

JOHN: Well, it's time to catch up with our friendly house puppet Pete.  
Are you there Pete?

*[Pete doesn't come out immediately...'scrabbling around' sounds come from from inside Pete's house] [JOHN peers over the edge of the house]*

Pete, are you there? Peeete...what's going on in there?

*[Pete pops up...still looking around his house - he's searching for something].*

JOHN: Oh hi Pete, there you are. Say hello Pete, everyone. There was a lot of noise coming from in there Pete...what was that all about

*Pete: (said very grumpily) I've lost something.*

JOHN: Oh dear, what have you lost...?

*Pete: (still said grumpily) my shades...I'm entering the world indoor snowboarding championships at Xscape near Leeds this afternoon and it's essential that I have them John.... I've searched everywhere and I can't find them...I think that Sue's borrowed them again!*

JOHN: And shades are important for this are they...

*Pete: Of course they are John, so I'll look cooooo!! I think someone is testing my patience!*

JOHN: Well, I'm sure they're somewhere. If you can't find them by the end of church, I'll get some of the young people to help you...

*Pete: Oh thanks John (said indifferently and feeling very sorry for himself) well see ya later then (and sulks off into his house)*

JOHN: Hey, Pete, where you going..?

*Pete: (said wearily) I'm going to carry on looking inside my house... Everything's going wrong today. Is that alright John?*

JOHN: Well no, not really...there's all these people out here in church, and they'd like to see you..... Are you alright mate? You don't seem your usual chirpy self today?

*Pete: Well not really, I'm feeling a bit down....*

JOHN: Oh Pete....Oh no...Pete's feeling sad everyone....AHHHH....why are you feeling down

*Pete: Well I keep losing things? I tell you my patience is being really, really tested*

JOHN: Oh dear, that's a shame, what else is going wrong...apart from losing your cool shades of course?

*Pete: (said sadly and grumpily) well last week I lost my brand new mobile phone...it was a really good one too...I was just getting into Sue's car and it slipped out of my pocket into the road and fell down a drain... I tell you John my patience is being tested to the limit*

JOHN: Oh Pete, that's hard luck. What else has happened..?

Pete: well when I was in the car with Sue she was taking me to the world orienteering championships and I was map reading and I managed to get lost.

JOHN: Oh dear...you managed to get lost on your way to the orienteering championships. I guess that the orienteering,..... you know.....that sport that involves finding your way with a map and compass,.....didn't go too well either.

Pete: No not really...we got there eventually...but I was very late starting and I had to run off extra fast...and as I went into the woods, I tripped over a tree stump and banged my head and lost my memory for about an hour. I tell you... this is a really bad patch I'm going through... It's like the devil's got into my life and is turning everything upside down!

John: Oh dear...no silverware that day then...

Pete: No...(said sadly and grumpily). Anyway... next day I was paragliding in Glossop and the wind dropped all of a sudden and I lost height too quickly and had to crashland in a field. And then to top it all, the next day...do you know what...?

JOHN: What?

Pete: I had a letter from Germany.

JOHN: No it wasn't was it

Pete: Yes it was (*welling up*). It was a letter from Helga.

JOHN: Oh no Pete, I'm so sorry....oh that's so sad, everyone....your girlfriend hasn't packed you in has she? Ahhh

Pete: Noooooo, John, Nooooooo...it's far worse than that...she says it's either her or extreme sports!! Oh John, I don't know what to do. I think this is a real testing time for me.

John: Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear. What a mess. Tell you what, not a good time to talk too long at the moment, got to get on with church, but perhaps we could have a coffee and a cake after the service and talk about your girl problems...yeh? Perhaps Adam could give you a few tips...there's three girls in his household?

Pete: Yeah...thanks John, that sounds good...

John: And in the meantime why don't you sit back and listen to the rest of church, because we're going to be learning how to cope when life gets a bit testing. Infact its not always bad to be tested especially if we trust in the Holy Spirit. And since you're going through a bad patch at the moment...you might get quite a lot of benefit!

Pete: Ok then I'll have a listen and see you later for that longer chat....

Bye everyone!

JOHN: Bye Pete!!