

Aim: To learn from the life of Peter and Jesus. This time Peter failed the test, but he did not lose faith (unlike Judas whom we study next week.) Jesus on the other hand had passed His testing. Prayer is a big key, as is scripture.

Refer:

Resources:

What do you know about Peter?

- His original name was Simon (Luke 6:14)
- He was a brother to Andrew (Luke 6:14)
- He was a fisherman, and perhaps the first disciple Jesus called (Matthew 4:18)
- Jesus named him Peter, which means 'rock.' (Matthew 16:18)
- He was married (Matthew 8:14-15)
- He was the first disciple to say that Jesus was the Messiah. (Luke 9:20)
- Peter was outspoken – often mentioned in asking or answering Jesus' questions (eg Luke 8:45, Matthew 19:27)
- When Jesus walked on water, Peter wanted to do it too (Matthew 14:28)
- Peter was the disciple whom Jesus told to go fishing for money for the temple tax (Matthew 17:24-27)
- One time Jesus had to say to him, 'get behind me Satan' (Matthew 16:22-23)
- Peter with James and John were often chosen to do special things with Jesus, like the transfiguration (Luke 9:32-33)

Was he usually bold or timid?

Was he usually quiet or loud?

Read Luke 22:31-32

What does this verse tell us?

- Jesus knew Simon Peter was about to be tested.
- Jesus was praying that Peter's faith would not fail – that he would not give up all hope.
- Jesus knew Peter would fail the test (when you have repented)
- Jesus would still have a special work for Peter to do afterwards (strengthen your brothers)

Peter of course thought he was ready for the worst, but Jesus told him plainly what would happen.

Read Luke 22:34

Could Peter say later that Jesus didn't know what that Peter would fail?

No! So as long as Peter remembered and believed the words of Jesus, Peter would realise that Jesus loved and forgave him. And in a few weeks' time we will learn about how Peter became a mighty missionary for Jesus, who no longer feared arrest, imprisonment, or death.

But on this particular occasion Peter failed the testing, while Jesus didn't – even though Jesus was pushed to the point of human exhaustion – He didn't even have the strength to carry the cross. What was the difference?

Read Luke 22:40

Turn to the armour of God in Ephesians 6:11-18. Read this passage one item at a time and consider how this relates to Jesus and Peter. Some suggestions are below.

Read Ephesians 6:17-18

- Belt of Truth: The truth - this was supposed to happen, God was still in control. This was God's will.
- Shoes of Peace from the Good News: Don't panic! But Peter did.
- Shield of Faith: Faith that God was in control, and this was God's will and God was working it for a good purpose.
- Helmet of Salvation: Jesus used His brain (the part a helmet protects) and made the conscious decision to go through with this because it was the way to bring salvation, Peter panicked and tried to save himself.
- Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. Jesus knew from the prophecies of the Bible what was about to happen. And many times, in His teaching, He quoted from the writings of the Bible prophets. When tempted, He overcame the temptation by quoting from the Bible.
- Prayer – Jesus spent a lot of time in prayer, and spent that evening of His arrest in prayer. The biggest part of the battle was fought that night in the Garden of Gethsemane, when Jesus prayed about a way for this to bypass Him, yet He still wanted God's will to be done. That is where He made the decision to go ahead.

What was true for Jesus and Peter is also true for us. Each of us will be tempted many times. We can learn from Jesus how to stand strong and pass the test. And we can learn from Peter, that even when we fail, we need not lose faith and hope, that it is not the end and that we can learn from the experience, and turn back to God, and grow so that we may become the people that God wants us to be.

Memorising scripture is the greatest weapon that a Christian has. Learning Bible verses and praying the A.B.C Prayer gives us the power to resist temptation and helps us to become more like God. **Read Hebrew 4:12 and 2 Peter 1:4**