

3rd Sunday
of Easter
April 25 -
May 1, 2022

SCRIPTURE: Acts 9:1-22

THEME: Sight Marches Victorious Over Blindness

SONG: CW21 459 / CW93 Christ the Lord is Risen Again

VISUAL: Blindfold; picture of a cross

OBJECT LESSON

Ask for a student to come up, and blindfold him/her. Make sure s/he can't see the picture and don't show the other children the picture either. Ask the blindfolded student what the picture is of. (They won't know.) Ask for a child who is not blindfolded to come up, look at the picture, and tell the blindfolded student what the picture is so that they can tell the rest of the children.

BIBLE TRUTH

It was impossible for [student insert name] to know what the picture was of until someone told them. Then, and only then, were they able to know exactly what was right in front of them. They took the blindfold off and were able to see for themselves exactly what the picture was.

A long time ago in the Bible, there was a man named Saul. Saul thought he knew who God was, but he really didn't. By his actions (hunting down Christians, imprisoning them, and even having them put to death), Saul was actually persecuting God! One day Jesus appeared to him in a bright light and told him what he was doing wrong. He then told Saul exactly who God is. After his conversion, Saul was so excited about this truth of who Jesus is - the Savior of the world - that he spent the rest of his life sharing the news of God with others.

When we were born, we didn't know who God was. In fact, the Bible tells us that we hated God. We were spiritually blind and couldn't see him for who he really is. We didn't want to know him - we were his enemies by birth. Without God and his grace, we wouldn't be able to know him or his love for us.

But God loves us so much that he gives us his Word, the Bible, which tells us exactly who he is and what he has done to save us from our sins. Through hearing God's Word, the Holy Spirit creates faith in our hearts. It is only through the Holy Spirit that we believe in Jesus and can see who he is. The Bible shows us our sins, the things we've done wrong, and it also shows us our Savior and what he's done to save us from our sins. God sent his Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life, die on the cross, and rise again. He also gives us people who teach us what he says in the Bible, like pastors, teachers, friends, and other grown ups.

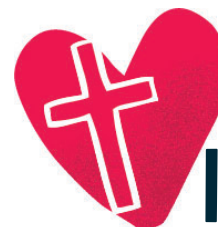
DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Because of the gift of faith we have in the risen Jesus, we are thankful that we've had our eyes opened so that we can see Jesus.

Talk about conversion and the work of the Holy Spirit - additional tie-in to Luther's explanation of the Third Article

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, thank you for putting faith in our hearts through hearing about Jesus in your word. Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**

4th Sunday
of Easter
May 2 -
May 8, 2022

SCRIPTURE: John 10:22-30

THEME: Fulfilled Works March Victorious Over Empty Words

SONG: CW21 551 / CW93 436 Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep

VISUAL: Pictures of Community Helpers

OBJECT LESSON

Show children pictures of community helpers one at a time. Ask them to tell you what that person's job is, and to tell you exactly what they do [ie firefighters put out fires and save people's lives, doctors help people feel better, police keep us safe, chefs cook meals.]. Say, "If someone told you they were a really good chef, but they burnt the toast and forgot the cheese for a grilled cheese sandwich, would you believe them? Probably not. Now if someone told you they were a firefighter, that wouldn't necessarily mean you would believe it. But if you saw them in all of their gear, saving someone from a burning building, you would believe them."

BIBLE TRUTH

Around 2,000 years ago, Jesus lived here on earth among sinful people just like you and me. He told the people exactly who he was - God himself, Immanuel, the Savior of the world. Jesus was the promised Messiah for whom God's people had been waiting for so many years, the One who would save them from their sins. But when Jesus told people who he was, many of them didn't believe what he said, even though it was true.

Instead of throwing up his hands in frustration and abandoning the people altogether, Jesus had compassion on them. Because he loved them, Jesus gave them signs (miracles - things only God can do) to show them that he really was God. Think of all the miracles he did throughout his ministry here on earth. All of them showed exactly who he was - God himself.

Before we look down on the people who didn't take Jesus at his word or believe in him, remember that on our own, we wouldn't

believe Jesus and his Word either. If God didn't intervene, no one would believe in him and his Word. That's true of all of us here. The only way we now believe in God is through faith, given to us by the Holy Spirit. Faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the Word about Christ.

There's an extra blessing that God has given you and me as well. We have the entirety of God's Word written down for us so we can read about the miracles that Jesus did while he lived on earth. Those signs were done for you and me as well, the best of all being Jesus living a perfect life, dying on the cross to take away our sins, and then coming back to life so we can live with him in heaven one day. He didn't just say he'd do it - he actually did.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

What miracles can you think of Jesus doing which show his power and authority from God the Father?

We know Jesus did exactly what he said he would - that's who our God is. He keeps his promises to his people. What other promises has Jesus made to us?

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for showing your power in miracles and for keeping all of the promises in your word. Help us trust you more and more each day. Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**

5th Sunday
of Easter
May 9 -
May 15, 2022

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

THEME: Selfless Love Marches Victorious Over Self-Glorification

SONG: CW21 730 / CW93 494 Blest Be the Tie That Binds

VISUAL: Side by side pictures that show something loving (ie helping a friend) and unloving (ie laughing at a friend who fell down)

OBJECT LESSON

Show children both pictures. Discuss which picture shows LOVE, and which one does not. How can you tell?

BIBLE TRUTH

God gives good evidence throughout the Bible of exactly what love looks like. In 1 Corinthians 13, the Apostle Paul lays out a huge list of adjectives describing true love.

In our lives, we do a lot of things that are unloving; if we sat down and made a mental list of all the unloving things we do every day, we'd be here for a long time. We don't share with our friends or listen to our teachers/grown ups. We say hurtful things to each other and don't treat each other as we should. When we do those things, we aren't showing love to others or to Jesus. Looking at that 1 Corinthians 13 list of the characteristics of love, we usually find ourselves doing the exact opposite.

But God shows us love even when we sin against him; even when we are unloving to God and to others. He shows us love in everything he does. Think of John 3:16 - God loved the world, so what did he do? He sent his Son to rescue us from our sins. Jesus showed love for us in everything he did as well.

He left his home in heaven, where everything was good and perfect, and came down to live here on earth with sinful people like us. He lived a perfect life in our place, always showing love to God and to the people around him... even when those people mocked him, hurt him, and nailed him to a cross. But even that was all part of God's plan to show love to the world that hated him. Jesus loved us so much that he took the punishment all the

times we have failed to love others in our place. He died and was buried, but the grave couldn't hold him. He rose from the dead to declare his victory over sin, death, and the devil. He rose to assure us that because He lives, we too will live. He did all of that because He loves us so very much.

Because of God's love for us, love now fills our hearts and lives as well. We love each other and the people around us because he first loved us. That's seen in our words and actions.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

God loves us so much! He tells us to show that same love to others. What are some ways we can show others love?

Substitute "Love" in the reading of 1 Corinthians 13 with "Jesus". He is all of those things, because our God is love!

As God's children who live our lives no longer for ourselves but to serve God with love and thankfulness, this section from 1 Corinthians 13 can be applied to us as well. God calls us to be love to others. Substitute "love" with your name. Discuss some of the ways that can be seen using the characteristics of love found in the verses.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, forgive us for the times we have been unloving. Thank you for sending Jesus to show us perfect love in his life and death for us. Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**

6th
Sunday
of Easter
May 16 -
May 22, 2022

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 21:21-27

THEME: Joy Marches Victorious Over Circumstance

SONG: CW21 713 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

VISUAL: Pictures of places where children would like to spend time (Disney, the beach, a playground)

OBJECT LESSON

Show children pictures of fun places (Disney, the beach, the playground) and ask for a show of hands - "Who would like to go here?" "When someone promises to take you to one of these places, how do you feel?" (You probably get pretty excited - and might be excited for days or weeks before you even get to go because you know you have something fun waiting for you.) What's the sad part about all of these places though? [Even if someone told you that they'd take you there, you'd still have to wait. Also, eventually, the time spent at that place - as wonderful as it is - would come to an end]

BIBLE TRUTH

When God created the world, it was perfect. Remember what he said at the end of each day of Creation? God looked and saw that it was good. "Good" meant that it was perfectly made. Not only did God make the heavens and the earth, he also made mankind - Adam and Eve. He loved the people he had made, and he wanted them to live in peace in the world he had made. He placed them in the Garden of Eden to work in it and to enjoy it. He gave them a specific way of worshiping him - what did he tell them not to do? What happened next? Adam and Eve didn't listen to what he had told them. They ate the forbidden fruit; they sinned against God, and because of that, the world was no longer perfect. Sin had entered into the world.

Because of sin, there are a lot of problems in our world today. We can see it when we turn on the news; we see it in our own lives as well. There are times when we are sad because something did or didn't happen. We have times when we miss people that we love who are no longer with us because they moved away or died. Sometimes we get hurt either emotionally or physically, by others or ourselves. People sin against us and we sin against them every day. That can make life pretty difficult. But we still have a reason for joy in our hearts.

Even though we constantly sin, God still loves us and wants us to live with him where it is perfect - in heaven. In order for that to happen, the problem of our sins needed to be dealt with. God had a plan to do that. He sent his Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life, die on the cross to take away our sins, and rise from the dead. That's the reason for joy!

God tells us that one day, because of Jesus, we will be in heaven with Him. Because of Jesus, our names are written in the Lamb's book of life (Rev 22:27). What will heaven be like? That's seen in the vision that God gave John in Revelation. He describes heaven in all of its beauty - yet even those words don't fully capture what heaven is really like! When we are in heaven with him, there will be no more sin - nothing to make us sad, hurt, or angry. How excited that makes us! We cannot wait for the day that Jesus returns or calls us home to be in heaven with him!

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Sin will still cause us to be sad at times and to get hurt while here on earth. What does God tell us in the Bible that makes us always able to say that we are joyful?

How does this knowledge help us face the challenges or hardships in our lives?
How does this knowledge help us when we miss a loved one who is already in heaven?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we are eager to be in heaven with you someday. Thank you for sending Jesus to take away our sins. Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**

7th
Sunday
of Easter
May 23 -
May 29, 2022

SCRIPTURE: John 17: 20-26

THEME: Unity Marches Victorious In Diversity

SONG: CW21 730 / CW93 494 Blest Be the Tie That Binds

VISUAL: Picture of kids with similarities and differences

OBJECT LESSON

Show children the picture of some kids with similarities and differences. Have the children point out what is the same about some of the kids, and then what is different [ie. may be wearing the same color shirt, one has long black hair and one has short brown hair, etc.]

If we look around the room, we could do the same thing. We are all very different; we have different clothes on, some of us have short hair and some have long, and the list could go on!

BIBLE TRUTH

God created each of us to be different, to be special. God made you just the way he wants you, both in how you look and what talents you have. Some of you are good at drawing, some of you are good at basketball, and some of you are really good at math or another subject. But we don't all have the same gifts and abilities. We're different.

It is good to be different, because that's how God made you. Another place in the Bible talks about the body of believers (ref. 1 Cor. 12) But God also tells us in the Bible that as Christians, we are one.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, the night before Good Friday, Jesus prayed several prayers. In one of them, he prayed for all people who believe in him, including you and me. What wondrous love Jesus has for us! Even before He was to be crucified on the cross, He was thinking about us. He asked that we would have the love of God in our hearts. And we do. Although we may be very different in how we look or what we can do, we know Jesus and

believe in him. That's what unites us. We know that God loves each and every one of us, and that Jesus lived a perfect life, died, and rose from the dead again so we can all live with God in heaven some day. We also know that we are all part of God's family through faith and baptism.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Jesus prayed for all believers - for you and for me. God wants us to pray for people in our class, in our families, in our church, and for people around the world. What are some things we can pray for?

Because we have the love of God in our hearts, God wants us to show that same love to others. We all have different abilities and opportunities to serve Jesus and serve others. What are some ways we can show love to our friends, family, and others?

Sometimes it's difficult to share God's Word with people who are different from us. That's because of sin. As Christians, how do we overcome that difficulty?

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for coming to take away the sins of the whole world. Help us reflect your love to the people in our families, school, and neighborhood. Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**