

## 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 young people's session

Read Bible notes on [WEB](#).

Is it too much to ask, being asked to deny yourself, take up your cross, lose your life for Jesus' sake? How does that call make you feel?

What does this mean for young people in tangible terms? Consider with the young people how they might allow God to be in the driving seat and to follow him. How do young people cope with the fear of rejection from friends and peers, particularly in relation to sharing their faith?

Find more ideas opposite. Go to [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com) for links, templates, images, tracks.

## GATHER

**Love it or hate it?** 10 mins **WE**

**You will need:** cards, pens, items for each task.

- Prepare at least 10 cards with simple risk statements on them, e.g. sing the first verse of 'God save the Queen' on your own, eat a chilli, enjoy a sweet, smile at the person on your left.
- Invite each young person to take a card and choose whether to take the 'risk' or not. Ask: How did it make you feel? Did you feel under pressure to take part? Do you wish you hadn't? How did it feel taking a risk?

## SHARE THE WORD

RCL Lent 2 Year B: Genesis 17.1-7,15-16; Psalm 22.23-31; Romans 4.13-25; **Mark 8.31-38**

### Communicate the emotions

10 mins **WE**

- Invite two young people who are confident readers to read alternate verses of the passage. Ask them to start off quietly and calmly, then as they continue to read, to increase the volume and sound as if they are having an argument.
- Talk about how this passage shows a disagreement between Jesus and Peter.
- **»» Play the track 'The Cost', Rend Collective on *Homemade Worship*, *Handmade People*, as you have this discussion.**

## EXPLORE AND RESPOND

**Friend or enemy?** 5 mins **E**

A game to explore being open about relationships

- Ask the young people to stand in a circle and then secretly choose one person to be their best friend and one person to be their worst enemy.
- When you say 'go', each young person should try and place themselves between their best friend and their worst enemy – without revealing who is who and without talking.

- Because everyone is trying to do the same thing, the group will continue to move around. They may or may not settle, so call time when you are ready.

**Speak up, speak out!** 10 mins **WEA**

Encourage the young people not to be afraid of conflict

**You will need:** four scenario/role-play cards (on [WEB](#)).

- Put the young people into four groups to explore each of the scenarios as a role play (or think of some that might be more appropriate for your setting).
- Encourage the groups to be creative, to address the issues that are raised and explore how they might deal with them and to take risks.
- At the end of each role play, talk with the young people and ask them how it felt to be each person. Did they handle the situation well? How might it have been dealt with better? Encourage the rest of the group to discuss.

**What it is to risk...** 5 mins **ES**

Explore what taking risks really means

**You will need:** a copy of the poem (on [WEB](#)).

- Read the poem to the young people once and then again.
- Pray quietly and contemplate the following questions. Where does God want you to take a risk? Are you willing to be rebuked or rejected for him? What stops you from taking risks?

**»» Check-in:** Connecting faith with everyday, real-life issues.

## GO WITH GOD

Consider together what you have explored, what that means for each of you and how it might influence your daily lives.

**»» Play the track 'Confident', Steffany Gretzinger on *Blackout*.**

- Encourage the young people to think about a situation or a friendship where they may need to take a risk, and they don't know what the outcome will be.
- Give out pens and paper and invite everyone to write their own version of the risk poem (see above), offering up their challenge to God.

### Go with God 24/7

Put your own 'risk poem' on your fridge or wardrobe door as a reminder through the week not to be afraid of taking risks. Try and challenge yourself to take the risks you need to take.

**WEA**



How easy would you find it to speak up in a situation like this?  
What topics would you be prepared to speak up about, even with fear of rejection?  
How do you react when there is conflict or disagreement?