

Collective worship - FRIENDSHIP 3 (Friends Again)

Welcome - We light the candle as we join together to worship and think about the value 'Friendship'.

Introduction -

Who is your best friend? Have you ever had a big argument about something?

How did it make you feel when you were arguing?

I know when I was growing up I would sometimes argue with my best friend Julie. One day we had a huge argument about a CD. We both went into town and bought the same CD and went back to her house to listen to music. When it was time for me to go home, we could only find one copy of the CD. I said it was mine, she said it was hers. Eventually after lots of arguing she reluctantly said I could have the CD. When I left her house we were both still cross and didn't say goodbye to each other.

I was on the bus, on the way home when I found MY copy in the bottom of my bag so I now had 2. I felt really bad.

That evening, it took a lot of courage to phone her up, explain that I had found the missing CD and most importantly to apologise. Julie was very glad I had phoned and she explained that she was more happy about the fact that we were friends again than about the fact that the missing CD had been located.

Bible Story - Today's story from the Bible is about Simon Peter (sometimes just called Peter) one of Jesus' closest friends. When Jesus needed Simon Peter he let him down. Jesus called Simon Peter 'The Rock'. Why do you think he used that name for him? What does it mean to be someone's 'rock'?

The story is about when Simon Peter pretends that he doesn't know Jesus because he is afraid of what might happen to him. Instead of sticking by Jesus and helping him when he needed it, Simon Peter denies that he is anything to do with Jesus.

Luke 22:54-62 New International Version (NIV)

Peter Disowns Jesus

⁵⁴ Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. ⁵⁵ And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. ⁵⁶ A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him."

⁵⁷ But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him," he said.

⁵⁸ A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them."

"Man, I am not!" Peter replied.

⁵⁹ About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean."

⁶⁰ Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." ⁶² And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Things to think about:

- How did Simon Peter feel at different parts of the story?
- How do you think Jesus felt?
- Has a friend ever let you down? How did it make you feel and what did you do about it?
- Should we give people a second chance? Why?

Prayer:

Dear God,

Sometimes we know that we will let friends down but when that happens help us to find ways to be friends again. Amen.

Things you could do this week:

- Write your own story about 2 friends having an argument but then becoming friends again.
- Create a paper chain, one link for everybody that you love or are friends with - friends, family etc. Write one name on each link. What would happen if one of the links got broken?
- Watch a Disney film - 'Cars', 'Finding Nemo' or 'Frozen'. Think about the friends in these films. How do the characters feel when they have an argument with someone? How do they feel when they are friends again?

To watch the video click on this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mpx-mpWFUTc>