



St Lawrence
with St Paul
Longridge



Family Activities: Sunday 17th May 2020

Know His Voice

Introduction: Children's Church at St Lawrence with St Paul is not meeting in person at present due to the advice given by the Church of England to suspend services. However, the team is putting together a sheet each week for families to do 'Children's Church at Home' and we are also meeting on Zoom on Sunday mornings at 1045am to go through some of the activities together!

We are very grateful to the Blackburn Board of Education and their 'Weekly@' resources which we are drawing on to help us to put together each week's activities.

Please do e-mail Carolyn Barton at carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk to be added to the Children's Church private Facebook group and/or to be sent the link to the Sundays @1045am Zoom Children's Church Meeting.

Theme: To understand that loving Jesus means trusting and wanting to obey him.

Setting the Scene:

Print off some road signs (one way, bicycles only, red man at a pedestrian crossing, stop, give way, 30 miles an hour, etc.) and display them around the room. Ask the children to look at the signs and discuss what they think they mean. How many were they able to work out without help from an adult?

Song: Sing and dance along to 'Shine' at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W2xc-w8Zcbo>



Bible Passage: The Promise of the Holy Spirit, John 14, vs 15 - 21



The Promise of the Holy Spirit

¹⁵"If you love me, you will do the things I command. ¹⁶I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper.^(a) He will give you this Helper to be with you forever. ¹⁷The Helper is the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him because it does not see him or know him. But you know him. He lives with you and he will be in you.



¹⁸ “I will not leave you all alone like orphans. I will come back to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live, too. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father. You will know that you are in me and I am in you. ²¹ He who knows my commands and obeys them is the one who loves me. And my Father will love him who loves me. I will love him and will show myself to him.”

This week we’re thinking about how Jesus says that whoever loves him obeys him, and that He has given us the Holy Spirit to us to keep his commands.

Take a look at this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBWSEEufavc>

Questions to ask:



- 1) Which part of the story or video did you like best and why?
- 2) Can you think of any rules you have in your home and why you have them? Who made them? Why did they make them?
- 3) How do the rules help you?
- 4) Do you know what the ‘Greatest Commandment’ that Jesus gives to his followers is? (*‘Love the Lord with all your heart, your mind and your soul. And love and care for other people in the same way you care for yourself’*).
- 5) How can we show Jesus and other people that we love them? When was the last time you did something loving for someone or for Jesus?

Remember though Jesus doesn’t expect us to all just to try really hard to love people all by ourselves – he promises to help us and the more we get to know Jesus the more we can be filled with his Holy Spirit.

- 6) If we only spoke to each other to say thank you for our food at meal times and then not again all day, or just once a week on a Sunday morning, we wouldn’t feel loved. How could you or your family talk to Jesus more often so that he knows you love him?
- 7) Can you think of one loving thing that you can do this week for a member of your family?



Explaining the Passage (adapt for younger children):

Jesus says whoever loves him obeys him, and in this passage, Jesus promises the Holy Spirit to help his disciples to keep his commands. Our obedience doesn't come through fear or guilt, but through a trust in his love and a love for him that wants to demonstrate our devotion. As we look forward to Ascension and Pentecost this passage perfectly sets the scene. Jesus comforts and assures his disciples and explains the importance of doing what he says – not because Jesus wants power, but because he knows what is best for them and for us.

The Bible describes Jesus as a king, and we know that his commands can be trusted. Imagine a kingdom that is perfect; where the king loves all his citizens and only does and says what is good for them. That is the Kingdom of Heaven and all Jesus asks is that we obey him so that his kingdom is not spoilt.

It is important for us to keep coming back to Jesus and asking him to forgive us for our unloving thoughts, words and actions and to ask for his Holy Spirit to help us to love others. We can't be loving all the time without his help.

Prayer:

“Lord, we do love you for lots of reasons. Thank you for loving us first and for directing us to be a loving people. Help us to show how much we love you by the way we love others this week. Amen.”

Game:



Simon Says: Play Simon Says to illustrate obeying instructions. Give the children opportunity to lead this game and encourage them to keep it interesting. You could help by demonstrating some fun ideas for actions, e.g. “Simon says walk around like a peacock” “Simon says pretend to be a (silent!) racing car driver”.

Activity:



Loving King: Decorate crowns with symbols and pictures that point to Jesus (hearts, a cross, smiles, etc.) and talk about how Jesus is our loving King. Invite the children to take their crown home as a reminder of how we can build God's Kingdom here on earth by obeying Jesus' command to love.