

Youth Lesson May 24th, 2020

Focus Scripture: Acts 1:6-14

Purpose: To understand what gives strength to continue Christ's mission.

Preparation

Worship table - yellow cloth

Bible

Christ Candle

Lighting of the Christ Candle

"We light this candle to remind us that God is always with us."

Prayer

Gracious God, you have given us the best gifts - friends.

You call us to share ourselves and all that we have, with the rest of creation.

Thank you God, for this community of friends, a community where we can gather to talk, laugh, and learn together. Amen.

Introducing the Theme

Take a few minutes to talk about the feelings we associate with times of goodbye. Today's biblical passage deals with the disciples' experience of Jesus leaving them again.

Exploring the Theme

The book of Acts was written to help Christians remember Jesus after he was no longer with them in person. Over the last few weeks we have been learning about the early Christians and the spread of the Christian faith. Being a Christian and sharing the message with others became dangerous – many of the early Christians, like Stephen, Peter and Paul, were arrested and put to death for their beliefs. Why do you think they took the risks they did to spread the good news, knowing they might be killed? What do you think gave them strength and courage?

(Hand out bible) Before Jesus died, he told his disciples that God would send a special helper to be with them and give them strength and guidance. Who or what was that special helper? For forty days after Jesus was resurrected he appeared to many of his disciples and followers. Then, forty days after his resurrection, Jesus was together with his apostles for the last time. **(turn to Acts 6:6-14 and read the passage)** How do you think the apostles felt when Jesus left them? How do you feel when you are in a group and it is about to end? How is this similar to how the disciples were feeling?

We encounter Jesus at church (through scripture, hymns, each other, prayer) and at the end of our time together we are "sent out" into the world. Does anyone know what the name of the ending part of the church service is called? In what ways does coming to church give us

strength to go out into the world and face the challenges we do each week? What else gives us strength?

Look again at the passage from Acts. What did Jesus promise the disciples would come to fill them with power? Next week is Pentecost Sunday, the week in which we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples and the birth of the Christian church. What happened to the followers of Jesus at Pentecost? (They were gathered in Jerusalem when suddenly they felt something like a strong wind and saw what looked like tongues of flame spreading to each person. These were signs of the presence of the Holy Spirit, the special helper Jesus had promised that God would send.) Following this the apostle Peter preached his sermon *(the one we read parts of on May 4 and 11)* and the church began to grow. How does that same Spirit strengthen us today? How will you continue living your mission when the class no longer meets?



(Look at Logo 6) In what way does this logo summarize what we have been learning in this unit?

Integrating the Theme – Safety-Pin Remembrance Bracelets

Materials: 50 small safety pins, thread, needle, coloured beads that will thread onto the pin, elastic cord or 1cm or 3/8” elastic.

Make bracelets by slipping beads onto open safety pins, using a design of their own choice. Close pins. Line up beaded pins on flat surface, alternating latch ends and bottom ends give 5-10 pins to your child. String the pins together by threading a piece of elastic cord through top holes and another piece through the bottom holes. Tie a knot in the elastic at a length comfortable enough for your child(ren) to slip the bracelet on and off their wrist. If you use 3/8” elastic instead of cord, thread the elastic through the middle of the pins and stitch it closed.

Closing Prayer Song

**May the road rise up to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
And the rain fall soft upon your fields
Till we meet again, we meet again
May God hold you in His hands.**