

Church at Home for Abridge

30th August 2020

Activities for the whole family

Matthew 16: 21-28



1. Find today's story in your Bible at home or else read it [here](#)
2. [Here is a short animation](#) of the story
3. [Here is the song 'Take up your cross'](#) sung by the African Children's Choir, based on Jesus's words in today's story.
4. **Some big questions** to talk about together:
 - I wonder if you've ever been told off for something you said? How did you feel? How did things get put right again?
 - Why do you think that people who love us sometimes feel they have to speak sharply to us? Maybe this has happened for you at home, or school or at work. Can you remember what happened and why?
 - I wonder why Jesus was so angry with what Simon Peter said?
 - I wonder how Simon felt after being told off? Maybe he didn't feel much like his nickname 'the rock' anymore!
 - I wonder how Simon and Peter became friends again?
 - Jesus was trying to prepare his friends for what would happen when he got to Jerusalem but he was also teaching them something about what it means to be his followers. Can you try and put into your own words what he was saying to them, and to us?
5. Here is a song written in response to this story: [I have decided to follow Jesus](#)
6. **Activity ideas**
 - Play 'Jesus says' – similar to 'Simon says' but no one needs to be 'out'. Invite different members of the family to lead. You can also play 'Follow the Leader', where everyone follows one person around the room/space, copying the same actions as the leader. Again, invite everyone to have a go at leading. This is an illustration of what discipleship is all about.
 - How many cross-shapes can you find in your home (hint: look carefully at windows, doors, ornaments and household objects)? How about outside in the garden? Can you make a cross from some of the items you come across on your search? What does the shape of a cross make you think of? Where else do you see this shape in everyday life and what does it mean? Talk about how your discoveries might help you understand what Jesus was saying about 'taking up the cross', if we want to follow him.

7. Here is a picture of today's story to illustrate.

