

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

May 18 or May 21, 2023 • Ascension of the Lord • Matthew 28:16-20

He Is With Us

Jesus has lived his life, died, and risen. He has taught his disciples everything he had to teach. Before he leaves them for a final time, Jesus tells them to make disciples of the whole world, teaching all they have learned and baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Once heard a religious educator say that a disciple was like an apprentice. A disciple doesn't have to have it all together—she makes mistakes. She is someone who is still learning. An apprentice also needs mentoring. She needs someone to teach her and instruct her, but she also needs someone to show her how to be whatever it is she is apprenticing to be.

We are disciples of a trinitarian God, baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit. Our way into the divine life of this Trinity is through Jesus. Jesus, the Son, is our brother, our savior, and our mentor. He shows us how we can share in his divinity by teaching us to accept our humanity.

It was by living his life completely and embracing his death fully that Jesus became our way and our mentor. He accepted his limitations and embraced his vulnerability. He showed us how to live through pain and loss and die with questions left unanswered. And through it all, he shared his love with everyone: friends and enemies alike.

As disciples, we try, and sometimes fail, to live our lives as Jesus lived his, but like all good apprentices and disciples, we try again. A great thing to remember is that Jesus is not just the ideal—someone we look up to and try to emulate— Jesus is our mentor. He walks with us, helping us clean up our messes. He constantly shares his love and his life with us so that we can share it with others.

FAMILY RESPONSE

Discuss what qualities you like best in Jesus. Have each family member decide on one quality they would like most to have.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Which of Jesus' qualities would you most like to have? Why?