**Wednesday 13 May 2020:**

**“I am the way” John 14:1-14**

Bible Story: John 14.1-14:



Jesus said to his disciples, ‘I will be going away soon, but don’t worry, because I am going to prepare a place for you in my Father’s house, which has many rooms. When the time is right, I will return and take you there, so that we can all be together.’ Wanting to know where this place would be, Thomas asked, ‘How will we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. I will show you the way to God the Father.’ But Philip wanted Jesus to show them the Father. Jesus sighed. ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still don’t recognise me?’ Jesus continued, ‘Believe in the Father and believe also in me, because I am in the Father and the Father is in me. If you can’t do that, then look at the things I have done and you will know what God the Father is like. If you believe in me, you will be able to do even greater things than I have done. All you have to do is to ask in my name and I will do it for you.’

Spend time reflecting on the Bible passage, using the questions below as appropriate.

* What does Jesus say to his friends about the way to his Father’s house?
* Is it always easy to understand what Jesus means? Is it helpful to know that his disciples asked him questions?
* What difference does it make if we believe that Jesus is always with us?

* What stands out to you the most about what Jesus says here?
* If you were one of the disciples, what would you like to ask Jesus?
* What does it mean for Jesus to remain with us?

#### **Jesus signpost**

#### Encourage the children to decorate arrows with ‘Jesus’ on one side ([template](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/20610/jesus_arrow.pdf)).

Go out and about and take your signs with you, praying for your community as you go. Alternatively, place a large map of the local area on the floor. If you don’t have a map, then why not draw one?! Give each person in your family a few stickers or marker pens and ask them to mark out the places where they might be taking their daily exercise or shopping or where they pray that Jesus might bring God’s love. Pray that we might follow Jesus and do his will, placing your Jesus arrows on the map.

Filled with the Spirit,  
(make a bird with your hands)  
giving glory to God,  
(lift your cupped hands above your head)  
send us to others  
(arms open in front)  
until Jesus returns.  
(hands raised and outstretched)  
**Amen.**

As you do this you could play/sing the song [Simply Trusting Jesus, Same Boat Music](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/lectionary/2020/107-may-june-2020-a/easter-5/hymns-songs-music#sameboat).

#### **The way of love**

Create a reminder of Jesus as the way

**You will need:** a globe or a map of the world, [heart template](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/20611/six_hearts.pdf), scissors, A4 card, glue, pens.

* Divide up the globe so that each person has a section. Ask everyone to cut a heart shape out, using the heart template as a guide.
* Encourage everyone to fold a piece of A4 card in half and stick their heart on the front. They can then design the card for someone as a reminder that Jesus loves the places where we are, and calls us to follow him as the way.
* Invite everyone to stick a heart shape on a country or place on the globe, and add a short prayer for that place, thinking of those who live there.

**Send someone a card**

You will need: white card; red paper; pens; glue; scissors.

1. Fold your A4 piece of card in two.

2. Take a piece of red paper; fold in to; draw a half heart shape; cut out; unfold to reveal a heart. Do the same with a white piece of paper.

3. Stick both hearts onto your card.

4. Write your message inside and post or deliver!

**A worship activity for all**

* Have a look at some of the statistics in the BBC online article: [Coronavirus pandemic: Tracking the global outbreak](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-51235105). Scroll down to the section “How confirmed cases of coronavirus have spread” and watch the numbers increase. It is incredible. Then have a look at the data on the [UK's Covid Symptom Tracker app](https://covid.joinzoe.com/data#levels-over-time) showing the steep decline in the predicted number of cases since the beginning of April. Each of those numbers is a human life: our brother or sister in the household of God. Spend some time thinking about those affected directly and indirectly by the virus and how you can bless them. Here are some ideas:
* **1. Ask more**Ask God to put someone on your heart who doesn’t have anyone checking in on them throughout the week and set reminders to call them regularly. *(Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6.2)*
* **2. Send more**Take a few minutes to send something thoughtful (text, homemade card, Bible verse, jigsaw puzzle of a family photo) to someone isolated in this crisis. *(God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. Hebrews 6.10)*
* **3. Give more**Give financially to those organisations who are helping people affected by the crisis but who you can't reach physically. *(Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6.2)*
* **4. Leave more**Don't buy what you don't need. *(And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4.19)*
* **5. Thank more**On your rare ventures into the outside world, thank those who are working heavily trafficked areas: the grocery store workers, fast-food cashiers, postmen and women, delivery workers. *(I thank my God every time I remember you. Philippians 1:3)*
* **6. Do more**If you find yourself in a position to “do more” during this crisis, seize the moment. *(And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. Matthew 5.41, NKJV)*
* **7. Pray more**Nothing blesses others more or accomplishes more than lifting the needs of others up in prayer. Make a list of people who need your intercession every day. Put it somewhere obvious and pray. *(The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5.16)*
* Adapted from [7 Ways to Bless Others in a Worldwide Crisis by Catherine Segars](https://www.crosswalk.com/special-coverage/coronavirus/ways-to-bless-others-in-a-worldwide-crisis.html)

### [*activity sheets for children*](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/lectionary/2020/107-may-june-2020-a/easter-5/familiesathome#children)

### Prayer

## **The way**

Make and walk a labyrinth

[Make a simple labyrinth](https://www.instructables.com/id/Build-a-Backyard-Labyrinth/), inside or outside, using rope, string or pebbles. Make it as large as the space and resources allow – you should be able to walk along the path. A labyrinth is not a maze, which has multiple paths and dead ends and is designed to confuse and trap. A labyrinth has one path that leads to the centre and back out again. There is one entrance and one exit and you can’t get lost. It symbolises the journey of life and can be a helpful prayer tool. Invite others in your family to walk the path, imagining that Jesus is walking with you. Pray that Jesus will show you the way in your daily life. Jesus, show us the way. Help us to follow you. Be our guide.

**Song**

Jesus is the way (Tune: Row, row, row your boat, words by Emily Hoe-Crook)  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is,  
Jesus is the way,  
Never feel alone again,  
He is here to stay.  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is,  
Jesus is the life,  
Jesus shows us how to live,  
Jesus is alive.

## **Sing and listen**

See YouTube

**Under 12s**  
[I will not leave you](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xXcSRIfAuV8), Shout Praise Kids on Promises  
[One way](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNe4HCO4SuQ), Hillsong Kids on Super Strong God

**12+**  
[Your love never fails](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_2qG22SPwU), Jesus Culture on Revelation Songs  
Lord Jesus, you are faithful (CJP 420)

### Listen: Suggestions from [Young People](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/lectionary/2020/107-may-june-2020-a/easter-5/young-people-page)

Preview songs on YouTube, buy online and download.

[Steady](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkE7n7VCdfI), Blanca on *Shattered*  
[I will](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_bHd2-QhuQ), Citizen way on *2.0*  
[Confident](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbRHLGQiiDo), Steffany Gretzinger on *Blackout*

See also [*Same Boat @ HOME*](http://www.sameboatmusic.com/pages/sameboatmusicathome)