

Knowing together

1 Peter 1:3-9

Peter writes to the dispersed communities of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia a message of grace, peace and encouragement in a time of persecution. He attributes some aspects of what they are experiencing to be a test of their faith – faith that is clear even without having seen the one in whom they believe.



Read this week's passage:

Living Scripture

'Even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable joy!' 1 Peter 1:8

It can be really difficult to know something we can't see. How can we be sure? Our faith in God can be similar. We can all have times of doubt in our lives. Even if our faith is strong and we feel close to God, we may doubt that a word or message is really from God. This is where support from our Christian family is so valuable in helping us understand. We know God together.

When do you feel closest to God? It can be helpful to understand the different types of spiritual styles; we all have one or two that work best for us. Are you word-based, maybe encountering God most in the Bible or a talk? Or symbol-based, finding artwork or nature profound? Does an emotional experience work for you, perhaps through music? Or perhaps you are inspired by acting on God's call to change the world for the better?

We can know God in different ways and support each other in this. Through this, we may experience the 'indescribable joy' Peter talks of (v.8).



First impressions

- What strikes you about this Palm Sunday procession?
- How does knowing Jesus together as a church community help us in our faith?
- How would you encourage a fellow Christian who is having a difficult time right now?



Discuss

Ask family members or friends with faith, how their faith was affected by difficult times they went through.

LISTEN

Choose a worship song or hymn that illustrates the message of good news from the reading and play it each day this week.

HUNT

Talk about the big words of today's reading: Praise, Glory, Faith, Heaven, Rejoice, Power, Hope, Love. Choose one each day this week to see if you can notice any signs of it.

Pray



Dear God,
thank you for the gift of faith,
which is more precious than gold.
Thank you for the different ways we have of knowing you.
Help us to leave everything that takes us away from you
at the cross.
Amen.

MAKE

Note down all the positive words in the reading. Make big signs to show each word individually and display them around your home as an encouragement.

