

# Home church - 22 March

## Matthew 16:13-28

### Introductory Idea

This lesson is about seeing, but not seeing clearly. Peter saw that Jesus is the Christ, but he did not understand what that meant – for Jesus or for him.

- Gather several edible items and items that you cannot eat but which have a similar silhouette to each edible item. Perhaps an apple and a ball, a carrot and a short stick, a grape or cherry and a marble.
- Place a screen around an overhead projector so the children cannot see what you are placing on the screen. Or stand behind a white bed sheet held in place by two helpers. Use a spotlight behind it so each item you hold up will cast a shadow on the sheet. The children sit in front of the sheet.
- Place each object on the projector one at a time (or hold each between the spotlight and the back of the sheet). The children need to recognise the object from it's silhouette and stand if it is something they can eat or sit if it is not.
- After each round reveal the object to see who guessed correctly. You could divide the group into teams and award points per team for each member who guesses correctly.
- Tell the children that in today's true story from the Bible they are going to learn about someone who saw something, but didn't see it clearly.

Ask them to find answers to the following questions:

- Who was the man?
- What did he see? (What did he get right?)
- What did he fail to see? (What did he get wrong?)

### Game Idea

- **Before the lesson** print the pair of puzzles on page 16 (for younger children) or the pair of puzzles on page 17 (for older children). onto paper or card. You only need one copy

- Use a single colour (perhaps blue) to shade all the **odd numbered pieces** of the first puzzle (top of the page). Use the same colour to shade **every other letter** on the **second puzzle** (bottom of the page) starting with the piece labelled 'b'.
- Now shade all the **remaining pieces** on both puzzles with a contrasting colour (perhaps red).
- You now have two bicoloured puzzles where no two matching pieces have the same colour. Cut the pieces out along the dashed lines.
- **To play the game**, divide the group into two teams being careful to balance the teams by age and ability.
- Place a team at each end of the room and all the puzzle pieces spread out (coloured side up) in the middle of the room. Give one team the piece with the small '1' on it and the other team the piece with the small 'a' on it (these will be different colours).
- Without letting on that colour has nothing to do with finding the correct puzzle pieces, tell the children that they are to collect all their team's puzzle pieces and assemble their puzzle to win.
- At the signal team members take turns to run and collect a single puzzle piece. The rest of the team begins assembling the puzzle. The children will naturally bring back all the same colour pieces and fail to complete the puzzle.
- Once a suitable time of frustration has passed put all the pieces back in the middle. Now give the groups each the same piece again. But this time tell them that they need to look for either the life ring or the heart to get the correct pieces. This should be much easier!
- Explain that when Peter was looking for a Messiah (God's special King) he was looking for the wrong things (like the children looking for a colour instead of a symbol).
- Can the children tell you what Peter was looking for?
- When the children knew what to look for it was much easier to get the puzzle right.
- What should Peter have been looking for in a king?

## **Activity**

1. **For 3-5s** – print page 18 onto paper for each child.

- **Before the lesson** cut the strip of six pictures off the bottom and place the individual pictures into an envelope for each child. Always have a spare set available.
- **The children** colour Peter and decorate the crown. They paste the three pictures that show Peter's idea of what a king should be in the thought bubble (the swords are for fighting the Romans).

- They paste the three pictures that show what Jesus said would happen to him in the crown.
- While doing this activity hold up each picture and ask the children to find their matching picture. Ask them what it is and whether it was something that Jesus said would happen or something that Peter thought should rather happen to a king.

2. **For 5-7s** – print page 19 onto card for each child.

- **Before the lesson** cut the page in half along the line. Cut the circle out and cut the hatched circles out of the crown.
- **The children** decorate the crown with glitter and colour the small pictures. Help them attach the circle behind the crown with a split pin fastener. They dial the circle to see the difference between what Peter thought it meant to be King and what Jesus said it would mean for him to be King.

3. **For 7-9s** – print page 20 onto paper for each child. Use the activity sheet to reinforce the lesson.

4. **For 9-11s** – print page 21 onto paper for each child. Use the activity sheet to reinforce the lesson.