**Failure and forgiveness**

**Reading: Luke 22:54-60**

They arrested Jesus and took him away to the house of the high priest. Peter followed Jesus but stayed back at a distance. The soldiers started a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat together. Peter sat with them. A servant girl saw him sitting there. She could see because of the light from the fire. She looked closely at Peter’s face. Then she said, “This man was also with Jesus.”

But Peter said this was not true. He said, “Lady, I don’t know him.” A short time later, someone else saw Peter and said, “You are also one of them.”

But Peter said, “Man, I am not!”

About an hour later, another man said, “It’s true. I’m sure this man was with him, because he is from Galilee.”

But Peter said, “Man, I don’t know what you are talking about!”

**Thought about the reading**

Peter was one of Jesus’ special friends. He had followed Jesus for three years. He told Jesus that he would follow him and even die with him. But when Jesus was arrested, he was very frightened. People recognised him as one of Jesus’ friends, but when they said so, Peter denied that he even knew Jesus.

Peter wanted to follow Jesus, but he messed up. He was very sad, because he had let Jesus down. But Jesus forgave him. Later, after Jesus had died and come back to life, he talked to Peter and told him he wanted him to care for his people. He helped Peter to start again, to turn over a new life.

When he was filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter was able to lead all the people who wanted to follow Jesus.

**Prayer**

Lord Jesus, sometimes I mess up and get things wrong. Please forgive me and help me to turn over a new leaf. Help me to carry on following you, knowing I am forgiven.

Amen

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When Jesus forgives us, we can start again, like turning over a new leaf.

Colour in the leaf to help you remember:

**If we confess our sins, God will forgive us.**

1 John 1:9

**Cambridge Causeway**

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Bible Study notes

**Following Jesus**

5. Failure and Forgiveness

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