



St Lawrence
with St Paul
Longridge



Family Activities: Sunday May 10th

Jesus is the Key

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 knowing Jesus unlocks the possibility of knowing God and to know that Jesus is the Way, Truth and Life

Setting the Scene:

Around the room place things that need keys (or pictures from the internet of things that need keys) e.g. jewellery box, diary, car, door, padlock, treasure chest. Ask the children to retrieve the items and guess what links them. Talk about the type of keys that might be needed to unlock each item and how you would know which key to try

Song: Sing and dance along to "The Wiggle Song"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ClYq8tfaXs>



Or

The Way, Truth and Life - Kickstart Worship

<https://youtu.be/qKPav8tO4ow>

Bible Passage: John 14, vs 1-14

A cartoon of the bible passage can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmZ8qqNjfwY>



...or you may prefer to read it:



Jesus Comforts His Followers

14 Jesus said, “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. And trust in me. **2** There are many rooms in my Father’s house. I would not tell you this if it were not true. I am going there to prepare a place for you. **3** After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back. Then I will take you to be with me so that you may be where I am. **4** You know the way to the place where I am going.”^[a]

5 Thomas said to Jesus, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going. So how can we know the way?”

6 Jesus answered, “I am the way. And I am the truth and the life. The only way to the Father is through me. **7** If you really knew me, then you would know my Father, too. But now you do know him, and you have seen him.”

8 Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father. That is all we need.”

9 Jesus answered, “I have been with you a long time now. Do you still not know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father. So why do you say, ‘Show us the Father’? **10** Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you don’t come from me. The Father lives in me, and he is doing his own work. **11** Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or believe because of the miracles I have done. **12** I tell you the truth. He who believes in me will do the same things that I do. He will do even greater things than these because I am going to the Father. **13** And if you ask for anything in my name, I will do it for you. Then the Father’s glory will be shown through the Son. **14** If you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it.

Questions to ask:

- 1) Which part of the story did you like best and why?
- 2) Why do you think Jesus said “Do you still not know me, Philip?”
- 3) How do you think the disciples felt?
- 4) Can you finish the phrase Jesus said: “I am the Way....”



Explaining the Passage (adapt for younger children):

Jesus says he is the only Way to God. Last week we heard Jesus comparing himself to a shepherd and us to his sheep. Sheep don't choose their own path but rely on the shepherd to protect and care for them, and to lead them to safety. In order to be safe, we must trust the shepherd, and not wander off on our own adventures or try to find our own way. That will lead us to danger and pain. But when we follow Jesus, he leads us to exactly where we need to be. When we look at Jesus, we see the Truth about God and the Life that Jesus offers is eternal life with the Father. Jesus is the key to living for God.

Prayer:

Thank you, God, for providing Jesus as the Way to You, the Truth about You and the Life we can now have because of Your love and forgiveness. Amen

Games

The Key



Sit in a circle and measure a length of wool that can be tied in a loop so that all the children can hold onto it comfortably without it being too tight or too loose. Before tying the ends of the wool, thread a key onto it. Practice passing the key around

the circle so that it isn't seen. Once they understand, invite one child to step away and close their eyes whilst you move the key to a new part of the circle. The child has 3 guesses as to who is holding the key (it must keep moving whilst they are trying to guess).

Under 5s version

Hide a selection of keys around the room which the children have to find. One of them should be attached to a keyring with a picture of a cross on it – this will open a padlock. Allow the children to try opening the padlock with the keys that they have found. Talk about how Jesus is the key to God and that he loved us enough to go to the cross for us.

Activity: Collage

Make a collage which focuses on the words from John 14:6. Cut out (freehand or using the computer to find a suitable font) large letters which make up the words in this verse and have a space prepared on the wall to display them. If that is tricky just the words 'Jesus, Way, Truth, Life' will be okay. Using lots of different collage materials, get the children to decorate the letters and then arrange them on the wall to display. To reinforce the concept



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of Jesus being the “Key” to coming to God, perhaps you could surround the words with the children’s Key Prayers from the response section or use key shapes in your decoration.

Codebreaker - on the separate sheet

Solution is:-

“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father”

Key Prayers

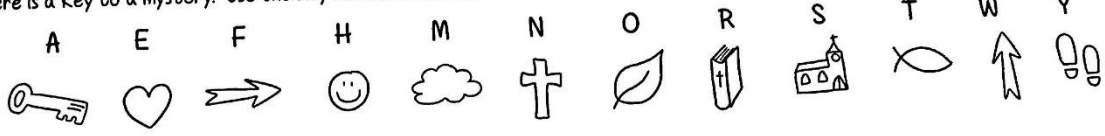
Cut large key shapes out of paper (template below if needed) and help the children to write a prayer on their key thanking Jesus for opening the way to God for everyone.



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Here is a key to a mystery. Use the key to break the code below!





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