

Peter the Rock

Can you tell what sort of person someone is just by looking at them? Sometimes you can if they wear a uniform, like a police officer, a fire fighter, a nurse or a judge in a court. But if you met them without their uniform you wouldn't know, would you? So how would you know what sort of person they are? You'd have to listen to what they say, watch how they behave, ask other people for their opinion.

Jesus didn't wear anything special to show who he was; so if you just looked at Jesus, he might have seemed to be like anyone else. One day, Jesus was with his disciples and he asked them, "Who do people say that I am?"

One of the disciples answered, "Some say you are John the Baptist."

"Some say you are Elijah or one of the prophets," answered another.

Jesus questioned the disciples further, "But who do **you** say that I am?"

"You are the Christ," answered Peter, "the Son of the living God."

Jesus looked at Peter and said, "Blessed are you Simon, son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. From now on, I will call you Peter (which means rock) and upon this rock I will build my church."

Peter wasn't perfect, and he made many mistakes, but he was sure who Jesus was because he knew him, by watching him, listening to him, and listening to God. Peter **did** go on to lead the first Christian communities, and laid the foundations of the church we still have today. And we can know who Jesus is by listening to his stories, reading about the things he did, talking with others who know him now, and by listening to God.

Peter the Rock on which the Church is built

You will need:

- a smooth round/oval stone
- pictures of Peter and the Church copied onto cardboard
- grey felt pen, pencil or crayon
- scissors
- glue stick or sticky tape

What to do:

- Cut out the figure of Peter and the Church. Keep the tabs intact.
- Fold the tab on Peter backwards.
- Colour the top surface of the tab grey.
- Glue the figure of Peter onto the top of the stone. Use sticky tape to secure the tab if necessary.
- Fold the tab on the church forwards.
- Place the stone on the tab and use sticky tape to secure the tab to the stone.
- Stand the stone and church up with Peter leading from the top of the rock.
- If no stone available, copy the stone picture onto cardboard and use that instead.



Talk about how Peter became the first leader of the Christians and we have our churches today because of his leadership, and the leadership and courage of those who came after him.

