



St Lawrence
with St Paul
Longridge



Family Activities: Sunday 24th May 2020

Finished Work

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 9.15am 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 @9.15am Zoom Children's Church Meeting.

Theme: To focus on what our faith is all about – the cross and the finished work of Jesus.

Setting the Scene:

Talk about how frustrating it is when something isn't finished. Illustrate by humming a well-known tune (like Happy Birthday) and stopping before the end. You could also show them a half-written birthday card and a half-decorated cake! Ask the children if they have ever left something unfinished and has it bothered them?

In today's story we look back through the life of Jesus and how he came to complete his work by ascending into heaven to be seated at the right hand of his Father.

At home print off the 'Finished Work Big Cross Pictures' included with the session materials for this week. Follow the instructions to make them into a picture cross illustration. Reveal each picture one by one explaining what they each represent (see instructions).

1. Star – at Jesus' birth the star was a sign that a King had been born.
2. Heart - Jesus demonstrated God's love in all that he did, reaching out to those who had been marginalized.
3. Water and Wine - Jesus did many miracles as further signs that he was the one God had promised to send who would save his people.
4. Cross - Jesus was obedient in everything and knew that the cross was the most important part of the task he had come to complete.
5. Empty Tomb - Jesus beat death and rose again which meant that we could be risen too.



6. Flame - By sending the Holy Spirit to live within us Jesus had completed the work and gave us the power and his presence in the world to complete our tasks.

Once all the pictures in the cross shape have been revealed, ask the children if they know what Jesus said from the cross. He said, "It is finished." This is such an important statement – God had been planning a way of rescuing his people from the time of Adam’s first sinful act, and through Jesus going the cross this crucial work was finished. We all now have work to do to make sure others know about Jesus. Jesus gave us his Holy Spirit so that we will be reminded of what he taught, be guided in what Jesus would do, and have power from God so that we can do the impossible. There is nothing more for us to do but to trust and follow our loving Saviour.

Song: Sing and dance along to ‘Superhero’ at <https://youtu.be/cVnHYmc744s>

and/or ‘Every Move I Make’ at: <https://youtu.be/MPvnZILn6EY>



Bible Passage: John 17: 1-11

A cartoon of the bible passage can be found here:

<https://youtu.be/UcFw8pLBSIo?t=65>

Watch from the beginning to approx.

...or you may prefer to read it:



Jesus Prays for His Followers

17 After Jesus said these things he looked toward heaven. Jesus prayed, "Father, the time has come. Give glory to your Son so that the Son can give glory to you. ²You gave the Son power over all people so that the Son could give eternal life to all those people you have given to him. ³And this is eternal life: that men can know you, the only true God, and that men can know Jesus Christ, the One you sent. ⁴I finished the work you gave me to do. I brought you glory on earth. ⁵And now, Father, give me glory with you. Give me the glory I had with you before the world was made.



6““You gave me some men from the world. I have shown them what you are like. Those men belonged to you, and you gave them to me. They have obeyed your teaching. 7Now they know that everything you gave me comes from you. 8I gave these men the teachings that you gave me. They accepted those teachings. They know that I truly came from you. 9I pray for them now. I am not praying for the people in the world. But I am praying for those men you gave me, because they are yours. 10All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And my glory is shown through these men. 11Now I am coming to you. I will not stay in the world now. But these men are still in the world. Holy Father, keep them safe. Keep them safe by the power of your name (the name you gave me), so that they will be one, the same as you and I are one.

Questions to ask:

- 1) Which part of the story did you like best and why?
- 2) How do you think the Disciples felt when they saw that Jesus has risen from the tomb?
- 3) Can you remember how many days Jesus spent with the Disciples?
- 4) Can anyone tell me where Jesus took the Disciples to?
- 5) I wonder what was going through the Disciples minds when they saw Jesus ascending into heaven?
- 6) How must the Disciples have felt when they were filled with the Holy Spirit?

Explaining the Passage (adapt for younger children):

In today’s Bible lesson we learn that when Jesus was ready to return to heaven, He took His Disciples aside to make sure that they understood everything that had happened to Him. He explained why it was important for Him to be crucified and to be raised from the dead to fulfil what the Scriptures had said about Him. He also told them that he was going to return to His Father in heaven and that the Holy Spirit would come to be with them.

At first, the disciples were sad that Jesus would be leaving them, but then the Bible tells us that Jesus opened their minds so they would understand. Then, an amazing thing happened. The Bible tells us that Jesus lifted his hands and blessed His Disciples. While He was blessing them, He lifted up and was taken up into heaven “up, up and away.”

I don't know how all of this looked, but in my imagination, I can see the disciples standing and watching as Jesus ascended higher and higher until He disappeared from view. Were the



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Disciples sad? No way! The Bible tells us that when Jesus had gone up into heaven, the Disciples worshipped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. The Disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to spread the Good News about Jesus, just as we are doing today.

Prayer: Thank you, Jesus, that you were prepared to come to earth, to live a human life and to die a terrible death for us. Thank you that you rose again and sent your Holy Spirit to live in us and remind us of all you taught. Thank you that your completed work means we can be in your amazing family. Amen

Game:

Ascension Bible Game: What's Different?

Materials

15 objects from around the home, including a couple chairs, some books, toys, a couple jackets" whatever is available to form a mound of stuff.

Bible Game Object

One person will be challenged to remember and guess what is missing from the mound.

Introduction

Today we celebrate Jesus' Ascension into Heaven. Jesus "lives" in heaven now, but still" He's with us each and every day. It's a mystery how he does that. You can't exactly see him" you can't exactly hear him" you just know" something is different. It's like this game.

Preparation

Pile up the 15 toys, books and chairs in the centre of the room. Have the children study it, seeing where everything is and trying to take note of all that is there.

Bible Game Instructions

1. Pick one person to be the guesser.
2. That person will close their eyes.
3. You will then pick another person to pull something from the mound – either a book, toy or chair, and put it quietly as possible outside the classroom door or hidden behind them.
4. Everyone must remain silent; they may not give any hints.
5. When you say "Ready!" the guesser will open their eyes.
6. They will look around the pile and try to guess what is missing.
7. They get one chance to guess.
8. To add intrigue, take a picture of the mound with your phone. Allow the guesser to look at



the original photo, then look at the mound after something was taken. Snap a new photo before anything is moved each time.

9. Whether they guess correctly or not, their turn is over, you may now tell them if they were right or wrong.

10. Play as many times as you like, but use a different guesser each round.

Closing

Jesus is always with us in spirit. He’s as real as any object in that mound. Just because you can’t always see where he is or feel him move – that doesn’t mean He isn’t among us. He is with us now, and he’ll be with us in body someday!

Activity:

Ascension Craft (Photo at right)

Instructions: Poke a hole in the bottom of a blue or clear plastic cup and string a string through it. Decorate the upturned cup with clouds. Tape a picture of Jesus on the lower end of the string. Pull the string so that Jesus “rises” up into the clouds.



Colour My World (Photo at right)

Lead in great conversation about sharing the good news of Christ by using the fun activity “[The Great Commission- Into the World](#)”.





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