

Ordinary Time:

Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul

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Preparation

Background for Scripture Readings

First Reading

- King Herod was persecuting Christians.
- Peter was arrested.
- An angel of the Lord rescued Peter from prison.

Second Reading

- Paul's letter is like an obituary for himself, assessing his work.
- Peter says that he has competed well, finished the race, and kept the faith.
- Paul and all who faithfully follow Christ will wear the garland of victory.

Gospel

- Jesus says to the disciples, "Who do you say that I am?"
- Simon Peter replies, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
- Jesus says to Peter, "Upon this rock I will build my Church."

Breaking Open the Word

Leader Instruction

Catechist Reflection Guide for the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul

First Reading: Acts 12:1-11—Now I know for certain that the Lord rescued me from the hand of Herod.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18—From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me.

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-19—You are Peter, and I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

Invitation to Prayer (30 seconds)

Ask the children to quiet themselves and sit comfortably. Begin the session with the Sign of the Cross. Have them take three deep breaths while you prompt them to relax as they breathe in God, our Father who loves us, Jesus Christ, his Son, our brother, and God's Holy Spirit who lovingly guides us.

Listening for a word or phrase to speak to your heart (3-4 minutes)

Ages 5-6: Invite the children to look at the picture of Jesus. Read aloud Matthew 16:13-19 from a children's Bible or tell it in your own words.

Ages 7-8: Have the children to look at the picture of Jesus. Ask them to listen to what Peter says about Jesus. Read Matthew 16:13-19 from a children's Bible or tell it in your own words.

Ages 9-11 and Ages 12-14: Read Matthew 16:13-19. Ask young people to listen for a word or phrase that seems to be God's word for them today. Spend about 30 seconds as they pick out their word or phrase. Ask them to silently repeat that word or phrase and to write it on their heart.

Loving God through his Word (3-5 minutes)

Ages 5-6: Ask the children to share one thing they know about Jesus. Have the children draw one thing they know about Jesus. Close with the prayer.

Ages 7-8: Ask the children to share what they would like to tell others about Jesus. Have them draw one thing they want to tell others about Jesus. Close with the prayer.

Ages 9-11: Discuss: Who do you say that Jesus is? Then have the children complete the activity on their own. Close with the prayer.

Ages 12-14: Ask young people to share their word or phrase. Give them silent time to reflect on the questions and then invite volunteers to share their responses. Close with the prayer.

Living the Gospel words through the week (3-5 minutes)

The handouts describe one or two ways children and young people can live this reflection on the Gospel through the week at home, school, or play. If appropriate, have them add one or two more personal choices to act on this week.