

5th Sunday of Easter

May 1, 2023 -
May 7, 2023

SCRIPTURE: John 14:1-11

THEME: He Lives to Be the Only Way to Heaven

SONG: CW21 449 / CW93 160 – This Joyful Eastertide

VISUAL: Car Keys

OBJECT LESSON

Could you get yourself home today after school? Do you know the way? Maybe if you lived next door! But most of you have to take a ride in a car or bus to get home. Do you think you could drive the car or bus?

Even if you think you could, you would still need these (car keys). You would also need a driver's license. You don't have those things. So, the way you get home is the person who drives the car or bus.

There are many different people who might drive you to your home. But only one person is the way to heaven. Listen to what Jesus told his disciples when they had questions about the way to heaven – the house that our heavenly Father has for us.

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus' disciples' hearts were troubled. They were worried about what was going to happen. So Jesus reminded them about how wonderful heaven is... Read John 14:1-3. Imagine the biggest house in the world. Heaven is even bigger. Jesus promises that he has a place for you there. Heaven does not run out of room. It is better than any house you have ever lived in. Jesus has promised to take you there.

Jesus did not want his disciples to be worried, so he said... Read John 14:4. But one of the disciples was confused... Read John 14:5. Thomas did not understand that Jesus was going to go to heaven. Maybe he thought that he had to figure out a way to go someplace – like maybe another town, or another house in the city of Jerusalem.

So, Jesus told him... Read John 14:6. Jesus is the only way to heaven. He is the one who will take you to that best home ever. Jesus is the truth, because he shows that our heavenly Father really loves us. The Father gave Jesus, his Son, to die in place of us on the cross – it really happened. Because of that, Jesus is our life. He lives – he rose from the dead – so that we know the way to eternal life is through believing in him.

We know what God is like, because of Jesus. That's

why Jesus said... Read John 14:7. But then another disciple had a request... Read John 14:8. It was like Philip was saying, "Jesus, just show us some proof. Then we won't be worried anymore." But Jesus said they had everything they needed in him... Read John 14:9-11.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

None of us has even seen heaven. We can barely imagine what it is like. I'm sure you have lots of questions about heaven and God. Sometimes, like Philip, you might wish Jesus would show you some more about what heaven is like. Or, sometimes, you might even worry about how you are going to get to heaven – because, you can't drive there, or take a boat, or even a plane or a spaceship.

When you think that you have to find a way to get yourself to heaven, that only leads to worry. You might worry that you have to be smart enough, or good enough to get to heaven. But you don't! You don't need to worry. Jesus promised that he is the only way to heaven.

If one of your parents or grandparents drops you off at school and says, "I'll take you home when school is done," you trust that they will do that. Or, you trust that the bus will be there to take you home at the end of the school day, like it always is. You don't worry about it. So you can also trust Jesus to take you home to heaven when he comes. He has proven that we can trust him by rising from the dead, just like he promised. He never breaks his promises.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, when we worry about how we will get to heaven, keep reminding us that you are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. You are alive, because you paid for all our sins. You are preparing a place for us. You will take us to be with you forever. Amen.



HEART IMPRINTS

6th Sunday of Easter

May 8, 2023 -
May 14, 2023

SCRIPTURE: John 14:15-21 (focusing on verses 15-19)

THEME: He Lives and Calls Me to Live for Him

SONG: CW21 557 / CW93 377 – Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice, st. 1,9-10

VISUAL: A backpack

OBJECT LESSON

Do you love your mom? (Yes!) So if your mom hands you your backpack and says, "Hold this, strap it on your back, don't drag it on the ground through the puddles and mud," what will you do? Will you say, "I love you mom, but I'm going to find the biggest, muddiest puddle, and throw my backpack in the middle of it, and stomp on it. I love you, mom!" (No!)

That doesn't make any sense. When you love someone, you want to do the good things they tell you to do. You don't do the exact opposite of what they tell you. You don't want to ruin the good things they give to you.

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus told his disciples... Read John 14:15. Jesus had taught them to love one another. Jesus had taught them to share his love by forgiving sins. Jesus had taught them to hold on to his words.

Jesus also promised to send someone to help them... Read John 14:16-17. This Spirit of truth, this Counselor – a helper – was the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would help the disciples obey Jesus' commands and remember his words.

The disciples needed this help. So many times, even while Jesus was standing right in front of them, they were mean to each other and did not listen to his words. Now Jesus was going to leave them for a little while. But he promised... Read John 14:18-19.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Because Jesus lives, we live. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we know that we will also rise from the dead on the Last Day. He has promised to always be with us, even though we can't see him. We love him, because he first loved us.

But even though Jesus loves us, we often disobey his commands. Many times, we deserve for Jesus to leave us lonely like boys and girls who have

no parents. We do mean things to others, like we have totally forgotten Jesus' words. We do the total opposite of what our parents say. So we need the same help that Jesus promised the disciples. We need the Holy Spirit.

Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to change your hearts with the truth about his love for you. After Jesus died for every time we disobeyed him, disobeyed our parents, or did not love others, he rose again. He lives! The Holy Spirit uses the good news of Easter to fill our hearts with God's love, and love for others.

Do you love Jesus? (Yes!) Then let's hold on to his commands. But remember: Jesus loved you first. Jesus loves you more than you could ever love him back. And that's OK. Loving Jesus is like loving your parents. You don't need to pay them back for all the good things they have given you.

Jesus has given us the best thing: eternal life! Because he lives, you will live forever.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, I love you, but I know that I still disobey what you say. Forgive me, and treat me as your dear child. Send the Holy Spirit, as you promised, so that I can trust in your love and obey your words. Amen.



HEART IMPRINTS

Ascension

May 18, 2023

SCRIPTURE: Luke 24:44-53

THEME: He Lives to Rule All Things for the Church

SONG: CW21 474 / CW93 175 – Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

VISUAL: A stethoscope

OBJECT LESSON

If you got really hurt or sick and had to go to a hospital room, a doctor would come to make you better. He would give you medicine. He would close up your wounds so that you stopped bleeding. He would make sure your bones were back together. He would check your heart with a stethoscope to make sure it sounds good.

But then, after he made you all better, he would say: "My work is done. You are all better. I am leaving now." You would be very thankful to the doctor, but you would be very happy that his work was done. You would be all better, and he could leave.

Let's listen to God's Word about a special day when Jesus left his disciples.

BIBLE TRUTH

After Jesus rose from the dead, he appeared to many people to show that he was alive. He especially made sure his disciples understood why he suffered, died and rose... Read Luke 24:44-49. He had fulfilled God's plan which was written in the Old Testament. He was going to leave soon, but the disciples would be his witnesses. They saw him live, die, and rise again, so they could tell everyone what they saw. And soon after Jesus left, God would send the Holy Spirit to them with power on Pentecost.

40 days after Easter, the time came for Jesus to leave. Read Luke 24:50-51... How did Jesus leave? (He was taken up into heaven.) This is called Jesus' ascension.

The disciples could not see him anymore, so how do you think they felt? (Sad?) Listen to what they did... Read Luke 24:52-53. They rejoiced! They were happy! They praised God!

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Are you happy when someone you love goes away? (No.) Sometimes we get scared or sad when someone leaves. Why would the disciples be happy that Jesus went away? They loved him very much! We might think it would be better for Jesus to stay on earth. Then he could keep doing miracles that we can see – like healing sick and hurt people. But that was not the main work Jesus came to do.

When Jesus ascended into heaven, he showed that his work of saving us from sin was done. He had paid for all our sins. There was nothing left for him to do on earth. He lived without sinning. He suffered and died for our sins. He rose from the dead. He did everything we needed for living together with God forever. And he promises to come back to take us to heaven.

So we can be happy that Jesus left. It means that his work was done. Just like a doctor leaves when his work is done. But Jesus gives us something more: He promises to be with us even when we cannot see him. He is with us whenever we listen to his words in the Bible. He promises to watch over us. So do not be afraid – rejoice!

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, you ascended into heaven so we know your work of salvation is done. Keep us from becoming sad or afraid. Even though we cannot see you now, you promise to watch over us, and finally take us to be with you in heaven. Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**

Pentecost

May 22, 2023 -
May 28, 2023

SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:1-21 (focusing on verses 1-8a, 11b-18, 21)

THEME: He Lives to Pour Out His Spirit

SONG: CW21 593 / CW93 183 – Holy Spirit, Light Divine

VISUAL: A garden hose and watering can

OBJECT LESSON

It's getting to be the time of year when we can start growing things in our gardens again. Plants need water if it does not rain. Otherwise, they die. Maybe you have the job of watering some plants in your garden. You can use a watering can to water your plants. But first, you need to fill up the watering can from the hose. Otherwise, your watering can will be empty, and you cannot help the plants.

Jesus has given us the job of sharing the good news of God's love, forgiveness, and eternal life. We can help people by telling them what Jesus did for them when he died on the cross and rose from the dead. But first, we need to be filled up. Listen to what God did for some of the first disciples on a special day called Pentecost.

BIBLE TRUTH

Read Acts 2:1-4... God filled them with the Holy Spirit in a special way. They could speak languages that they had never spoken before. It was a miracle! But how would this help them with their job to share the good news of Jesus? Well, Pentecost, 50 days after Easter, was a special day when people from many different countries came to visit Jerusalem... Read Acts 2:5-8a, 11b.

These people were surprised! They were hearing the good news, but did not understand how these disciples knew how to speak in these different languages... Read Acts 2:12-18. God had promised to pour out his Spirit in this special way. In fact, the Holy Spirit would be poured out on all sorts of people to speak God's Word. God does this, because he wants all people to hear the good news about Jesus and be saved... Read Acts 2:21.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Does it sound like a really big job to tell everyone about Jesus? (Yes!) What might make you scared to do this job? What if they live far away? What if they speak a different language than you? You might never travel far away, and you might never learn another language, but the Holy Spirit is still filling you up with what you need to do this job.

The Bible uses the word "prophecy" to describe this job. We might think that prophesying means to tell the future, but really, it simply means to speak for God. How can sinful humans speak for God? When he gives us his words to speak. And, like a water hose filling up a watering can, God pours out his Holy Spirit into our hearts. The Holy Spirit comes to us through God's Word. Whenever you listen to the Bible at home, or at church, or anywhere, the Holy Spirit is filling you up. He gives you the good news that Jesus lives. He changes your heart so that you can joyfully share that good news with people who are not far away – your family and friends and teachers.

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, we thank you for filling our hearts with joy through the message of Jesus, our risen Savior. Make us happy to share this good news with many people, so that more and more people can be saved. Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**