



YEAR

4

UNIT 1

# EASTER

## ABOUT THE UNIT

In this unit the children will be introduced to accounts of the Resurrection appearances of Christ in the four Gospel. They will learn about the different reactions of people to the news that Christ was alive. In this unit the children will study the story of the Ascension and will learn about Christian belief in the presence of Christ in the world today.

## WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on previous study of the resurrection in Year 3 when the children explore the Story of Emmaus and the story of Breakfast at the Shore.

## PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children could:

- recall some stories of the appearances of the Risen Christ.

## SKILLS

Research skills, classification skills, discussion, speaking and listening, writing skills.

## VOCABULARY

Gospel, Easter, Thomas, disciple, Mary Magdalene, Ascension.

## ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

**Most children will** know that the four Gospels contain accounts of the Resurrection of Christ. They will be able to understand the transforming effect this had upon the disciples. The children will know that the Ascension reminds Christians of the promise of Christ to remain always with them.

A.T.1

A.T.2

3a

3a

3b

3b

3c

3c

**Less able children will** be able to recall parts of the Resurrection story from some of the Gospels.

2a

2a

2b

2b

2c

2c

**More able children will** have a greater understanding of the importance of the Resurrection for Christians today and of their belief in the presence of Christ in the Church and in their lives.

3a

3a

3b

3b

4a

4a

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

**R2** Hear, read and explore the Gospel accounts of key events in the life of Jesus: Resurrection.

**C4** The Church's celebrations of significant events in the life of Jesus.

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

- Revise with children previous learning about the Church's celebration of Easter. Recall that it is a season of fifty days and revise some of the colours and symbols of the season that are used in the Church's liturgy.
- Children to read the four Gospel accounts of the Resurrection:  
*Matthew 28: 1-15*  
*Mark 16: 1-17*  
*Luke 24: 1-43*  
*John 20: 1-21*
- Highlight the words and actions of the disciples and the women and the words and actions of Jesus.
- Create a resurrection appearance table. Include in the headings: What the disciples were doing, what they saw, and what Jesus said and did. Use the above Gospel accounts to fill in the table.
- Children to imagine that they are about to meet somebody who had never heard of Jesus before. What would they tell this person about the resurrection? What would be the most important information that they would need to pass on?
- Children to create a fact file about one of the stories of the resurrection and explain why they think it is important.
- Look at some of the characters in the Easter story and highlight the effect the resurrection of Jesus had upon them
- What were they like before they met the risen Lord? (e.g. Mary Magdalene, disciples on the road to Emmaus, the disciples at the lake, the disciples in the upper room, and Thomas)
- What were they like after their encounter with the risen Jesus?
- From all they have learnt about the resurrection of Jesus, ask the children to think about what it means to them and why they think it was important for God the Father to bring raise Jesus from the dead.
- Children to share their thoughts through collective worship and some reflective writing.
- Look at different impressions of the risen Jesus in religious art. Children to think about what they can see and to discuss the images they like the best. How is Jesus portrayed? In what ways does he appear different from before? Why do you think this is so?
- Introduce the children to tryptich as a form of art from the medieval ages.
- Explain that there are three panels with three related pictures.
- Children to make their own tryptich with the risen Jesus and a character from the Easter story before and after discovering Jesus was alive.
- Children to read the story of the Ascension of Jesus into heaven.
- Highlight from the text the thoughts and feelings of the disciples?
- Why did Jesus return to heaven? What was his promise to the disciples?
- Christians believe that Jesus continues to remain with us here on earth. Explore with the children signs of his presence (e.g. Bible, Tabernacle, other human beings especially those who are poor or in some type of need)
- Create some prayers with the children about recognising Jesus in the world today.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

**R2** That God his Father prepared the People of Israel for the coming of Jesus; that Jesus was born a Jew and lived in faithful observance of Jewish tradition (multi-cultural dimension); that people's lives were changed by their response to Jesus.

**C4** A developing awareness of the customs and traditions of major liturgical feasts and seasons

- Know stories about the Resurrection of Jesus from the four Gospels.
- Understand that different people responded in different ways when they realised that Jesus was alive.
- Discuss and write about what the resurrection of Jesus might mean to them.

- Know the story of the Ascension of Jesus into heaven.
- Imagine the thoughts of the disciples at this event in his life.
- Be able to consider ways in which Christians can recognise the presence of Jesus today.

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

For this activity to work well, it is important that you have appropriate texts available for the children. You might consider using texts on large pieces of paper for the children to work from.

Learn some Easter hymns and songs. How do they proclaim the story of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead?

Hold a special class liturgy to celebrate the Ascension, releasing balloons with prayers attached to them.

## RELATED SCRIPTURE

Some of the references are found in the teaching strategies.

*Lk. 24: 13-13* – The story of Emmaus

*Mk. 16: 19-20* – The Ascension of Jesus into Heaven

## OTHER LINKS

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Remind the children that prayer time is an important opportunity for us to recognise the presence of Jesus in our lives.
- Provide moments for silent prayer. Use music and appropriate Easter focus,
- Use the Resurrection and Ascension stories during Collective Worship.

## EVALUATION

**What went well?**

**Which areas of planning need to be developed/adapted next time?**

**What needs to be revisited/developed in a later unit?**