

## Reading

We are reading a story about Jesus talking to his friends about who he is, who they are, and who God is — its from John 14:1-10. It is broken up into differently coloured sections so that we can share the reading between a few of us on Zoom.

Jesus said, “Don’t let this throw you. You trust God, don’t you? Trust me. There is plenty of room for you in my Father’s home. If that weren’t so, would I have told you that I’m on my way to get a room ready for you? And if I’m on my way to get your room ready, I’ll come back and get you so you can live where I live. You already know the road I’m taking.”

Thomas said, “Master, we have no idea where you’re going. How do you expect us to know the road?”

Jesus said, “I am the Road, also the Truth, also the Life. No one gets to the Father apart from me. If you know me, you know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him. You’ve have seen him!”

Philip said, “Master, show us the Father; then we’ll be content.”

“You’ve been with me all this time, Philip, and you still don’t understand? To see me is to see the Father. So how can you ask, ‘Where is the Father?’ I am in the Father and the Father is in me. The words that I speak to you are not my own, but from the Father himself, who is in me. And the the work I do is done by him.

And Jesus went on, “Believe me: I am in my Father and my Father is in me. If you can’t believe that, believe because of the works you have seen. And those who trust in me will do what I do, and not only that, but even greater things. I am on my way to the Father, and I am giving you the same work to do that I’ve been doing. You can count on it. From now on, whatever you ask in my name, I’ll do it. That’s how the Father will be seen—for who he is in the Son. I mean this—whatever you ask in my name, I’ll do.”

# Activities

## 1. We don't know the road!

Instructions: This is a blindfolded walking activity. Prepare for it by identifying a departure and destination point. There should be some obstacles, turning and challenges required to get from one point to the other, but it doesn't need to be a long journey.

You will need: a blindfold

## We don't know the road!

How could Jesus' friends know where to go when they don't know the road he is taking? He tells them that trusting him is how they will know the way, because he is the road they are following. Understandably the disciples had a hard time understanding this!

With the help of another person, we are going to experience how difficult it is to keep moving when we can't see the road ahead of us. One person will put on a blindfold and the other will give directions to get to a destination. You can try reversing roles, too.

Sometimes following Jesus can be like travelling on a road with an unknown destination and it might include detours. But Jesus assures us he will show us the way as we travel with him.

Reflect on a time when didn't know how to get somewhere. What was it like and how did it turn out?

## 2. There's a room for you

You will need: paper and pens; or, various recyclable and crafting materials such as tissue boxes, scrap cardboard, paper, glue, stickers and anything else you might want to use to create a diorama; or, lego, to create a diorama

# There's a room for you

Jesus tells his friends that in his father's house there are many rooms, and for each of them, he will prepare a room. Can you imagine this house and this room? If Jesus was preparing a room for you, what do you think it would be like?

Using either your paper and textas, the craft materials you have, or lego, design what you think this room or this home would be like.

What would be inside? Who would be inside? How would it look and what would you do there?

If you don't feel like drawing or making, you could write down your ideas.

We will share our pictures and discuss our rooms and houses together.

### 3. Working in me

You will need: a photo, of you, a parent and a grandparent (could be one photo or several); paper and a pen; glue (optional)

## See me, see my father

Have you ever heard these expressions?

- “the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree”
- “a chip off the old block”
- “like mother, like daughter”

They all refer to similarities that people notice between children and their parents.

Perhaps you, or other people who know you well notice ways in which you are like your parents, or ways your children are like you. In this passage Jesus was trying to tell his disciples that seeing him was not just LIKE seeing his Father, it was the SAME as seeing his Father.

On your paper, write down or draw ways in which you are like your parents or your children. If your photo/s are reprints and you can glue them to your page, do that, too, noting similarities across all generations.

Reflect on what you have inherited from people in your biological, chosen, or church family. What are you most proud to pass on or to have inherited?

#### 4. In his name

You will need: 5 sheets of paper, one with each letter written on it J, E, S, U, S; blu-tac or tape; a small soft ball or other small soft object that is appropriate for throwing (you could substitute for a nerf gun if you have one)

Instructions: Stick the pieces of paper on a wall at one end of the room

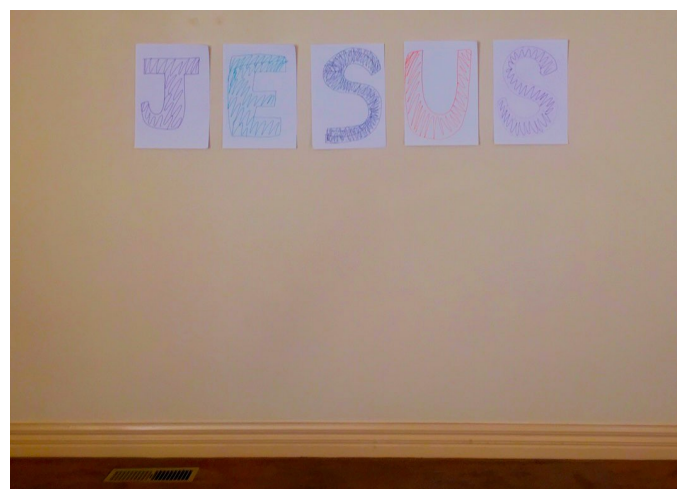
## In his name

Have you ever wondered why it is so common for a prayer to end with “in Jesus’ name” or something like that? This is one of the stories that shows us why.

What do you think it means to ask in Jesus’ name? Is it like making a wish with Jesus name as a magic word? Is it like asking to do what Jesus would do in the world? Is it like telling Jesus what you really want and trusting him to hear you?

It is hard to answer these questions! But, one thing is clear, Jesus wants his disciples to bring their prayers to him. As we think about what these words mean, we are going to try another way of praying ‘in’ Jesus’ name.

Try and hit each target letter, J-E-S-U-S, with your ball/object/nerf bullet and as you do, shout a prayer.



## 5. What's inside?

You will need: Gift bag or wrapping paper and sticky tape

### What's inside?

Have you ever broken something apart to see what was inside, like an usual fruit, or a kinder surprise egg? Or perhaps you like to take things apart just to see how they fit back together?

The disciples are trying to do something similar with Jesus. They want to know how he fits together with the God of their ancestors. They want to see what is inside this unusual Jesus and put it together with what they know.

And Jesus' answer to them is: if you break me open, you'll find the Father, if you break the Father open, you'll find me. We fit together, we are one.

Search around your house for something that helps to show people who you are—maybe it's a favourite book or toy, a special photo or object, or something that you have made. Wrap it up and offer it to someone else in your family to unwrap.

Let's share the unwrapping moment together on Zoom. If you like you can tell the person with whom you shared the gift, and/or the rest of us, how the item relates to what's inside you.

## 6. Even greater!

You will need: a tree branch with leaves, a pen; or, a stick, leaves, sticky tape, string, a pen

## Even greater!

One of the most astonishing things that Jesus says to his disciples in this story is, “those who who trust in me will do what I do, and not only that, but even greater things...I am giving you the same work to do that I’ve been doing”.

I wonder if you have a way of picturing this promise of Jesus? In my imagination, I see a tree with many branches and leaves. The works of Jesus and the works we do in the name of Jesus are all part of this one tree, which grows ever and ever greater as more and more of us join in.

Working as individuals or as a group, write on the leaves of your branch works of Jesus (they could be specific e.g. intervening when a woman is about to be stoned; or more general, e.g. healing). On other leaves, name works of other disciples and people you know who follow the way of Jesus, including you!

We will share our parts of the great tree with one another.

