

## Children's Sheet 24<sup>th</sup> May

### Introduction

Jesus' 'last speech' in John's Gospel talks of the relationship that exists within the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The challenge for us is not only to begin to understand and enter into that relationship, but also to play our part in it by glorifying (lifting up) God.

### Bible story

John 17.1-11: Jesus talks to the Father about being glorified and prays for his followers.

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed: 'Father, the hour has come. Now is the time for me to be glorified. You have given me power over everyone. I will give eternal life to all those you have given to me. They will know you as the one true God and they will know me as Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

'I have brought glory to you in the way I have lived my life on earth. But now I have finished the work you gave me to do. And so, Father, the time is right for you to glorify me in heaven.

'I have told the people that you sent me and that you are God. They believe in you and have been faithful to you. They know that the things I have taught them come from you, and that everything I have comes from you.

'I am not asking for the world's sake, but for the sake of those who belong to me. And all those who belong to me are yours. Now I am no longer in the world, but they are still in the world. I am leaving them to come to you. So I ask you, Holy Father, to protect them in your name, so that they may be as one, just as you and I are one.'

### Glossary

to glorify: to praise or honour greatly

eternal life: fullness of life in God's presence, both now and after death.

### Talk

*Spend time reflecting on the Bible passage, using the questions below as appropriate.*

#### Talk together with children

What does it mean to glorify someone or give them glory?

How do you think you could give Jesus glory in your life?

How does God demonstrate his glory in the world today?

#### Talk together with young people

How do you think you would respond if you were hearing Jesus pray this prayer?

What would you expect Jesus to pray about?

What do you think it means for Jesus to be glorified?

## Notes on the Bible story for parents and carers

As John's Gospel reaches the climax, here he records Jesus' last 'speech', which is in fact a prayer, crying out to his Father the desires of his heart, that through his actions to come God would be glorified.

There is something here of an expression of the relationship between Father, Son and Spirit lifting one another up to be glorified (vv.4-5: 'I glorified you...so now, Father, glorify me...'). This is something the theologian Richard Rohr refers to as the 'divine dance' of the Trinity, in which each part of the Trinity glorifies another part, and never itself.

The term glory is often associated with heavenly light, but in this passage several other meanings emerge. The crucifixion will be the hour in which Jesus is glorified (v.17). Jesus has also glorified his Father by finishing the work he was sent to do (v.4). Jesus even says that he has been glorified in his disciples (v.10). Glory is deeply relational and mutual: Jesus requests that the Father glorify the Son so that the Son may glorify the Father. Glory is something to bestow on another.

Here is the great challenge for us today, as followers of Jesus that we would continue to lift him up, and bring glory to God through our actions and our relationship with one another, echoing the relationship between the Trinity – as Jesus prayed: 'that they would be one, as we are one'.