

Easter Part 4

Easter part 4 – Time for Jesus to return to heaven.

Luke 24:44-53 To understand that because Jesus is alive, he will always be with us. We can remember what Jesus has done and tell people about him.

What You Need

Paper and pens
Worship music
Bible

Worship

Whilst enjoying worship music create a Thank you Card for Jesus. Draw pictures of some of the things Jesus has done to say thank you to him.

Intro Activity – Steph’s Challenge!

Even though Steph is not with you, she knows that she has given you all the teaching and experience you need to be able to do this challenge. To complete Steph’s challenge you need a piece of paper and pen each. Have everyone in your family sit in a circle. Write your name at the top of the paper and then fold it over so it can’t be seen. Put all the paper in a pile and mix them up so you don’t know who’s paper you are getting and hand them out again.

Ask God for an encouraging word to write on the paper you have, fold it over and then pass the paper on, keep doing this until you have all written something on each piece of paper. Open the papers and give them out to the person whose name is at the top of the paper. Read out what God says about each other.

Well done for completing Steph's Challenge!

Last Sunday we remembered Jesus' Victory and how he defeated death and came back to life. Jesus spent time with his friends after this, but he knew he needed to return to heaven. In today's true story from the Bible we see how Jesus had already prepared his friends for this and set them a challenge.

Bible Story

Look up and read Luke 24:44 – 53 together. Or read the story of Jesus returning to heaven from a Children's Bible.

If your children are little, you could use this simple verse from "Play through the Bible" by Alice Buckley p52.

"Jesus' friends are so **happy** that he is alive again!

'It's **time** for me to go now,' says Jesus.

'**Remember** to tell everyone all about me.

You won't be on your own – God will be with you. Holy Spirit will help you all the **time**.'

Thank you God! **Bye Bye**, amazing Jesus!"

Actions for words in bold:

Happy – show a happy face and point to your smiling mouth

Alive – hands either side of face, palms forward, fingers wriggling.

Time – tap wrist with index finger of other hand

Remember - tap temple with your index finger

Bye - wave

Discuss from the Bible Story:

What did Jesus say he had come to earth to do? (v46-47)

What was Jesus asking them to continue to do? (v48)

What was Jesus going to give them to help with this challenge? (v49)

Where did Jesus go? How does this make you feel? What does this mean for us today?

Explain: Jesus knew his time on earth was at an end, he had achieved everything he needed to do. He also knew he had prepared his friends well for the challenge of telling the whole world about what he had done for them. Jesus returning to heaven means that we can confidently know that he is always with us and that we have the authority to tell others about him.

Activation

Read Acts 24:52 again. What did Jesus' friends do after they had seen Jesus return to heaven?

They kept on worshipping and had GREAT JOY! Set up a play list of all your favourite worship songs. Dance and sing with a heart full of worship for Jesus who is with you and alive. Ask him to fill you up with joy and release joy and love bombs to each other.

Ask Holy Spirit how he is doing that today and follow his lead.

One last challenge! - Jesus' friends stayed continually praising God! Continually means all the time! How could you keep praising God this week as a family? Talk together about something you could do each day to help each other.

One idea is to put up some paper on a wall in your house, somewhere you walk past a lot each day, put some pens near it and challenge yourselves to write or draw something (only on the paper!) to praise God every time you walk past it this week. I wonder what it will look like at the end of the week?!

Facebook Challenge

Post pictures of your cards for Jesus on Facebook (Eastgate – Parenting world changers) this week and, if you do the worship banner challenge, share what it looks like at the end of the week.