

Twelve chosen for Jesus' peaceful plan

**Verse:**

Jesus sends out his apostles
Matthew 10:1-4,6-14

**Aim:**

To know that disciples have a purpose



In today's session we meet the 12 disciples called by Jesus to follow him.

After spending time watching and learning from Jesus, they were called to step out in faith. Their purpose was to think and act like Jesus and show others how to follow him. As disciples today we are called to do exactly the same in the world we live in.

Each child will need:

- *Who would you choose?* handout
- Origami paper / paper cut into a square, pens/pencils
- Memory verse wristband
- Explore It Ideas handout

You will need:

- A flip chart or a large sheet of paper and pen
- To watch ***How to Make a Paper Home, House*** (kids paper arts and crafts) by GpnArts (4:44)



Start it

Ask the children to think of eight book or film characters and write the names on a flip chart. Then give them each a *Who would you choose?* handout. The children need to answer the questions on the sheet, using only the film and book characters listed on the flip chart. Unfortunately they can only use each character once. When each child has completed their sheet, discuss their answers and reasons for choosing that character.

Handout questions:

1. Who would you choose to help you save the world?
2. Who would you choose to help you with your schoolwork?
3. Who would you choose to look after your pet?
4. Who would you choose to be the Prime Minister?
5. Who would you choose to play you in a film about your life?
6. Who would you choose to be your schoolteacher?
7. Who would you choose to look after you if you were sick?
8. Who would you choose to come to your birthday party?



Sing it

Ask:

How many of Jesus' disciples can you name?

According to Matthew's Gospel they were: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Thomas, Matthew, Simon, a second James, Thaddaeus, Bartholomew, and Judas Iscariot. There are some discrepancies: John's Gospel mentions a Nathanael; Luke's Gospel mentions a second Judas; Mark and Luke both mention a Matthew/Levi.

Say:

Today we will be learning more about the 12 disciples called by Jesus. This song introduces us to them all.

The song lists: Simon Peter, Andrew, James, his brother John, Philip, Thomas, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus, Simon, Judas and Bartholomew.

Song

'Twelve Disciples' (song & dance) by Unida Christian Church Caridad (1:33)

Tell it

Say:

In our Start It activity today we tried to choose the perfect film/book character for the perfect job. Some of the characters matched the task perfectly and others not so much! Jesus had an important job that he needed his followers to do. Surely the Son of God would only choose perfect people to show others what it means to follow him? Let's find out who he called in Matthew 10:1-4.

Read:

‘Jesus called his 12 followers together. He gave them power to drive out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and sickness. These are the names of the 12 apostles: Simon (also called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot. Judas is the one who turned against Jesus.’

(Matthew 10:1–4 *ICB*)

Say:

The disciples spent a lot of time with Jesus, watching him carefully and learning from him.

Ask:

In what different ways do we learn about Jesus?



Say:

After spending lots of time with Jesus, watching how he cared for people and healed the sick, it was time for the disciples to do the same. They still had a lot to learn, but Jesus wanted them to start living out what he had taught them.

Read:

‘But go to the people of Israel. They are like sheep that are lost. When you go, preach this: “The kingdom of heaven is coming soon”. Heal the sick. Give dead people life again. Heal those who have harmful skin diseases. Force demons to leave people. I give you these powers freely. So help other people freely. Don’t carry any money with you – gold or silver or copper. Don’t carry a bag. Take for your trip only the clothes and sandals you are wearing. Don’t take a walking stick. A worker should be given the things he needs.

‘When you enter a city or town, find some worthy person there and stay in his home until you leave. When you enter that home, say, “Peace be with you.” If the people there welcome you, let your peace stay there. But if they don’t welcome you, take back the peace you wished for them. And if a home or town refuses to welcome you or listen to you, then leave that place. Shake its dust off your feet.’

(Matthew 10:6–14 *ICB*)

Ask:

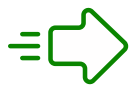
Jesus gave the disciples very specific instructions about what they should do as they travelled from town to town. Which ones surprised you? Explain why.

Say:

The disciples were instructed to share who Jesus was with those who wanted to listen and to walk away if someone didn’t want to hear what they had to say.

Discuss:

- How do you respond when somebody disagrees with your views about Jesus?
- In what ways can we stand firm in what we believe about Jesus, while respecting the views of other people?
- What special prayer did the disciples say as they entered every house they visited?
- How do you think our everyday lives would be different if we tried to bring peace into every situation?
- How would it impact your day at school if you brought the peace of Jesus into your classroom? Share what that would look like.

**Action it**

Show the children how to make an origami house and decorate it with the words 'Peace be with you'. They can take this home as a reminder of the greeting the disciples gave to the people in every house they visited.

As group leader you can either learn the steps to make the origami house, or you can use the clip with the children and follow the instructions together.

Video

How to Make a Paper Home, House (kids paper arts and crafts) by GpnArts (4:44)

**Pray it****Ask:**

What event do we remember on 5 November?

Video

Horrible Histories - Fawkes' 13 (Slimy Stuarts) by Horrible Histories(2:34)

Ask:

Why did Guy Fawkes and his friends want to blow up Parliament?

Say:

The Protestants treated the Catholics in a terrible way and a group of Catholics then decided to get revenge by plotting to blow up Parliament. Both groups said that they followed the teachings of Jesus. Think back to the story we read earlier in the book of Matthew.

Ask:

- What kind of things did Jesus call the disciples to do?
- Do you think Jesus would be OK with people being violent and hurting others? Explain your answer.

Say:

Even today there are people who say that they follow Jesus and yet treat others badly. Although we would never think of doing anything like Guy Fawkes did, we still need to be careful that we always treat others in the way that Jesus would.

Say:

Bringing peace to challenging situations often goes against how we might feel inside, but it's another way that we can be true disciples of Jesus.

Say:

Our memory verse for this month reminds us to think and act like Christ.

Give each child a memory verse wristband and share the verse together. Bring the session to a close in prayer, asking God to help each one of the children to think and act like Christ.

Memory verse

'Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others. In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.'

(Philippians 2:4-5 *ICB*)



Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.



Twelve chosen for Jesus' peaceful plan

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Verse:

Jesus sends out his apostles
Matthew 10:1-4,6-14



Aim:

To know that disciples have a purpose



Discover

In today's session, we started to discover more about the disciples of Jesus. Watch the clip to find out more. (Can you spot what Bartholomew's name has been changed to?)

God's Story: Jesus Calls Disciples by Crossroads Kids' Club



Memorise

Ask someone at home to help you memorise the names of the 12 disciples.

'Jesus called his 12 followers together. He gave them power to drive out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and sickness. These are the names of the 12 apostles: Simon (also called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot. Judas is the one who turned against Jesus.'

(Matthew 10:1-4 ICB)

**LIVING
OUT FAITH**



Song for the week

'Twelve Disciples' (song & dance) by Unida Christian Church Caridad



Memory verse

'Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others. In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.'

(Philippians 2:4-5 ICB)

Today's story is illustrated in this week's *Kids Alive!* The UK's only weekly Christian comic – filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more...and is now available to read online!

salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive.

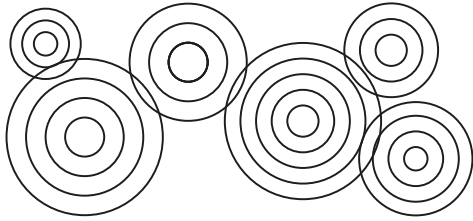


Children
& Youth

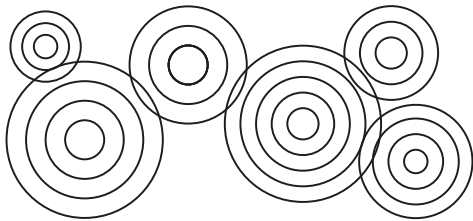
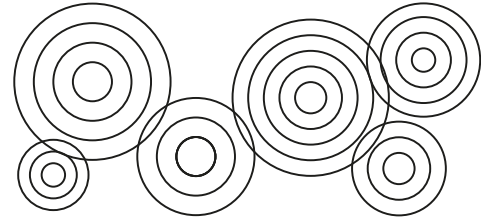


Who would you choose?

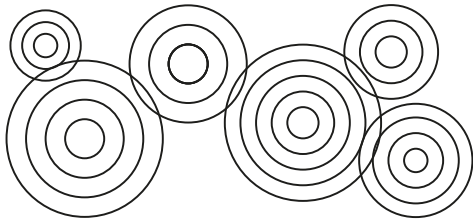
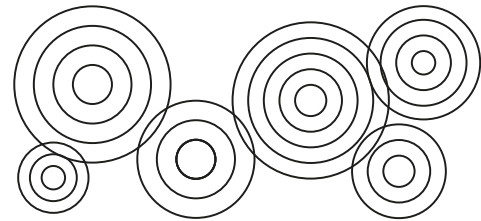
1. Who would you choose to help you save the world?
2. Who would you choose to help you with your schoolwork?
3. Who would you choose to look after your pet?
4. Who would you choose to be the Prime Minister?
5. Who would you choose to play you in a film about your life?
6. Who would you choose to be your schoolteacher?
7. Who would you choose to look after you if you were sick?
8. Who would you choose to come to your birthday party?



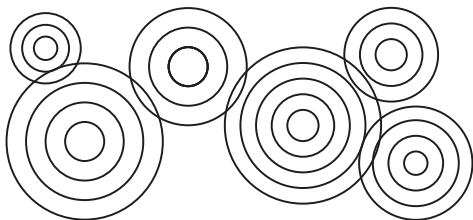
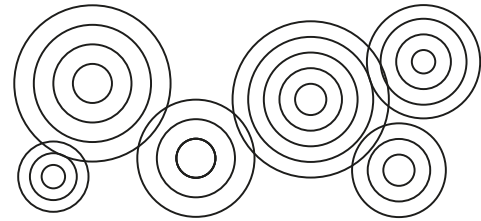
‘Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others. In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.’ (Philippians 2:4-5)



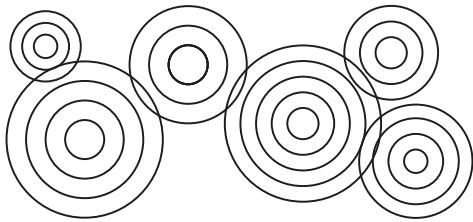
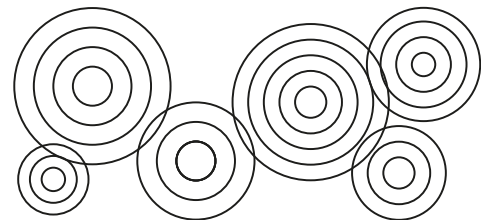
‘Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others. In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.’ (Philippians 2:4-5)



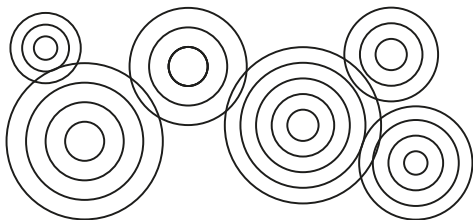
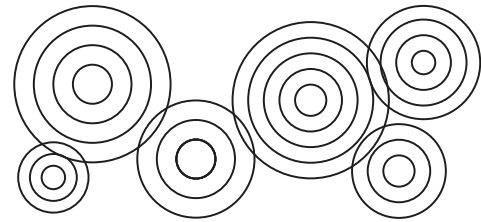
‘Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others. In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.’ (Philippians 2:4-5)



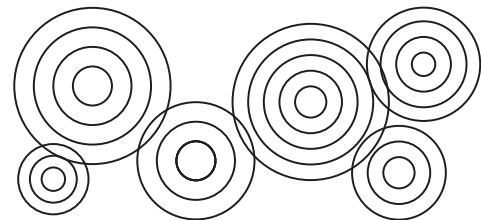
‘Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others. In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.’ (Philippians 2:4-5)



‘Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others. In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.’ (Philippians 2:4-5)



‘Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others. In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.’ (Philippians 2:4-5)



‘Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others. In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.’ (Philippians 2:4-5)

‘Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others. In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.’ (Philippians 2:4-5)

‘Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others. In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.’ (Philippians 2:4-5)

‘Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others. In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.’ (Philippians 2:4-5)

‘Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others. In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.’ (Philippians 2:4-5)

‘Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others. In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.’ (Philippians 2:4-5)

Jesus' extraordinary teaching

**Verse:**

Jesus teaches the people
Matthew 5:1-12, 43-48; 7:24-29

**Aim:**

To discover how Jesus teaches



In today's session we will look at some of the ways Jesus taught the people and how he teaches us today.

Jesus taught people in lots of different ways. He used stories and sermons and showed them how they should live their lives through the way he lived his.

Each child will need:

- *Wise Man, Foolish Man* handout
- Pens/pencils
- Explore It Ideas handout

You will need:

- Flip chart / large sheet of paper (optional) – see Action It



Start it

Say:

Today we are going to learn about Jesus and the way that he taught people.

Discuss:

- Who is your favourite teacher?
- Why do you like them so much?
- How do they make learning fun and interesting?
- What kinds of things make learning difficult for you? How could your teacher help?

Say:

Jesus understood how people learn and would use lots of different methods to help them understand what he was saying. In today's session we will look at a few examples and discover why Jesus was such a great teacher.



Sing it

Say:

Jesus used a variety of ways to teach people. One day he gathered the disciples and a lot of other people together on a hillside. He taught them what it means to be happy or blessed. Many of the things he said went against the ways of the world. Jesus said that those who are humble will be happy and those who are treated badly for doing good will be happy. The people listening had never heard anything like this before.

Say:

Our song for today is based on Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:1-12.

Song

'Beginner Motions' (The Beatitudes) by Saddleback Kids (2:34)



Tell it

Say:

We have just sung some of the words of Jesus that he taught to the people on the hillside. These words are part of the Sermon on the Mount. Toward the middle of the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said this:

Read:

'You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbour and hate your enemies." But I tell you, love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you. If you do this, then you will be true sons of your Father in heaven. Your Father causes the sun to rise on good people and on bad people. Your Father sends rain to those who do good and to those who do wrong. If you love only the people who love you, then you will get no reward. Even the tax collectors do that. And if you are nice only to your friends, then you are no better than other people. Even people without God are nice to their friends. So you must be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.'

(Matthew 5:43-48 ICB)

Discuss:

- The people had always been taught to love their neighbour and hate their enemy. What did Jesus teach and how was it different?
- What do you think the people thought when they heard this new message from Jesus?
- What do you find challenging about loving your enemies?

Say:

Jesus didn't just teach by sharing sermons and stories. He also showed the people how to live like him. Watch the clip to find out more.

Video

God's Story: Sermon on the Mount by Crossroads Kids' Club (4:34)

Ask:

How did Jesus show his love for others through both his words and actions?

Say:

In the clip there are lots of examples of Jesus not just talking about showing love to others but following up his teaching with action. Our memory verse reminds us that we need to live our lives like Jesus. Let's share it together.

Memory verse:

'Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others. In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.'

(Philippians 2:4-5 ICB)



Action it

Say:

One of the ways Jesus taught the people was by using stories called parables. By creating a picture in their minds, Jesus was able to communicate what it looked like to follow him. He often used story settings that the people were familiar with, to help them understand what he was trying to say.

Give each child a copy of the 'Wise man, Foolish man' handout and read through the story together (shown below).

Read:

'Everyone who hears these things I say and obeys them is like a wise man. The wise man built his house on rock. It rained hard and the water rose. The winds blew and hit that

house. But the house did not fall, because the house was built on rock. But the person who hears the things I teach and does not obey them is like a foolish man. The foolish man built his house on sand. It rained hard, the water rose, and the winds blew and hit that house. And the house fell with a big crash.

‘When Jesus finished saying these things, the people were amazed at his teaching. Jesus did not teach like their teachers of the law. He taught like a person who had authority.’

(Matthew 7:24-29 ICB)

Ask:

What do you think Jesus is trying to teach us in this story?

Planning

The aim of this activity is for the children to decide how they would tell this story to the children in their class at school. You may want to discuss a range of ideas with them and note them on a flip chart. They could create a song, comic strip, Lego animation, drama script etc. At this stage, the aim is to decide on a way to tell the story and plan how they could create it. The Wise Man, Foolish Man handout gives them the opportunity to carry on with this activity at home. Encourage them to be as creative as possible and think of ways to hold the interest of their classmates while communicating the important message of the story.

When they have had sufficient time to complete the activity, share the ideas as a group.



Pray it

Ask:

Think back to our session last week. What prayer did Jesus ask the disciples to make each time they entered someone’s home?

Say:

Jesus asked the disciples to say, ‘Peace be with you.’ Throughout all his teaching Jesus showed us how to feel peaceful inside. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught us how to be at peace with ourselves and others.

To bring our session to a close we are going to have a time of peace and quiet to think about everything Jesus has taught us today.

Prayer

It is up to you how you would like to bring this session to a close. The link for the song ‘Deep Peace’ is provided below and you may want to give the children a quiet space to rest and pray.



Alternatively, you could use this song for a time of remembrance. You may want to give the children the opportunity to remember the sacrifice of others in bringing about peace to the world or discuss how Jesus encourages us to be peacemakers.

Listen

‘Deep Peace’ by Libera uploaded by Warner Classics (3:39)

When the song has finished, bring the session to a close in prayer.

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.



Jesus' extraordinary teaching

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Verse:

Jesus teaches the people
Matthew 5:1-12, 43-48; 7:24-29



Aim:

To discover how Jesus teaches



Create

In this week's Explore It session you planned a creative way to tell the story of the wise man and the foolish man, found in Matthew 7:24-29. Now you can bring those plans to life. Using your ideas from the session, create your own version of this parable of Jesus.



Share

Now that you have created your own version of the parable of the wise man and the foolish man, it's time to share it with others. If there is an opportunity, you could ask your teacher if you could share your story with the rest of the class. If not, the people at home would love to hear it, or you could bring it to your next Explore It session to show the rest of the group. Maybe others at your church would like to see it as well.



Song for the week

'Beginner Motions' (The Beatitudes) by
Saddleback Kids



Memory verse

'Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others. In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.'

(Philippians 2:4-5 /CB)

**LIVING
OUT FAITH**

Today's story is illustrated in this week's *Kids Alive!* The UK's only weekly Christian comic – filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more...and is now available to read online!

salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive.



Children
& Youth

Explore it

Wise Man, Foolish Man

‘Everyone who hears these things I say and obeys them is like a wise man. The wise man built his house on rock. It rained hard and the water rose. The winds blew and hit that house. But the house did not fall, because the house was built on rock. But the person who hears the things I teach and does not obey them is like a foolish man. The foolish man built his house on sand. It rained hard, the water rose, and the winds blew and hit that house. And the house fell with a big crash.

‘When Jesus finished saying these things, the people were amazed at his teaching. Jesus did not teach like their teachers of the law. He taught like a person who had authority.’

(Matthew 7:24-29/CB)

How will you tell the story?

The disciples are terrified



Verse:

Jesus calms the storm
Mark 4:35-41



Aim:

To ask who we think Jesus is



In today's Bible story the disciples faced a terrifying storm.

Despite the crashing wind and waves, Jesus stayed fast asleep on the deck of the boat. The disciples were terrified and yet, as Jesus calmed the storm, they were gripped with a new fear. They realised that Jesus truly was the Son of God.

Each child will need:

- Colouring pencils and paper
- Sticky tape, a straw, glue, scissors, coloured card/paper (with two shades of blue – one with a waved-shaped edge)
- Strips of blue paper shaped like waves – see Pray It
- Explore It Ideas handout

You will need:

- *To watch Jesus Calms the Storm Craft* by North Douglas Church (1:48)



Start it

Say:

We're going to watch a clip from the film *The Incredibles* that will give you lots of examples of superhero powers.

Video

Edna Says No Capes! (The Incredibles movie clip 2004) uploaded by KinoCheck Family (1:32)

Ask:

If you could choose any superpower, what would it be?

Once the children have decided on their superpower, give each of them a piece of paper and some colouring pencils. Deciding whether they want to heed Edna's warning about capes, give the children time to sketch their own superhero costume based on their chosen superpower. Share their ideas together.

Sing it

Say:

Superheroes in comic books often have flashy costumes and enjoy being the centre of attention as they save the world. Jesus came to save us all, but he couldn't be further away from the glitz of the superhero world. His power doesn't come from a spider bite, or the power source of a far-off planet.

Say:

The amazing power of Jesus created the universe and saves every one of us. Superheroes are fictional, but we know that Jesus existed from the people who met him and those who wrote about him. His life, death and resurrection are events which have the power to change the world, saving us from anything we fear. He is not a hero with muscles and armour who would enter a fight; instead his life of love in action showed us God himself.

Song

'Jesus You're My Superhero' by Whiplash Studios (3:02)

Tell it

Say:

In today's story we discover that although Jesus was the Son of God, he was also fully human. After a long day of teaching, Jesus was tired and needed to rest.

Ask:

- If Jesus was a man with special power, why did Jesus need a rest?
- Can you think of a time where God made the choice to rest?

Say:

When God created the world, he took time to rest. Jesus also shows us how important it is to rest when we are tired.

Ask:

Do you find it easy to take time to rest? If so, how?



Say:

In the Gospel of Mark we read about a time when Jesus slept soundly, resting after a busy day of teaching. His disciples, on the other hand, were wide awake and filled with fear and dread. Let's find out what happened.

Video

Jesus Calmed the Storm (Children's Bible Story, Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25) by Apollo Baptist (1:30)

Read:

'That evening, Jesus said to his followers, "Come with me across the lake." He and the followers left the people there. They went in the boat that Jesus was already sitting in. There were also other boats with them. A very strong wind came up on the lake. The waves began coming over the sides and into the boat. It was almost full of water.'

(Mark 4:35-37 ICB)

Ask:

Imagine that you were on that boat. How do you think you would have felt? What would you have done?

Read:

'Jesus was at the back of the boat, sleeping with his head on a pillow. The followers went to him and woke him. They said, "Teacher, do you care about us? We will drown!"'

(Mark 4:38 ICB)

Ask:

How do you think the disciples felt when they saw Jesus fast asleep?

Say:

In that moment the disciples were filled with panic. The ship was in danger of sinking, and the person who could save them was taking a nap. The disciples were afraid of the storm and didn't know what to do.

Ask:

- The disciples accused Jesus of not caring about them. Do you think that was true?
- Why do you think the disciples said that to Jesus?

Say:

Sometimes when we are going through a difficult time we may think that Jesus doesn't care. The truth is, Jesus cares deeply about every one of us.

Read:

'Jesus stood up and commanded the wind and the waves to stop. He said, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind stopped, and the lake became calm.'

‘Jesus said to his followers, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”’

(Mark 4:39–40 *ICB*)

Say:

By this point the disciples had spent a lot of time with Jesus and had seen him perform many miracles. Jesus had healed the sick but they had never seen him calm the wind and the waves. They were amazed, but the Bible describes another feeling.

Read:

‘The followers were very afraid and asked each other, “What kind of man is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”’

(Mark 4:41 *ICB*)

Ask:

Why do you think the disciples were very afraid even when the storm had calmed?

Say:

At that moment, the disciples began to realise just how powerful Jesus was. So powerful, that even the wind and waves obeyed him.

Action it

For this activity the children are going to make their own boat on the water. The clip below is for the leader’s guidance only and does not need to be used with the group.

Video

Jesus Calms the Storm Craft by North Douglas Church (1:48)

When the children have completed the craft activity, remind them of the memory verse for this month and share it together.

Memory verse

‘Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others. In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.’

(Philippians 2:4–5 *ICB*)

Discuss

Discuss with the children how the disciples could have chosen to follow Jesus’ lead and remained calm in a fearful situation. The memory verse encourages us to think and act like Christ. Give the children time to write Philippians 2:5 in the waves of their craft activity.

Pray it

For this activity the children will need slips of blue paper cut out in the shape of a wave, or they can cut the shape themselves. Discuss with the children what they are fearful about. Remind them that we follow Jesus who can calm the storms in our lives. The situations we are afraid of may not disappear, but Jesus is there with us in the storm.

Give the children the opportunity to write a prayer on their waves. They can ask God to calm their fears and pray about a specific situation. A link to a song is provided below if you would like to use it as part of the activity. When the music finishes, and if the children feel comfortable, then you can share the prayers together.

Listen

‘Still’ (church online) by Hillsong Worship (5:02)

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.



‘Explore It!’ is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)

The disciples are terrified

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Verse:

Jesus calms the storm
Mark 4:35-41



Aim:

To ask who we think Jesus is



Discover

It can sometimes be a little confusing when the Bible talks about the disciples feeling afraid around Jesus. Watch the clip to help you get a better understanding of what it means to fear the Lord.

The Fear of the Lord (a Sunday school lesson for kids!) by Douglas Talks



Bake

With the help of someone at home, use the following recipe as a starting point to create some wave biscuits. You can use blue food colouring to create icing waves on the top of your biscuits.

www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/icedbiscuits_3054



Song for the week

'Jesus You're My Superhero' by Whiplash Studios



Memory verse

'Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others. In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.'

(Philippians 2:4-5 ICB)

**LIVING
OUT FAITH**

Today's story is illustrated in this week's *Kids Alive!* The UK's only weekly Christian comic – filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more...and is now available to read online!

salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive.



Children
& Youth

John glimpses the ending

**Verse:**

John sees Heaven

Revelation 4:1-3; 21:1-4,22-27; 22:1-5

**Aim:**

To learn about John's vision of the ending



In today's session we will discover more about what John saw and the promises God made to all his people.

The book of Revelation records the visions given by God to Jesus' disciple John. It paints a picture of a world with no sadness, pain or tears.

Each child will need:

- *Revelation* handout
- Painting, paper and craft materials – see Action It
- Explore It Ideas handout



Start it

Say:

In today's Bible story lots of precious gemstones are mentioned. Have a go at the quiz to see how many precious gems you recognise.

Video

Learn the names of gemstones in English (Fun GK quiz) by EdMo Tests and Quizzes (3:10)

Ask:

Which was your favourite gemstone? Why do you like it so much? Once the children have decided on their superpower, give each of them a piece of paper and some colouring pencils. Deciding whether they want to heed Edna's warning about capes, give the children time to sketch their own superhero costume based on their chosen superpower. Share their ideas together.

Sing it

Say:

Throughout this month, we have discovered more about Jesus and what it means to follow him. Our song for today reminds us how we can live like Jesus in this world.

Song

'Wanna Be Like Jesus' (official lyric video) by YancynotNancy (3:28)

Tell it

Say:

One of Jesus' disciples was praying one day and heard a voice saying, 'Write down what I am showing you and share it.' The disciple John saw a picture of Jesus and wrote it down – his writings became known as the book of Revelation. Let's watch the clip to find out more.

Video

God's Story: Re-Creation by Crossroads Kids' Club (3:45)

Watch:

0:00 to 0:53 '...and even sent his angel to visit a man named John and show him, so John could write it down for us.'

- When God created the world, what was it like? What might it feel like to live there?
- What did God promise to do?
- What would your idea of a perfect world look like? Describe what it would be like to live there.

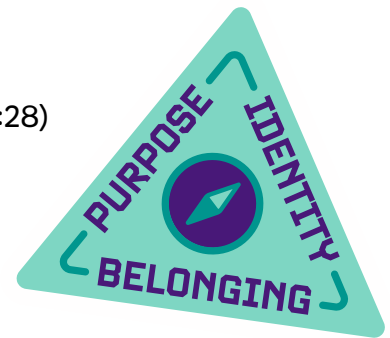
Say:

God gave John a vision of what this new world would be like. John wrote down what he saw in the book of Revelation.

Read:

'After this I looked, and there before me was an open door in heaven. And I heard the same voice that spoke to me before. It was the voice that sounded like a trumpet. The voice said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this." Then the Spirit took control of me. There before me was a throne in heaven. Someone was sitting on the throne. The One who sat on the throne looked like precious stones, like jasper and carnelian. All around the throne was a rainbow the colour of an emerald.'

(Revelation 4:1-3 ICB)



Ask:

- What do you think of the place John is describing? Would you like to go there?
- Who do you think was sitting on the throne?

Watch:

0:53 to 1:40. ('...but also because there will be no pain.')

Say:

In the book of Revelation we find a detailed description of John's vision. Listen to the words John wrote and try and imagine the picture for yourself.

Read:

'Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had disappeared. Now there was no sea. And I saw the holy city coming down out of heaven from God. This holy city is the new Jerusalem. It was prepared like a bride dressed for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne. The voice said, "Now God's home is with men. He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them and will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain. All the old ways are gone."'

(Revelation 21:1-4 *ICB*)

Ask:

What would it be like to live in a world where there is no death, sadness, crying or pain?

Watch:

1:41 to end.

Ask:

- What other promises has God made about the new world he will create?
- Who do you think will be able to live in the new world created by God?

Say:

In Revelation 21:27 it says:

'Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life will enter the city.'

Say:

This means that anyone who believes in Jesus will be able to enter the city. It's not just people who have been Christians their whole lives; it's anyone who decides to follow Jesus. As Jesus hung on the cross, he met a man who was being punished for a crime. Even though the man only believed in the very last moments of his life, Jesus said that he would see the man in paradise (Luke 23:43). All we need to do is believe in Jesus.

Action it

Give the children the Revelation handout which shows three Scripture extracts from the visions of John. Ask the children to use one of the descriptions to create a picture of the vision described by John. If possible, give them a range of media to complete this task and encourage them to get creative. Read through each of the extracts first and discuss ideas for their pictures.

Pray it

Say: In today's session we read about the visions given by God to Jesus' disciple John. We read about a world where there is no death, no tears, no sadness. We pray it will come soon, but for now we live in a world where these things exist. Jesus taught us how to live in this world and be like him. Our memory verse reminds us how to be followers of Jesus in a world where pain and suffering still exist. Let's share the memory verse together.

Memory verse

'Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others. In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.'

(Philippians 2:4-5 ICB)

Encourage the children to think of an area in their life where they need to think and act more like Jesus. Ask each child to finish the prayer:

'Dear Jesus, help me to think and act like you when ...'

When each child has shared their sentence, bring the session to a close in prayer.

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.



'Explore It!' is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)

John glimpses the ending

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Verse:

John sees Heaven

Revelation 4:1-3; 21:1-4,22-27; 22:1-5



Aim:

To learn about John's vision of the ending



Discover

The book of Revelation is one of the most challenging books to understand in the Bible. Watch the clip to help you understand a little bit more about this mysterious book.

Archie: Revelation by Crossroads Kids' Club



Discuss

Share your memory verse with someone at home and discuss together how you can both live out the message of Philippians 2:4-5. Perhaps plan to do one act for somebody else, like the washing-up for a parent or telephoning a relative to ask how they are. With an adult, promise to pray for each other over the coming week as you both try to think and act like Christ.



Song for the week

'Wanna Be Like Jesus' (official lyric video) by YancynotNancy



Memory verse

'Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others. In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.'

(Philippians 2:4-5 /CB)

**LIVING
OUT FAITH**

Today's story is illustrated in this week's *Kids Alive!* The UK's only weekly Christian comic – filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more...and is now available to read online!

salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive.



Children
& Youth

Explore it

Revelation

After this I looked, and there before me was an open door in heaven. And I heard the same voice that spoke to me before. It was the voice that sounded like a trumpet. The voice said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this.” Then the Spirit took control of me. There before me was a throne in heaven. Someone was sitting on the throne. The One who sat on the throne looked like precious stones, like jasper and carnelian. All around the throne was a rainbow the color of an emerald.’

(Revelation 4:1-3 /CB)

‘Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had disappeared. Now there was no sea. And I saw the holy city coming down out of heaven from God. This holy city is the new Jerusalem. It was prepared like a bride dressed for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne. The voice said, “Now God’s home is with men. He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them and will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain. All the old ways are gone.”’

(Revelation 21:1-4 /CB)

‘Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life. The river was shining like crystal. It flows from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the street of the city. The tree of life was on each side of the river. It produces fruit 12 times a year, once each month. The leaves of the tree are for the healing of all people. Nothing that God judges guilty will be in that city. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be there. And God’s servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. There will never be night again. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun. The Lord God will give them light. And they will rule like kings forever and ever.’

(Revelation 22:1-5 /CB)