

Life to the Full:

Living faith within our families

Monthly newsletter for parents: **May 2019**



“Look After My Sheep”

According to the church calendar, the season of Eastertide lasts for 50 days - 10 days longer than Lent! During the May assemblies and collective worship in school, children have celebrated Jesus’ miraculous resurrection, the cornerstone of our faith. They have marvelled with Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb; they have been detectives seeking evidence for Jesus’ resurrection through the story of Doubting Thomas; they have learned that, like in nature, sometimes our hearts can be cold and wintry, but that because of Jesus’ death and resurrection we are offered new life and new direction.

Yet after Jesus had died, some of His disciples went back to their former way of life - fishing. But then the risen Jesus appeared to them on the shore and had other ideas. Jesus intended them to continue His mission of spreading the good news, healing people, loving others and demonstrating God’s kingdom values in a society where those values were counter-cultural. Jesus once again facilitated a miraculous catch of fish and shared breakfast with His disciples. At the end of breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Look after my sheep.” Jesus was calling Simon Peter to return to the mission He had planned for Him.

In the ‘Fish Sandwiches’ assembly of the w/c 6th May, children learned that Jesus has entrusted us with this mission too! We are called to love and respect one another, to spread the good news and demonstrate Christlike values in both the big and small facets of life. In this assembly, children watched a drama which encouraged them to continue on their mission, even when it feels difficult. A version of this drama is below, which you might like to discuss with your child using the questions beneath.

Prayer

Jesus, thank you for the new life and new direction you give me.
Help me to remember my mission!

Pete Loves Dogs

Pete loved dogs. At least, he thought he did. Sometimes Pete took his neighbour’s dog, a large Labrador called Mitch, for a walk. Pete loved this, even though Mitch pulled on the lead and Pete had to chase after him. In fact, Mitch was only still when he was doing a poop. Which Pete then had to scoop up. Sometimes it was quite a relief to hand Mitch back to his owner.

But Pete wanted a dog of his own and he had been asking, begging, pleading with his mum for months. Eventually, Pete’s mum gave in and said YES. Pete was delighted! As soon as he set eyes on a beautiful beagle puppy at the pet rescue

centre, he knew this was the one and decided to call him Snoopy.

Snoopy was full of energy. He was constantly eating his Dad’s slippers, jumping on the furniture or barking at every cat he saw. Pete hadn’t realised Snoopy would be quite so energetic.

One day it was pouring with rain and the last thing Pete wanted to do was to go outside and take Snoopy for a walk. But Pete’s Mum reminded him what he had signed up for when he brought Snoopy home: Snoopy needed walking. Whatever the weather and whatever Pete felt like.

So from that day on, whether it was windy, raining or really hot, Pete and

Snoopy went walking. And whenever Snoopy went walking, he also had to poop. And Pete had to scoop it up. Pete had never been so tired. The puppy had turned Pete’s life upside down, but he had never felt so happy or so much love before. And Snoopy definitely loved him back.

Discussion points:

- Pete’s mission in this story is to look after a dog of his own. Was he prepared for the effort and sacrifice it would involve? How does it make him feel?
- What mission does Jesus call us to, and are we prepared?