



Drawing Closer...

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SAY: Send Your Spirit upon us, Lord. Give us new life, so that we may praise You forever. Amen.

PRAY: Triune God, thank You for all You make and all You give. May we praise Your great name as long as we live! Amen.

BLESS: May the Lord Jesus give you His peace, fill you with His joy, and breathe into you His Spirit. Amen.

To Know Christ

♥ Take time one week this month to read a section of the creation account from Genesis 1 – 2:3. Say a short prayer each day thanking God for what he has made:

Monday – Day 1 of Creation – Genesis 1:1-5

Tuesday – Day 2 of Creation – Genesis 1:6-8

Wednesday – Day 3 of Creation – Genesis 1:9-13

Thursday – Day 4 of Creation – Genesis 1:14-19

Friday – Day 5 of Creation – Genesis 1:20-23

Saturday – Day 6 of Creation – Genesis 1:24-31

Sunday – Day 7 of Creation – Genesis 2:1-3

♥ June 2 is Ascension Day, a day marking the last appearance of Jesus to the disciples after his resurrection as well as His bodily ascension into heaven. It is the 40th day after Easter Sunday and always falls on a Thursday. Acts 1:12 suggests that Jesus' ascension took place from Mt. Olivet, located northeast of the town of Bethany.

Plan a trip (by car or foot) to a "high place" in your area. While there, discuss what it might have been like to see Jesus ascend into heaven and what it might be like when he returns. Say these words aloud: "Jesus has ascended, but he will return! Come, Lord Jesus, Come!"

Ponder/Discuss:

- What is the best gift you ever received?
- What is God's great gift to us? (Read Romans 6:23.) How is a gift different from a reward or a wage?
- Does this gift of God change the way you see and treat others? In what ways?

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- Share an experience you have had with wind or with fire.
- When God gave the gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, a strong wind came from heaven and tongues of fire came to rest on them (Acts 2:1-21). How were the believers changed?
- In what ways have you experienced the Holy Spirit's power in your life?

Making Christ Known

At Home:

♥ Jesus said that anyone who gave one of his least important followers a cup of cool water - just because that person was his follower - would be rewarded (Matthew 10:42). Even small acts of kindness to our fellow Christians do not escape God's attention! Sometime this month, set out a pitcher of water and a glass for each person. Take turns filling one another's glasses. Read Matthew 10:42 and say together this prayer: "*Lord Jesus, thank you for serving us. Please make us always ready to serve others, in big ways and in small ways. Amen.*"

♥ 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 tells us that the Holy Spirit gives special gifts to all believers to use in serving Him. Have a discussion about how members of your household are using their God-given gifts for the sake of others. Brainstorm ways in which you could use them more effectively. Help children realize that God has a plan for them to serve others now, not just in adulthood.

Community:

♥ Do you know someone who is going through a difficult period? Make up a card to send them, including the words of 1 Peter 5:7 ("Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you"). Sign the card as a household.

♥ Before Jesus was arrested, he prayed especially for his disciples, his closest friends during his time on earth (John 17:6-11). He prayed that his Heavenly Father would protect them, and that they would be united. In your home devotional times this month, give special focus to praying for your Christian friends. Contact them by phone or email to inquire about their prayer needs, and include these in your household prayer times.