

爱里没有惧怕

爱里没有惧怕，因为完全的爱能驱走一切惧怕。 —— 约翰一书 4:18

嗨，孩子们！今天，我们先来玩个刺激点的游戏：什么东西会让你感到害怕？例如，如果有人走过来把这个小动物扔到你手里，你的反应是 ？“啊~~~”尖叫着跑开？又或许你胆子够大，满不在乎的说：“嘿，这只不过是一只小蜥蜴，一点也不可怕！”



但如果有人把这只更大的蜥蜴放到你手里呢？呵呵..... 不同的人会害怕不同的东西：一个让你感到毛骨悚然的怪物，可能对于其他人来说一点都不可怕。尽管如此，我们还是会有自己感到害怕的事物，虽然各人不尽相同。**每个人都知道害怕是什么感觉**——你的大脑开始尖叫，你的心脏开始砰砰直跳，你的双腿开始抖动得像果冻一样。



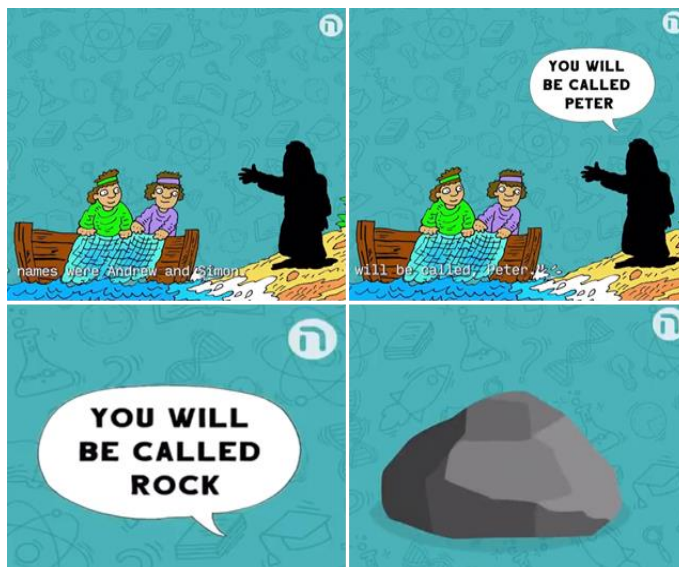
我们会试图告诫自己不要害怕，但我们还是会很害怕，对吧？！你们中有多少人和我一样有同感？这种吓到双腿发软像果冻一样的感受，一点也不好玩；当面临这种窘境时，我宁愿像这石头那样——**坚定、沉稳、牢固！**



VS



今天的圣经故事是从两个渔夫去见耶稣开始，他们是兄弟，名字叫安得烈和西门。虽然他们以前可能没有见过耶稣，但圣经在约翰福音第 1 章告诉我们：耶稣看见西门，就说：“你是约翰的儿子西门，你要被称为彼得。”今天，当我们听到这里时，我们理解到的只是西门有了一个新名字而已。但在那个时候的以色列人，他们所听到的是：“你是约翰的儿子西门，你要称为石头。”这是因为“彼得”这个词的意思是“石头”。那一天，一个名叫西门的普通渔民变成了“石头彼得”。



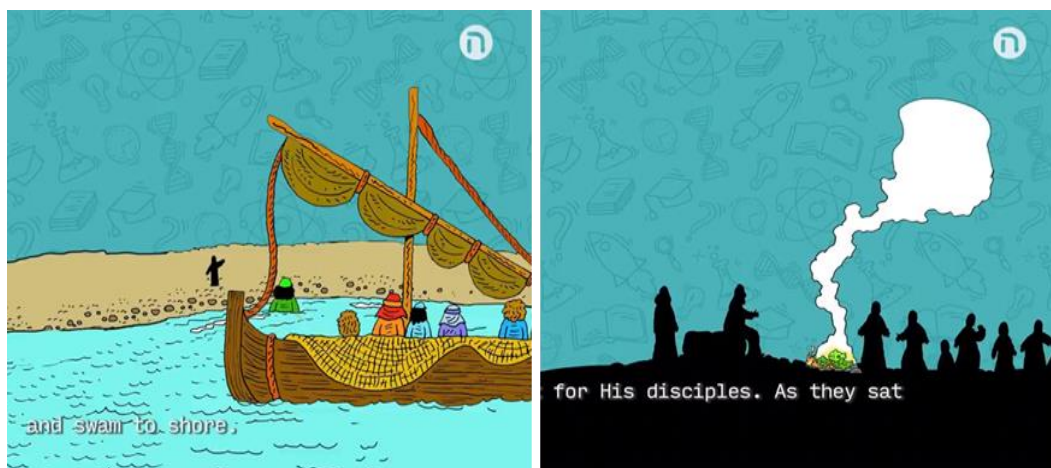
石头的特征是：坚硬牢固，既不柔软也不会轻易动摇。彼得的性格会像石头那样既坚定又沉稳吗？也许吧，因为他毕竟是个渔夫，习惯了艰苦的捕鱼生活。彼得也是个行动派，还记得在马太福音 14 章关于风暴的故事吗？当其他的门徒还在风暴中拼命挣扎时，彼得却下了船，向耶稣走去。彼得只需要确定在海上的真的是耶稣，他说：“主阿，若是你，请叫我从水面上走到你那里去。”耶稣说：“你来吧！”彼得就相信了祂的话。但彼得一直都胆子这么大吗？不是的。接下来圣经告诉我们，彼得看见风浪这么大，就害怕起来，紧跟着他开始往下沉。耶稣就在那一刻伸手抓住他并救了他。可以想象，当其他的门徒看到这一幕会是什么表情？想必他们禁不住会对彼得虎头蛇尾的表现摇头嗤笑。然而，耶稣却从来没有对彼得说，“你看你？你并不像石头那样坚定沉稳，我不再叫你石头了。”耶稣从来没有这样做，祂对彼得的看法也从来没有改变过！



那么有了那次的经历，彼得会变得不再惧怕、变得勇敢坚强了吗？还是没有呢！圣经在马太福音 26 章告诉我们，耶稣被士兵带走的那天晚上，彼得变得非常惧怕，以至做了一件非常非常糟糕的事情。事情是这样的，有一个使女走过来对彼得说，“你不就是跟随耶稣的其中一员吗？”彼得恼羞成怒，咆哮着回答：“我不知道你在说什么！”每次，有人认出彼得是耶稣的门徒，彼得都不承认：“不是，我根本不认识祂！”这种情况不止发生了一次，而是发生了三次！直到天亮前，公鸡叫了三次后，彼得才醒悟自己所作的事，他后悔极了。



即使彼得的恐惧使他放弃了耶稣，耶稣却从来没有放弃过彼得。耶稣也从来不会让我们自己去疗愈自己，祂总是爱我们，加倍地爱我们，祂的爱使我们变得坚强，祂的爱帮助我们成为祂所说的得胜者。这就是接下来发生在彼得身上的事，在约翰福音 21 章告诉我们，在耶稣从坟墓里复活几天后，彼得和其他门徒去捕鱼。门徒们看见有一个人站在岸边，起初，他们认不出海岸上的那个人就是耶稣，然后其中有一人告诉彼得说：“是主！”彼得一听见是主，就跳进海里，向岸边游去。那天，复活后的耶稣为祂的门徒们准备了早餐。他们坐在篝火旁，耶稣和善地与彼得谈心，并没有提及彼得糟糕的表现，如彼得在别人面前三次不认祂，也没有对他其他的表现皱一下眉头，更没有提到上帝对他有多么失望之类的事。实际上，情况正好相反。那一天，耶稣使彼得明白祂仍然是多么爱彼得和接纳彼得。那天，耶稣问彼得：“你爱我吗？”彼得每次都回答：“是的，主，我爱你！”。耶稣说：“你牧养我的羊。”即使在发生了这一切之后，耶稣仍然没有放弃彼得；相反，耶稣让彼得知道他仍然是被信任的是可以委托重任去为神做大事的！多么令人欣慰啊！

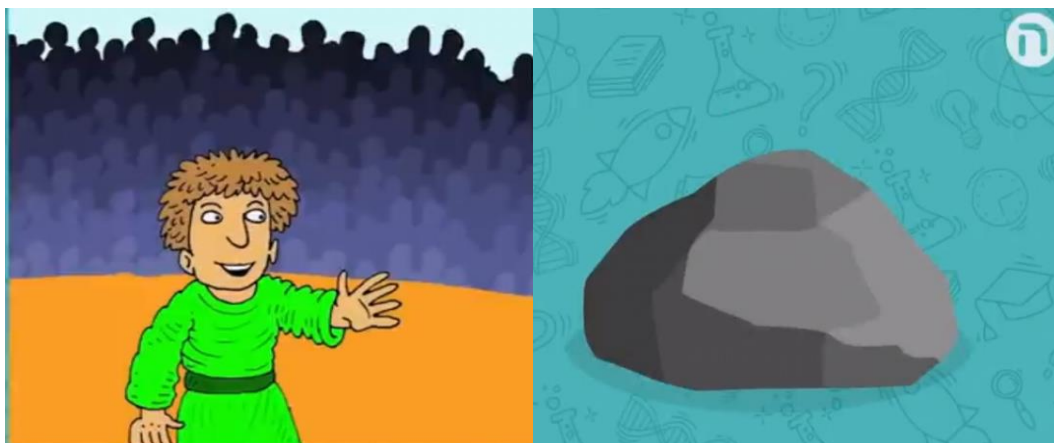


彼得最终有成为耶稣所说的石头吗？——坚定而勇敢的石头？！**是的，有！**

- 在使徒行传第 2 章，彼得向众人传讲耶稣，有三千人信了从而得救了；
- 在使徒行传第 3 章，彼得对一个瘸子说：“我奉拿撒勒人耶稣基督的名，叫你起来行走。”瘸子就起来，开始行走而且还能跳跃；
- 更令人惊奇的是，在使徒行传第 9 章告诉我们，有一个名叫多加的妇人死了，彼得大胆地为她祷告，她就复活了。



彼得的经历让我们想起了约翰一书第 4 章 18 节的经文，你也可以在圣经里把它标记出来，是这样说的：“**爱里没有惧怕，因为完全的爱能驱走一切惧怕。**”当彼得看见主耶稣是如此的爱他，不管发生了什么事情，主都是一如既往地爱着他时，就有一股强大的力量开始充满彼得，这股力量开始在他身上运行，他不再惧怕，他变得无所畏惧，在他所行的一切事上他都倚靠主耶稣！**彼得最终成为耶稣所说的“石头”了！**



接下来让我们来分享一个见证。有一位属神的人，他名叫乔治·穆勒，生活在 19 世纪的英国，距今已超过 200 年了。乔治·穆勒要照顾许多孤儿，这意味着他要养活许多张嘴。有一天，乔治·穆勒发现没有任何剩余的食物可以供给孩子们吃了，他既不担心，也不害怕，即使事情看起来一点都不好，他还是单纯地信靠神对他的爱，坚信上帝会永远对他好。那天早晨，面对着所有坐在空盘子前饥饿的孩子们，乔治·穆勒大胆地祈祷：“亲爱的主，我们感谢你为我们提供食物！”



正当他在祷告的时候，有人敲门，是面包师傅决定在那天早上给他们送面包来的。“孩子们，”乔治·穆勒说，“我们有面包吃了，而且还是新鲜的！”这时又传来了敲门声，是运送牛奶的师傅，牛奶车刚好在孤儿院门口外面坏了，所以他决定把牛奶送给孩子们伴早餐。哇！这简直太神奇美妙了！



孩子们，圣经告诉我们“**完全的爱能驱除恐惧**”。当我们知道神完全地爱我们，祂完美的爱会驱走我们心中所有的恐惧。“完全的爱”并不是要求我们对神的爱要完全，也不是要求我们必须要做到完美；而是——无论我们多么软弱或意志不坚定，**神对我们的爱都是坚定牢固和不可动摇的！**这份爱是如此的坚定牢固和不可动摇，圣经称之为“完全的爱”，这才是今天真正的好消息！当你知道神的爱是多么完美时，你的内心就会发生改变，它会令你变得坚强，使你变得勇敢，因为你知道无论发生什么，你都可以相信我们的神会好好照顾你！

今天，或许你正担心或害怕着什么？或许你担心受冷落，害怕其他孩子不接受你；或许你担心失败，害怕自己不够聪明或不够坚强。当我们专注于天父上帝对我们完全的爱时，我们不需要惧怕，这给了我们勇气去做我们知道我们要做的事情。比如承认我们的错误，而不是去撒谎；比如不会因为别人欺负你，而对他人刻薄。



无论如何，不要认为自己很脆弱和不够坚定，担心所有你做不到的事情，相信天父上帝对你的爱，大胆地告诉祂你所需要的，坚定地对着心目中的自己说：“**耶稣爱我，这我知道。祂把我照顾得很好，我不需要惧怕！阿门。**”记住，我们不是因为自己勇敢或坚强而变得无所畏惧，我们的勇敢不是来自我们自己，我们之所以勇敢，是因为爱中没有恐惧；我们的力量不是来自我们自己，我们的力量是来自我们的天父上帝对我们完全的爱！

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孩子们，如果你正在听这个故事，你从来没有邀请耶稣进入你的生命，成为你的主和救主，你现在可以这样做，跟着我重复这个祷告：“**亲爱的主耶稣，感谢你为我死在十字架上。你是神的儿子，你死了，也被埋葬，第三天又复活了。你宝血洗去了我所有的罪，使我得以永远与阿爸天父在一起。我请求你现在进入我的生命里，成为我的主和救主，我永远是个义人，永远是有福的，永远是神的孩子。奉耶稣的名，阿门！**”

NO FEAR

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear ... 1 John 4: 18, NKJV

Hey Rock Kidz! Today, we're going to talk about what makes us afraid. For example, if someone comes along and pops this in your hand, what would you do? Scream and run away? Ahh! Maybe you're thinking, "Aw ... It's just a tiny baby lizard. It's not scary at all!"

Well, what if someone puts this in your hand instead? Yikes! Different people are afraid of different things. The creepy-crawly that gives you the shivers may not bother the other person at all. We're all scared of different things, but everyone knows what it feels like to be afraid. Your brains start screaming, your heart thumps like mad and your legs feel like jelly!

We can try and tell ourselves not to be scared, but we're afraid anyway. How many of you agree with me that it is no fun to be weak and wobbly like this? When faced with a difficult situation, I'd much rather be like this. Solid, stable, strong!

Today's Bible story starts with two fishermen going to see Jesus. They were brothers and their names were Andrew and Simon. Even though they probably not met Jesus before, the Bible tells us in John 1 that when Jesus saw Simon, He said, "You are Simon, son of John. You will be called, Peter." Today, when we hear this, all we hear is that Simon got a new name. but for the people who lived during that time, this is what they would have heard, "You are Simon, son of John. You will be called 'Rock'." This was because the word 'Peter' means 'Rock'. That day, an ordinary fisherman called Simon became "Peter the Rock".

A rock is not wobbly or weak. A rock is solid and strong. Was Peter strong? Probably, because after all he was a fisherman, used to living rough and tough. Peter was also a man of action. Remember the story about the storm? While the rest of the disciples were hanging on for dear life, Peter got out of the boat and walked towards Jesus! All Peter needed was to know that it really was Jesus out there on the water. "Lord, if it's You, tell me to come to You on the water." So when Jesus said, "Come!" Peter took Him at His word. But was Peter bold like this all the time? No, because right after this. This Bible tells us that Peter saw the waves and became afraid and started to sink! Thankfully, Jesus was right there to grab him and save him. You can imagine the other disciples shaking their heads! And yet, Jesus never once looked at Peter and said, "You know what? You're not solid or strong like a rock. I shall stop calling you, Peter." No, Jesus never changed His mind about Peter at all.

So did Peter stop being afraid and became bold and brave? Not really. The Bible tells us that on the night when Jesus was taken away by soldiers, Peter was so afraid that he did a terrible, terrible thing. When a servant girl asked, "Hey, aren't you one of the men following Jesus?" Peter growled and said, "I don't know what you're talking about." Each time someone recognized Peter as Jesus's disciple, Peter denied it, "No! I don't know Him at all!" This happened not just once, but three times! Only when the rooster crowed three times did Peter realize what he had done. Was this the end of Peter, the disciple? You know the answer ... No, no, no!

The good news is that Jesus never gave up on Peter, even when Peter's fear made him give up on Jesus! The good news is that Jesus never leaves us alone to sort ourselves out. He always steps in to love on us and then love on us some more. His love makes us strong and helps us become champions that He says we are. And this was what happened for Peter. John 21 tells us that Peter and the other disciples went fishing. This was a few days after Jesus risen from the grave. The disciples saw a man standing at the beach. At first, the disciples could not recognize the man at the beach. But as soon as one of them told Peter, "It is the Lord!" Peter jumped into the water and swam to shore. The day, the resurrected Jesus prepared breakfast for His disciples. As they sat beside the fire, Jesus spoke kindly to Peter. There was no talk of how Peter had failed so badly. There was no frowning, no mention of how disappointed the Lord was with him. Actually, the exact opposite happened. That day, Jesus made sure that Peter understood how much the Lord still loved and accepted him. That day, the Lord asked Peter, "Do you love me?" Each time Peter answered, "Yes". Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep!" How amazing that even after all that had happened, Jesus never gave up on Peter. Instead, Jesus bothered to let Peter know that he was still trusted to do great things for God.

Did Peter end up being the rock that Jesus said he would be? Yes! In acts 2, Peter preached to a crowd about Jesus, and three thousand people believed and saved. In acts 3, Peter said to a lame man, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" And immediately the lame man got up and started walking and leaping about! Even more amazing, Acts 9 tells us that when a woman called Dorcas died, Peter boldly prayed for her and she was brought back to life!

Wow, what happened to Peter reminds me of this verse. Now I want you to flip your Bibles to 1 John 4: 18, you can highlight it as well. It says, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear ..." When Peter saw how much the Lord loved him, no matter what. Something powerful happened to Peter. He stopped being afraid and became fearless and bold to trust in the Lord in everything he did.

Let me tell you about a man of God called George Müller. He lived in England in the 1800s, more than 200 years ago. George Müller took care of many orphans, and this meant that he had many mouths to feed. One day, there was no food left to feed the children. Instead of worrying or being afraid, George Müller simply trusted in the Lord's love for him. Even when things did not look good at all, George Müller continued to believe that God would always be good to him. That morning, in front of all the hungry children, sitting in front of all the empty plates, George Müller boldly prayed, "Dear Lord, we thank You for the food You are going to give us to eat."

There was a knock at the door. It was the baker who had decided to give them bread that morning! "Children," George Müller said, "not only do we have bread, we have fresh bread!" There was another knock. It was the milkman! The milk cart had broken down outside the orphanage, so he decided to give the milk to the children, completing their meal. Wow! Isn't that amazing?

Hey Rock Kidz, the Bible tells us that "perfect love casts out fear". When we know our God loves us completely, His perfect love will drive away any fear in our hearts. "Perfect love" doesn't mean that we have to love God perfectly. It doesn't mean that we have to be perfect either. The really good news today is that no matter how weak or wobbly we get, our God's love for us is steady, strong and sure. So

steady, so strong and so sure that the Bible calls it 'perfect love'. When you know how perfectly God loves, it changes you on the inside. It makes you strong and it makes you bold because you know that no matter what, you can trust our Daddy God to take good care of you.

When we focus on His perfect love for us, we don't have to be afraid. This gives us the courage to do what we know we need to do. Like admitting our mistakes, instead of lying about it. Like not being mean to someone, just because the bullies expect you to.

Remember, we are not fearless because we are brave or strong. No, our boldness does not come from ourselves. We can bold because there is no fear in love. Our strength does not come from ourselves. Our strength comes from our Daddy God's perfect love for us.

What are you worried and afraid of today? Maybe you are afraid of being left out or that the other kids won't accept you. maybe you're worried about failing, afraid that you might not be smart enough or strong enough.

Whatever it is, don't stay weak and wobbly, worried about all the things you cannot do. Be confident of daddy God's love for you. be bold to tell Him what you need. And be bold to look at yourself in the eye and say, **"Jesus loves me, this I know. He takes good care of me. I don't have to be afraid." Amen!**

Hey Rock Kidz, if you are listening to this story and you've never asked Jesus to come into your life to be your Lord and Saviour, you can do so now. Just repeat this prayer after me, "Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for me. You are the Son of God, who died, was buried and on the third day, you rose again. Your precious blood washed away all my sins making me forever right with Daddy God. I ask You now to come into my life to be my Lord and Saviour. I am forever righteous, forever blessed, forever a child of God. In Jesus' name," and everyone say, "Amen."