



1-7 May 2022 • Faith 24/7

## Catching on

 **John 21.1-19**

After Jesus has risen from the dead, Simon Peter and the disciples return to their fishing boats. From the shore, Jesus directs them to a miraculous catch of fish and then speaks to Simon Peter, telling him how he should go on to serve the church.

Now read **John 21.1-19** see p.2 for text.

### A note on the passage

This passage is full of references to new and old patterns of living. The disciples have gone back to the way of life they know, but they are not successful until Jesus intervenes. Simon Peter is reminded by the charcoal fire and by Jesus' choice of words that he betrayed his friend, but Jesus offers something new, an important role in caring for his church. Jesus breaks the old patterns, offers new ones and invites us to follow him.



How good are you at identifying patterns? Jesus challenges us to look at the way we live and make alterations so that we follow the example he sets. Play mastermind online: <https://webgamesonline.com/mastermind/index.php>  
The small pointers given when you check at the end of each round show you how to adapt, just as Jesus can help us in our daily lives.



What patterns do you see in your life?



May Day (1 May) celebrates the first day of summer. When Jesus commissioned Peter, it marked the beginning of a new season in his life too. Use the May Day tradition of gathering wildflowers and green shoots to decorate your room or home, and think about how God can speak to us through the natural world. Arrange your flora to symbolise that you are embarking on a new season of listening out for God in the world.

## Prayer Pattern

A pattern of prayer can be key to discerning what God is saying to us and the Psalms have always been a source of inspiration for Christians. This week, set aside time at the start and end of the day to pray, and begin each time with a Psalm. Use the same Psalm both in the morning and the evening, starting with Psalm 95 and working your way through to Psalm 101.

## REFLECT

What are you really good at? What is your area of expertise? The disciples were fishermen, but when they listened to Jesus, who was a carpenter, they caught more fish than they thought possible. Spend some time in silent prayer, asking Jesus to show you new ways of living, even in areas where you feel you are the expert.



Create patterned wrapping paper.

Jesus doesn't require us to completely reinvent ourselves, but small, subtle changes can make a big difference. When you next give gifts, try wrapping them in homemade paper, which has a positive impact on the environment. Make potato stamps, cutting them into decorative shapes, and use them with ink pads or paint to create a pattern on brown parcel paper.



Please continue to pray for Olga, Orest and their three children as they make their way to Worcester.

### **Praying for Ukraine**

Praying about violence should always leave us queasy, to say the least. What does it mean to pray for military success? What do we pray about the weapons we supply to Ukraine? This week, in ambulances and fire engines, perhaps, we are given a focus for prayer that we may be able to pursue more confidently.

Going deeper, we may find it very hard indeed to believe there could be resurrection, reconciliation, healing between Ukraine and Russia. We are very emphatically called by Jesus and St Paul to pray for enemies. Even if we can't imagine it, we must hold on enough to create the conditions in which resurrection might be imagined. Listen to Ananias' anxious prayer about Saul when asked to minister to him. 'But Lord, he's deadly.' Yet Ananias goes. We may be startled by Saul's encounter with Jesus on the road and his blindness, in which he ironically learns to see properly the catastrophic error of his violence. We might pray for scales to fall from Russian eyes. But the real miracle, the truly astonishing moment that proves the power of Jesus' resurrection to transform our world view is this:

Before Saul says a word, or expresses any penitence, Ananias lays gentle healing hands on the man who has spread hate speech about Christians and conspired in their murder and Ananias calls him 'brother' (Acts 9.17).

We struggle to believe such a thing could happen today, but it has. Only last month, two hugely moving clips showed what is possible. Ukrainians gave food to a young Russian soldier and put him in touch with his mother. Another was able to speak to his mother from captivity, allowing us a glimpse of the vulnerability and humanity of those caught up in enacting Putin's aggression (see Romans 12.20.) We should watch them carefully, ensuring we are neither triumphalist nor voyeuristic. Rather, we should honour the humanity of all involved and treasuring male tears amid the violence. Perhaps these give us things to pray for people grieving and embroiled on both sides of the conflict.

<b>Daily Readings for week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2022</b>		
<b>Monday</b>	Proverbs 4: 10-18	James 1: 1-12 <i>Philip and James Apostles</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	Exodus 20: 1-21	Luke 1: 26-38
<b>Wednesday</b>	Exodus 24	Luke 1: 39-56
<b>Thursday</b>	Exodus 25: 1-22	Luke 1: 57-end
<b>Friday</b>	Exodus 28: 1-4a, 29-38	Luke 2: 1-20
<b>Saturday</b>	Exodus 29: 1-9	Luke 2: 21-40

***Pray for those in need...*** Please pray for the people of Ukraine...for those in need of God's healing touch...Heather, Dorothy, Pat, Sue, Joyce, Maureen, Pamela, Shane, Bryn, Katie-Lou, Margaret...  
***Please pray for those who mourn the loss of a loved one, remembering the souls of ...Dennis, Pauline & Eric, and Kath.***