

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

ROCK

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Reflecting on the Gospel

Peter's confession at Caesarea Philippi (Matthew 16: 13-20)

In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Peter's public recognition of Jesus as the Messiah at Caesarea Philippi marks a significant turning point. Prior to this point Jesus' true identity has only been acknowledged by the world of spirits and by those possessed. In Matthew's account, Jesus rewards Peter's confession of faith with the acknowledgement that this is the rock on which the church will be built. This saying of Jesus rests on a significant play on words: the name Peter means rock.

Our image to stimulate reflection on this passage is *rock*.

Extracts from the Gospel passage (Matthew 16: 15-18)

Jesus said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'
Simon Peter answered,
'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'
And Jesus answered him,
'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah!
For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you,
but my Father in heaven.
And I tell you, you are Peter,
and on this rock I will build my church.'

Gospel prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you build your church on Peter the rock.
Give us faith like his
that we may name you
as the Christ and Saviour;
now and always.
Amen.

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME

Reflecting and meditating

Reflect on the account of Peter's confession in Matthew 16: 13-20:

- what details in the passage catch your attention?
- what big ideas does the passage spark in your mind?
- what most touches your heart in the passage?
- what most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage?

Thinking and talking

- how do you understand Jesus' question to the disciples?
- what do you make of the disciples referring to John the Baptist, Elijah and Jeremiah?
- how do you understand Peter's response: the Messiah, the Son of the living God?
- what do you make of Jesus' response to Peter?
- what does this event at Caesarea Philippi say for us today?

Using your Bible

The event at Caesarea Philippi has its roots in Mark's Gospel. See how Matthew had added significantly to his source. See also how Luke deals with his event:

- Mark 8: 27-30
- Luke 9: 18-21

Explore images of rock in the Old Testament:

- Isaiah 51: 1-3
- Psalm 61: 1-3

Exploring online

- explore images of Peter the Rock in art and in stained glass
- explore Peter in Matthew's Gospel
- explore rock painting

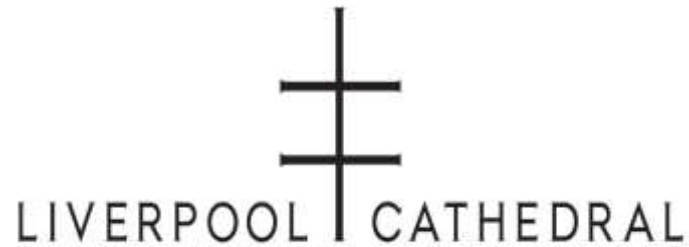
Drawing on experience

- reflect on your encounters with rocks
- reflect on qualities that you have observed in others that are rock like
- reflect on when your faith in God has been a rock for you

PROPER 16 (YEAR A) SUNDAY 23 AUGUST 2020

Creating and making

- collect small rocks and pebbles and use them to make a model of a church
- collect pictures of rocks to make a collage: Jesus said to Peter, 'On this rock I will build my church'
- paint rocks with relevant designs and images
- create a reflection, poem, or prayer on Jesus' commission to Peter



EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

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