

**Worship Material**  
**Learning to live after our mistakes**  
**Materials from Roots Bible Study**  
**Sunday 14th April**

**Begin with an opening prayer**

God of grace, you know our weaknesses,  
and how we let you, ourselves and others down  
by the things we say and do, or fail to do.  
As we gather together, open our hearts and minds,  
to learn from our mistakes, to know more of your ways,  
and live and love as Christ loves us. **Amen.**

**Read Acts 3:12-19**

**Bible notes**

Words and actions belong closely together in Acts. Speaking God's Word with boldness is accompanied by signs and wonders. The action comes first as Peter heals a lame man, 'in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk' (3:6). Now, as the crowd runs towards them in astonishment, Peter explains what has happened. When Peter 'took him by the right hand and raised him up' (3:7) the lame man was given 'perfect health' through Jesus. This is the new life that began with Jesus' resurrection. Jesus is the author, or pioneer, of this risen life, and the same title is used of Jesus in connection with his death and resurrection in Hebrews 2:10 and 12:2.

Peter accuses the crowd of Jesus' murder, 'You killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead'. He doesn't choose here to mention his own shameful part in the story, falling asleep when asked to pray with Jesus in his agony (Luke 22:45-46), weeping bitterly after denying three times that he knew Jesus (22:62). But Jesus had said to him, 'When once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers' (22:32).

Now he urges the crowd to repentance with similar words, 'Turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out'. In Jesus' suffering, to which he contributed; in Jesus' resurrection, to which he witnesses; and in the repentance that he proclaims, Peter sees the fulfilment of the loving promises of God. This echoes the words of the risen Jesus to the disciples in today's Gospel, 'Thus it is written'.

## Prayer

Lord, we all make mistakes.  
Some of our mistakes hurt you.  
Some of our mistakes hurt other people.  
Some of our mistakes hurt us.  
Lord, help us to learn from our mistakes and not to be hard on ourselves.  
And when someone hurts us, Lord help us to forgive. **Amen.**

## A prayer to conclude

Lord, thank you that you don't give up on us when we fail,  
that you offer us a fresh start through your forgiveness.  
Guide and teach us that we may learn from our mistakes,  
And walk with us into each new day, In Jesus' name. **Amen.**