

Year 6

# Year 6

## PENTECOST – SERVING

Come and See for yourself

### EXPLORE

Each of us, by the way we live our lives, the way we treat others, and by our words and actions, show if we have an attitude of service.

Often, we are especially influenced by those whose actions speak powerfully of a life of service.

- Q Think of someone who impresses you deeply because of the way she/he lives.
- Q What is it that impresses you?
- Q What do you think inspires them?

### REVEAL

Christians believe that the Spirit of God is active in each person and, in a special way, in the community of believers, which is the Church. It is the work of the Spirit to enable people to hear God's message and to live Jesus' way of service.

## Word of God

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

Luke 4: 18-19

## Catechism of the Catholic Church

“Those, who with God’s help, have welcomed Christ’s call and freely responded to it, are urged on by love of Christ to proclaim the Good News everywhere in the world. This treasure, received from the apostles, has been faithfully guarded by their successors. All Christ’s faithful are called to hand it on from generation to generation, by professing the faith, by living it in fraternal sharing, and by celebrating it in liturgy and prayer.”

*(CCC Prologue 3)*

Q How is this lived out in your life today?

## RESPOND

Q In what ways is serving emphasised in the classroom and throughout the school?

Q How can you help children to appreciate their energy and use it for the good of others?

Q In what ways may a school community draw on the power of the Holy Spirit?

## Prayer and Reflection

*Father, pour out your Spirit*

*upon your people,*

*and grant us*

*a new vision of your glory,*

*a new faithfulness to your Word*

*and a new consecration to your service,*

*that your love may grow among us,*

*and your kingdom come:*

*through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

*(Prayer of preparation for Vatican II)*

# EXPLORE

The courage to be a witness

## STANDARD INDICATOR

Some children will be able to **make links** to show how feelings and beliefs affect their behaviour and that of others when it comes to making a decision about being a witness. Some children will be able to **compare** their own and other people's ideas about questions that are difficult to answer about having the courage to witness.

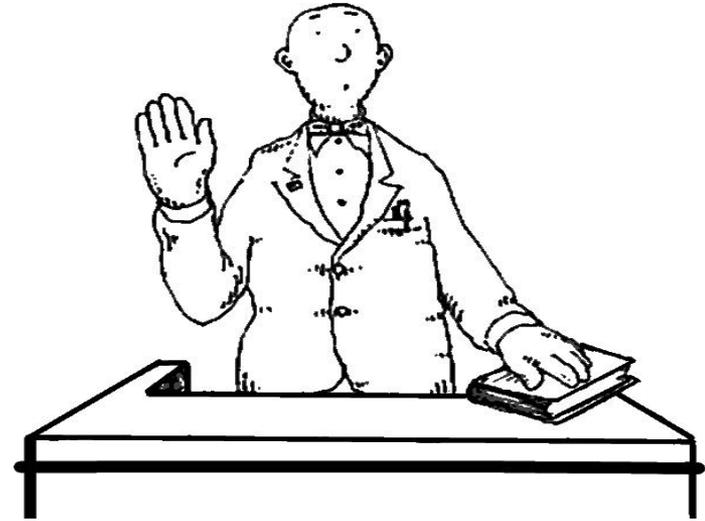
Some children will be able to **show how** their own and others' decisions about witnessing are informed by beliefs and values.

## KEY WORDS

Witness, courage, truth

## LEARNING INTENTION:

The courage to be a witness.



Think about the times you might have been in a situation when you saw something happen which was unusual, strange or even wrong and you knew you needed to tell someone. You were unsure for a number of reasons. Maybe you thought people would laugh at you, not believe you, or you might get into trouble.

## What should Connor say?

Connor was cycling home from school when he saw his elder sister, Kylie, with a group of boys.

He knew some of the boys; they were tough and didn't care what anyone said to them. They were from the local secondary school, where Connor would be going in September.

Connor got off his bike and hid behind a parked car where no one could see him.

He was fond of Kylie, even though she was always

telling him he was stupid. He knew it was only teasing.

As he watched, he wondered why he had stopped. Was it curiosity? Was he spying or was he really concerned about Kylie? He wasn't sure.

Kylie was laughing. One of the boys offered her a cigarette which she took. Connor knew his parents would be cross if they found out. Kylie was only fourteen.

He could see Kylie shaking her head and beginning to walk away, one of the boys

held her arm and started arguing with her. Another pushed her, while another got hold of her bag. Kylie grabbed it back and started to run.

The boys let her go, but shouted after her; 'You'd better have the money tomorrow!'

Connor didn't know what to do. There were too many boys for him to tackle. Kylie was walking home now.

Connor got home first. His mother asked him if he had seen Kylie on the way.

Before he could answer Kylie arrived home.

# SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q How do you think Connor felt?
- Q As a witness to the incident what do you think Connor should do?
- Q What are his choices?
- Q Who do you think needs courage in this situation?
- Q What do you think happened next?
- Q What would you do?
- Q Have you ever been in a situation where you have needed courage to witness? What happened?

# Show your learning...

- Prepare a debate on the subject: *It is better not to be a witness.*
- Decide what your arguments are going to be. Be prepared to explain the beliefs and values which influence and inspire your opinion.
- Record the debate in some way.

# REVEAL

Pentecost: The Holy Spirit enables people to witness to the Easter message

**CONTENT:** – scripture – tradition – prayers

## STANDARD INDICATOR

Some children will be able to **make links** between Scripture and belief in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Some children will be able to **give reasons** for the witness to Jesus Christ by believers.

Some children will be able to **show how** understanding of belief in the power of the Holy Spirit shapes lives.

Some children will be able to **describe and show understanding** of Scripture, beliefs, ideas, feelings and experiences of the power of the Holy Spirit in witnessing to the Good News of Jesus Christ and make links between them.

Some children will be able to **engage and respond** to questions concerning the courage it takes to witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

## KEY WORDS

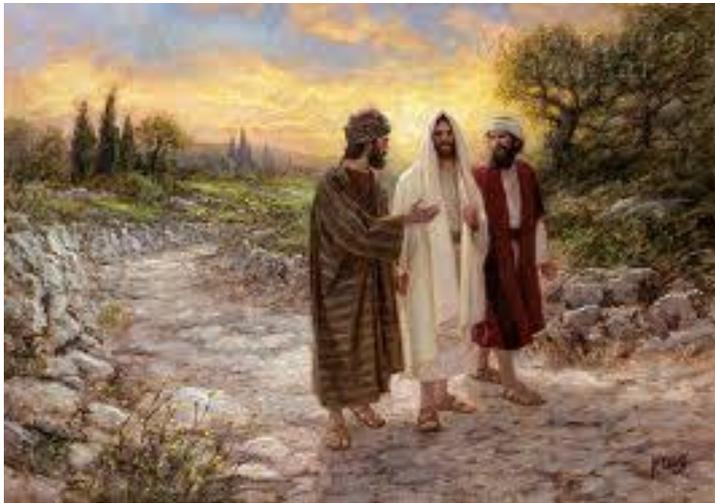
Holy Spirit, Witnesses, martyrs, inspiration, Good News

## **LEARNING FOCUS 1:** Jesus appears to his disciples.

I can **give reasons** for the witness to Jesus Christ by believers.

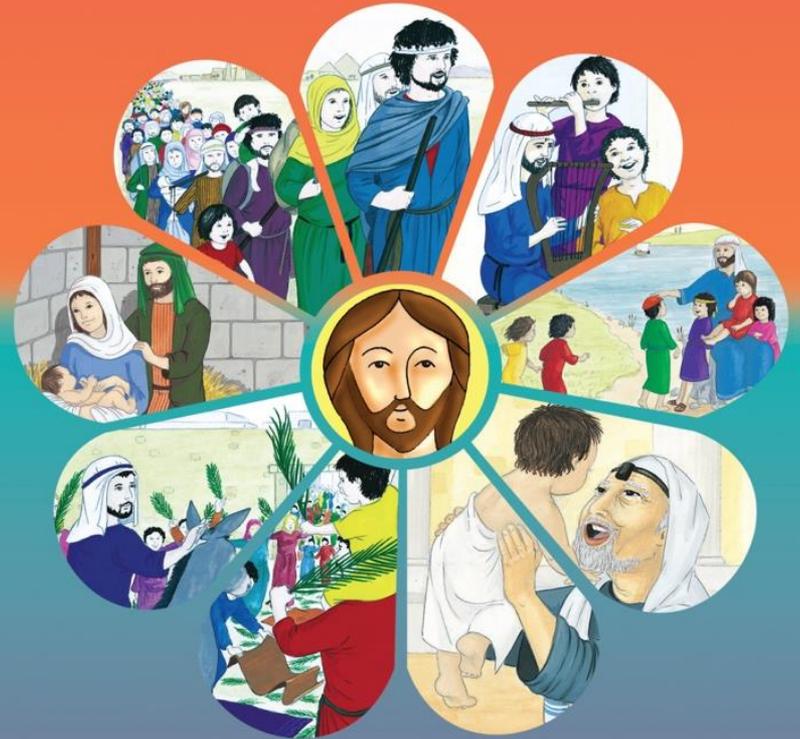
I can **show how** understanding of belief in the power of the Holy Spirit shapes lives.

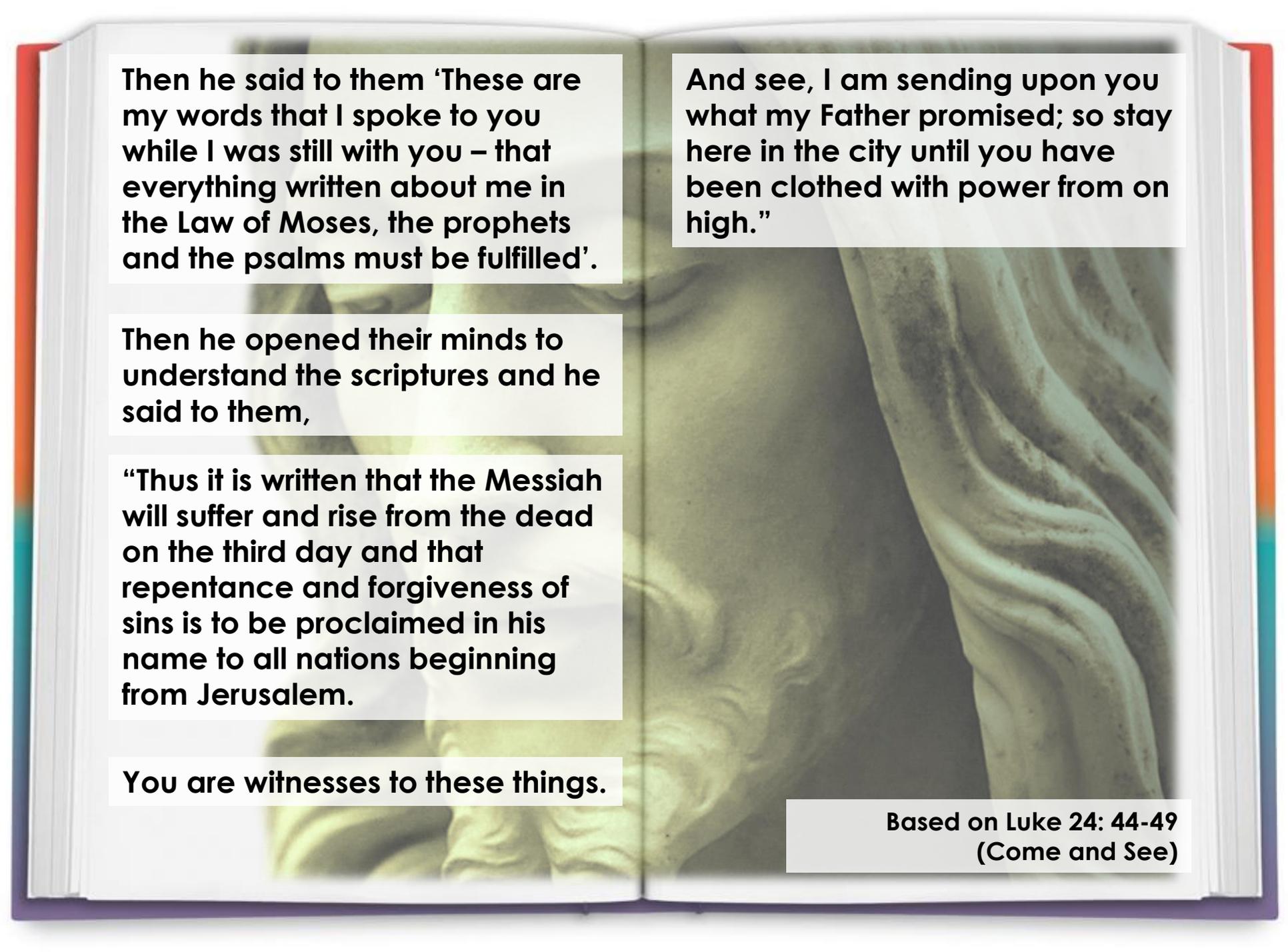
Jesus appeared to his disciples on a number of occasions after the Resurrection. He greeted them, shared food with them and then he sent them out to continue the message of the Good News. Luke tells how, after his Resurrection, Jesus reassures his disciples that they will not be alone.



# Good News

Good News





**Then he said to them ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled’.**

**Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures and he said to them,**

**“Thus it is written that the Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations beginning from Jerusalem.**

**You are witnesses to these things.**

**And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”**

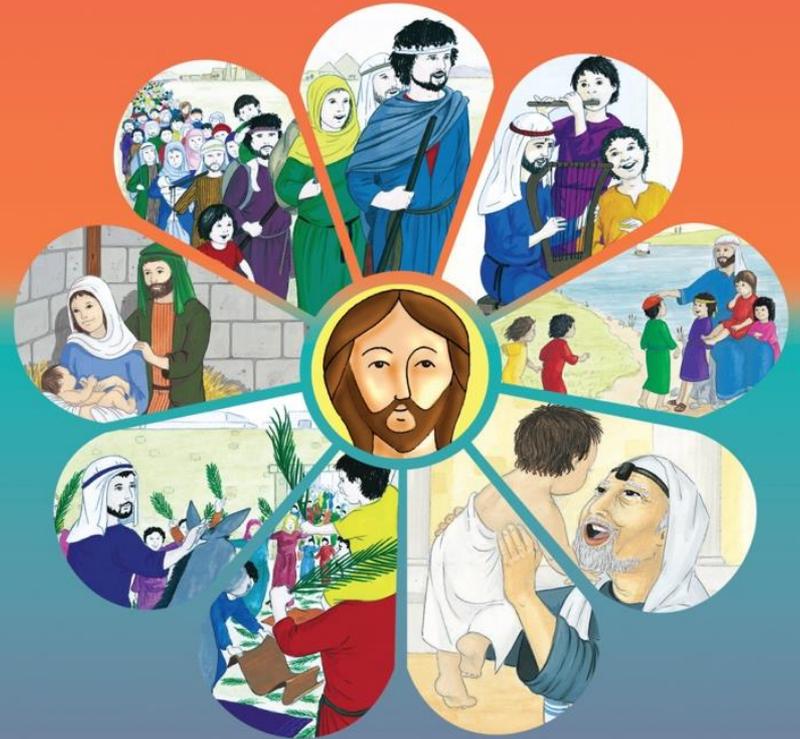
**Based on Luke 24: 44-49  
(Come and See)**

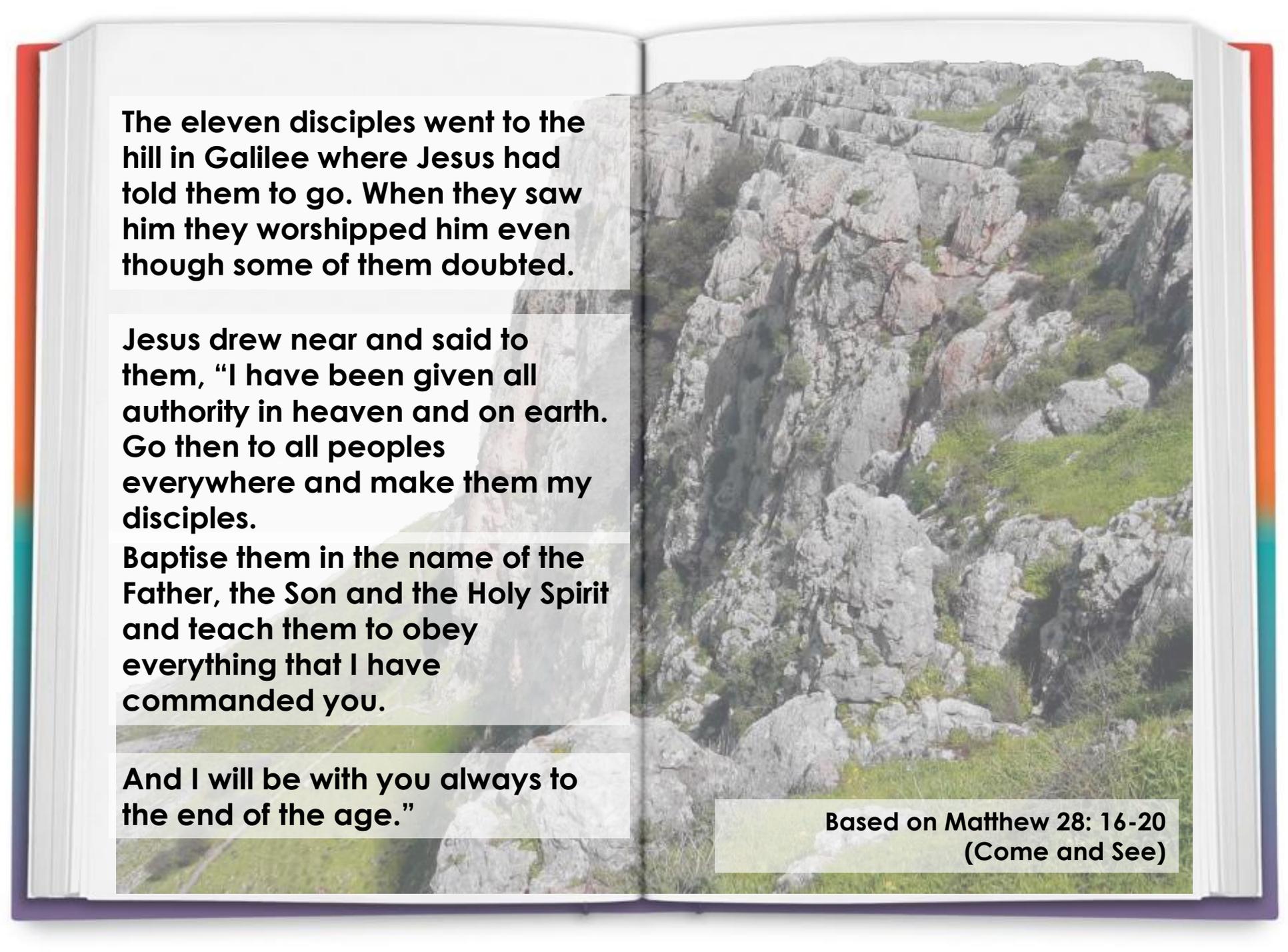


Good News

# Good News

Good News





**The eleven disciples went to the hill in Galilee where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him they worshipped him even though some of them doubted.**

**Jesus drew near and said to them, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go then to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples.**

**Baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and teach them to obey everything that I have commanded you.**

**And I will be with you always to the end of the age.”**

**Based on Matthew 28: 16-20  
(Come and See)**

## SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q How do you think the disciples felt when they heard these words?
- Q What did Jesus mean when he said “...the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled?”
- Q What do you understand by the disciples being the witnesses of Jesus?
- Q Why does Jesus want everyone to be baptised?
- Q Why do you think some of Jesus’ disciples were in doubt?
- Q What mission did Jesus give his disciples?



# Show your learning...

- Imagine you were present in Galilee and heard Jesus' message about going out to 'peoples everywhere'. In the light of what you heard, what would you do next? How would your actions begin to shape other people's lives? Record your response.



## **LEARNING FOCUS 2:** The Ascension of Jesus.

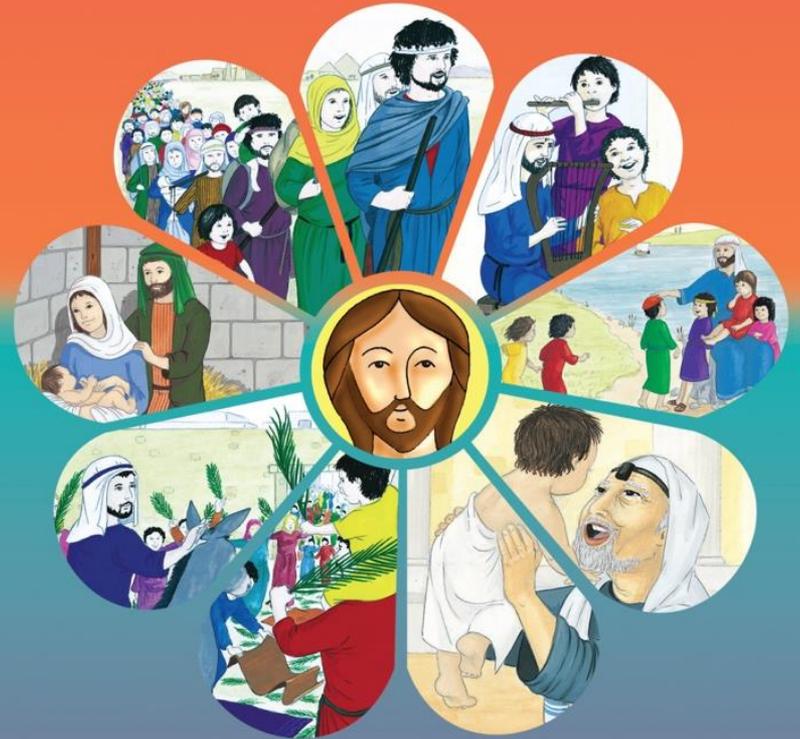
I can **make links** between Scripture and belief in the power of the Holy Spirit.

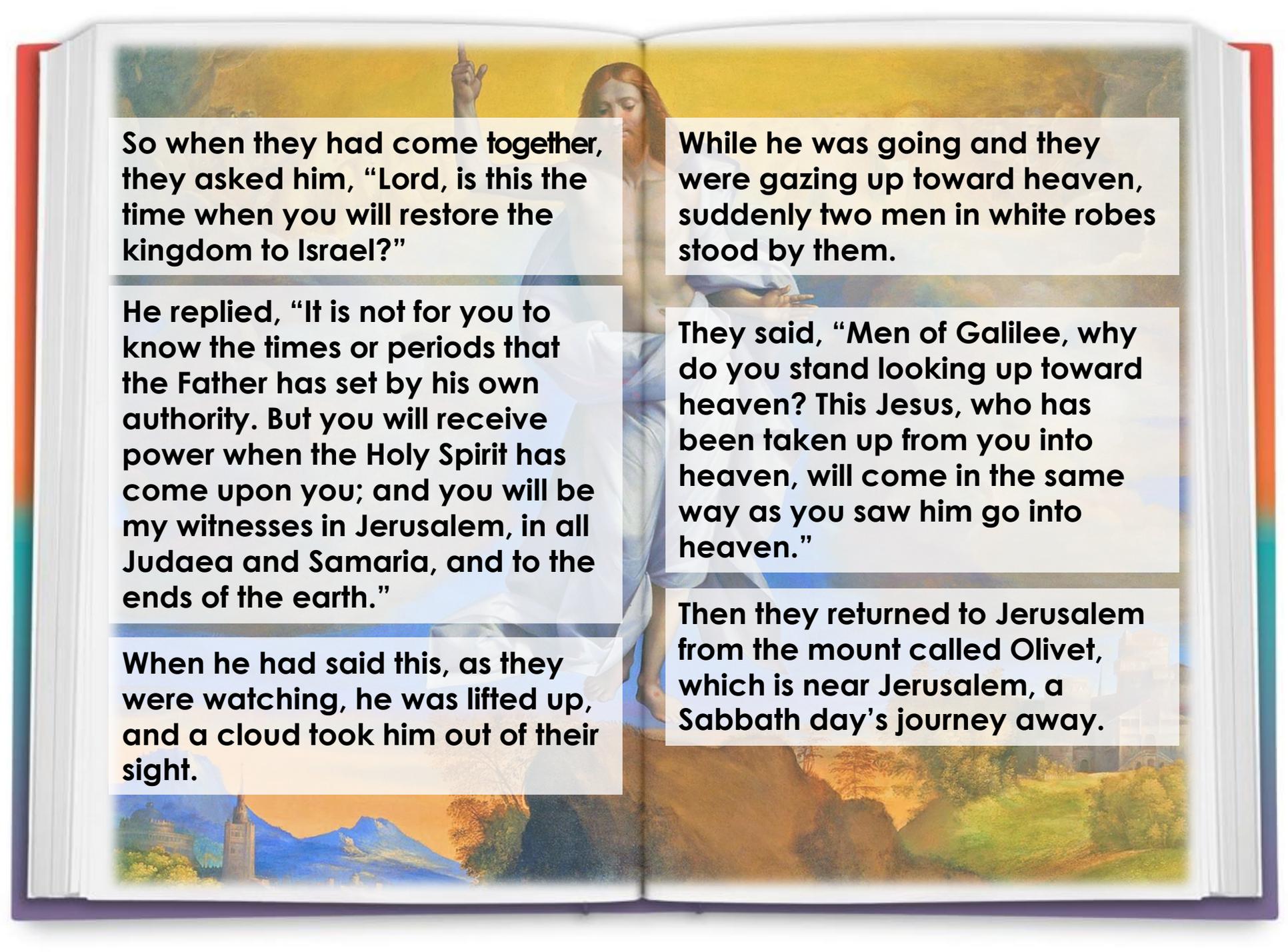
Before Jesus returned to his Father, he promised his disciples that he would send them the Holy Spirit to enable them to continue to spread the Easter message and be his witnesses.

In the Acts of the Apostles account of what happened after the Resurrection; the writer describes Jesus' return to his Father in symbolic language.

# Good News

Good News





**So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?”**

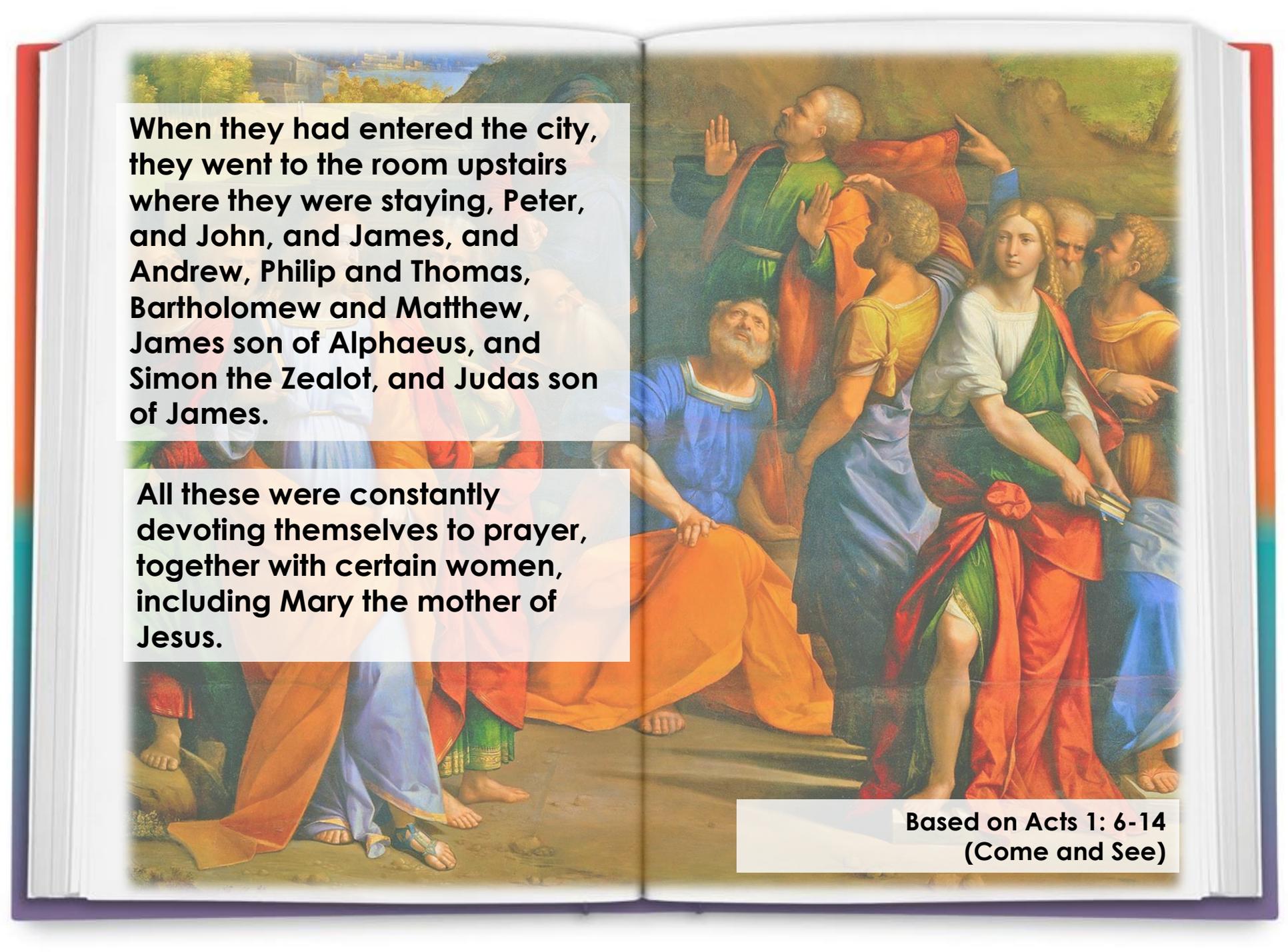
**He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judaea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**

**When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.**

**While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.**

**They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”**

**Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away.**



**When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.**

**All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus.**

**Based on Acts 1: 6-14  
(Come and See)**

The disciples, Mary and the women gathered together in Jerusalem to wait in prayer in the upper room for the coming of the Holy Spirit. It was coming up to the Jewish feast of Pentecost or Shavuot, that is the harvest festival. There were many people in Jerusalem at this time.

News



## Discussion questions

1. Why do you think the disciples asked Jesus about restoring the kingdom? (Hint; it seems as if the disciple still had not understood that Jesus' kingdom was not an earthly one, but the kingdom of the heart.
2. What do you think they meant and what does it show about their understanding?
3. What do you think the power of the Holy Spirit would enable them to do?
4. How do you think the disciples spent their time between the Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit who would give them the power to be witnesses to the ends of the earth?



# Show your learning...

Draw a picture of the scene in the upper room. Show the conversation which took place among the people in that upper room. How would they describe their own beliefs, feelings, and experiences and how would they have made links between them?

OR

Imagine you were there at the Ascension. Write a diary entry for what you saw, how you felt and what you might do next.

**LEARNING FOCUS 3:** ? chosen to spread the Word.

## Who am I?

### Clues

1. I was an early Christian.
2. I helped to distribute food.
3. I was one of the first Deacons.
4. I was the first Christian martyr.

Answer: Stephen

### **LEARNING FOCUS 3:** Stephen chosen to spread the Word.

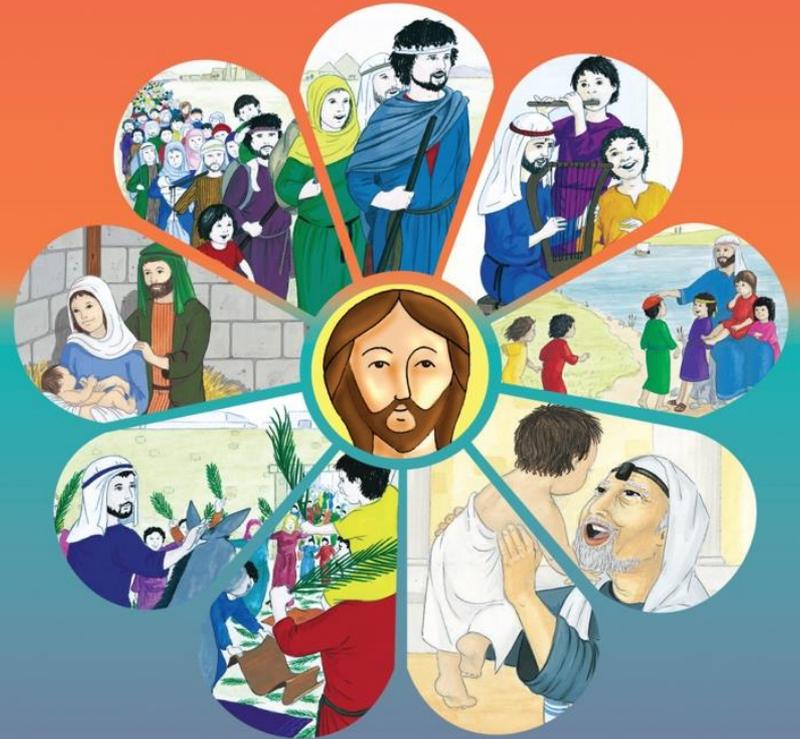
I can **show how** understanding of belief in the power of the Holy Spirit shapes lives.

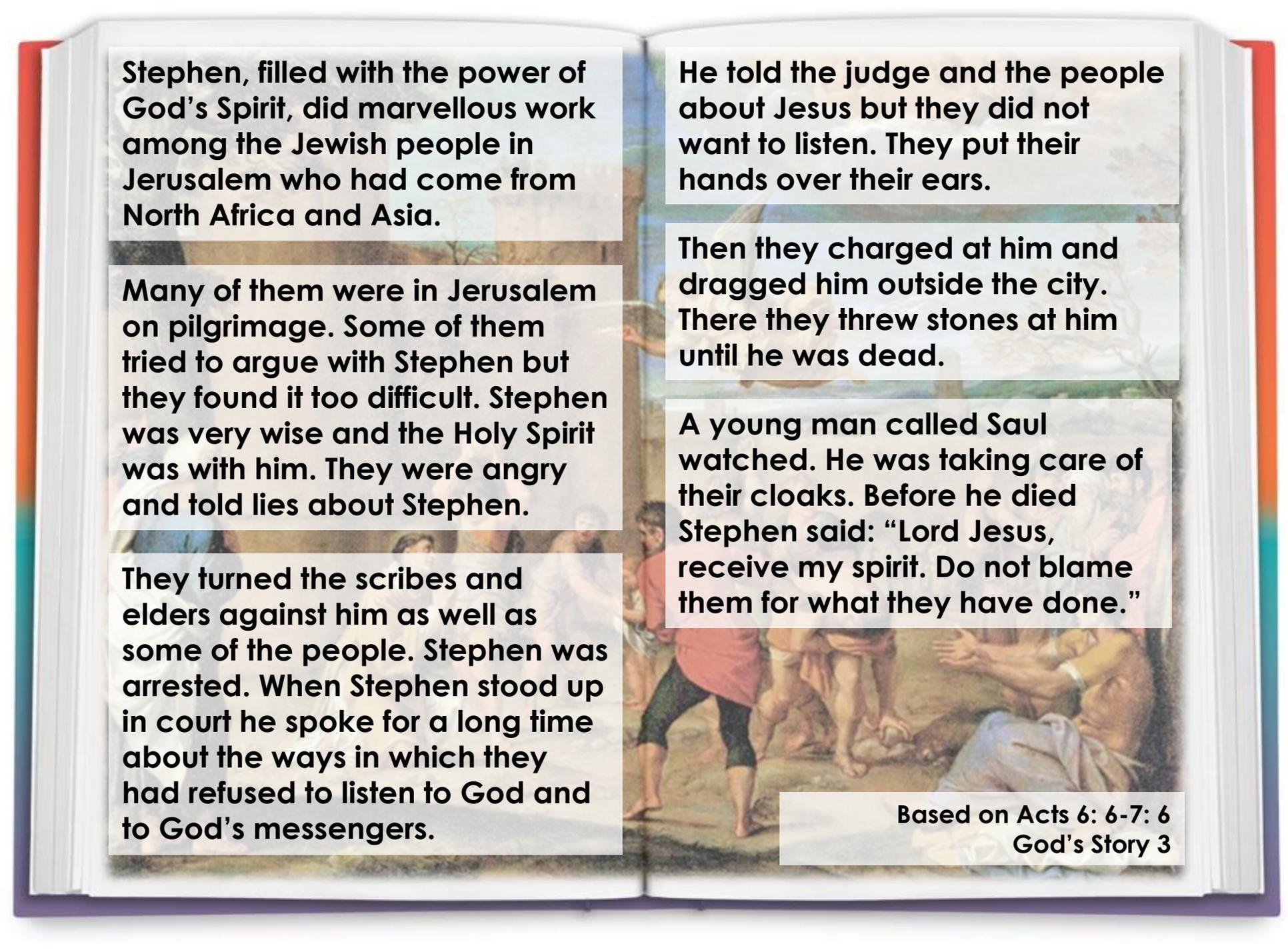
After the coming of the Holy Spirit, the number of those who became Christians grew so the early Church needed to be organised. One of the important works of those early Christians was to care for the poor as Jesus had done. The apostles were busy preaching and teaching, so they needed help.

Stephen was one of the people chosen to help in the distribution of food so that the apostles could continue to spread the word of God. The people chosen had to be filled with the Holy Spirit to undertake this work. Stephen was the first deacon, deacons are called to serve and witness to the Word of God. The word 'deacon' is taken from the Greek word meaning 'service'. Eventually Stephen was arrested and sentenced to death for witnessing to the Good News of Jesus. Stephen was the first Christian martyr. A martyr is a person who holds to a belief so strongly that he or she is willing to die for it. Such was the faith that Stephen had in Jesus.

# Good News

Good News





**Stephen, filled with the power of God's Spirit, did marvellous work among the Jewish people in Jerusalem who had come from North Africa and Asia.**

**Many of them were in Jerusalem on pilgrimage. Some of them tried to argue with Stephen but they found it too difficult. Stephen was very wise and the Holy Spirit was with him. They were angry and told lies about Stephen.**

**They turned the scribes and elders against him as well as some of the people. Stephen was arrested. When Stephen stood up in court he spoke for a long time about the ways in which they had refused to listen to God and to God's messengers.**

**He told the judge and the people about Jesus but they did not want to listen. They put their hands over their ears.**

**Then they charged at him and dragged him outside the city. There they threw stones at him until he was dead.**

**A young man called Saul watched. He was taking care of their cloaks. Before he died Stephen said: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. Do not blame them for what they have done."**

**Based on Acts 6: 6-7: 6  
God's Story 3**



Good News

# Discussion questions



1. Why were people finding it too difficult to argue with Stephen?
2. Why and how did Stephen remain strong?
3. Stephen said “Do not blame them for what they have done.” What example is Stephen setting by saying this?
4. In the Scripture reading it says ‘they put their hands over their ears’. Why do you think they did this and what did it show?
5. What do you think about Saul’s action?
6. What do Stephen’s last words remind you of?

# Show your learning...

- Research how deacons serve in the Catholic Church today. Prepare questions you would like to ask a deacon. How does his role shape his own life and those around him?

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/diaconate/faqs.cfm>

[https://www.ukvocation.org/?page\\_id=149](https://www.ukvocation.org/?page_id=149)

<https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/the-role-of-permanent-deacons.html>

- We are often called upon in school to fundraise or collect food for the foodbanks to help those who cannot afford or struggle to find food to eat. In doing this we are like Stephen, chosen to help in the distribution of food. How might we continue to follow Stephen's example and witness to the Good News? What can you do to be a witness like Stephen during this time of need?
- Make a pledge of commitment to an act of service to others.

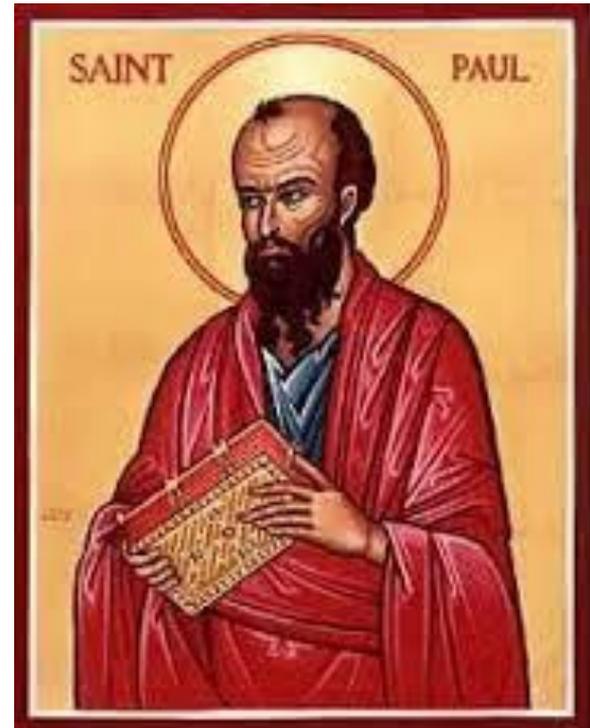
## **LEARNING FOCUS 4:** Witnesses to the Easter Message: Lydia.

I can **describe and show understanding** of Scripture, beliefs, ideas, feelings and experiences of the power of the Holy Spirit in witnessing to the Good News of Jesus Christ and make links between them.

What did we learn  
about Stephen?

Remember Paul used to be called Saul. He had witnessed the death of Stephen before his conversion to Jesus Christ while he was on the road to Damascus.

Timothy was one of the people who accompanied Paul on some of his journeys. He was the son of a Jewish mother and a Greek father. He became a companion and assistant to Paul in his missionary work.



In one of Paul's many journeys, he met Lydia, who was a successful trader involved in the business of purple cloth, the imperial colour of Rome, worn only by the emperor and those of rank and authority.

Lydia, was a successful business woman. She would have been well known in the city.

She listened carefully to Paul as he preached the message of the Good News of Jesus Christ. She invited Paul and his companions including Timothy to stay at her home.



# Good News

Good News



**We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony.**

**We remained in this city for some days.**

**On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there.**

**A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth.**

**The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul.**

**When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.**

**Based on Acts 16: 11-15  
Come & See**

In Acts 16:40, it is mentioned that on their release from prison Lydia welcomed Paul and Silas as well. She was a woman proud to be associated with the name of Christ.

Like Paul himself, she witnessed to her faith in Christ, even though it might have been a risk to her business. She put her faith before all else.



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# SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q Why do you think the women were meeting outside the city for a time of prayer?
- Q What do you think appealed to Lydia in Paul's preaching?
- Q What do you think is meant by the phrase 'the Lord opened her heart'?
- Q How did Lydia respond?
- Q Why is it important that Paul and Timothy spoke to women as well as men?
- Q Why do you think Lydia invited Paul and his companions to her house?
- Q What do you think were the risks that Lydia took in witnessing to her faith in Christ?

What do we know about Lydia?

Can you describe her character?

Write 5 questions you would like to ask Lydia.



# Show your learning...

- Imagine you are Lydia. Write a letter to Paul, explain how you felt, listening to his words and how it affected your life.



## **LEARNING FOCUS 5:** Modern witnesses to the power of the Holy Spirit.

I can **engage and respond** to questions concerning the courage it takes to witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Paul, Timothy, Stephen and Lydia were witnesses to the Good News of the Gospel in the early days of the Church. In today's world, there are those who, with the power of the Holy Spirit, are prepared to be witnesses to God's love.

When Pope Benedict XVI came on a State Visit to the United Kingdom in 2010, outside Westminster Cathedral he met up with representatives of the young people from England and Wales. A young man, Paschal Uche, was chosen to speak on behalf of the youth. Click on the link to watch a video about his story.

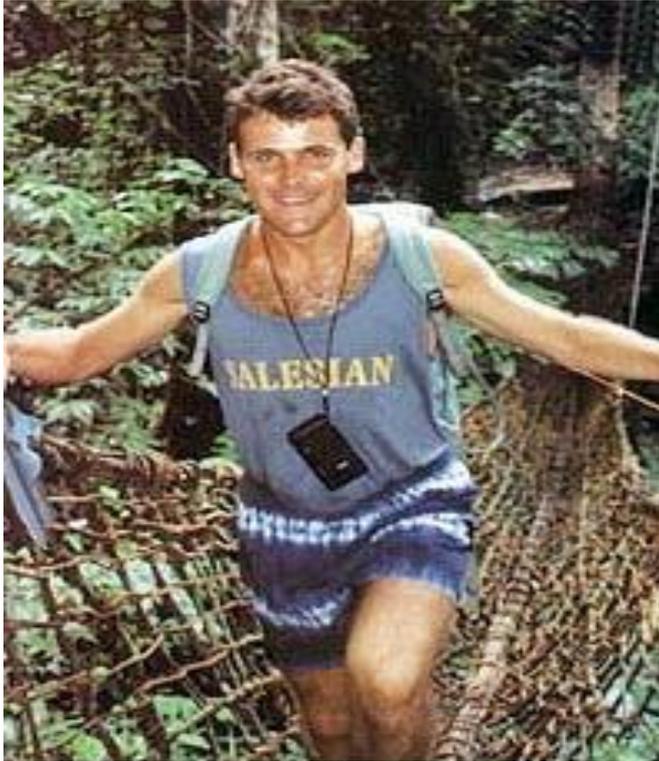
<https://vimeo.com/30267390>

What qualities does a modern witness need to have?

# SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q Discuss the words 'modern witness'. What do you understand by this?
- Q What impressed you most in what Paschal Uche said?
- Q Why do you think he was chosen to speak?
- Q How do you think he felt speaking in Westminster Cathedral?

# Show your learning...



Sean Devereux was a committed Catholic teacher who felt called to work in a Salesian school in Liberia, Africa.

His life ended tragically because he stood up for his beliefs and values.

Research and read about his life and create a mindmap about him. (see the next slide) You must include **why he was a witness and how he shaped lives.**

[http://www.donboscoliberia.org/pagina\\_base.asp?id=1346](http://www.donboscoliberia.org/pagina_base.asp?id=1346)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXNEeCWmVtc>

<https://www.seandevereux.org.uk/what-we-do>

***"While my heart beats, I have to do what I think I can do - that is, help those who are less fortunate"***

His background

His work in Africa

Sean Devereux: a modern witness of  
Jesus.

Why is he a witness of  
Jesus?

What I have learnt from his  
example.

## **LEARNING FOCUS 6:** Ourselves as witnesses.

I can **engage and respond** to questions concerning the courage it takes to witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Through our Baptism and Confirmation we receive the gift of the Holy spirit and are called to be people who spread the Easter message and to be witnesses in the present world. There are many ways of being a witness- by prayer, our words, our life and kind deeds.

There are many ways of being a witness – by prayer, our words, our life and kind deeds. This is a story of Fr. Balashowry, a priest in India.

### **Fr. Balashowry: Providing refuge.**

Fr. Balashowry is the director of the Don Bosco Centre for street children in Hyderabad, India. The centre rescues children from the streets and provides counselling, food, clothing, medicine, education, recreation, and aims at eventually rehabilitating the children to their families. There are currently over 50 boys at the centre. Most of them will have been found by the staff, begging at the train and bus station. Over a third of them are orphans and the rest have run away from broken homes. Fr. Balashowry offers a loving home for them in which they can feel safe and regain hope for their future.

As well as funding the children's education, the centre has workshops where it provides training in trades like carpentry, tailoring, and engineering. They also have a bakery where a former resident of the shelter now teaches baking to the children. These classes all help to furnish the boys with the skills and motivation to find employment in the future. While the centre aims to rehabilitate children to their families, they are not forced back to their homes.

The boys are encouraged to return to their families and spend some time with them, but they are welcome to return to the shelter and continue their studies. The boys need the stability and assurance that they will be supported and helped to finish their education. Fr. Balashowry is there for them until they are ready and able to move on.

The staff at the shelter have to be available at all hours of the day. Sometimes, there might be a knock at the door in the middle of the night, and someone needs to be ready to let the child in and look after them. The centre is open seven days a week and staff are always available. Fr. Balashowry and the staff need to provide care and guidance and show the children that they are loved. When told he was inspirational, Fr. Balashowry humbly responded, “It is God’s work”.



You will find that, in your local area, there are many Christians inspired by the Holy Spirit who witness to the love of God by their care for those in need. They may visit the sick in hospital or at home, provide food and shelter for the homeless like The Mother of Mercy Society in Liverpool. Sometimes, it is the small things that you do in your life, a kind word, a smile, lending a helping hand and perhaps doing something no one notices that is a real witness to the love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit.



**HOMELESS**  
STREET ANGELS

In Paul's letter to the people living in Ephesus he writes:

# Good News

Good News



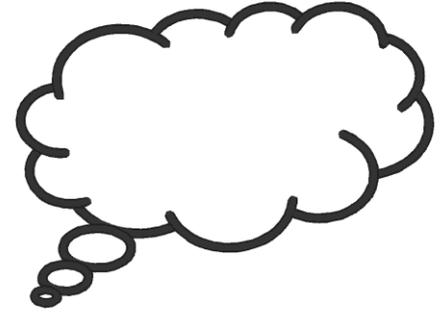
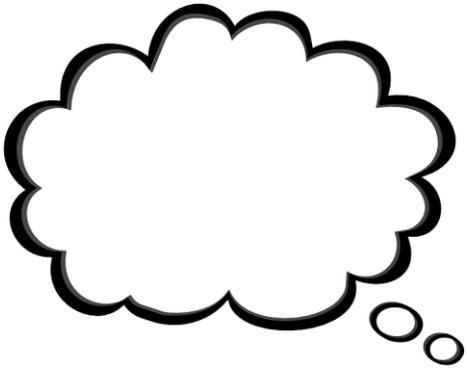
**God has made us  
what we are,  
and in our union with  
Christ Jesus he has  
created us for a life of  
good deeds,  
which he has already  
prepared for us to do.**



**Based on Ephesians 2: 10  
(Come and See)**



Good News



# How can you be a witness?

What would be difficult?

What are the risks?

What are the rewards?

How would your faith in  
God help you?

*Write a paragraph to explain your thoughts.*

# Show your learning...

Design an information poster or leaflet about being a modern witness.

Answer these questions in your poster:

- How can you be a witness?
- How does faith in God help?
- What are the rewards?
- What are the challenges?
- What qualities does a witness need?

# RESPOND

Remembering, celebrating and responding to the courage to be a witness and Pentecost: The Holy Spirit enables people to witness to the Easter message

## Remember

Start the session with a moment of quiet reflection. Light a candle and make the sign of the cross.

## Is there anything you wonder and ask questions about:

- Needing courage to be a witness?
- Knowing when to speak out?
- Becoming a witness, myself?

## Remember

- Jesus' appearance to his disciples after his Resurrection.
- The disciples as the witnesses of the Easter message.
- The Ascension of Jesus and his promise of the Holy Spirit.
- Stephen was chosen to spread the Word by his service.
- Lydia's conversion and her witness to the Easter Message.
- Examples of modern witnesses.
- How we can be witnesses.
- The witness of a local charity.

## **Rejoice**

Say a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to help you be a witness.

## **Renew**

Think about how to make an individual response to what you have understood and celebrated from your own experience and the experience of the Church community.

## **Apply your learning**

In what ways can I witness to love and care of others?

## **Some suggested ideas**

After a time of quiet reflection and prayer:

- Make a seven-day plan of a kind gesture each day.