

LORDSBRIDGE TEAM OF CHURCHES



Sixth Sunday of Easter – 9th May 2021
Read John 15.9-17

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

When I was a little girl, my grandmother would often sing hymns as she did various jobs in the house. One of her favourites was “What a friend we have in Jesus”. It’s a very old hymn but it’s based on today’s reading from St John’s gospel. Jesus talks about his love for his followers and calls them his friends. This doesn’t just mean his disciples; it means us as well. Jesus is calling us his friends.



Think about your friends. What makes a good friend? Is it someone who shares your interests and hobbies? Is it someone who laughs with you when you feel happy? Is it someone who helps and supports you when you are sad? Think about the special qualities you need to be a good friend. Are you a good friend?

In what way is friendship with Jesus different from our earthly friendships? God loves each one of us and calls us his children. God doesn’t pick special people and only love them – he treats each person in the same way; each one of us is special. Jesus says the same thing. He says “You didn’t choose me. I chose you.” This friendship is a gracious gift from God. Each one of us can be a friend of Jesus. All we have to do is love God and love one another.

This week is Christian Aid week, when we remember people in other countries whose lives are not as easy as ours. We show our love for them by praying for them and raising money to help them. The charity, Christian Aid, is made up of Christians all round the world who try to help other people and be their friends.



Activity

- Look at the Christian Aid website and find out what kind of work this charity does www.christianaid.org.uk
- Pray for the people you read about on the website. Is there some way in which you could raise money for Christian Aid – or donate some money to this charity?
- Make a prayer chain. Take a long strip of paper and fold it into a concertina shape. Draw a person shape on the top face, making sure that the arms touch the edges/folds. Cut round the shape, ensuring that the people remain joined at the folds. Open out your chain of people. Write the name of a friend on each figure and decorate. Use this as a reminder to pray for those friends each day this week

Prayer

We thank you, God, that today and every day you sing a song of love.

Thank you for the love of family and friends.

Thank you that we can share love with others. Amen.