

The unfolding truth

John 16.12-15

Jesus realises that the disciples are sad and anxious because he is going away. He comforts them by promising that he will still be with them in the future, but in a new way.

Now read **John 16.12-15** see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

The disciples reveal some very human emotions here. We all at times experience feelings of uncertainty, even panic. How will we cope, what should we do? We, like the disciples, can take comfort from the words of Jesus. He, through the Holy Spirit, will be our friend and guide, even in uncertain times.



Make a 'thank-you' card for someone who has shown you love or kindness. This could be in response for a particular deed or for their continued help or support. Children could be encouraged to do this, perhaps with the end of term in mind, for a teacher, childminder or activities leader.



In what ways can you carry on Jesus' work in the world today?



Every day this week, try to find a way of letting someone know that they are loved. You might do a chore for them, especially unprompted – even better if you know it is one they dislike doing! You could write a little note to slip into someone's lunch box or pocket, or fix a post-it note to their computer screen. What ideas can you come up with?



This story is told that, during World War 2, a church was bombed and mostly destroyed. In all the devastation, the local people were relieved to notice that a precious statue of Jesus remained standing. In all the devastation, the local people were relieved to notice that a precious statue of Jesus remained standing. Unfortunately, its hands had broken off (search the internet for pictures of this statue). A local sculptor offered to repair the statue, but church leaders declined the offer. It had occurred to them, anyone who looked at the broken statue and asked where Christ's hands were, could be reminded of the words of St Teresa of Avila that: 'Christ has no hands in the world but ours'. In what ways can you be Jesus' hands – i.e. carry on his work – in the world today?



Do an internet search to find and listen to the hymn: 'Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee'.
Thinking about the week ahead, what opportunities might there be to use your mind, head, hands, feet and heart to serve others?
Use this prayer every day this week:

Lord, let me be your feet today, going to people who need help.
Let me be your ears today, listening to those who need to talk.
Let me be your eyes today, noticing a job to be done or a person in trouble.
Let me be your lips today, speaking words of kindness.
Let me be your hands today, active and serving others.
Let me be your heart today, showing your love to the world. **Amen.**

REFLECT

Think about the ways God shows his kindness in the Bible, especially through Jesus, but also in the Old Testament. Remember that God promises to be with us always. In what ways are you aware of God's presence in your life and of God's kindness and goodness to you?

Choose a version of the passage to read. The first is the ROOTS version for children, the second is the NRSV text which may be suitable for older children, young people and adults.

Jesus was speaking to his disciples before he had to leave them. He said, 'I've still got so many things to say to you, but it would be too much for you to hear them all right now.'

Jesus continued, 'When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you to the truth. He will do this not just by speaking, but he will listen and tell you what he has heard, especially about the future.'

'The Spirit will bring glory to me by passing on my message to you,' Jesus said to his friends.

'I share everything with the Father,' he said, 'and the Spirit will share everything of mine with you.'

John 16.12-15



Did you know?

- This happens after Jesus had died and risen again. He was preparing to go back to heaven.
- Jesus talks about 'The Spirit of truth'. This is the Holy Spirit.
- 'Glory' is a word we use in church, but not often in everyday life. It means 'honour' and 'importance'.

John 16.12-15 (NRSV)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he

will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.'