**5.6 THE WORK OF THE APOSTLES / THE TRANSFORMING SPIRIT**

**CONCEPTS:** Holy Spirit, Discipleship, Church

**About this unit**

In this unit the children will learn that the apostles of Jesus were ordinary people who answered the call to follow Jesus. They will reflect on their own calling to be a follower of Jesus. They will know how the apostles changed when they received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and reflect on how they can be changed. The children will know something about how the early Christian community lived and learn that the life of the first apostles was not easy.

**Where this unit fits in**

This unit builds on work in Year 4 on the ‘Mission of the Church’ and the unit ‘Life in the Risen Jesus’.

**Prior learning**

It would be useful if the children have knowledge of Pentecost and have reflected on their own calling to live out the good news.

**Key words**

Disciple, follower, apostle, called, invitation, imitate, Good News, sacrament, Baptism, Confirmation, Kingdom of God, justice, repent, prophet, trust, Resurrection, Ascension, Pentecost, Holy Spirit, symbol, fire, wind, peace, transform, grace, Upper Room, fruits, opposition, persecution, gentile

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

*God’s Story 3,* pp. 130, 132-138

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

**KEY SCRIPTURE**

Mark 1: 16-20 (The Call of the first four disciples)

Mark 1: 29-31 (The Cure of Simon Peter’s Mother-in-law)

Mark 2: 14-17 (The Call of Levi and eating with sinners)

Mark 6: 7-9 (The Mission of the Twelve)

Acts 2: 1-11 (Pentecost)

Acts 2: 42-47 (The Early Christian community)

Acts 3: 1-10 (Peter cures the lame man)

Acts 12: 1-19 (Peter’s escape from prison)

**KNOWLEDGE SEQUENCE**

• Jesus chose ordinary people to be his disciples

• The disciples had particular strengths and weaknesses

• Jesus’ choice of disciples reveals Christian beliefs about God and people (God

chooses the weak and makes them strong, importance of grace

[God’s help], called to change, importance of forgiveness, importance of faith)

• Jesus taught the disciples to become the first Christian leaders

• Jesus commissioned the apostles with a mission to the world (Matthew 28:16-20)

• At Pentecost, the apostles were changed and empowered to carry out their mission

by the Holy Spirit

• Peter was transformed by the Holy Spirit; he worked miracles in the name of Jesus

• Peter became the first Pope (Matthew 16:18-19)

• Paul was transformed from persecutor of Christians to Christian apostle

• Paul went on missionary journeys to spread the good news

• Paul wrote letters to the communities he visited

• Paul’s letters are part of the New Testament

• Christians can learn about living as a Christian from Peter and Paul

**WTL LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

• Know and reflect on the calling to be disciples of Jesus

• Know that the apostles were ordinary people

• Know that the apostles were people with strengths and weaknesses just as we are

*(Ascension)*

• Know how the apostles changed when they received the Holy Spirit and reflect on how we can be changed *(Pentecost)*

• *Deepen our understanding of Peter, the apostle*

• *Reflect on how the Holy Spirit transformed him*

• Know about the early Christian community and our relationship to it

• Know and think about the persecution of the apostles

• Know and reflect on the preaching of the apostles

• Understand the transformation that took place in Paul

• *Reflect on how Paul’s teaching can help us*

*• Understand that the popes are successors of St. Peter*

*• Reflect on how they lead us to Jesus*

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

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| Make links between character strengths and weaknesses of the disciples and passages from scripture. What conclusions can you draw about discipleship? | Show some understanding of how the Holy Spirit changed the lives of the disciples by making links between beliefs and sources |
| Show knowledge and some understanding of the transformation that took place in Peter *or* Paul, his mission and his teachings | Use accurate religious vocabulary like disciple, apostle, Holy Spirit, Ascension, Pentecost, Gifts / Fruits of the Spirit appropriately and widely |