Mission Together
Five Fact Assembly: St Peter the Apostle

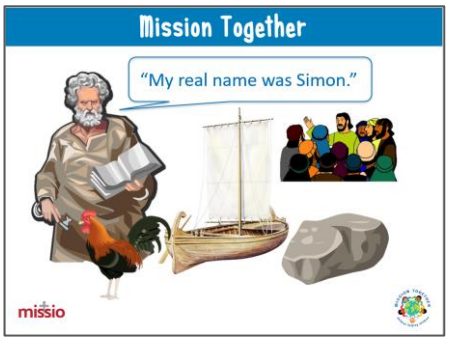
LEADER'S NOTES & HOLDING SLIDE

As Christians, we all have a mission: to share God's love with the whole world. No one is too young or too small to take part. Through *Mission Together,* children everywhere pray for and share with one another, in a unique exchange of love and friendship. By praying for one another and sharing what we have, we belong to God's worldwide family.

On 29 June, the Church celebrates the feast of the Apostles, St Peter and St Paul. This assembly focuses on St Peter, on whom Christ built his Church, and suggests ways in which pupils can help to build the Church too. A five-fact assembly for St Paul is also available at missiontogether.org.uk/five-fact-saints-assemblies/

This assembly contains animations. It is advisable to run through the presentation, using the slides, before delivering the assembly.

SLIDE TWO



Today our assembly focuses on an important saint. There's an image of him on screen. Can anyone guess who this saint might be? There are some clues on screen to help.

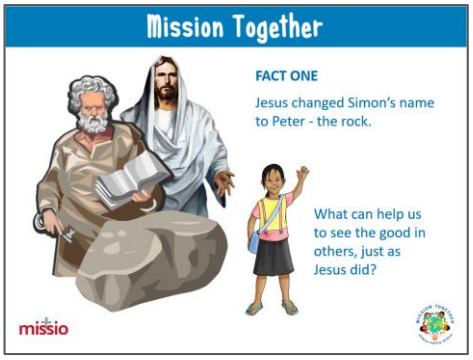
Clues: a fishing boat, Jesus and his disciples, a cockerel, a rock.

Q. The saint we are going to focus on today is St Peter. Does anyone know anything about him?

Possible answers: *His real name was Simon. He was one of Jesus' disciples. Peter had been a fisherman before he became a disciple. He betrayed Jesus on Good Friday when the cockerel crowed three times. We'll find out why the rock is there soon.*

Saint Peter is a very important saint, especially for Catholics, because after Jesus ascended to heaven, Peter became the leader of the disciples and the first Pope. Let's discover more about Saint Peter.

SLIDE THREE



FACT ONE: Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter, the rock.

Before he met Jesus, Peter was called Simon. This was the name his parents gave him as a baby. Most people who knew Simon would not have imagined that he would become a good leader, never mind a great saint! That's because they saw him as impulsive, bold, and stubborn.

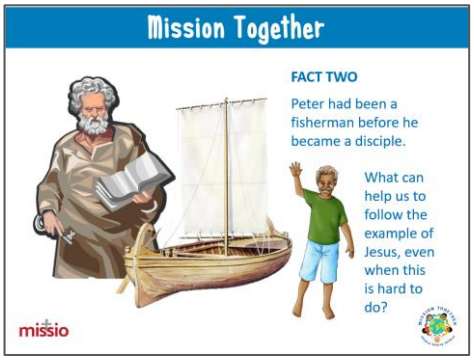
But Jesus sees things differently. He could see all the good that was in Simon. Where other people saw impulsiveness, Jesus could see enthusiasm. Where people saw boldness, Jesus could see confidence. And where others saw stubbornness in Simon, Jesus could see commitment.

Jesus knew Simon needed encouragement, so that he and others could recognise all the good inside Simon. So, Jesus gave Simon the nickname Peter, which means 'rock' in Greek. Jesus gave Simon this new name because a rock is something firm and enduring, and Jesus trusted that Peter could be so too.

Click to reveal question: **What can help us to see the good in others, just as Jesus did?**

Possible answers: *Don't make quick judgements, think twice! Take time to get to know somebody and to listen carefully to them. Be kind and encouraging.*

SLIDE FOUR



FACT TWO: Saint Peter had been a fisherman before he became a disciple.

Peter lived with his family in a village near Lake Galilee. As with many people in that area, Peter made his living as a fisherman and would have worked on a boat like that on the screen.

Being a fisherman on Lake Galilee was hard work. Fishermen worked all through the night, whatever the weather, throwing out large nets into the water and pulling the heavy nets back in. Despite all their hard work there were times they didn't catch anything, but still Peter would keep on trying.

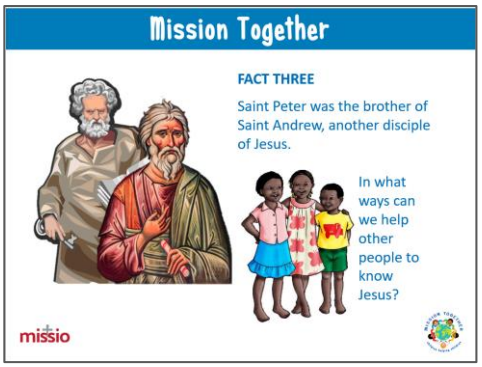
Perhaps this is one of the reasons why Jesus chose Peter to be a disciple; because he knew that being a follower of his would also be hard work, and that there would be times when their efforts to share God's love seemed useless.

Jesus trusted that even during hard times, Peter would never stop trying to be a good disciple. Jesus knew he could rely on Peter, his rock, to share God's love everyone.

Click to reveal question: **What can help us to follow the example of Jesus, even when this is hard to do?**

Possible answers: *We can pray to God for help, and we can ask Saint Peter and other saints to pray for us too. We can ask the Holy Spirit to give us courage, joy, and hope. We can find encouragement from our friends, family, teachers, and parish priest.*

SLIDE FIVE



FACT THREE: Saint Peter was the brother of Saint Andrew, another disciple of Jesus.

In the Gospel of John, we learn that Andrew knew Jesus before Peter did. In fact, it was Andrew who introduced Peter to Jesus. This is a great example of a good brother, sister, or friend.

Andrew had found in Jesus a good friend who could make you feel joyful, hopeful and valued. Sometimes people can be jealous of good friends and try to keep them to themselves. But Andrew shows us a much better way, it's the way that God wants us to follow too.

After Andrew met Jesus, he didn't try to keep Jesus to himself. No. Andrew wanted to share this special friendship with his brother and then with everyone!

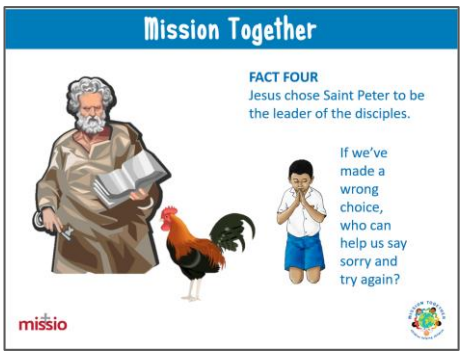
Both Andrew and Peter then spent the rest of their lives telling others about Jesus and sharing His Good News with the world, so that others could become friends of Jesus too.

We can be like Saint Andrew and Saint Peter by introducing our family and friends to Jesus.

Click to reveal question: **In what ways can we help our family and friends to know Jesus?**

Possible answers: *By following the example of Jesus and being fair, forgiving, kind, welcoming. By sharing stories of Jesus and the things we learn about him in RE. By praying for and with our friends and family.*

SLIDE SIX



FACT FOUR: Jesus chose Saint Peter to be the leader of the disciples.

As we heard earlier, many people would have been surprised that Jesus chose Peter to be the leader of the disciples. That's because Peter wasn't perfect and didn't always make good choices.

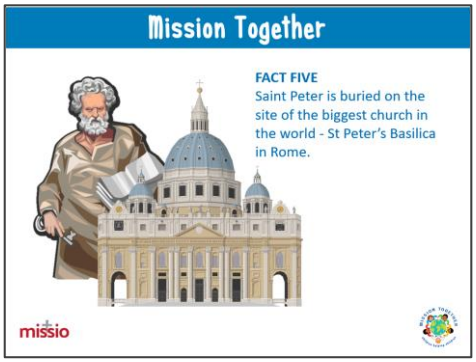
Q. Can anyone remember a time when Saint Peter made a wrong choice? There's a clue on screen.
A. The cockerel reminds us of Good Friday when Peter denied he knew Jesus.

Even though he wasn't perfect, whenever Peter made a wrong choice, he would admit his mistakes honestly, make amends, and try to make better choices next time. Perhaps this is one of the reasons why Jesus chose Peter to be the leader of the disciples, because Peter was humble enough to say sorry and brave enough to try again.

Click to reveal question: **If we've made a wrong choice, who can help us say sorry and try again?**

Possible answers: *Through our prayers we can talk to Jesus, he will help us to say sorry and try again. We can go to confession where the priest will listen, pray with us, and encourage us through God's mercy and help to try again. Our parents, teachers, and friends can also help us to admit mistakes and try again.*

SLIDE SEVEN

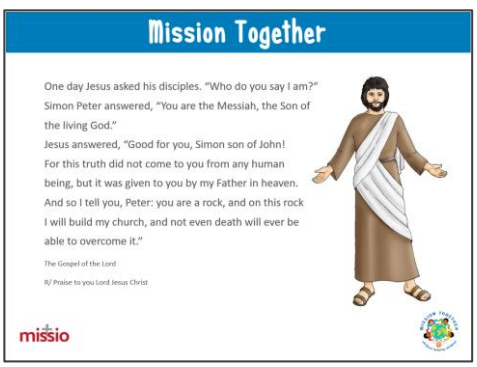


FACT FIVE: Saint Peter is buried on the site of the biggest church in the world - St Peter's Basilica in Rome.

After Jesus ascended to heaven, Peter became the leader of the Christians. A few years later, some people began persecuting the Christians. Sadly, Peter was killed and buried in Rome.

Hundreds of years later, the biggest church in the world was built on the site of his burial. It is called St Peter's Basilica, and it is here that our Holy Father, Pope Francis, celebrates important Masses.

SLIDE EIGHT



If we look in the Bible, we can find a reading from the Gospel of St Matthew, where Jesus says that Peter will be the rock on which he will build his Church. We can see it on screen.

Let's listen to it together.

A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew 16:15-18

One day Jesus asked his disciples. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered, “Good for you, Simon! For this truth did not come to you from any person, but it was given to you by my Father in heaven. And so I tell you, Peter: you are a rock, and on this rock I will build my church, and not even death will ever be able to overcome it.”

The Gospel of the Lord
R/ Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

SLIDE NINE

Now when Jesus said these words, he wasn’t predicting that a huge church building would be built on Saint Peter’s grave!

When Jesus talked about building his Church, he was talking about all the Catholics in the world who, like us, come together to pray to God our Father in heaven. Our Church is really built of people, not stones. Peter would be given the job of gathering people around the world and encouraging them to live and love as Jesus did. Today, that is the job of Pope Francis.

Mission Together is one of the Pope’s charities. It helps children who live in poor countries to live well and to know Jesus as a friend, just as Peter and Andrew did. By supporting Mission Together, we are helping to build the Church today.

Click to reveal question: **What can we do to support the charity Mission Together?**

Possible answers: *We can fundraise. Tell others about the charity and what it does. Pray the Mission Rosary for children around the world. Pray the Mission Together prayer each day to remind us to share friendship and love with all God’s children, just as Jesus asked us to.*

SLIDE TEN

One very important way we can support Mission Together is through our prayers. We can join with Mission Together children around the world and pray for one another. We can even use the Mission Rosary to help us pray for children in different continents.

Saint Peter knew how important it was to pray. Prayer helped him to become a good disciple and a good leader. Let’s finish our assembly by saying together the 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

Saint Peter, pray for us.

Fundraising is a brilliant way to involve everyone in raising money for Mission Together. There are more ways to fundraise than we can possibly count, below are a few ideas but you can find other ways to get involved throughout the year by visiting our webpage https://missiontogether.org.uk/fundraising-ideas/

Please ***share your*** fundraising events with us @missioUK adding the hashtag #missiontogether

Ideas for Summer term

Scavenger hunt: this is a great team activity! Print off some sheets with things to spot on them. You can tailor the items to be outdoors, indoors or whatever suits your space and environment. Either get teams to tick the items off or take pictures to prove they've found them! Charge teams to enter and give prizes for the fastest finishers.

Sports day fun: host a football tournament, sports day or outdoor activity day. Charge people to attend and sell refreshments. Prize for the tournament winners!

Weeding Week: While the days are sunny and warm, why not raise money by weeding gardens? Ask for suggested donation, or sponsorship per bag of weeds. Children can work alone, with friends, or siblings. Maybe green fingered children could also offer to plant and prune too. Who knows if your Weeding Week might inspire the next Monty Don!

Ideas for Autumn term

Winter walks: get sponsored to brave the elements and hold a torch-lit hike or winter walk to raise money. Make sure you have plenty of adults to supervise and assist when organising outdoor events with children. Better still, get the whole family involved!

Rake-a-Thon: With autumn leaves falling, children can ask family members or caregivers for suggested donations to clear up the garden, yard or driveway. Challenge pupils to clear as many of these spaces as possible. Make sure children have strong gloves and bags if they take up the Rake-a-Thon challenge.

Ideas for Spring term

Pancake races: hold a Pancake Day event with races and flipping competitions. Everyone gets to enjoy their pancakes after the fun – as long as they didn't drop them!

Spring flower sale: everyone loves the first signs of spring after winter! Why not pot some spring bulbs – snowdrops, mini daffodils, crocuses and hyacinths to sell to parents or as Easter gifts?