

## Words to notice

### \* After Jesus had gone back to his Father in heaven:

The New Testament accounts of the Ascension express in picture language the belief of the early Jewish Christian community that God's dwelling place was above the heavens. For young children it is sufficient that they understand that Jesus went back to his Father. In *God's Story 2* and *God's Story 3* further details of the symbolic language are introduced.

pp.38-39 **We are God's children.** (based on Colossians 3:10-17)

#### Background

The letters in the New Testament are snapshots of the early Church, in many ways unlike and in many ways very like a parish family today. The teaching, encouragement and advice in these letters still inspire and guide Christians.

One of the key figures in the Acts of the Apostles is Paul. As Saul, a faithful Jew, he feared the new Christians and persecuted the followers of Jesus. Then, one day, he heard the message of Jesus and his life was changed. Saul became Paul, a tireless traveller and preacher.

We have several of his letters to the Christian churches he established in different parts of the Mediterranean world.

Colossae was in Asia Minor. It was not one of the churches founded by Paul, but when he heard news of the Christians there he wrote this letter to encourage and advise them.

## Look!

Help children to look at what makes each child different (size, colour of hair, skin, clothes) and what makes them the same (faces, hands, legs, hair, clothes).

What are the children doing?  
What is the message they are giving?  
Do you think they are happy?

#### Fill out the message

This was Paul's message to the Church family in Colossae:

You are God's people.  
God loves you.  
You are all different,  
but the important thing is  
that you are God's children.  
(based on Colossians 3:10-17)

What part of the message do you like?  
What is different about you?  
What are you happy about?

You might use photographs of family and friends and your visits to the supermarket, park etc to encourage children to look at differences and say thank you for God's love for everyone who shares God's world.

#### Remember

God makes everyone (pp.4-7); God is with each person from their beginning (pp.12-13); Jesus welcomes everyone (pp.30-31) and wants people to love one another (pp.32-33).

Links in *Here I Am* and *Walk With Me*  
Jesus keeps his promise: Serving ↔ Pentecost: Good News, Messengers/Witnesses, Energy,  
Holidays/Holydays  
We are God's children: World ↔ Universal Church:  
Neighbours, Treasures, Special Places, Difference

#### God's Story 1

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