

A TERRIBLE DAY FOR PETER

BIG IDEA

Standing up for the right can sometimes be hard when others are mocking us.

PREP *(Kids can help!)*

Buy a packet of different coloured balloons

Buy or make cookies/biscuits

Find two small round stones

Blow up two balloons and put a small round stone inside one of them

Write 'peer pressure' on the balloon with the stone inside it and 'standing up for the right' on the other balloon

Get 6 more balloons, blow up and write a word on each – loyal, truthful, brave, dependable, love God, kind

Put everything, except the balloons, into the Faith Box before you start

INTRO

BRING OUT THE BALLOONS and line up the family on a starting line at one end of the room.

Starting with the youngest, give each child a turn at blowing the balloon without the pebble down to the other end of the room. (They can use their noses if blowing is too hard.)

Now repeat the competition, this time using the second balloon with the pebble in it. See if anyone can get the balloon with the pebble in it to the end as quickly as they could the other one, without it going off course.

QUESTIONS

What did the stone make the balloon do?

Sometimes we can be thrown off balance by people around us.

Then we get the wobbles, and don't speak up for what is true.



Trust can take
years to build, but
only a second to break.

It can happen when we are with a group of people who are talking about doing something wrong, or because of a bully, or because someone teases us.

It is hard to be the only one to stand up for something right, and not join in when everyone else is mocking us or doing the wrong thing.

QUESTIONS

What happens when we wobble off course?

Is it hard to go back to be the person God wants us to be?

Share a time when it was hard to do the right thing.

Bring out the labelled balloons.

Which one would help you do the right thing?

READ

The night before Jesus died on the cross a terrible thing happened to Peter – he let Jesus down and he let himself down too.

Peter and Jesus were really great friends and Peter had learned to trust Jesus. He promised Jesus that he would never let him down and would always own up to being his follower. Peter really really wanted to always be true to Jesus. But when a young girl in a crowd accused him of being Jesus' follower he found that he was not as strong as he had boasted he would be.

LISTEN TO THE STORY, and when it is finished, children run and choose a balloon that says what they think Peter needed more of on that sad day.

“ The religious leaders had Jesus arrested. They took him to the home of the high priest. All of the religious leaders were there.

Peter followed Jesus, but he didn't get too close. He sat down with the servants beside a fire in the courtyard.

A servant girl came over to him and said, “You were with Jesus of Galilee!” Peter lied and said, “No, I wasn't with him.”

Then he went and stood by the gate. Another servant girl saw him there. She said to the others who were standing around, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth!”

Again Peter lied. “I don't even know the man!” he said.

After a while another servant came to Peter. He was a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off.

This servant said, “I saw you with Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane?”

For the third time Peter said he didn't know Jesus. And right away he heard a rooster crow.

Then he saw Jesus turn around and look at him. Suddenly Peter remembered Jesus' words, “Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will say three times that you do not know me.”

Then Peter felt terrible – he ran off crying hard. ””

Matthew 26:31-35; Classic Bible Story Book, Kenneth N. Taylor, pages 69-75, 223-4, 230, Tyndale House © 2009

EXPLORE

Sometimes when we trust someone we think is our friend they do something that really lets us down. They might not stick up for us when we are in trouble, or they might not stay around to help us when we feel sad or hurt.

This happened to Jesus just before he died on the cross. Peter had promised Jesus that he would never deny him, but when it got scary, he wouldn't even admit that Jesus was his friend.

QUESTIONS

Why do you think Peter pretended he didn't know Jesus?

How do you think Peter felt afterwards?

Peter followed at a distance because he was afraid. Sometimes we hold back from Jesus too. We want to keep our distance and we don't want anyone to know that we are following Jesus. We don't want to be too different. But it makes us feel really bad.

QUESTIONS

Have you ever pretended you didn't know someone because you were embarrassed?

Have you ever pretended you didn't go to church or love Jesus? Why?

Sometimes it is really hard to speak out that we follow Jesus, and sometimes, like Peter, we get it wrong.

But the awesome thing is that Jesus still loved Peter and he still loves us – even when we get it wrong.

Peter was heartbroken that he let Jesus down and he went out and cried and cried.

Later Jesus came to Peter and asked him to take on the big task of feeding his sheep. He meant looking after people and being a pastor to them.

Jesus wants us to gather up our courage and try again, so he can help us do better the next time and be the courageous person he calls us to be!

BRING OUT THE COOKIES AND HAVE A DISCUSSION.

Talk about how choosing to come back and tell Jesus we are sorry is what God wants us to do – he doesn't want us to run away. And we need to help each other stay strong and not run away too.

QUESTIONS

Which of these actions take courage?

1. Walking away from someone who wants to fight.
2. Standing up for someone who is being bullied.
3. Doing something dangerous if everyone else is doing it.
4. Teasing or bullying someone.
5. Blaming others for your mistakes.
6. Making friends with a new kid at school.
7. Following the crowd.

The more we practice being the person Jesus wants us to be, the easier it gets. God is always with us to help us.

PRAY

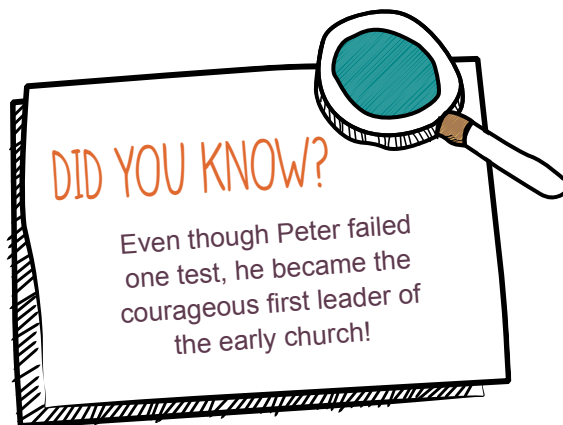
God, please forgive me when I blow it, and give me strength so I will have the courage to be the person you want me to be. Amen.

LIVE

Use the 'value' balloons as awards. Award one to each child for something they have done.

This week read a story of a brave person who stood up for Jesus and what was right (e.g. Daniel and the lions, or Corrie Ten Boom).

FAITH BOARD



OTHER IDEAS

1 Ask everyone to find out about a courageous person from history and take turns sharing about them over dinner. There may be a story of courage from your own family you could share.

2 Place a long piece of tape on the floor and ask the children if they can walk along it. When they have answered (probably with a strong "yes") explain there is one more thing to do before they try. Then spin them around the same number of times as their age and ask them to walk along the line.

Talk about what it was like. Explain that it is just like that when we make a promise, and then something else happens to make it really hard to keep the promise. Remind them of Peter's story and how Peter felt when he broke his promise to follow Jesus.

BUY FOR NEXT SESSION

- Play dough – enough for a small piece each
- Box of tissues
- Packet of nails