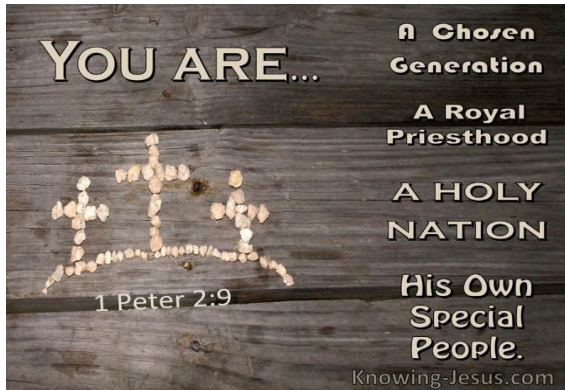


# Guided by a cloud 51 (Exodus 13:21-22)

I thought we'd continue our look at some of the characters in the Easter story so this week I'm looking at Peter. He is one of the disciples some people have an affinity with because of his loyalty to Jesus, but also the fact he often made mistakes. Jesus knew Peter would struggle to face the challenges before him yet Jesus encouraged him and forgave him again and again. As we take communion this week we can, like Peter, experience the closeness and forgiveness of Jesus.



## Worship time

[Your love so great](#)

[You are here \(way maker\)](#)

[I cast my mind to Calvary](#)

**Peter's story** Simon was a fisherman who lived on the shores of the Sea of Galilee with his wife, his brother Andrew and his mother-in-law. Simon met Jesus at Bethany through Andrew,

and was immediately impressed. Jesus changed his name and called him 'Peter', the rock. It's not surprising that Peter was bowled over by Jesus. When he had only known Jesus a short time, Peter witnessed first-hand the healing of his wife's mother. Jesus took her by the hand and lifted her up and the fever she had vanished immediately and she was strong enough to get up and cook for the visitors to her house. (Mark 1:29-31)

Peter was with Jesus all through the three years of Jesus' travelling ministry – rock-like in his steadfast loyalty. One of Peter's more memorable moments was when he got out of the boat during a storm and walked on water towards Jesus. As long as he kept his focus on Jesus he was safe, but when he noticed how stormy the water was, he began to sink into the water. He called to Jesus for help. Jesus held out his hand and pulled him up to safety. (Matthew 14:22-33) We too need to remember to keep our eyes on Jesus, He's there with us in everything we do.

At the last supper Jesus washed the feet of each of his disciples. Peter objected to having his feet washed by someone he honoured, but Jesus insisted. Peter's impulsiveness then led to him wanting to be washed all over. Also at the meal Jesus predicted that his disciples would scatter and flee when danger threatened. Peter contradicted him, assuring Jesus and the other disciples that even if everyone deserted, he would remain faithful to the end. We know how that ended! Peter was being true to his word: he was staying by Jesus when the others fled, but then someone recognised him as a follower of Jesus, and challenged him. Peter took fright and said three times that he did not know Jesus. At once he was bitterly sorry for his own weakness. (Matthew 26:47-75) Do we ever recognise this in ourselves?

Later Jesus appears to Peter and reinstates him by asking him three times if he loved Him and telling Peter to 'feed my lambs', 'take care of my sheep' and 'follow me'. (John 21:15-19) After Pentecost Peter began telling anyone who would listen about Jesus of Nazareth. He was, in effect, the father of early Christianity. Peter continued to experience the presence of Jesus, an example being when he was freed from prison when an angel appeared to him and his chains fell off.

We may be able to see a bit of ourselves in Peter, he wanted to do and be good, but was not always able to live up to his goals. Jesus loved and forgave him, because whenever Peter fell, he got up and tried again. Like Peter, we can learn more about God and not be stopped by mistakes we make along the way. God will show us how to know Him, how to trust Him, just as Jesus wanted us to do.

"Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you" 1Peter 5:7