



Second Sunday before Lent – 7th February 2021

Read John 1.1-14

You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.

Does this passage from St John's gospel sound familiar? It's a very famous part of the Bible and you may have heard it read at Christmas. John's gospel is different from the other three gospels. Parts of it are difficult to understand but it is also full of beautiful phrases and it has hidden depths of meaning. Today's passage is the introduction to the book.

John's gospel starts with the words "In the beginning...". That phrase is used somewhere else in the Bible. Do you know where?

It's used at the very start of the book of Genesis, the first book of the Old Testament: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth". The book of Genesis tells us how God created the world – day and night, sea and sky and land, plants, fish, animals, and eventually human beings. John uses the same phrase to remind us about this wonderful gift of creation that God gave to us. In his gospel John shows us that the story of God's love for the world is continuing.

John writes about "the Word", which is part of God and then becomes a human being; "the Word became flesh". This is Jesus.

Words are used for communication between people. Can you think of words or phrases you would use in the following situations?



- To say that you care about someone
- To say that you are angry with someone
- To show that you are pleased with a present that you have received
- To show that are feeling sad

The Word that God sent to us shows that He loves us. Jesus brings light and life into the world, into our lives. God is speaking to us through Jesus. We can get closer to God and get to know God better by getting to know Jesus better. God is communicating with us through Jesus.

Activity

- God created the world and gave us the gift of Jesus because He loves us. What could you create this week for someone you love? You could use modelling clay to make a heart shape, or bake some heart-shaped biscuits, or sew decorations on a heart shape cut out of red felt, or make a heart shaped painting or card. Think carefully about the words you use when you give your gift to the person you care about.

Prayer

Creator God, all wonder and beauty and love and glory come from you.
We thank you for all your gifts to us,
and especially for the gift of your son, Jesus. **Amen.**