Jesus is alive! After the Resurrection...

Jesus chooses Peter to establish the church

Sculpture beside the Sea of Galilee at Tabgha

Background:

This episode from the time after Jesus’ Resurrection, is very interesting. Before he was taken to be tried and crucified, Jesus’ dear friend and disciple, Simon Peter had been told that he would deny even knowing Jesus. And he would do so three times before the cockerel crowed, to herald the dawn.

Sure enough, when Peter secretly followed Jesus, after his arrest, into the courtyard of the High Priest, Jesus’ words came true. Peter was challenged by three different people including a servant girl. Each time he was questioned, he denied knowing Jesus, and then the cockerel crowed. Peter realized he had indeed denied his Lord. In this episode from the Bible, Jesus deliberately asks Simon Peter if he loves him, not once or twice but three times. Peter must have realized why Jesus kept
repeating his question and this time Peter does not fail. He expresses his love for Jesus and he becomes one of Jesus key missionaries and the founder of his church on earth.

**Bible reading: John 21: 15-19**

“When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’

‘Yes, Lord,’ he said, ‘you know that I love you.’

Jesus said, ‘Feed my lambs.’

16 Again Jesus said, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ He answered, ‘Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.’

Jesus said, ‘Take care of my sheep.’

17 The third time he said to him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ He said, ‘Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.’

Jesus said, ‘Feed my sheep. 18 Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.’ 19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, ‘Follow me!’

**Things to do at home - a few ideas:**

- Make a silhouette of Jesus and Peter, using black paper and stick the figures on a natural scene cut out from a magazine. Or create your own sculpture out of play dough, plasticine or clay.

- The church is really the people who follow and believe in Jesus but these people need somewhere to meet and worship together so they have designed and built chapels, churches and cathedrals. You can take a virtual tour of several Cathedrals, including Canterbury in the UK. [https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/virtual-tour/](https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/virtual-tour/).

- You may also like to ‘visit’ the HUGE church in Rome which is named after Simon Peter. It is called St Peter’s Basilica. Use this link: [https://www.vatican.va/various/basiliche/san_pietro/vr_tour/index-en.html](https://www.vatican.va/various/basiliche/san_pietro/vr_tour/index-en.html)

- In Barcelona, Spain, an artist named Antoni Gaudi designed a massive cathedral which is still being built and you can visit it online: [https://sagradafamilia.org/en/virtual-tour](https://sagradafamilia.org/en/virtual-tour)

It may inspire you to design a church or cathedral of your own for the 21st century.