

Mission Together

St Peter Liturgy



This liturgy following focuses on St Peter the Apostle. It can be used to mark the feasts of St Peter (February 22 and June 29) and / or used as part of your *Day of Many Colours* celebrations.

LITURGY PLAN

Setting the scene

Please refer to our guide 'How to Pray with Children' <https://missiontogether.org.uk/prayer-resources/>

Entrance hymn or recorded music

Our suggestion: 'Here I am Lord' or 'All Over the World'.

Sign of the cross and lighting of the candle

Opening Prayer

Copy and paste and ask a pupil to read.

Children's introduction to the liturgy

Copy and paste and ask a pupil to read.

Bible reading

As an alternative to the scripture reading overleaf and **for an interactive interpretation and scripture exploration tasks, see Appendix 1.**

Prayers of intercession

Copy and paste the prayers of intercession and ask pupils to read.

Mission Together prayer

Sign of the cross

Closing hymn or recorded music

Our suggestion: 'He's Got the Whole World' or 'Praise Him, Praise Him'.

Follow up activities

See Appendix 2

Mission Together Prayer

May all children

In the world

Share love

Share friendship and live

In the peace of God's love

Now and forever. Amen.

St Peter Liturgy Scripture



Opening Prayer: Feast of St Peter

Dear Jesus, today we remember your friend and apostle St Peter. We ask him to pray for us, so that following his example, we might recognise you in our lives and share message of your love with everyone, everywhere. Amen.

Children's introduction

Today we are celebrate one of the great missionaries of the Church: St Peter. A missionary is someone who brings God's love to others. St Peter was one of the twelve disciples and a good friend of Jesus. He listened carefully to what Jesus said and tried hard to follow Jesus's example.

Sometimes Peter made mistakes, but he believed that Jesus loved and forgave him and this helped Peter to try again. We are now going to hear a passage from the Bible about an important job Jesus gave his friend, Peter.

Listen carefully to what Jesus asks Peter to do, and think about why Jesus chose Peter for this mission.

Bible reading: Matthew 16:13-20 adapted for children from NJRV

When Jesus came to a place called Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples a question, 'Who do people say I am?' The disciples answered, 'Some think you are John the Baptist. Other people say that you are the prophet Elijah. Others think you are Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.

Then Jesus asked them, 'But what about you? Who do you say I am?'

It was Simon Peter who spoke up. He said 'You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God!'

Jesus replied, 'Simon Peter, you are blessed because you didn't get that answer out of books or from teachers.

My Father in Heaven showed you who I am and you believe it in your heart. And now I'm going to tell you who you really are. You are Peter. You are like a rock and on you Peter, I will build my Church.'

The Gospel of the Lord: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.*

Follow up Questions

Ask the children what special mission Jesus gave Peter.

Answer: To build his Church.

Ask the children why they think Jesus chose Peter rather than any of the other disciples. *Remind the children that it was Peter who had answered Jesus' question 'Who do you say I am?'*

Answer: By watching and listening to Jesus, Peter had recognised Jesus as the Christ. He believed in his heart that Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus also said Peter was like a rock. Meaning that Peter, although he sometimes made mistakes, was committed to trying again so that he might be a good friend and follower of Jesus.

Ask the children if Jesus was instructing Peter to go out and build a Church of wood and bricks, or whether Jesus was asking him to build a Church made up of something else.

Answer: Jesus was asking Peter to build a Church made up of people from across the world. The church buildings we gather in to pray are holy and beautiful and we value them. But what really builds the Church are the people who come together each week to listen to God's word, pray, and follow Jesus' example to love and care for all God's children, wherever they may be.

St Peter Liturgy Prayers



Follow up reflection

Peter did what Jesus asked of him. After Jesus died, rose from the tomb, and then re-joined God the Father in heaven, Peter became the head of the first Christians.

Because of this St Peter is known as the first pope.

St Peter spent the rest of his life telling everyone about God and his Son, Jesus. He showed people how, as Church, we can work together to make the world a better place for everyone.

Mission Together also asks us to build a better world through our prayers and by sharing what we can. That way, like St Peter, we let the world know how much God loves and cares for all his children.

Let's start right now by joining our hands to pray.

Heavenly Father, your son Jesus gave St Peter a special mission to build his Church. Today we share this mission too. Help us to work together and build a Church where your love and mercy is shown through our words, our actions, and our prayers. Lord hear us... *Lord, graciously hear us.*

Heavenly Father, St Peter believed in his heart that Jesus was your son and our saviour. May our hearts be also full of love for Jesus, for the world, and for all your children, everywhere. So that we, like St Peter, might help others to know you and love you. Lord hear us...

Heavenly Father, St Peter was the first Pope. Hear our prayers for today's Pope, Pope Francis. Guide him with your Spirit, fill his heart with your joy, and strengthen him with your love. Lord hear us...

Heavenly Father, St Peter worked hard to fulfil the mission Jesus left him. Strengthen the mission Jesus left us, to work together to help our brothers and sisters around the world who live in poverty and conflict, so that the world might know the peace of your love. Lord hear us...

Let us all now say out loud our Mission Together prayer...

May all children

In the world

Share love

Share friendship and live

In the peace of God's love

Now and forever. Amen.





Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:13-20 adapted for children from NJRV

Narrator: When Jesus came to a place called Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples a question.

Jesus: Who do people say I am?

Narrator: The disciples answered,

Disciples: Well, some think you are John the Baptist. Other people say that you are the prophet Elijah. Others think you are Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.

Narrator: Then Jesus asked them,

Jesus: But what about you? Who do you say I am?

Narrator: It was Simon Peter who spoke up.

Simon Peter: You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God!

Narrator: Jesus told Simon Peter

Jesus: Simon Peter, you are blessed because you didn't get that answer out of books or from teachers. My Father in Heaven showed you who I am and you believe it in your heart. And now I'm going to tell you who you really are. You are Peter. You are like a rock and on you Peter, I will build my Church.

Narrator: The Gospel of the Lord

Everyone: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Scripture Exploration Tasks

Provide older pupils with the scripture reference Matthew 16:13-20 and, working in small groups, ask them to locate the passage in a Bible.

Pupils are to read the text together then answer the following questions:

- 1 Where was the place or region that Jesus and his disciples came to? **Caesarea Philippi**
 - 2 Jesus recognised Peter's reliability and resilience by saying he was like what? **A Rock**
 - 3 What did Jesus say he was going to give Peter? **The keys to the kingdom of heaven.**
 - 4 Jesus gave Peter and the disciple a strict instruction. What was it? **Not to tell anyone that Jesus was the Christ.**
- Copy and paste the adapted scripture on page 2 (Matthew 16:13-20) and ask pupils to annotate the text. Looking out for words that help: picture the scene, capture emotion and feelings, relay important messages.
 - Invite the pupils to retell the scripture as a story, using their own words, and as vividly as they can.

These activities are suggested to help develop pupils understanding that we, the people of God, make up the Church.

Suggested Activity for Reception and KS1

'Here is the church' - a popular finger game and rhyme.

'Here is the Church,
And here is the steeple
Open it wide and see all the people.
Here is the Parson (Priest)
Climbing the stairs
Here he is saying his prayers.'



This rhyme combines words with hand actions, providing opportunity to increase a child's manual dexterity, coordination, and encourage imagination. For demonstration <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzJosGCcFOU>

Please note, there are many variations of this rhyme on Youtube, so please take a look as you may find another that works better for your school.

Suggested Activity for KS2

'With St Peter we build the Church'

This activity requires close monitoring and plenty of space. This is a good activity for outside. Divide the class into groups of eight or ten pupils. Tell the children they have two minutes to make a church using only their bodies.

Before the time begins, ask the children to recall the key features of a church building e.g. the steeple, the door, the pews. Provide the groups with a few minutes to discuss together what their church will look like, who will stand where, etc.

Tell the groups they are not allowed to stand on any chairs, tables, or other pupils!

If the children respond well to the activity, perhaps you could allow the entire class to make one church together.

