

April 16th

On the way to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)

Aim: To understand that Jesus' death and resurrection were all part of God's plan.

Introduction: How would you feel?

- Imagine your friend was moving house....
They were moving to different part of the country....
They say their friend after being away for a year
- They would never see their friend again....
They were out down town and all of sudden they bumped into their friend....

Story: Mention that today's story tells us about a time after Jesus' death when he walked and talked with some of his followers but they didn't recognise him. (Tell the story: *Luke 24:13-35*). End the story by explaining that from the beginning, Jesus' dying on the cross and being raised again was all part of God's plan to bring mankind back to himself (*Genesis 3:15*)

Give each child a picture of Jesus where they stare at the dot then a wall and Jesus' image appears. All children to describe what they see.

Application: Discuss with the children how they think they get to meet Jesus? (Through stories, reading the bible, listening)

Bible verse: *Deuteronomy 4:29 - "There you will look for the Lord your God, and if you search for him with all your heart, you will find him"*

Explain that we may not see Jesus' how his followers saw him but we do have somewhere we can look to get to know him.

Craft/Activity:

Close: Get the children to think of their favourite bible story and act it out. Other children can guess which story it is. Discuss why the children like their stories and mention that it is through stories like these that we get to know more about Jesus.

April 23rd

Jesus meets his friends (Luke 24:36-49)

Aim: To find out how Jesus' friends knew he was alive, and how we can too.

Introduction: Dead or Alive?

Show the children pictures of various items (cuddly toy, plant, book, tree, clothes, fish, doll, baby, sofa etc) and children need to guess if they are dead or alive. How do we know if something is alive? (moves, breathes, grows, reproduces, changes etc)

Story: Mention that today we are going to look at how we know Jesus is alive (Tell the story: *Luke 24:36-49*). End the story by asking the children how the disciples knew Jesus was alive? (they touched him, they saw him, they heard him, they watched him eat)

Application: Explain that the disciples were eyewitnesses to the events of Jesus' life and resurrection. Jesus then gave them the responsibility to tell people about what they saw. The disciples were trusted to spread the good news and now we have people in our lives who are doing that job. Get the children to think about people who tell us about Jesus and draw a picture. (family, friends, teachers) Discuss the importance of these people in our lives.

Bible verse: *John 7:33 - "Jesus said, 'I am with you for only a short time, and then I go to the one who sent me'"*

Explain that although Jesus only came back for short while he left the disciples an important job to do which we will hear about next week.

Craft/Activity:

Close: We may not meet Jesus like his disciples and we may not be able to see him or touch him but we can hear from him through reading the bible and listening to what others tell us.

April 30th

Jesus goes to heaven (Luke 24:50-53)

Aim: To be sure that Jesus is alive and with us even though we can't see him.

Introduction: Unscramble crown.

In teams get children to unscramble the letters in the jewels too find 15 names we use for Jesus our king. Mention that we are going to hear a story today about when Jesus returned to heaven and was honoured as the king.

Story: (Tell the story: *Luke 24:50-53*). Ask the following questions:

- For how many days did Jesus appear to his disciples after he rose from the dead?
- What was the gift that Jesus was going to give his disciples?
- What would the Holy Spirit help the disciples to do?
- What happened right before the disciples eyes?

Explain that the disciples were eyewitnesses to the events of Jesus' life and resurrection. Jesus then gave them the responsibility to tell people about what they saw. The disciples were trusted to spread the good news and now we have people in our lives who are doing that job. Get the children to think about people who tell us about Jesus and discuss the importance of these people in our lives.

Application: Although Jesus went to heaven he is still with us in a special way and we can talk to him in prayers or sing to him. Discuss how things can exist even though we can't see it. How do we know air exists? Experiment using wind chimes, mirror (breath on it), balloons, horns/trumpet.

Bible verse: *John 16:7 - "I tell you the truth, it is your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you"*

Explain that Jesus had to return to heaven so that the Holy Spirit (helper) would come. Discuss a little about what the Holy Spirit is.

Craft/Activity:

Close: Like we experimented earlier with air: we know it's there even though we do not see it as we can see the effects of it. Say that we can know Jesus is everywhere too: we don't see him but we can talk to him and feel the benefits of him in our lives.

May 7th

A new life - Abraham (Genesis 12:1-9)

Aim: To begin to understand that God has a big plan for his world that involves each of us.

Introduction: I'm going on a journey and I'm taking.....

Get the children to think about things they would take on a journey. Take turns repeating the previous items and continue until it's gone around the group two or three times

Story: Explain that today's story is about someone people who packed up and left their homes because God asked them to. (Tell the story: *Genesis 12:1-9*). Act out using a pop up tent and discuss how they would feel throughout the story. What would it be like to move from place to place? What would it be like to live in a tent?

Application: Mention that because God told Abraham and Sarah to go to a new land they did. Discuss other people who have done what God has told them. Talk about a Missionary linked to the church or Yvonne going to Pais). Explain that they did this because they trusted God. Give each child a pair of footprints. On one footprint they are to write things that stop them telling people about God. On the other footprint ask them to write a prayer asking God to help them step out of their comfort zone and follow Him.

Bible verse: *Jeremiah 42:6 - "Whether we like it or not, we'll do it. We'll obey whatever our God tells us so it will go well for us."*

Explain that when we do what God asks us he will guide us and be with us to help us.

Craft/Activity:

Close: Say that God has a plan for each one of us. When God asked Abraham to go to a new land he said 'yes'. When we belong to God we want to do what God wants us to do but sometimes we may find it hard. All he wants us to do is say 'yes' to Him just like Abraham did.

May 14th

A new place to live - Abraham (Genesis 17:1-22)

Aim: To hear how Abraham trusted God to keep his promise and to examine what promises God makes

Introduction: Build a den using chairs, material, boxes, string etc. Mention that the place where we live is our home. What do we do there? Who else lives there?

Story: Explain that like we heard in the story last week that Abraham and Sarah lived in a tent. This was their home. (Tell the story: *Genesis 17:1-22*). Mention that just like God was with Abraham in his home he is also with us in our home.

Application: God promised Abraham all the land he could see, lots of grand children and great-grandchildren...Abraham knew that this was to be his new home and he trusted God to provide him with what he was promised. God also gives us many promises. Look at some of the promises God has given us.

Bible verse: *Deuteronomy 31:6 - "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you"*
God promises us that he will give us what we need. When we are his friends and trust Him he will always be with us.

Craft/Activity:

Close: Remind the children that God was with Abraham on his long journey and in his new home. He looked after him all the time. God promises to also look after us all the time.

May 21st

A new family - Abraham (Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-8)

Aim: To enjoy the way God kept his promise to Abraham and to know that he will keep his promises to us too.

Introduction: 1 minute timer.

Get children to start standing but when they feel a minute is up they are to sit down. Try this a few times and mention how sometimes a minute might feel shorter than it actually is. Discuss things the children might need to wait for.

Story: Explain that today's story is continuing from the previous week. We will be looking at how God fulfilled his promises to Abraham but it involved waiting (Tell the story: *Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-8*). Children then need to do a television report about the story.

Application: Discuss what it would have felt like to wait for God's promise. It took many years. Sarah and Abraham prayed....God had promised them children yet they still had to wait. Does that mean God had forgotten about them or God wasn't listening? No, it was all done in God's timing.

Bible verse: - *"be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for Him to act" Psalm 37:7a*

We may ask God for something and he may not answer our prayers straight away but we just need to be patient as his timing is perfect.

Craft/Activity:

Close: Emphasise that Abraham had to wait many years for God's promise to come true. But waiting doesn't mean it didn't come true. Abraham believed God's promise and his faith pleased God. Waiting gives us the opportunity to have faith in God's word.