



Week 5  
22 - 28 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

### Easter to Pentecost:

**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 5: 22 MAY

Easter Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Sixth Sunday of Easter	*Acts 16:9-15	Psalm 67	Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5	John 14:23-29



**Praise and Worship:** <https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=eFByOX8Fb0M>

Holy Spirit, Kim Walker-Smith.

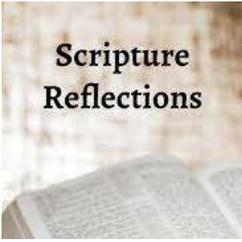


### John 14:23-29

#### Jesus promises the Holy Spirit

<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, 'Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup> Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. <sup>25</sup> 'All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

<sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. <sup>28</sup> 'You heard me say, "I am going away, and I am coming back to you." If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.



## Scripture Reflections

### WRITTEN BY: KHANYISO NJWABULE

We encounter the promises of God throughout the sacred scripture from the first family in Adam and Eve after they had sinned (Genesis 3:15) to the promise of the second coming of our Lord (Rev 22:20). However, there is always a time gap between the promise being given and its manifestation in our lives resulting in a waiting period which can be frustrating, painful, and disheartening if we do not wait in worship and fully trusting the character of God which is always faithful and good for us. No matter how painful our waiting process may be, as believers we continue to long for more of God's glory and goodness. As C.S. Lewis puts it "We long for more and God's promise is that there is

*more awaiting us. More to delight us than we will ever exhaust."*

I can only imagine when Jesus was giving this promise to His disciples, they may have felt sad, troubled, and somewhat confused because their leader and master who had been with them for over 3 years had just told them that He is about to go away which perhaps did not make sense to them at the time. In this moment of "Truth over comfort" Jesus is having with His disciples He gives them the good news of the Holy Spirit that will be sent to them once He has left the earth as a promise. Unbeknownst to them at the time, this promise of the Holy spirit when it came to manifest - would change their lives for better not only in this lifetime but for eternity also. St. Paul vividly describes this life through the spirit in Romans 8 as one where there is no more condemnation to those who are in Christ because the spirit makes the believer righteous, prays for us and intercedes for us in times weakness. Often when we experience these "Truth over comfort" moments with God we tend to be jittery and baffled, but these moments are ultimately for our own good because God is interested in building our godly character that is set apart from the sin driven character of this world. We do not journey through our new life in Christ alone because our Lord becomes Immanuel (i.e. God with us, in us, and for us) through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

In this "Truth over comfort" moment our Lord is having with His disciples, He is preparing them for the time when He will be passing on the baton of the power of His holiness, when the Holy spirit comes to dwell in them. Just as in a relay race the person receiving the baton must stand in a correct posture to receive and fix their eyes the person handing over. In our daily lives we tend to not stand in a correct spiritual posture and our focus gets distracted by the busyness of life and we drop the baton of holiness and find ourselves lacking all that God has promised us. This scripture encourages us to be conscious of our daily spiritual posture and things we prioritize our focus on, so that we do not drop the baton of holiness.

### Small Group Questions:

1. Describe an experience where you had to wait for a promise made by a person you trust and had to wait for an unexpected long time. How did it make you feel?
2. What is your understanding of the term 'indwelling of the Holy Spirit'? If you have experienced it, what noticeable difference have you become aware of in your life?
3. What daily habits do you intentional carry out to ensure that you do not quench the Holy Spirit?

### Daily Bible Reading, Memory Verse and Prayer:



**MONDAY, May 23, 2022:** [Psalm 93](#); [1 Chronicles 12:16-22](#); [Revelation 21:5-14](#)

**MEMORY VERSE:** "He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!' Then he said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.'" Revelation 21:5

**PRAYER:** Heavenly father, we thank you for your great love that upon seeing our endless struggles and suffering you come down to earth in a fleshly body to make us a new creation in Christ, in Jesus' name **Amen.**

**TUESDAY, May 24, 2022:** [Psalm 93](#); [2 Chronicles 15:1-15](#); [Revelation 21:15-22](#)

**MEMORY VERSE:** "They entered into a covenant to seek the Lord, the God of their ancestors, with all their heart and soul." 2 Chronicles 15:12

**PRAYER:** Heavenly father, may you grant us the strength, wisdom, and courage we need to continuously seek your presence with every breath you have graciously given us, in Jesus' name **Amen**.

**WEDNESDAY, May 25, 2022:** [Psalm 93](#); [2 Chronicles 34:20-33](#); [Luke 2:25-38](#)

**MEMORY VERSE:** "For my eyes have seen your salvation," [Luke 2:30](#)

**PRAYER:** Lord of glory, we are eternally grateful for the opportunity to see your salvation in our lifetime chosen by your perfect will, in Jesus' name **Amen**.



## Ascension of the Lord

Easter Year C	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Ascension of the Lord	Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53

**MEMORY VERSE:** "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people," [Ephesians 1:18](#)

**PRAYER:** Heavenly father, may you continue to open the eyes of our hearts to experience your presence and glory fully without any worldly hindrances, in Jesus' name. **Amen**

**FRIDAY, May 27, 2022:** [Psalm 97](#); [Exodus 33:12-17](#); [Revelation 22:6-9](#)

**MEMORY VERSE:** "The Lord replied, 'My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.'" [Exodus 33:14](#)

**PRAYER:** Loving father, may you continue to shine your light on our path and grant us your peace on these uncertain and unpredictable times we live in for your presence removes fear, confusion, and doubt in our lives, in Jesus' name. **Amen**

**SATURDAY, May 28, 2022:** [Psalm 97](#); [Exodus 33:18-23](#); [John 1:14-18](#)

**MEMORY VERSE:** "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." [John 1:17](#)

**PRAYER:** Heavenly father, we thank you for your grace that gives us the strength we need when we are weak and your truth that is our sword for defending ourselves from the attacks of the evil one, in Jesus' 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**

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**Sunday 22 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:** [John 14:23-29](#)

**Activity/Family Moment:**

Let's think about our friends.

Do you have a best friend? What are their names?

Are you a true friend to someone?

Why is a true friend important to you?

Today, we read from the Bible that Jesus tells his disciples that he is going away or will be leaving soon.

The disciple's faces fall. Their shoulders slump. They get very sad. They feel lost, lonely, and friendless. Jesus, their best friend and saviour, is leaving.

But then Jesus says, **“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.”**

**“A friend will come to you, disciples. That friend will walk beside you, above you and within you. That friend, the Holy Spirit, will defend you and remind you of all that I, Jesus, have taught you.”**

Even when we are afraid or scared, when we feel sad or lonely, we should remember that we have a very special and important friend. All of us has this best friend — the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will guide you, defend you, protect you and remind you that Jesus lived and taught “God is love.” Now isn't that the best good news ever?

*Prayer: We thank you dear Lord for our friends. We especially thank you for the Holy Spirit, our very best Friend. Amen.*

### **CRAFT:**

Friendship bracelets

If you want to make a friendship bracelet with your family or for your friends here is a link for 3 easy bracelets [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y\\_FzuLwCZnk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_FzuLwCZnk)

Remember to pray over them before you give them to friends!

