

## EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

### MAPS

#### EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

##### *Reflecting on the Gospel*

###### *The way, the truth and the life (John 14: 1-14)*

This passage from John's Gospel is part of the Farewell Discourse after Jesus' last supper with his disciples. Judas has just left the meal. As part of this discourse, Jesus refers to himself as 'the way'. The image of the journey is of great importance in John's Gospel, right from chapter one when the first disciple followed Jesus to see where Jesus was staying. Now in the present passage John shows how the journey itself is of greater significance than the destination. Jesus takes to himself the description 'I am the way.' Subsequent generations of Christians have known themselves as people of the way.

Our image to stimulate reflection on this passage where Jesus says 'I am the way' is *maps*.

##### *Extracts from the Gospel passage (John 14: 5-7)*

Thomas said to him,  
'Lord, we do not know where you are going.  
How can we know the way?'  
Jesus said to him,  
'I am the way, and the truth, and the life.  
No one comes to the Father except through me.  
If you know me, you will know my Father also.  
From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

##### *Gospel prayer*

Risen Lord,  
you are the way, the truth and the life.  
Keep us firm in your way,  
that we may hold to your truth  
and share in your risen life;  
now and always.  
Amen.

## **ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME**

### ***Reflecting and meditating***

Reflect on Jesus' teaching about the future. Judas has now left the last supper and the events of the betrayal, trial, and crucifixion have been triggered:

- what details in the passage catch your attention?
- what big ideas does the passage spark in your mind?
- what most touches your heart in the passage?
- what most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage?

### ***Thinking and talking***

- what do you understand by the journey on which Jesus is soon to embark?
- how do you read Thomas' question, 'How can we know the way?'?
- what do you make of Jesus' answer, 'I am the way'?
- how do you read, 'No one comes to the father except through me'?
- what does this narrative say for us today?

### ***Using your Bible***

The Farewell Discourse that John places after the conclusion of the last supper occupies the whole of chapters 14 to 17. Explore how the theme of journey has been introduced earlier in John's Gospel and persists through the Farewell Discourse:

- John 8: 21-22
- John 12: 26
- John 16: 2

Explore images of the way in the Old Testament:

- Psalm 1: 1
- Psalm 119: 25-32

### ***Exploring online***

- explore 'I am the way images'
- explore electronic maps of your own area
- explore cartography and map making
- explore pointing hand symbols

### ***Drawing on experience***

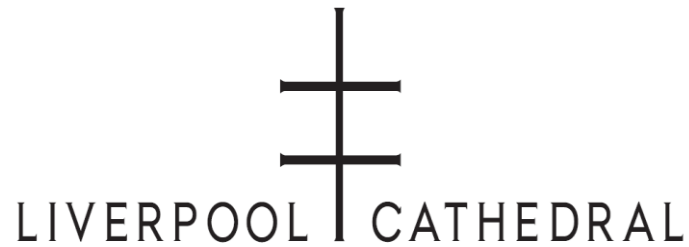
- what is your experience of maps?
- what has pointed you on the path with Jesus?
- what is your experience of Jesus being the way for you?

## THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) SUNDAY 10 MAY 2020

### *Creating and making*

- make signs in the shape of a pointing hand or of a signpost to place in your window, saying 'Jesus said, "I am the way"'
- make a three dimensional map of your local area: 'We use maps to show us the way'
- make a collage of the resources that keep us on the way with Jesus around a signpost: Jesus the way
- Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on Jesus the way

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) SUNDAY 10 MAY 2020



## EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to [Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk](mailto:Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk)

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales and the St Christopher's College Trust.



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