



Christian Education Bulletin Insert May, 2002

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This is a very rich month as far as special days which might be shared with children.

May 1, St Philip and St James

Philip and James are sometimes known as the May Day apostles. Not much is known about them. Philip came from Bethsaida in Galilee, like Andrew and Peter. He was the third disciple Jesus called. In John 1:43-52, he encourages Nathaniel to come and see Jesus. Talk with children about how they might help their friends to know about Jesus, perhaps by inviting them to come to Sunday School one day, or to a Vacation Bible Club if your church has one.

This James is sometimes known as James the Less. There are several men called James in the New Testament and it is easy to get confused. James the Less, James the younger and James the son of Alphaeus are probably all the same person! James, the son of Zebedee and brother of John, is sometimes called James the Greater. You might discuss how many of us are called by several names, our Christian name, our nickname, a 'pet' family name, maybe a school name to distinguish us from others in the same class who have the same name etc.

Do you think Jesus thought of James as "less"? He treated all people with the same respect, and knew that everyone's contribution is important.

May 9, Ascension Day

Today we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven to be with God, and how his mission was entrusted to his disciples. (Luke 24:45-53 and Acts 1:1-11) Read this quote from St Theresa of Avila together: "Christ has no body now on earth but ours, no feet

but ours. Ours are the eyes through which must look out Christ's compassion on the world. Ours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good. Ours are the hands with which he blesses now." What does this mean for us? On the weekend after Ascension Day, you might like to take a picnic to the top of a nearby hill, from where you get a good view, and think about the needs of the world.

Younger children might enjoy helping to make and eat "Heavenly jello." Make a blue coloured jello. (I believe Berry Blue and Berry Blast are available.) Watch the setting process carefully and just when it begins to thicken, stir in white mini marshmallows to represent clouds.

May 19, Pentecost This is known as the birthday of the church. To find out her age, subtract Jesus' age at his death from the year, 2002. Don't forget to wear red, or some other flame colour such as yellow or orange, to church this Sunday to symbolise the flames of fire which came to rest on the disciples when the Holy Spirit came upon them. Maybe you might have a church birthday cake at the coffee hour today, or perhaps you could have one at home. Read Acts 2:1-11. Talk about the ways we use fire, and the different kinds of fire e.g. a candle flame, a bonfire etc. Discuss how a small spark can start a great big fire. (In this connection and at this time of year, you might talk also about the dangers of forest fires and how easily these can be started) Tell children how the worldwide church began with a small group of frightened disciples hiding in a room in Jerusalem.

May 26, Trinity Sunday Make a Trinity spinning top. Use a compass, bowl or plate to draw a circle about 10 cm around on a piece of cardboard. Make a dot at the centre of your circle and draw 'spokes' from the centre to the circumference to divide the circle into three equal parts. Print the words, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one on each section, and colour each part differently. Cut the circle out. ...Poke a used match or strong round toothpick through the centre to about its halfway mark. Spin the top and watch how the three parts become one as it spins.

For Fun Teacher: "Jim, how many letters are there in the alphabet?" Jim: "Eighteen."

Teacher: "How do you come up with that answer?"

Jim: "Because E. T. went home in a U.F.O and the C.I.A went after him."