Sunday of the 26th April

3rd Sunday of Faster





Sunday Cospel (Luke 24:13-35)

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?'

Then one of them, called Aeopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing."

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said `and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and

said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?' They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon. Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.



Reflection

When you are introduced to someone, how do you decide if this is a person you would like to know better? You listen to what the new person tells you about herself or himself. You can also learn a lot about someone by noticing what they do - how they treat other people and what they choose to do with their time. Actions give us good information about the character of a person.

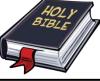
Another way to learn more about someone you haven't known long is to listen to how other people describe him or her. Some famous people have books, called biographies, written about their lives.

The same ideas can be used to learn more about Jesus. Before Jesus ascended to heaven he talked with two disciples who were walking along the road, traveling to Emmaus. While he was with them "he explained to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself".

As we read the Bible, Jesus tells us who he is. We learn about the things he did while he was on earth; his good actions seen in the healings and miracles he performed. And we read how others describe him.

Much of the Bible is a biography of the life of Jesus. Even before he was born there are stories that describe his birth and the things he would do while he lived on earth.

As we study the Bible, Jesus is revealed to us more and more in much the same way he revealed himself to the two disciples traveling to Emmaus. We can get to know him better by reading his remarkable life story, thinking about what it means to us, and praying for guidance.



Prayer God,

Thank you that Jesus died for our sins. Not only did He die, but He defeated death and rose again. Thank You that Jesus is alive and working in the world today. Open our eyes, so we may see Jesus and His work and follow in His footsteps! Amen.



Nursery and Reception

Take some time to sit down with the adult looking after you and tell them about a Bible story you have learnt about at school. This might be the Creation story, The birth of Jesus or Jesus' presentation at the Temple. Read this together. You can either read from a Bible, or, if you don't have one, you can Google the story online.



Key Stage I

At the end of our Bible reading today, Jesus sat with the Disciples and shared bread with them - just like He did at the Last Supper.

Create an image of the Eucharist.



Key Stage 2

Have a think about what it would have been like to be one of the Disciples walking along the road to Emmaus when Jesus appeared.

They originally didn't know who he was. They didn't know he was even Jesus. Later, when Jesus shared the bread, they realised it was in fact him. Write a diary as if you were one of the Disciples. How would you have felt? What did you learn? What did you think when this man first joined you on your walk? How did you feel when you realised it was Jesus?