

## SCRIPTURE

### 'Jesus' Last Words'

Tell the children that we can read about Jesus' last words to his followers in the Bible. Then read the Scripture story, 'Jesus' Last Words.'



#### Teacher Tip:

In Ireland, the Feast of the Ascension is celebrated on a Sunday six weeks after Easter Sunday.

#### 'Jesus' Last Words'

(Adapted from Matthew 28:19-20 & John 14:16, 26)



When Jesus told his friends that he was going away to be with the Father, they were very lonely. But he promised them that he would now be with

them in a very special way. He would be nearer to them, but he would also be near to everyone in the whole world. 'I am with you always,' he said.

Jesus told his friends what he wanted them to do when he was gone. 'Tell everyone the Good News of God's love for them,' he said.

'Teach them what I have taught you.'

Jesus knew that his friends wouldn't be able to do this on their own. So, Jesus promised to send a helper to them. 'I will ask the Father, and he will give you another helper, who will stay with you forever,' Jesus said. 'This helper is the Holy Spirit.'

Then Jesus went back to the Father, but his friends knew what he said was true. They knew that Jesus would always be with them as he had promised. They also knew that he was now with them in a very different way. They couldn't see him anymore, or hear his voice, or touch him. But they knew that he was even closer to them than before. And because he was alive in a new way, they called him new names like 'Christ' and 'Lord Jesus'. Jesus is with us too.

Having read the Scripture story, check for understanding using questions such as, 'What did Jesus promise his friends?' Then dig deeper using these or similar questions:

- How do you think Jesus' friends felt when Jesus said he would always be with them?

- We can't see Jesus or hear his voice, or touch him, so how do we know that he is still with us?
- How do you think Jesus' friends felt about continuing on his work as he had asked them to do? Would that be easy or hard? How did Jesus promise to help them?

## SONG

### 'Christ be Beside Me'

Introduce the song 'Christ be Beside Me' (Track 15, p. 309) and chat about the words. Relate the words to Jesus' promise of being ever present. The children have learned this song as part of the seasonal lesson, St Patrick and so might remember making up actions to accompany it at that time. If not, have the children work collaboratively to decide on actions, sing the song and perform the actions. You can sing this song throughout the week.

## WHAT HAVE YOU TAUGHT?

Before Jesus went back to heaven, he said some important last words to his friends. He told them that he wanted them to continue his work, he told them that he would send a helper to support them (the Holy Spirit) and he told them he would be with them always.

## ACTIVITY

### Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down

Tell the children that you will describe different things in their lives and if they think that Christ is with them during those times, they should give a 'thumbs up'. If not, they should give a 'thumbs down'.

- When you get up in the morning
- When you have your breakfast
- When you come to school
- When you are in school
- If you get into trouble
- When you're playing games
- When you are doing your homework
- When you're watching TV
- If you fight with your friends
- When you're having fun
- When you're feeling sad
- When you're angry
- When you're happy
- When you are in bed

Once you've gone through all of the different times, point out to the children that Christ is *always* with us. So, for all of the above times, and at any other time that they can think of, we are never alone. Chat with the children about this using these or similar questions:

- How does it make you feel to know that Christ is with you always?
- Is it important to you that Christ is with you always?
- Do you ever talk to our Lord Jesus? How do you do that? What do you say?

## PRAYER

*Sign of the Cross*

**T:** Lord Jesus Christ, you said that you are with us always. We thank you for being by our side at all times – in times that are filled with laughter and love and in times which are sad. Together, let us pray, 'Lord Jesus, you are with us.'

**C:** Lord Jesus, you are with us.

**T:** When we get up in the morning ...

**C:** Lord Jesus, you are with us.

**T:** When we have our breakfast ...

**C:** Lord Jesus, you are with us.

**T:** As we come to school ...

**C:** Lord Jesus, you are with us.

**T:** When we are in school ...

**C:** Lord Jesus, you are with us.

**T:** If we get into trouble ...

**C:** Lord Jesus, you are with us.

**T:** When we're playing games ...

**C:** Lord Jesus, you are with us.

**T:** When we are doing our homework ...

**C:** Lord Jesus, you are with us.

**T:** When we're watching TV ...

**C:** Lord Jesus, you are with us.

**T:** If we fight with our friends ...

**C:** Lord Jesus, you are with us.

**T:** When we're having fun ...

**C:** Lord Jesus, you are with us.

**T:** When we're feeling sad ...

**C:** Lord Jesus, you are with us.

**T:** When we're angry ...

**C:** Lord Jesus, you are with us.

**T:** When we're happy ...

**C:** Lord Jesus, you are with us.

**T:** When we are in bed ...

**C:** Lord Jesus, you are with us.

**T:** Let us close our eyes and thank the Lord Jesus for being by our sides at all times. (*Pause*)

**T:** Lord Jesus,  
Help us to remember your promise to be with us.  
Help us to feel your presence in good times and in bad. Thank you for always being with us.  
**C:** Amen.

*Sign of the Cross*