**4.5 THE EARLY CHRISTIANS**

**CONCEPTS:** Mission, Church

**About this unit**

In this unit the children will learn about the mission entrusted by Jesus to his followers to tell everyone the good news. The children will focus on Peter who was chosen by Jesus to be leader of the disciples, the first Pope. They will also learn about Stephen, the first Christian martyr and St. Paul. The children will learn about Pentecost and reflect on the importance of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

**Where this unit fits in**

This unit builds on previous work in Year Three on Easter and Pentecost in the unit 3.5 ‘Celebrating Easter & Pentecost’.

**Prior learning**

It would be helpful if the children have some knowledge of Holy Week and Ss. Peter and Paul.

**Key Words**

Jesus, Mission, Good News, disciples, Sea of Galilee, fishermen, Peter, appears, resurrection, keys of the Kingdom, authority, Ascension, heaven, promise, Holy Spirit, Pentecost, tongues of fire, wind, Church, Upper Room, Stephen, arrest, martyr, stoning, Pope, Rome, Saul, Paul, persecute, conversion, missionary

**Links to ‘God’s Story’ and ‘Church’s Story’**

*God’s Story 2,* pp. 80-81, 84-85

*God’s Story 3,* pp. 130, 132-138

*Church’s Story 2*, pp. 74-79,

*Church’s Story 3,* 12-13, 20-25, 28-29, 111-113

**KEY SCRIPTURE**

John 21: 1-23 (The appearance on the shore of Tiberias)

Matthew 28: 18-20 (Mission to the world)

Luke 6: 12-16 (The choice of the Twelve)

Acts 1: 6-11 (The Ascension)

Acts 2: 1-13 (Pentecost)

Acts 6-7 (Stephen’s arrest, speech & death)

Acts 12: 1-19 (Peter’s arrest & miraculous rescue)

Acts 8: 1-3 (Saul persecutor of the Church)

Acts 9: 1-19 (The conversion of Saul)

**KNOWLEDGE SEQUENCE**

• Jesus entrusted his followers to tell everyone the good news (his mission).

• Peter was chosen by Jesus to be the leader of the disciples, the first Pope. They will also learn about Stephen, the first Christian martyr and the conversion of St. Paul.

• The feast of Pentecost and reflect on the importance of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

• We are called to change, like the early Christians.

• The virtue of ‘faith’ is central to the belief of all Christians, from the early church, to present day.

**WTL LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

• Know that Peter was chosen by Jesus to lead the disciples (become the Head of the Church) in the mission to spread the Good News

• Know that the Church began at Pentecost when Jesus sent his Holy Spirit to help his disciples

• Know how St Peter and St Stephen helped to spread the Good News by their lives and deaths

*• Reflect on how God brings good out of evil*

• Know how Saul became Paul and worked to spread the Good News

• *Know about the challenges of being an apostle*  
• *Know about Paul’s missionary journeys, including his faith and courage  
• Know some of the teachings of the apostle*

*•* *Reflect on how this teaching helps us today*

**BY THE END OF THIS UNIT PUPILS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO:**

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| Ask and respond to questions about how the disciples, especially Peter, felt before and after Easter | Make links between Peter’s three denials that he knew Jesus and Jn. 21: 15-17, using the source to express a point of view | Ask and respond to questions about how the disciples felt before and after Pentecost |
| Describe, with increasing detail and accuracy, how the disciples changed after the coming of the Holy Spirit and the beliefs that enabled them to change? | Suggest ways they live out the good news making links with beliefs | Describe, with increasing detail and accuracy, the life and work of key figures in the history of the People of God – e.g. Stephen and or the conversion of Saul to St Paul. |