

CHILDRENS PROGRAMME

Don't give up! John 21 15- 25

Opening Prayer

Dear God,
We are thankful you are the God we can know.
You are with us here and everywhere we go.
We pray in Jesus' name.
Amen.



Starter:

Ask you a parent or carer or sibling to put some items on a tray or table and then cover them with a tea towel. Uncover them for 30 seconds and try and remember everything on the table. Then cover them back over. Write down all the ones you can remember.

How many could you remember?

Change it up: ask the other person to change one of the items after 30 seconds without you seeing it. Can you spot the difference?

Bible Story

Today's bible story comes straight after the one we looked at the other week where Jesus helped the disciples catch all the fish. Watch this Lego film if you want a reminder:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i35t8QDC0n0&t=1s>

Here is today's bible reading:

Jesus Reinstates Peter

When the disciples and Jesus had finished eating the fish, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than you love your friends here?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus had asked him three times! "Do you love me?" Peter said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." ... Then Jesus said to Peter, "Follow me!"

Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?") When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?"

Jesus replied, "What about him? I am talking about you! You must follow me."

This disciple, who was called the one that Jesus loved, wrote the gospel. Jesus did many other amazing things as well. If they were all written down, there would not be room in the whole world to keep them!

Let's have a look at this story then:

First of all, it is interesting when Jesus had this chat with Peter. Can you remember what he was doing in the last story?

Yes! he was catching fish. Before Jesus called him to be a disciple this was his job. So, this means that he had gone back to his old job rather than continuing telling people about Jesus. Jesus is reminding him then that he must not go back to what he is used to doing because it is easy but he must do things differently (look after his sheep)

We can learn from this that when we learn something new we have to do something about it! After we come out of lockdown will you do everything the same as before?

Talk about things you will do differently with your family.

Next, Jesus kept asking Peter if he loved him. Would this get on your nerves if someone kept asking you the same question?

Why do you think Jesus asked Peter 3 times?

Well before Jesus was killed Peter said that he did not know him 3 times so here Jesus is almost wiping what he said away. You know when someone

jinxes you and then your name has to be said 3 times to save you? A bit like this!

Jesus asks him if he loves him. Isn't this what being a Christian is all about! We have to love Jesus so we can follow what he said and do his work (telling other people about him). Jesus was reminding Peter what his motivation should be.

What motivates you?

Finally, Peter messes up again! But don't we all! Peter compares himself against another disciple. But Jesus wants to talk about him not anyone else.

We need to learn from this not to compare ourselves against others as Jesus has a different plan for each of us and he cares about us individually.

It is really difficult not to compare against other people but every time you start to maybe you could think about this story and that you are a child of a king and he loves you just the way you are. After all he made you like this!!

So, in summary we have learnt:

- Peter was on the verge of quitting and going back to his old job but Jesus put him straight. When we want to quit, we have to remember that Jesus is with us and will help us and do something with what God has taught you.
- We need to have the right motivation and put our love for Jesus at the centre of everything we do.
- Peter compares himself to others but Jesus focuses on him. We should not compare ourselves as we are all unique and made by God.

Response:

Draw a table with two columns.

In the first column write things you have learnt this lockdown period either about yourself or your faith.

In the second column write down what you could do with this for God's glory.

Remembering to put the love of Jesus at the centre and do something with what God has taught you.

Maybe put this music on while you are doing it:

Craft:

Using your thumb and some paint make lots of thumb prints on a piece of paper. Once they are dry make them into little people. Make sure that they are all different.

While you are printing remember, that your thumb print is unique to you and God created you this way.

When you are making them into people remember that Jesus says not to compare ourselves against others as we are all different.

Closing prayer:

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for teaching me so many important things through what you said and did on Earth.

Thank you for always being with me even when I want to quit and for putting me back on track. Please help me to put in action the things you have taught me.

Thank you for loving me and please help me to put my love of you at the centre of everything I do.

Thank you for making me unique to fill a plan I have for you. Please help me to remember not to compare myself against other but remember that I am a child of the King and loved by you because of the way I am.

Amen.

