

## PETER'S STORY

*Appoint individuals to the following roles*

Jesus, Narrator, Peter, John, Thomas, Nathaniel,  
James, Andrew, Beloved Disciple

*Music (solemn) everyone moves into the area and adopts an individual pose of sadness/guilt/depression/misery etc*

Narrator: Have you ever felt really down, really sad or depressed? Have you known a time when shadows and fear seem to be all around, when your own worries mean that you can't be open and listen to others?

*(Individuals make appropriate gestures to convey one of these feelings)*

Narrator: Consider then the story of Peter

*(quiet sad music) Individuals move into an open ended circle and stand or sit in an attitude of listening.*

Peter walks sadly now

*(Peter walks into the centre, looks up to heaven, sighs, covers his face with his hands, moves to the side, sits or kneels in an attitude of wretchedness. John enters).*

John, his friend comes to comfort him and remind him of Jesus' mercy and kindness.

*(the other disciples enter)*

The other disciples, Andrew, James, Nathaniel, Thomas, the Beloved Disciple, are equally concerned to comfort Peter but they can do little to help, *(Peter shakes his head)* for he rejects all attempts to help him.

Why is Peter so unhappy? Peter had denied his greatest friend, Jesus. Three times he said he did not know Jesus and when

Jesus was dying, Peter had run away. Peter thinks only of his guilt and misery.

*(Peter raises his head suddenly as something else occurs to him)*

Yet, Peter knows Jesus was his friend and he begins to realise that, despite everything, Jesus loves and forgives him.

*(Peter stands as he thinks about this and begins to pace up and down).*

He wants to do something, to show Jesus his sorrow and his love.

*( In this brief dialogue which follows, Peter may need help so ensure one of the more able disciples is ready to prompt if necessary) .*

Peter: Jesus loved us, didn't he?

*(Everyone nods vigorously to one another)*

And he taught us how to live, didn't he?

*(Everyone nods vigorously to one another)*

Well then, we must carry on.

*(Peter stands still and announces loudly)*

I am going fishing.

Disciples: We'll come with you

Thomas: Come on everyone, into the boat, be careful of the nets.

*Everyone else who can kneel or sit joins hands to form the boat and to rock from side to side as the disciples row out to sea and begin to fish. Peter stands and directs operations while the others row or prepare nets*

Narrator: Peter and the disciples work all night, fishing as the moon rises over the Sea of Galilee. Yet by the morning they have caught nothing at all and are very tired.

*(Comments from the disciples e.g. "It's hopeless tonight" "No fish at all" "I'm tired out" etc - all to convey clearly that after many hours they have caught nothing)*

Meanwhile, Jesus now is watching them from the shore. He has lit a small fire on the beach and stands waving to them.

*(Ensure that sticks for the fire and a large basket of bread are beside him).*

The disciples sit back wearily in the boat. Suddenly Nathaniel sees the figure waving on the shore and points to him.

Disciples: *(to one another and pointing to the shore)* Who is that? Who can it be? He looks familiar somehow? He's lit a fire *etc*

Jesus: *(calling from the shore)* Do you have any fish?

Disciples: *(all together)* No.

James: We have fished all night and caught nothing

*(groans and headshakes from the others)*

Jesus: Cast your nets on the right side of the boat.

Narrator: The disciples throw over their nets and begin to haul them in. As they do so the net gets heavier and heavier. Now the net is so heavy they cannot get it into the boat because there are so many big fish.

Suddenly the Beloved Disciple stands and looks at Jesus. He now recognises who it is.

*(some prompting may be needed here from more able disciples. Try to keep the dialogue if at all possible)*

Beloved

Disciple: It is the Lord. It is Jesus

Disciples: It is Jesus, it is the Lord (*not all together but naturally, to one another*)

Peter: (*Struggling to emerge from under the fish tumbling into the boats*) I must get to Jesus.

Narrator: Peter jumps into the sea and swims to Jesus while the others are rowing back and hauling in the nets.

*(All those who have been 'the boat' now move apart into small groups of two or three and prepare to hold up the name of their mission field as the narrator will read it out when Peter directs the mission to the world)*

Narrator: When the boat is brought in with all the fish, the disciples are amazed at the great number of large fish they have caught - 153 - and they are delighted that their nets were not torn after carrying such a weight.

They show Jesus the big fish. He nods and welcomes them, inviting them to bring some of the fish to be cooked on the fire and to have breakfast with him.

Jesus blesses the bread and fish and gives some to each one in turn. Each disciple is so happy to be with Jesus and to receive food from him again and Peter is happiest of all.

*(take time to ensure that each disciple personally receives from Jesus and that they are smiling and seem really happy.)*

Afterwards, when everyone has eaten and is resting, Jesus calls Simon Peter to him and they walk a little way off from the crowd.

Jesus: (*turning to look squarely at Peter*)

Simon, do you love me more than these?

Peter: Yes Lord, you know that I love you.

Jesus: Feed my lambs

*(Jesus gestures to the disciples - Peter begins to move towards them but Jesus catches him by the arm)*

Jesus: Simon, Do you love me?

Peter: *(more loudly)* Yes, Lord. You know that I love you

Jesus: Tend my sheep

*(Jesus gestures to the bigger group. Peter begins to move again, this time to the outer group, but stops as Jesus calls his name again)*

Jesus: Simon, Do you love me?

*(Peter, feeling upset that Jesus asks him a third time, puts his hands on his hips)*

Peter: Lord, You know everything; you know that I love you.

Jesus: *(pointing to the whole world (the congregation))* Then feed my sheep.

*(Jesus puts an arm round Peter's shoulder, whispers to him quietly and then leads him back to the group. The disciples gather round Peter and Jesus wanting to ask questions. Jesus blesses them all. Slowly and sadly they realise that Jesus is going away. But as Jesus touches each one, every disciple knows that he must continue the mission of Jesus. Jesus nods, smiles, turns from them and quietly walks away. As Jesus is lost from their sight they turn to Peter.*

*Peter now moves into the place of Jesus and begins to direct each one towards his future mission.)*

Narrator: As Jesus is lost from sight they turn to Peter who begins to direct each one towards his future mission: Thomas - to India; James to Spain and Europe; John to Syria and Greece; Nathaniel to Armenia; Andrew to China; and Peter himself to

Rome

Narrator: *(addressing the congregation)* And so the message of Jesus has been passed on through all generations until it has come to us.

*(The disciples all turn and join hands with everyone, including the congregation).*

Like Peter, we may have times of doubt and misery but, like Peter too, we can re-discover hope and joy in our mission as Christians in our world, knowing we now are the hands and eyes and feet of Jesus.

We invite everyone now to join with us as we sign 'Christ has no Body'