesus (*show Jesus doll*), God’s son, and of how much God loves us (*place hands over heart*).

Today’s story comes from the New Testament and is about one of Jesus’ closest friends. This friend of Jesus had a couple of different names. One of his names was Simon. And Jesus called him, “Peter.” Sometimes when we become good friends with someone, we call them a different, name...a nick name. Does anyone here have a nickname? (*solicit answers from the group.*)

In the Bible, Peter is known as both Simon and Peter. Sometimes he’s even called “Simon Peter”- two names together. Simon Peter was a fisherman. He had a brother named Andrew. When Jesus started his ministry- telling the good news about God in the world- he picked 12 helpers. Simon Peter and his brother Andrew were Jesus’ first helpers.

They spent a lot of time together. Jesus taught them about God and together, they traveled and healed people, fed the hungry and cared for the poor.

Jesus counted on his friends. He wanted them to know that he spoke the word of God.

One day, Jesus asked Peter: “Who do you think that I am?” (He wanted to know if Peter understood that Jesus was God.)

Peter answered: “Jesus, you are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.” Peter called Jesus, “Messiah.” (*put the “Messiah” name tag on Jesus*). “Messiah” means “the chosen one.” Jesus, the Messiah, was chosen by God and sent to save us from our sins.

Peter also called Jesus “Son of the Living God.” (*put the “Son of the Living God” name tag on the Jesus doll.*) With this name, Peter meant that Jesus was connected closely to God- and that God was alive and with us.

This man we know as Jesus (*put the “Jesus” name tag on the Jesus doll*) was sent by God to make us whole again. To save us from our sins- the bad things that we do, as people- and to be, for us, a connection to God.

Peter knew that Jesus was very, very special and sent by God.

Jesus knew that Peter- and his other friends- would help Jesus to spread the word of God and to gather together, as Church.

Jesus said that Peter would be the builder of the Church after Jesus was gone. Peter's name means "rock," and Jesus told Peter, "On you, Peter, this "rock," I will build my church.

Peter had an important job to do- to be Jesus' friend, to share the Good News of God and to work to build the Church.

Amen!

After an appropriate pause, the Storyteller goes to explain the activities of the day.