

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES FOR EASTER 6

SUNDAY 17th MAY 2020

Getting Started

Can you work out what these signs mean? You might need to ask a grown-up for help.



Why do we have road signs? What do you think would happen if they weren't there? Rules are often there to keep us safe or to help us to live in a better way.

Today's Bible reading follows on from last week, we are dropping into the story of Jesus' life near the end – he knows he will soon be arrested, crucified and that the disciples will not see him. So Jesus has some important things to say to his friends (and to all of us) to help them to live in a better way and to tell them about a special gift that he will leave them with; we'll hear more about the special gift next week. It's a tricky passage to understand, but let's have a look at what Jesus had to say.

The Story



One day, Jesus said to his disciples, 'If you love me, you will obey my commandments. Although I am going away in a little while, I will not leave you on your own. I am going to ask God the Father to send an Advocate (God's helper), his Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit of truth and it will stay with you for ever.' He continued, 'The world is not ready for the Holy Spirit, because it does not see or know God's Spirit. But you will know the Holy Spirit because it will live in you.'

Jesus said, 'The world will not see me once I have gone away. But you will see me. On that day you will know that I have returned to my Father. And you will know that I live through you and you live through me.'

'There are other people,' he added, 'who also love me and obey my commandments. They are loved by both me and my Father and I will show myself to them.'

Thinking about it

Jesus talked a lot about love in the Bible.

When we say we love someone or something, what do we mean? We use the word 'love' for a lot of things, pizza, people, places, a TV show, but when we think about it carefully, love is quite difficult to explain and understand.

Today's Bible passage reminds us of Jesus' command to love God and love other people. Can you imagine a place where everyone kept those two rules; to love God and love others, it would be a perfect place to live.

How do we love God? Jesus says to his disciples, 'If you love me, you will obey my commandments.' If we love someone, we don't ignore them or do the opposite of what pleases them and it's the same with God. We can show our love for God by making sure we spend time learning about him and talking to him in prayer and by doing as he told us to do, being kind and loving to everyone not just the people we like or know. Jesus wants us to show that we love him through our actions and not just by what we say.

It can be really hard and we all do unloving things to spoil God's world. What's important is that we keep coming back to Jesus and saying sorry and asking him to forgive us and to ask for his Holy Spirit to help us to obey. We can't be loving all the time without his help.

Activity

Play 'Simon Says', in this game one person gives the instructions and the other players must obey, but only if the command begins with "Simon says". Can you make the commands really fun, e.g. Simon says walk around like a giraffe, Simon says play an air guitar.

Can you fit the right words into the passage below to remind you about this week's story.

Jesus	love	Holy Spirit
friends	commandments	work

_____ told his friends that if they loved him, they would follow him by keeping his _____. Jesus' biggest commandment was to _____ other people. Jesus sent the _____ _____ to his _____ to help them love others. When the Holy Spirit lives in us, and we love other people, they see Jesus at _____ !

Prayer

Thank you for loving us and that you are always with us. Help us to show how much we love you by doing what you ask and showing our love for others this week. Amen