



Week 4
15 - 21 May 2022

**SMALL GROUP WEEKLY
DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL**

EASTER to TRINITY SUNDAY

CONTENT:

Weekly Sunday Sermon Bible readings, worship song, reflection, small group questions and family time

Daily Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation

Week 4	Sunday 15 May	Jesus predicts Peter's denial
Week 5	Sunday 22 May	Jesus promises the Holy Spirit
		26 May Ascension Day
Week 6	Sunday 29 May	Jesus prays for all believers
Week 7	Sunday 5 June	Jesus the way to the Father

Week 4: 15 MAY

Easter Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Fifth Sunday of Easter May 15, 2022	*Acts 11:1-18	Psalm 148	Revelation 21:1-6	John 13:31-35



Praise and Worship: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPbD2G3i-7Y>

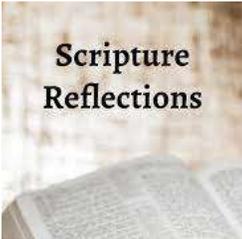
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



John 23:31-35

Jesus predicts Peter's denial

³¹ When he was gone, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. ³³ 'My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: where I am going, you cannot come. ³⁴ 'A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'



WRITTEN BY: REV BOITHOMELO MAKGATMATHE

The context of this gospel reading is an account by John on Jesus's last supper with his disciples. Jesus speaks in the passage a lot of things that he knows. He knows that his hour to depart has come. He knows that the father has given all things into his hands. He also knows that Judas is about to betray him after telling his disciples about the betrayal during supper. Judas leaves and we begin this section after his departure. Instead of Jesus elaborating on Judas's evil and the consequences of his actions (his crucifixion, death, and resurrection), Jesus chooses to teach and equip his disciples on the task that await them. Jesus refers to his death as a moment of glory. He tells his disciples that his death is not a moment of failure, but he wants them to see his death as a moment that brings glory to God and it is the way God will glorify him.

Jesus further gives them a new commandment. The new commandment is simple, but it is also challenging. This new commandment is not entirely new to them because it is also recorded in Leviticus 19:18. Jesus's commandment gives a clear model to follow the same way he has loved the disciples; they should also love one another. Jesus modelled this love by his life and actions, the sacrificial love will be fully manifested on the cross, when Jesus will lay down his life for his friends. He washed the feet of the disciples in a humble act of service, he expects his disciples to render this service to each other.

As disciples of Jesus, we are also challenged to love God and to love one another. Loving one another is not limited to Christian believers, one another goes much further. We are challenged to welcome and embrace those who think, believe, and live in ways that we consider different. We are to demonstrate the love of God to those who need to be included and loved and for them to come to the knowledge of a God who loves. With love that has no judgement or condemnation.

In conclusion our witness as Christians will be visible to the world if it involves love. The world can only know that we follow Jesus through our love. When we demonstrate our love to others in whatever situation we encounter them in, this alone will reveal to others that we are followers of Jesus

Small Group Questions:

1. In which ways do you show the love of God to others? Is love the primary mark of your faith?
2. What is in your life that you think hinders you from loving God and others?
3. Do you think people in your life know that you're Jesus's disciple because of the love you show to others? Why or why not?

Daily Bible Reading, Memory Verse and Prayer:



MONDAY, May 16, 2022: [Psalm 133](#); [1 Samuel 20:1-23, 35-42](#); [Acts 11:19-26](#)

MEMORY VERSE: "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" Psalms 133:1

PRAYER: Dear Heavenly Father teach us to live in unity, help us to truly live a life of love in Jesus's name. **Amen**

TUESDAY, May 17, 2022: [Psalm 133](#); [2 Samuel 1:4-27](#); [Acts 11:27-30](#)

MEMORY VERSE: "The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea." Acts 11:29

PRAYER: Teach us Lord to be compassionate and to care for others in need we pray. **Amen**

WEDNESDAY, May 18, 2022: [Psalm 133](#); [Leviticus 19:9-18](#); [Luke 10:25-28](#)

MEMORY VERSE: "He answered, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Luke 10:27

PRAYER: Thank you Lord for imprinting your laws upon my heart and inscribing them on my heart. Help me to love you and extend that love to my neighbors as well in Jesus's name. **Amen**

THURSDAY, May 19, 2022: [Psalm 67](#); [Proverbs 2:1-5](#); [Acts 15:36-41](#)

MEMORY VERSE: "May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us" Psalms 67:1

PRAYER: Our Heavenly parent, thank you for being gracious to me. I am grateful for the many ways that you bless me. **Amen.**

FRIDAY, May 20, 2022: [Psalm 67](#); [Proverbs 2:6-8](#); [Acts 16:1-8](#)

MEMORY VERSE: "For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding." Proverbs 2:6

PRAYER: Dear Lord you are the giver of wisdom to all who search and desire it, given to us wisdom generously in Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

SATURDAY, May 21, 2022: [Psalm 67](#); [Proverbs 2:9-15](#); [Luke 19:1-10](#)

MEMORY VERSE: "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19:10

PRAYER: Jesus thank you that you are faithful to your promises, you are light in the darkest hours and comfort when my soul aches. Seek me when get lost and restore me in Jesus's name. **Amen**



It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN'S PASTOR

jennyb@bmc.org.za

Sunday 15 May

Pray daily: Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

Scripture Reading: [Acts 11:1-18](#)

Activity/Family Moment:

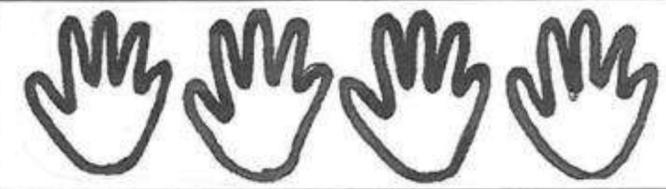
Playdough people and creatures.

Make some playdough (preferably more than one colour) and let everyone shape their own playdough people and creatures. Remind them that all creatures and people are created by God and loved by God

Questions you can ask while everyone is busy with their playdough

- If there were unclean foods today what do you think they would be?
- Why those foods? (perhaps sweets and unhealthy sugary foods?)
- Are there people who we think we are better than?
- Is your school better than other schools?
- Are boys better than girls?
- Peter's vision was about clean and unclean food but actually God was telling him that all people could receive the Holy Spirit and be equally loved by God. What do you think about this?

Helping Hands

Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	
Saturday	
Sunday	

Every time you help someone each day
this week, colour in a helping hand on
your chart