

# Rocky relationships

## Mark 8.31-38 Lent 2

Jesus is telling his disciples a difficult truth about what will happen to him in his death and resurrection, but Peter finds it hard to take, and argues with Jesus. Jesus sets out that God's ways are different from human nature: we must forget about our earthly desires and follow Jesus.

*This week we explore daring to be open without fear of rejection.*

### Prepare your children's session

Read Bible notes on [WEB](#).

Sometimes it can be hard to accept a difficult truth. Have there been times when you have had to receive a difficult truth? How did you react? How might you have responded if you had been in Peter's shoes?

Throughout this session, encourage the children to think about their emotional reaction. It might be helpful to keep coming back to the question: 'How might you have felt in that situation?' You could link the dialogue between Jesus and Peter to a time the children have had a disagreement with a friend.

**Provide the following play materials for very young children throughout the session:** sensory basket – different textures, rough and smooth, hard and soft.

Go to [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com) for all links, templates and images. Extra ideas can be found on page 40.

## Children's session

### Gather

Use the song, prayer and activity to gather the group and introduce the theme. (5 mins)

♪ Sing to the tune: *Hickory, dickory, dock*

We have a friend we can trust,  
who shows us that faith is a must.  
When things get tough, and life feels rough,  
walk even closer to God.

God of our ups and downs,  
of our rocky moments and our best ones,  
give us the courage to put truth before popularity  
and to be Jesus' friends through thick and thin. **Amen.**

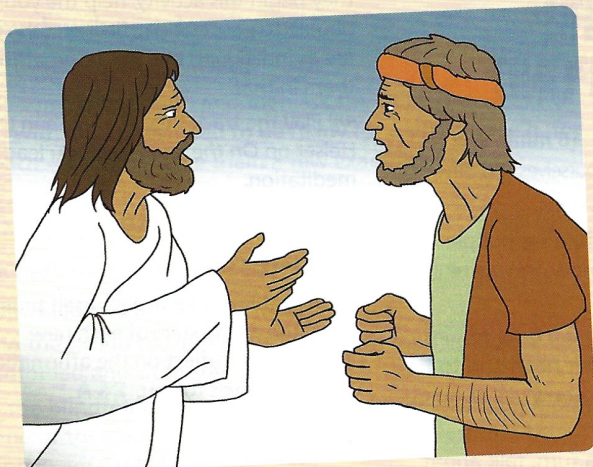
### Explore emotions

WES

**You will need:** a newspaper.

- Look through today's (or a recent) newspaper. Every time there is a picture of someone, stop and ask the children to describe the emotion on the person's face.
- For each emotion named, invite the children to share an example of a time when they feel like that, e.g. 'I feel angry when...'

**J**esus knew that he had to prepare his friends for what was to come. One day, he drew his disciples close and began to talk to them. He told them that he, the Son of Man, would have to suffer and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the scribes. He would be killed, and after three days, he would rise again. \*



He said all this quite openly. Peter was very upset. He took Jesus away from the others and began to argue with him.

But Jesus shouted at Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan!' Then he turned and looked at his disciples and said, 'You're thinking about human things. This is about heavenly things.' He knew it was hard to hear, but they needed to know. \*

Calling the crowd to join his disciples, Jesus said: 'If anyone wants to become my followers, let them forget about themselves, take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, but pay for it with their soul? Don't be ashamed of me, and I won't be ashamed of you.'

Mark 8.31-38

\* See *Share the Word*.