

LESSON FOUR

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES: Peter, the Rock

AIM:**TIME:** 60 minutes**General:**

1] To show how Peter, by the power of the Holy Spirit, becomes 'the Rock', upon which the Church is built. From being fearful and weak he later acts with authority and boldness.

2] To tell the story of the healing at the Beautiful Gate and its aftermath.

Personal: To lead the children to offer God their weaknesses and to ask for his power to change.

Texts used: Luke 22: 54-62; Acts 3: 1-8; 11-16; 4:1-21.

I. STARTER: [10 minutes]

[At the previous class, or by personal contact, arrange for 2 or 3 students to practice acting a T.V advertisement using the 'Before' and 'After' format. E.g. They show a person, stuffed with extra clothes, sloppy and slow, before attending the 'Slim Gym'; and an active, slim and smiling person after attending. Some one gives snappy commentary. Music could also be played.]

Students, today we have with us an advertising team from Star TV to give us an advertisement in real life.

[Advertisement is enacted...applause!]

II. DEVELOPMENT & BIBLE STUDY: [35 minutes]

We have seen many such ads in magazines too. Today we'll look into the Bible and see a true- life experience where a person is totally changed...one can hardly recognise him as the same person after his special treatment. Can you guess who that person is? *[Peter]*

- Lets look at the 'BEFORE' picture-

(Give out activity sheet. **Read: Luke 22:54-62** Ask students to write down 3 or 4 words to describe Peter's behaviour above the first picture. Let them share the words they have written- eg.)

COWARDLY, TIMID, AFRAID OF OTHERS, WORRIED, FEARFUL.

- Now came the experience that changed Peter completely. What was it?

[The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost!]

Lets look now at the picture of Peter after his Pentecost experience- **[Read: Acts 3:1-8; 4:13 –21]**

- Now fill in some words in the second side to show the 'new' Peter. [Repeat as before. Words that might come out- BOLD, FULL OF POWER, NOT AFRAID OF PEOPLE.]

- Jesus knew that Peter would change. That is why he changed his name. Can anyone remember what Jesus said to Peter? (Ask the students to read Matt 16:17-19 and try and answer the question.)

- Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter. This itself is significant and showed God's plan for him- Simon means REED -a weak stalk that can be blown this way and that...and in contrast, Peter means (what ?) ROCK. [Fill in the words in the spaces provided]

- What do the keys stand for? [Give students a chance to suggest some meanings]

Authority to be the head of the Church.

Though Jesus is the main head of the Church, He gave Peter the job and authority to guide the Church. All through the Church's history we have an unbroken line of Peter's successors- right down to our present Pope. Like Peter, they are only men, weak and human, but Jesus has given them the responsibility to lead the Church and, along with the responsibility, he has given them the authority and strength of the Holy Spirit. We can trust them to lead us and should give them obedience. It is through our obedience that God will be glorified.

III. PRAYER: [15mins]

All of us are like Peter in some way. We are weak. We make mistakes. We give in to temptations. We feel afraid of what people say about us. Sometimes we tell lies to avoid getting into trouble. But Jesus is ready to make us strong. If we are honest and ask God to change us, he will surely do it.

[Ask the students to write down one or two weak areas in their lives and write a prayer in the space provided in the handout, asking God to strengthen them and make them bold like Peter.]

Sing: 'Be Bold! Be Strong!'

YOU WILL NEED:

Good News New Testaments; blackboard.

One activity sheet per student. Prepare a few children for the starter advertisement.

- ASK THE STUDENTS TO BRING MATERIALS NEXT WEEK TO MAKE A POSTER IN CLASS ABOUT POPE JOHN PAULII / POPE BENEDICT XVI / ANY OTHER POPE. THIS COULD INCLUDE QUOTES FROM ANY OF HIS LETTERS OR ENCYCLICALS. ASK THEM TO DO SOME RESEARCH BY ASKING PEOPLE OR SEARCHING THE 'NET'.
- LET THEM FORM GROUPS OF 3 FOR THIS.
- THEY WOULD NEED A CHART PAPER, MARKERS/ CRAYONS FELTPENS, GUM, PICTURES AND MAGAZINE ARTICALS ETC.
- PROMISE PRIZES FOR EACH GROUP THAT BRINGS MATERIALS AND COMPLETES THE POSTER.