

19th April: Encountering the risen Jesus (Luke 24:36-49)

Tell the story: You may like to use small world figures to act out the story as you tell it in your own words (or as below), or if you have watched the video as part of the service, your children may like to tell the story!

Jesus' friends were all together and they were talking about the things that they had heard - the woman who said she had seen Jesus outside the empty tomb and the two men who were walking along the road when Jesus joined them. Then something amazing happened! I wonder if you know what that was? Jesus came and stood with them and he said "Peace be with you."

Jesus' friends were startled and afraid, maybe they didn't recognise Jesus straight away. Jesus asked them why they were troubled and he showed them his hands and feet and then he ate some fish! When Jesus' friends realised that it really was Jesus, they were overjoyed to see him (John 20:20)

Jesus then helped his friends to understand everything that had happened and he breathed on them and said "Receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:22)

Chat together:

I wonder which bit of the story you like best?

I wonder what you would have said to Jesus if you had been there?

I wonder what God is saying to you through this story:

- When you are feeling sad or afraid?
- When you are reading the Bible?
- When you are feeling lonely?

God says "Peace be with you", God helps us to understand the stories in the Bible and God is always with us!

To do together:

Look at some family photos and see who your children recognise.

Make sad/happy faces - use a paper plate or a circle cut out of card and draw a sad face on one side and a happy face on the other side. You may like to attach a straw or craft stick so that you can hold it up. Tell the story again and use the sad/happy faces at the right time. Or maybe just draw some faces on a piece of paper and then add in sad and happy expressions.

You might like to act out the story with one person being Jesus and the rest being his friends. The friends can look afraid, Jesus can say "Peace be with you" and then the friends can look overjoyed! Take it in turns to be Jesus.

Sing a song to remind us that God is always with us (to the tune of Frere Jacques)

God is with me (point upwards; then point to self)

God is with me (point upwards; then point to self)

All the time (turn around)

Rain or shine (wiggle fingers; then make a big circle with arms)

God is always with me (point upwards; then point to self)

God is always with me (point upwards; then point to self)

And I'm fine (take a bow)

And I'm fine (take a bow)

Fold a piece of paper in half and place one hand on the paper with the thumb and first finger against the fold. Draw around the spread out hand and then carefully cut it out. Open out the piece of paper and you should have a heart shape between the two hands! The heart reminds us of God's love and that he is always with us. You may like to stick the hands on another sheet of paper and write "God is always with me" on it as a reminder.

Pray together:

Light a candle (use a scented one if you have one or find something scented that the children can see or hold)

Smell the scent from the candle. Even though we can't see the scent we know it's there because our noses can smell it! And this reminds us that God is with us all the time even though we can't see him. Let's say thank you to God:

When we are afraid, thank you God, that you are always with us.

When we are happy, thank you God, that you are always with us.

When we are thank you God, that you are always with us. (Let everyone have a turn to add something)

You may like to add some prayers for friends or family here too.

Amen

