Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

Matthew 16:13-19
At that time: When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Some things to think about...

- Who is Jesus to me, and what helps me trust him?
- When is it difficult to stand up for what I believe, like Peter did?
- How can I help make God's Church strong through the way I treat others?

Activities:

- You could do some pebble painting with words of hope and encouragement for people and then put these together in an area to represent the building of the Church.

- **Rock of Faith**
  Give each child a paper cut-out of a rock and ask them to write or draw one way they can follow Jesus this week, for example: being kind, praying, helping at home, forgiving someone, or telling the truth. Gather the 'rocks' together to make a group "church wall" or display, showing how everyone helps build God's Church together.

Teacher's Notes
This passage invites children to think personally about who Jesus is, rather than simply repeating what others say. Jesus asks the disciples a direct question- "Who do you say that I am?" - and Peter responds with faith and courage, recognising Jesus as the Son of God. Help the children understand that Peter was not chosen because he was perfect, but because he trusted Jesus. Explain that Jesus calling Peter the "rock" means that faith and trust in God help build a strong Church community. Encourage discussion about how we can show our faith through kindness, prayer, honesty, and helping others, reminding the children that the Church is not just a building but all people who follow Jesus together.

Notes

My Rock of Faith

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