

Salford Elim Kids' Church

Acts 1:1-12

Hi everyone! ☺☺ How's it all going? Hope you've had a good week and have had the chance to look at the Easter stuff I sent out.

This week I got a text from Pearl and she shared some links to a few videos that her children have been enjoying, so I'm sharing them here so you can check them out too. They are from Doug Horley (Duggie-Dug-Dug) and he's filmed them for folks during this time of lockdown.

The first looks at Romans 12:12 and being joyful and patient when trouble comes.

<https://vimeo.com/401932520>

The second looks at the Easter Story and the sacrifice Jesus made.

<https://vimeo.com/406830187>

Thanks, Pearl ☺☺ If anyone else has any other resources or ideas that they think others would benefit from, please do let us know.

This week, we're starting to look at Acts.

GAME: How about a quick game to get your imaginations going. Put yourselves in other people's positions or in different situations and ask how you would act. For example 'If you were the Prime Minister, what would you do to help those most in need right now?', 'If you saw someone steal someone's wallet and a policeman was right there, what would you expect the policeman to do?' or 'If Messi was at your football game and you asked him for a selfie, what do you think he'd say?' For younger children, give them easier options, such as, what they expect on their birthdays, etc, or if the queen was making a visit, what would they expect her to do. The idea is, to think about times when you had an expectation or an idea of a way someone or something should go. Like, when it was Mother's Day, I thought my children would be really eager to do a load of housework and make me brews... ☺☺

Or: Pick someone from your household to stand in front of the rest of you for 10 seconds while everyone takes notice of them. Then ask that person to leave the room and ask everyone else to comment on their appearance. See if you can get all the details correct, even the colour of their socks. Then ask, if you were to tell someone else about Jesus, how would you describe Him?

After Jesus had risen from the dead, his followers understandably had hopes and expectations on what would happen next and what Jesus would do for them. But. Things didn't go the way they expected.

WATCH: This video gives a little introduction to Acts and the time of the 'early church'; the first church. Point out the obvious connection between 'church' being the people, who met in homes and the situation we find ourselves in at the moment and how this, now more than ever, illustrates how the church is the people and not the building. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rms6KePjZ8>

This video tells the passage we are looking at today, but also goes beyond it to the end of Chapter 1. You can stop it at 44 seconds, though, if you want ☐ ☐

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOOPKQiZROE>

BIBLE BIT: Read Acts 1:1-12. After reading, or watching the second video, mention how at this point, Jesus had risen from the dead and over a period of 40 days, had appeared to his followers.

- Remind them that last week we heard how they were locked in rooms, fearful for their own lives after Jesus' death. And now, Jesus has given them the command to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the gift God promised! Do you think this is what they expected Jesus to say?
- Read verses 6-8 again. Comment that they expected Jesus to sort everything out, restore Israel and they'd be fine. But, Jesus had other ideas. The mission He was giving them here wasn't to get to the nearest, nicest and safest place, but it meant, firstly, staying in a dangerous place before going into new and equally scary places, where they didn't know people, to be Jesus' witnesses to those who don't know Him yet.
- Does that sound scary to you? Ask your children if there's anything that they 'fear' in telling others about Jesus.
- Do you know what the 'gift' is that Jesus was talking about?
- What's so powerful about the Holy Spirit? What can it do? See what list you can come with.

For older children, I've copied the piece Neil shared on his Midweek Musings. Read it with them and discuss anything that comes from it. It could be a good way to open up a discussion about their expectations of knowing Jesus and if there is anything puzzling them right now or holding them back from sharing their faith with their mates.

Here is an imaginative piece about what it might have felt like to have been with Jesus before his ascension as these verses describe it.

Like all good stories, our story began with a puzzle.

We thought it would happen now. We could see how it would happen. It seemed perfect.

All that had been lost would be restored. All the shame would have been worth it. All the pain would have meaning.

A restored Israel.

The King had risen from the dead – no doubt at all about that. So now we were ready for the obvious next move: the restoration of the kingdom to Israel.

We would rule our own land. We would see a nation turn to God. God would deal with all his enemies. This would be our moment. The moment our ancestors had longed to see. It would be ours.

We just wanted to know if it would happen now.

He answered our question and floored us.

After being with him all these years, you'd think we would have been used to it. But he never ceased to surprise us. Just when we thought we knew what would happen next, he threw us. And he did it again now.

He told us that the timetable was above our paygrade.

Fair enough.

But then it all got more complicated. He told us we would be filled with his Spirit and that life would become more complex, more adventurous, more glorious.

More.

Everything would be filled. We watched as he ascended. Just as he was filling the whole universe with his presence, he was sending us to the ends of the earth. The promise was that we would fill the world with the good news. He went to heaven for us, ahead of us, but promised that he would go with us and ahead of us into our world.

That's why it was so much more complicated. We knew Israel. We have no idea about all these other people.

What will they think?

How will they react?

Will we be able to do what he wants?

Jesus seemed to think so.

We were stunned, blinking into the sky. But as those angels said, you can't stand staring all the time, so we did the only thing that we could – we prayed.

And that's how our story began. It was all that he promised – strange, exciting, glorious.

PRAY: Have someone lead a prayer, or have a few of you pray about the following, or whatever you feel lead.

- That any fear we might have will be replaced with excitement for the greatness of Jesus' gift of forgiveness for everyone.
- For the gift of the Holy Spirit to fill us with power and for opportunities to be witnesses from our homes.

SONG: A simple song with some actions teaching Acts 1:v8 ☐ ☐

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6oLVNWwqqQ>

ACTIVITY: Why not create a colourful poster of all the words you would use to describe Jesus to those who don't know Him? If you are being a 'witness' to who He is, what would you say about him?

Or how about making this ascension craft? Any paper or plastic cup will do and you can decorate it with blue and white paper, or paint the cup itself. Then, you need to draw or print a Jesus figure and a cloud and attach either ribbon or string to Jesus, pass it through a slit in the bottom of the cup and then attach your cloud to the top. Then, you can have fun pulling the top cloud and watch Jesus disappear!



As always, have fun and please share anything with us that you enjoyed or thought of! ☐ ☐