

Bible reading Matthew 28:16-20

We can do this

THIS WEEK WE EXPLORE BEING RESOURCED TO JOIN GOD'S ADVENTURE.

This week's passage, often called the 'Great Commission', invites us to consider: What does it actually mean to adventure with Jesus? What does that look like in practice, and how might we do it? And how does the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – equip us and resource us to go out and live our lives for Jesus?



Bible notes

The disciples have gathered at the mountain (v:16). Some are still trying to grasp what has happened – they 'doubted' (v:17) – but most respond in the only way they can: worship.

The command here is not 'go' but 'make'. Going is inevitable; they cannot stay on the mountain. It is what they do that matters. And it implies that we who are disciples ourselves must do the same: disciples (v:16) make disciples (v:19). Simply put a disciple is a learner, someone who models themselves on their teacher. This is not just about knowing things but about our lifestyle, walking the way the master walks and doing what he does. This is a life-time's journey. Note the Trinitarian emphasis here – we are marking the start of a life with God, revealed in all his fullness as Father, Son and Holy Spirit – a God who redeems and empowers, who loves and invests in his people. Many of the people we meet as we go will be interested in all sorts of gods. One of our tasks as disciple-makers is to help them to bring the true God into focus. But, again, teaching is not just about information, knowing things. It's also about experience – learning what God is like as we encounter him powerfully in worship, prayer, Bible study, crisis and elation. God's voice calls us on to fresh and new experiences of his grace and love, day by day, as we walk with him. And this teaching mainly happens when we're with others – though personal Bible reading and prayer is part of it. The life of discipleship is a life in community where we learn from each other.

First impressions

- How does this image make you feel?
- What part of 'God's adventure' are you most excited about?
- How does Jesus/Holy Spirit help you and resource you in your day-to-day life?



CREATE

Use plasticine or play dough to mould something that represents a place or time where you feel that God is with you. Is it at home, at school, when you're playing with friends, or somewhere else? When you have done this, take a few moments to think about Jesus' promise that he/God is actually with us all the time and everywhere. No matter what we're going through, God is there for us.

Spend a few moments thinking about the coming week and all the tasks you must perform. Make a list of the tasks, or if that would be too long, focus on any difficult ones.

Then pray through your list, asking God to transform your to-do list into a 'can-do' list, and to help you especially with those more difficult tasks.



A prayer of adoration

On this Trinity Sunday, O God the Holy Trinity, we worship you – even though sometimes we have doubts and fears. You are the one we adore, you give meaning and purpose to our lives. You, O Holy Trinity, meet us and greet us, support and uphold us, provide for us and equip us, wherever we are on our journey in life. We adventure with you, into the known and unknown, but believing that you will always be with us, to the end of the age. **Amen.**

REFLECT



Get yourself a cup of water. Take a few sips and splash a little on your hand or forehead as a reminder of your own call to baptism. Play 'God of Justice' by Tim Hughes in the background, and think about this question: What resources do we need to be able to share God's love in the way Jesus calls us to do? If you do this with other people, when the song ends, all pour your remaining water into a single bowl as a symbol of being called to work together on the task Jesus has given us of making disciples.

<https://youtu.be/1TCh31xg4vA>

On Trinity Sunday we read how the disciples were sent out by Jesus to make disciples and baptize people 'in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'. Make a trinity badge to wear as a sign of God's presence. Do an internet search for 'Trinity symbols' – you might find a clover shape, a Celtic knot and a triquetra. Alternatively, you can design your badge any way you want. Draw it on card and cut it out, then tape a safety pin to the back so you can wear it. Think about what you will say when you are asked what it means or represents.

