

Dear Families

I hope your week has been good and you have enjoyed the sunshine. Here is the Roots material if you would like to use it with your children.

Best Wishes

Val

What next? - Revelation 21.1-6

In this vision, John sees all things being renewed. The world of the creation story and the present day is replaced by a new world – heaven on earth. God lives among, and will be all things to, his people. This story is one of excitement and hope. Knowing the past and living the present gives great hope to John's view of the future.

We are reminded that the Lamb is the one who was and is and is to come – our lives matter in the here and now, and our work and worship are about us seeking to bring the future into the present. Our task is not only to follow Jesus to the holy city but to rebuild the city where we are, making the kingdom come everywhere and for all.

This week we explore what was and is and is to come.

A gathering prayer

God of all history,
who was, and is and is to come,
thank you that you are here with us today. **Amen**

Looking back, looking forward

- Children with adults can find a partner and stand opposite each other in a space. Decide on who will go first in each pair, and when you say 'go', that person will have two minutes to make a face or use body movements to show something that happened to them last week, and for their partner to guess what it is.
- Swap roles and repeat, this time asking them to mime something they are looking forward to.

Read the Bible Story

Stop and share

- Jerusalem is the capital city of Israel. In the Bible, it is a very special place because the Temple is there, and the Temple is God's house on earth.
- When somebody dies and all their family and friends are very upset, we say that they are in mourning.
- The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet are Alpha and Omega.

Talk together

- What are you looking forward to in the future?
- Why do you think John wrote down this special vision?
- How will your thoughts about today help you in the future?

Bible Story for Young Children

I saw a new heaven and a new earth.

The old had gone.

I saw the holy city coming from heaven.

I heard a loud voice say, 'God will be with his people.

There will be no more sadness.'

The old has gone.

Everything will be made new.

'What is'

A game about focusing on the present

You will need: paper, pens.

- Invite the children to sit in a circle and remind them that part of the passage says, 'I am making everything new.' God is already working in us and in the world right now.
- Invite each child to draw a simple picture. After one minute ask the children to pass their pictures to the left. Invite each recipient to change the original picture and make it into something new.

Talk to God: 'What is to come'

Reflect about journeying to the future

You will need: finger labyrinths (see template).

- Give a labyrinth to each child. Demonstrate how to take your finger on a slow walk round the pattern to the centre.
- Invite the children to make their journeys, thinking about where they are journeying to in the future, and how God is with us on that journey.
- Afterwards, ask: What do you hope will be 'next' for you? Was it easy to remember yesterday that God will be with us wherever we may go in the future?

'What was' – An activity for Home. Or you could make something out of junk materials

Make something new from something old

You will need: two old, clean socks per child; old fabric/felt, fabric glue.

- Prepare the materials, e.g. pre-cut out mouths/eyes, etc., using fabric/felt.
- Ask the children to choose materials to make a new creation from two socks. Their creation can remind them of heaven and earth, two elements coming together to make one new creation.
- Talk together about the life their socks had before: Where might the feet have been in the past? Now they are something new: Where might they go in the future?

A sending out prayer for children

Lord God, you are the same yesterday, today and for ever,
thank you that you have been with us here today
and promise to go with us into the week ahead. **Amen.**