

Lesson C3.5 - We Believe in Jesus



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: Matthew 16:13-25

- Bible Characters: Jesus, Simon Peter, disciples.

In today's story, Simon Peter calls Jesus the Messiah, and Jesus says he will build his church on this "rock" of faith. But a few verses later, Peter tries to stop Jesus from going to Jerusalem, and Jesus rebukes him. What's going on? Jesus is letting Peter know that those who follow him must trust God above all else, for the way won't be easy.

Brief Bible Background

- Today's Lesson is from the New Testament
- Scripture Section: Foreshadow

Jesus had become very popular among common people. But the more miracles he performed, and the more beloved he became, the more of a threat he was seen to be by the leaders of his time. Their solution? Stop him at all costs in order to protect themselves.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

The words to this song are sung to the tune, "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes."

Optional motions: Lift hands up on "Lord," point to ears on "hear," fold hands on "pray."

Stretch hands outwards on "all who need your help today."

Lord, hear us as we pray, as we pray!

Lord, hear us as we pray, as we pray!

Bless all who need your help today!

Lord, hear us as we pray, as we pray!

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

There are people who don't go to church or understand why we go, ourselves. So why do we do it? **We believe in Jesus!** People of every age come to church to hear God's Word, receive forgiveness for sins, pray together, and support one another. We are all different, but what we share in common is that **we believe in Jesus**.

- What do we mean when we say **we believe in Jesus**? (We believe he is God's Son, our Savior, who loves us.)

In today's story, Peter said he believed in Jesus too. And Jesus said on that Rock he would build his church! What was going on? Let's hear the story and find out.

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.



Picture 1

Tell the children: Jesus and his friends often walked from place to place. While they traveled, they would talk about different things.

Read the caption: One day, Jesus asked his friends, “Who do people say that I am?” They said, “Some think you are John the Baptist or Elijah.”

- Which person is Jesus? [The one in the red sash.] Which one is Peter? [He is wearing brown.]
- Have you ever wondered what people were saying about you? [Call on volunteers.]

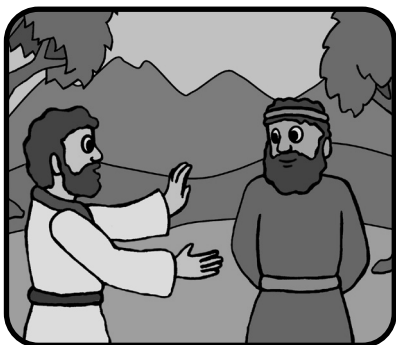


Picture 2

Tell the children: Many people knew Jesus was special. They had heard his preaching, had seen his miracles, and knew he was no ordinary person. But they didn't realize he was God's Son. Did the disciples know it?

Read the caption: “But who do you say that I am?” Jesus asked them. Simon Peter said, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.”

- Why do you think Jesus asked what his disciples thought? [Call on volunteers]
- How do you think Peter knew that Jesus was God's Son? [Call on volunteers.]



Picture 3

Tell the children: Jesus realized that Simon Peter could not have known this on his own, and he was touched by Simon's simple statement of faith.

Read the caption: “You are blessed, Simon,” Jesus said. “God showed you this. And from now on, you will be called, ‘Peter,’ which means ‘Rock.’”

- Why do you think Jesus gave Simon a name that meant, “Rock?” [Simon declared his belief in Jesus, and Jesus would build his church on the rock of faith.]
- How can we know what is true, like Peter did? [We can study God's holy book, the Bible, and pray for guidance. The Holy Spirit helps us know what is true.]



Picture 4

Tell the children: From the days of Peter onward, Christians have believed in Jesus and have gone all over the world so others could hear the good news about him too.

Read the caption: “Upon this rock I will build my church.” Just as he said, Jesus built his church on the rock of faith. We are part of it today!

- Do you think Peter was perfect? [No, he was a normal person like us. He made mistakes. But he asked forgiveness and trusted Jesus to the very end of his life.]
- How do we have faith? [By hearing God's Word and receiving the sacraments. The Holy Spirit comes to us in Baptism and is with us all our lives, guiding us.]

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*Jesus brought his friends on in
to ask what people thought of him.
Some said John or old Elijah;
some guessed he was Jeremiah.*

*Turning back to them instead,
“What do you think?” Jesus said.
Simon gave the Lord a nod:
“You’re the Christ, the Son of God!”*

*Jesus told him, “Blessed are you.
God has let you know the truth.”
“Peter now shall be shall be your name,
Your life will never be the same.”*

g. Young Children’s Activity (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (*Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the “craft” for the day.*)

Craft: “On this Rock” Pocket Stones**Materials Needed:**

Small stones, non toxic acrylic craft paints, paint brushes, toothpicks, paper towels, cups of water
Optional: Mod Podge (or student glue thinned out with water)

Instructions:

Give each child a stone and supplies to make their own “pocket rock.” They can carry these to remind themselves of Jesus, who loves them, and Peter, who trusted Jesus.

Invite children to think about symbols from today’s story. Ideas could include: a cross (for Jesus), a fish shape or waves (for Peter, the fisherman), a church (since Jesus said “On this rock I will build my church”), a heart (to represent Jesus’ love for us), etc.

Have kids choose one image and paint it on their stone. They can use a toothpick to paint the finer details, especially if their stones are small. Let the paint completely dry. You might want to have kids play a quick game in the meantime. *Optional Step:* When the rocks are dry, invite kids to paint over them with Mod Podge. Let this completely dry as well.

h. Song (optional)

This classic song teaches kids the names of the apostles. It is sung to the tune, “Jesus Loves Me.”

The Apostles Song

**Jesus called them one by one,
Peter, Andrew, James and John.
Next came Phillip, Thomas too,
Matthew and Bartholomew.**

Refrain:

**Yes, Jesus called them, Yes, Jesus called them,
Yes, Jesus called them,
and they all followed Him.**

**James the one they called the less.
Simon also Thaddaeus,
Twelve Apostles Judas made,
Jesus was by him betrayed. [Refrain]**

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

► **Start: Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” What happened next?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

Heavenly Father, God above,

We’re grateful for your faithful love.

Bless everyone who need your care,

Help hurting people everywhere.

Be with us now, in all we do,

So we may serve and live for you. Amen.