



R.E. Assembly Plan - WATFORD SCHOOLS TRUST

LESSON TITLE Ascension /Pentecost	LEARNING STAGE LKS2 UKS2	WST TEACHER/DATE Mrs Tricia Bastable Mrs Johanna Jordan
AIM: LEARNING OBJECTIVE: To re-tell the stories of Ascension and Pentecost To explain that Jesus didn't die for a second time	MAIN AREA/S OF LEARNING (Herts R.E. Agreed Syllabus 2017-22) Sources of wisdom Beliefs and practices Identity and belonging Ultimate questions Other AOL covered: Prayer, worship and reflection Symbols and actions	LESSON RESOURCES PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THIS ASSEMBLY CONTAINS AN EXPERIMENT USING FIRE. IT IS SAFE AND TRICIA FOLLOWED STRICT HEALTH AND SAFETY PROCEDURES WHILST CARRYING IT OUT, FOLLOWING A COMPREHENSIVE RISK ASSESSMENT. A WARNING TO NOT TRY THIS AT HOME IS DISPLAYED.

Introduction

From Cassiobury park Johanna welcomes you to our Pentecost assembly. She explains that Pentecost is a Christian celebration of the birth of the church. It takes place 7 weeks after Easter when Christians remember that God sent them his Holy Spirit. Johanna compares the Holy Spirit to the wind, as something that is strong, powerful but that cannot be seen, although the effects are visible. She uses the illustration of the wind and bubbles being blown to introduce the story of Pentecost...Where as she says, some magical things happened as well.

Tricia explains that at this time of year, following Easter, she is often asked what happened to Jesus after he came back to life? Tricia says that Jesus didn't die again and goes on to explain what happened next.

The Bible says that after Jesus came back to life he appeared to more than 500 people. Tricia says that Jesus' death hadn't been the end, there was to be a new beginning. This phrase is repeated throughout the assembly.

Main content

Jesus told his followers that he was going to return to God in heaven. He said that God was going to send them his Holy Spirit.

Recorded in Oxhey Park Johanna then shares the story of Jesus' ascension to heaven. She emphasises that Jesus promised that God's Holy Spirit would be their helper in the future.

The disciples witness Jesus' disappearance and encounter two angels. They return to Jerusalem to await further instructions.

Tricia says that Jesus' coming back to life doesn't end in the way we might expect. It certainly doesn't end with Jesus growing old and dying. She goes on to tell the story of Pentecost.

The disciples, who are afraid for their lives, are sheltering together when God sent the Holy Spirit to them. They hear a mighty rushing wind and see flames of fire in the room and above their heads. At this point in the video Tricia demonstrates an experiment which results in a handful of bubbles being set alight. A warning to not try this at home appears on screen.

As a consequence of this encounter with God the disciples feel emboldened and are no longer afraid. They praise God and then burst from the house and start speaking in foreign languages.

The city is crowded with many foreign visitors for the Jewish festival of Pentecost and a huge crowd gathers as they hear their native tongue being spoken.

At this point Johanna continues the story in her native Dutch language whilst English subtitles appear on screen.

This is followed by examples of people speaking in different languages. They are all saying what the disciples told the crowds, “God loves everyone!”

Everyone in the crowd understood because they heard it in their own language! As a result 3000 people became Christians that day and when they returned to their homes they took the Gospel of Jesus with them. This was the beginning of the Church.

Plenary

In summary Tricia explains that as a result of his Ascension, Christians today believe that Jesus is alive in heaven and hears their prayers. And because of Pentecost, they believe that God has sent his Holy Spirit to help them live their lives in a way that pleases him. Christians look forward to the day that Jesus returns to earth. They believe God's power works in them and helps them to share the good news that God loves everyone.

Extension/enrichment activities

Christians believe that God loves everyone, create a poster to demonstrate this.

You might like to research and illustrate the phrase ‘God loves everyone’ in different languages spoken in your class/school.

Deeper Questions - Possible follow up/class discussion suggestions

Christians believe that God loves everyone, no matter who they are, their background, race, skin tone or gender. How is that demonstrated in the story of Pentecost?

How is it possible to speak in a language you have never been taught?

The Bible says that the power of the Holy Spirit melted away all the disciple’s fear and filled them with God's love. What difference did the Holy Spirit make to their lives?

Class teacher’s notes

