

Jesus Chooses the Twelve



Bible verses:

Luke 5:1-11



Aim:

To discover how Jesus invited his first disciples to follow him and consider what it means for us to follow Jesus



Today's fruit:

Faithfulness



In this session we will explore the moment Jesus called his first disciples.

Through the story in Luke 5, we will discover how ordinary fishermen were invited to follow Jesus and how they responded with faithfulness, choosing to trust him and leave behind what they knew. We will be encouraged to think about what it means to follow Jesus in our own lives and how the Holy Spirit helps us to grow in faithfulness as we say yes to him each day.

Each child will need:

- A 'Memory Verse Wristband' handout
- 'Who would you choose?' handout
- A4 paper
- Pens or pencils
- 'Explore it Ideas' handout

You will need:

- The 'Fruit of the Spirit - Faithfulness' sign - download from **Salvationist**



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:

- Who would you choose to help you save the world?
- Who would you choose to help you with your schoolwork?
- Who would you choose to look after your pet?
- Who would you choose to be Prime Minister?
- Who would you choose to play you in a film about your life?
- Who would you choose to be your schoolteacher?
- Who would you choose to look after you if you were sick?
- Who would you choose to come to your birthday party?

Say:

Today, we're going to hear about the moment Jesus called some of his very first followers. They weren't famous or important. They were just ordinary people going about their everyday jobs. Jesus chose them and invited them to follow him.



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 (or Jude); Mark and Luke both mention a Matthew/Levi.

Say:

Today we're starting to learn about the people Jesus called to follow him. 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.

Watch:

'**Twelve Disciples**' (Song and Dance) by Unida Christian Church Caridad



Share it

Say:

Today we're going to hear about the moment Jesus called some of his very first followers.

As you watch the clip about their story, see if you can spot:

- What Jesus asks them to do.
- How they respond.
- What happens in the end.

Watch:

Jesus and His First Disciples (Bible Story) by Lifekids (2:27)

Say:

The clip showed us the whole story, but let's look more closely at what actually happened. Jesus found a group of tired, frustrated fishermen.

Read:

When Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Take the boat into deep water. If you will put your nets in the water, you will catch some fish.'

Simon answered, 'Master, we worked hard all night trying to catch fish, but we caught nothing. But you say to put the nets in the water; so I will.'

(Luke 5:4-5 ICB)

Ask:

- What had the fishermen been doing all night?
- How do you think they were feeling at this point?
- What do you notice about Simon's response?

Say:

Simon had every reason to say no to Jesus. He was tired, and he'd already tried fishing all night. What Jesus asked him to do didn't make any sense, but he did it anyway.

Display the 'Fruit of the Spirit - Faithfulness' sign.

Say:

Simon shows us something really important. He chose to trust Jesus, even when he didn't fully understand what was happening. That is what faithfulness looks like.

Ask:

How do you think the Holy Spirit grows faithfulness in our hearts?

Say:

We can respond like the fishermen did and trust in Jesus, even when we're uncertain what will happen.

Read:

The fishermen did as Jesus told them. And they caught so many fish that the nets began to break. They called to their friends in the other boat to come and help them. The friends came, and both boats were filled so full that they were almost sinking.

(Luke 5:6-7 ICB)

Ask:

- What happened when they trusted Jesus?
- What does this show us about Jesus?

Say:

When they trusted Jesus, something amazing happened. The story didn't stop there.

Read:

The fishermen were all amazed at the many fish they caught. When Simon Peter saw what had happened, he bowed down before Jesus and said, 'Go away from me, Lord. I am a sinful man!' James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were amazed too. (James and John were Simon's partners.)

Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid. From now on you will be fishermen for men.' When the men brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

(Luke 5:8-11 /CB)

Ask:

- What did the fishermen leave behind?
- Why do you think that might have been difficult?
- What do you think it means to 'follow Jesus'?

Say:

The fisherman left their nets and their boats and followed Jesus. They didn't have everything figured out, but they chose to follow Jesus anyway.

Ask:

What might it look like for us to follow Jesus today?

Say:

Following Jesus sometimes means leaving things behind too. Not nets and boats like the fishermen, but doing things like:

- choosing Jesus' way instead of our own.
- letting go of things that get in the way.
- trusting him even when it feels difficult.

This is how the Holy Spirit grows faithfulness in us, helping us to trust Jesus and say yes to him each day.

Action it

Say:

In the story, the fishermen left their boats behind to follow Jesus. Their boats were part of their everyday life.

We're going to make our own paper boats. As you make your boat, think about your everyday life, the places you go, and the people you see.

Each child will need a sheet of A4 paper. Play this short clip showing how to make an origami

boat. Pause if needed to help the children follow each step.

Ask the children to write their name on their boat and, if they would like to, the phrase, 'I will follow Jesus'.

Watch:

How to make a Paper Boat – One Little Project (1:40)

Say:

This boat can remind you that wherever you go, you can choose to follow Jesus.

Pray it

Say:

In today's session we heard how the first disciples chose to follow Jesus. They didn't have everything figured out, but they chose to trust him and say yes.

Give every child a memory verse wristband.

Say:

This month, we're going to learn a memory verse that helps us think about what it means to follow Jesus in our everyday lives.

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)

Ask the children to suggest one way that they could think or act like Jesus this week.

Pray:

Jesus,

Thank you for inviting us to follow you.

Help us to trust you, to say yes to you, and to follow you every day of our lives.

Amen.

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)

Jesus Chooses the Twelve

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:
Luke 5:1-11



Aim:
To discover how Jesus invited his first disciples to follow him and consider what it means for us to follow Jesus



Today's fruit:
Faithfulness



Watch

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?)

Watch:
God's Story: *Jesus Calls Disciples* by
Crossroads Kids' Club
www.youtube.com/watch?v=j1N6YNFhpp4



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)



Song for the week

Watch:
'Twelve Disciples' (Song and Dance) by
Unida Christian Church Caridad
youtube.com/watch?v=dVrVZzj8yBU



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

‘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)

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(Philippians 2:4-5)



Explore it

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?

Jesus Teaches



Bible verses:

Matthew 5:1-12,43-48; 7:24-29



Aim:

To discover how Jesus teaches



Today's fruit:

Gentleness



In this session we will explore how Jesus taught the people and what made his teaching so different.

Through his words in the Sermon on the Mount and the parable of the wise and foolish builders, we will discover that Jesus used stories, examples and gentle instruction to help people understand how to live God's way. We will be encouraged to think about how Jesus speaks with gentleness and how the Holy Spirit helps us to grow in gentleness as we choose our words and actions carefully each day.

Each child will need:

- A 'Memory Verse Wristband' handout
- Pens or pencils and paper
- 'Wise Man, Foolish Man' handout
- 'Explore it Ideas' handout

You will need:

- The 'Fruit of the Spirit - Gentleness' sign - download from **Salvationist**



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 used lots of different ways to help people understand what he was saying. Today we're going to explore why Jesus was such a great teacher.

Sing it

Say:

One day, Jesus gathered his disciples and a large crowd on a hillside. He began to teach them what it really means to be blessed. Many of the things he said were surprising and very different from what people expected.

Our song today brings that teaching to life.

Watch:

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

Share it

Say:

In our song for today, we heard some words taught by Jesus on the hillside. These words are part of the Sermon on the Mount.

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 shout at people or tell them off. Instead he gently showed them a better way to live. He helped people understand what God is like and how to live in a way that reflects God's love.

- The 'Fruit of the Spirit - Gentleness' sign - download from **Salvationist**

Say:

Gentleness is one of the fruit of the Spirit. It means choosing to be kind, patient, and careful with our words and actions.

Jesus showed gentleness in the way he taught. Even when people got things wrong, he didn't shame them. He helped them learn and grow.

Ask:

- What do you notice about the way Jesus speaks to people?
- How does Jesus show gentleness in his teaching?
- How can we show gentleness in the way we speak to others?

Say:

Jesus didn't just teach with words. He also showed people how to live through the way he treated others.

Watch:

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 we see that Jesus didn't just talk about love. He showed it through his actions. 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 through 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 people were familiar with to help them understand his message.

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)

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

Say:

Jesus teaches us to live differently, especially in the way we treat others. He shows us how to be gentle in our words and actions.

We're going to take a moment to think about how we speak to people.

Ask the children to stand in a space where they can take a few steps forward.

Say:

Think of a time that you've used words that weren't gentle.

(short pause)

Now, as you take a step forward, quietly say sorry to God for that moment.

(pause as they step)

Now think of a situation this week where you might need to choose gentleness. Maybe at school, at home, or with friends.

As you take another step forward, ask God to help you choose gentle words and actions.

(pause as they step).

Jesus doesn't just tell us how to live. He walks with us and helps us.

Let's take one final step forward as a reminder that we are choosing to follow his way.

Bring the session to a close in prayer.

Explore it

Remember to send home the 'Explore it Ideas' for children and families.



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Jesus Teaches

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:

Matthew 5:1-12, 43-48;
7:24-29



Aim:

To discover how Jesus teaches



Today's fruit:

Gentleness



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

Watch:

'Beginner Motions' (The Beatitudes) by Saddleback Kids

www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRQVj39WkDE



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)

Kids Alive! Online – salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

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

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?

Jesus Calms



Bible verses:
Mark 4:35-41



Aim:
To keep our eyes on Jesus



Today's fruit:
Peace



In this session we will explore the story of Jesus calming the storm from Mark 4.

As the disciples face a frightening and overwhelming situation, we will discover how easy it is to focus on the storm around them and forget who Jesus is. Through the moment when Jesus speaks and brings calm, we will begin to understand that he has power even over the wind and the waves. We will be encouraged to think about what it means to keep our eyes on Jesus in the middle of their own fears, and how the Holy Spirit helps us to grow peace in our lives so that we can trust Jesus and bring his peace to others.

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:

- The 'Fruit of the Spirit – Peace' sign – download from **Salvationist**



Start it

Say:

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

Please ensure you have the relevant permissions to show the following clip.

Watch:

'Edna Says No Capes!' (*The Incredibles Movie Clip 2004*) by KinoCheck Family (1:42)

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. Jesus' amazing power created the universe and saves every one of us.

Watch:

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

Share it

Say:

In today's Bible story the disciples found themselves in a terrifying situation. A huge storm came up while they were out on the lake, and the boat began to fill with water. They needed someone to come to their rescue, but Jesus was fast asleep. Let's watch the clip to find out what happened.

Watch:

Jesus Calmed a Storm (Children's Bible Story Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25) by Grace Baptist Church of Glendale (1:30)

Ask:

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

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. 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 4:35–38 *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 boat 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 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 after 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.

- The ‘Fruit of the Spirit – Peace’ sign – download from **Salvationist**

Say:

As the storm raged around them, all the disciples could focus on was the wind and the rain. It’s natural to focus on the thing we’re afraid of, but Jesus reminds us to focus on him. When we

are afraid, Jesus brings peace into those situations. As the Holy Spirit grows the fruit of peace in our hearts, we can bring that peace to those around us.

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.

Watch:

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 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.

Watch:

'Still' (Lyric Video) by Hillsong Chapel (4:27)

Explore it

Remember to send home the 'Explore it Ideas' for children and families.

Jesus Calms

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:
Mark 4:35-41



Aim:
To keep our eyes on Jesus



Today's fruit:
Peace



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.

Watch:
The Fear of the Lord (A Sunday School Lesson for Kids!) by Douglas Talks
youtube.com/watch?v=bcLnEydNhhE



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.

Check out bbcfood.co.uk for an 'Easy iced biscuit recipe' www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/icedbiscuits_3054



Song for the week

Watch:
'Jesus You're My Superhero' by Whiplash Studios (3:02)
youtube.com/watch?v=1FY4C930M2Y



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)

Kids Alive! Online – salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

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

Jesus sits



Bible verses:

Luke 10:38-42



Aim:

To understand how different people respond to Jesus and what he teaches us about what really matters



Today's fruit:

Patience



In this session we will explore the story of Mary and Martha from Luke 10.

As Jesus visits their home, the children will discover how the two sisters respond in very different ways. Through Martha's busyness and frustration, and Mary's choice to sit and listen, we will begin to understand how easy it is to become distracted and impatient. We will be encouraged to think about how they respond to Jesus in their own lives, and how the Holy Spirit helps us to grow patience, making time for Jesus and focusing on what really matters.

Each child will need:

- Lollypop sticks, card, glue, scissors and pens/pencils plus other optional craft material to make stick puppets, eg wool, pipe cleaners, fabric, googly eyes ...
- 'Mary and Martha Drama' handout (optional)
- 'Explore it Ideas' handout

You will need:

- The 'Fruit of the Spirit - Peace' sign - download from **Salvationist**



Start it

Watch the following movie clip together. Ask the children to think about how it makes them feel as they watch.

Please check you have the relevant permissions before playing this clip.

Watch:

Flash the Sloth Laughing Scene - Zootopia (2016) Movie Clip by Entertainment Access
(stop at 1:49)

Ask:

- How did you feel as you were watching the clip?
- Did you feel frustrated? If so, why?
- On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being no patience at all and 10 being extremely patient, how would you score yourself? Explain your answer.

Sing it

Display the 'Fruit of the Spirit - Patience' sign

Say:

In today's story there are lots of examples of people being patient and impatient.

Ask:

What does it mean when we are impatient? How do we behave?

Say:

Patience is a fruit of the Spirit that God can grow in each one of us. Our song reminds us to have patience with others as they, in turn, have patience with us.

Watch:

'Patience' (Herbert the Snail with lyrics) by Wesley's Wuppets (2.40)

Share it

Say:

In our story today, Jesus came to visit two sisters, Mary and Martha. They both reacted very differently to his visit. Let's watch the clip to see what happened.

Watch:

Slapstick Theatre - Jesus Visits Mary and Martha by Saddleback Kids (1:17)

Say:

Mary and Martha's story is found in Luke's Gospel.

Read:

While Jesus and his followers were travelling, Jesus went into a town. A woman named Martha let Jesus stay at her house.

(Luke 10:38 ICB)

Ask:

- How does your family prepare when someone comes to visit?

- What about if Jesus was coming to visit your house?

Say:

Martha was excited to see Jesus and wanted everything to be perfect. She had probably spent ages cleaning the house and was busily preparing a meal for Jesus and his disciples.

Read:

Martha had a sister named Mary. Mary was sitting at Jesus' feet and listening to him teach. Martha became angry because she had so much work to do. She went in and said, 'Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me alone to do all the work? Tell her to help me!'

(Luke 10:39-40 *ICB*)

Ask:

- Put yourself in Martha's position. Do you understand why she was so annoyed with her sister? Explain your answer.
- What do you think Martha wanted Jesus to say to Mary?
- What did he say instead?

Read:

But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are getting worried and upset about too many things. Only one thing is important. Mary has chosen the right thing, and it will never be taken away from her.'

(Luke 10:41-42 *ICB*)

Say:

Martha was upset because she was working hard to make everything perfect for Jesus. She wanted him to relax in a clean house with wonderful food. The aim was to make Jesus feel like a special guest. Mary wanted to make Jesus feel like a special guest in a different way.

Ask:

How did Mary make Jesus feel like a special guest in their house?

Say:

Mary spent time sitting at the feet of Jesus and listened to everything he had to say. Although Martha was doing 'good' things for Jesus, she was missing spending time with him. She was also feeling worried and overwhelmed, and this came out in the way she spoke.

Ask:

What do you notice about the way Jesus speaks to Martha?

Say:

Jesus didn't respond by telling Martha off. He spoke to her gently and helped her see what really mattered. Serving Jesus in our church and community is very important, but we must remember that the most important thing is loving and spending time with him.

Action it

Ask the children to create lollypop stick puppets to help retell the story of Mary and Martha. Give the children time to make their puppets either individually or in small groups. They will need: Mary, Martha and Jesus puppets. They may also wish to do a narrator and add in other people. The children can then rehearse their retellings and share them with the rest of the group. Encourage the children to emphasise the different ways that Mary and Martha responded to Jesus. They may wish to use the 'Mary and Martha Drama' handout to help them.

Pray it

To bring the session to a close, invite the children to share in a time of sung worship. This is their moment to spend time focusing on Jesus. As we worship, remind the children of today's memory verse and encourage them to think about how we can follow Jesus' example in the way we live.

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)

Song options:

'Heart of Worship' by HEIRS – COG Sasa Children's Ministry (3.35)

'Here I am to Worship' (Kid's Praise! Company Lyric Video) by Maranatha! Music

Pray:

Dear Jesus,

Help us to remember that worshipping and loving you is the most important thing in our lives. When we feel busy or distracted like Martha, help us not to be interested only in our own lives, but to care about others and make time for you. Help us to think and act like you, choosing patience each day.

Amen.

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)

Jesus sits

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:
Luke 10:38-42



Aim:
To understand how different people respond to Jesus and what he teaches us about what really matters



Today's fruit:
Patience



Worship

Take a moment every day this week to worship. You could sing a song, read a psalm, write a poem or just sit in a quiet space. Spend time with Jesus just like Mary did.



Discover

In our session this week we watched a clip from the film *Zootropolis*. Watch the film with the people at home. Or if that's not possible, watch a clip online of the character Flash at the DMV. What does this film teach us about being patient with each other?



Song for the week

Watch:
'Patience' (Herbert the Snail with lyrics) by Wesley's Wuppets
[youtube.com/watch?v=iL1BRPEjMZA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iL1BRPEjMZA)



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**

Kids Alive! Online – salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

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

Explore it

Mary and Martha Drama

Jesus visits Mary and Martha

Luke 10:38-42 *GNB* (adapted)

Narrator: As Jesus and his disciples went on their way, he came to a village where there was a woman named Martha.

Martha: Hello!

Narrator: Martha welcomed Jesus into her home.

Martha: Hello Jesus – welcome to my home! I’ve been busy getting everything ready for you.

Narrator: Martha had a sister named Mary.

Mary: Hi there!

Narrator: Mary sat down at the feet of the Lord and listened to his teaching.

Mary: I just love listening to what Jesus is saying! I could do this all day!

Narrator: Martha was upset over all the work she had to do.

Martha: I’ve been cooking and cleaning and getting everything ready for Jesus all by myself. It’s not fair!

Narrator: So Martha went to complain to Jesus.

Martha: Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to come and help me!

Narrator: But Jesus said ...

Jesus: Martha, Martha! You are worried and troubled over so many things, but just one is needed. Mary has chosen the right thing, and it will not be taken away from her.

Jesus prays



Bible verses:

Matthew 6:5-13



Aim:

To know that inclusion is part of God's Kingdom



Today's fruit:

Love



In this session we will explore the special prayer that Jesus taught his followers in Matthew 6.

As we focus on the line, 'Your Kingdom come', we will discover that God's Kingdom is full of love, where everyone is welcomed and included. Through prayer, discussion and a creative activity, we will begin to understand how the children can be part of showing God's Kingdom here on earth. We will be encouraged to think about how they treat others and how the Holy Spirit helps us to grow love, choosing to include others and reflect the love of Jesus in everyday life.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils
- Poster paint and trays to make handprints
- Aprons / old shirts
- 'Explore it Ideas' handout

You will need:

- The 'Fruit of the Spirit - Love' sign - download from **Salvationist**
- Large strips of paper, each with one line of the Lord's Prayer on it - see 'Start it'
- To find a source material on a recent news event, eg children's newspaper or a BBC *Newsround* bulletin - see 'Share it'
- A really large piece of paper with the word 'CHURCH' sketched on it, to make a banner - see 'Action it'

Start it

Before the session, print or write each line of the Lord's Prayer on separate strips of paper and place them around the room. As the children arrive, invite them to search for the strips and work together to put the prayer in the correct order.

This activity introduces the prayer that Jesus taught his followers and helps the children become familiar with the words before exploring what they mean later in the session.

Once the strips are in order, read the Lord's Prayer together as a group.

**Our Father in heaven,
we pray that your name will always be kept holy.
We pray that your Kingdom will come.
We pray that what you want will be done,
here on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us the food we need for each day.
Forgive the sins we have done,
just as we have forgiven those who did wrong to us.
And do not cause us to be tested;
but save us from the Evil One.**

(Matthew 6:9-13 ICB)

[NB Some children may be aware of more traditional words that their parents/carers use, but it's the same prayer.]

Sing it

Say:

Today we will be discovering more about the special prayer Jesus gave to his followers. Let's sing 'The Lord's Prayer' together.

Watch:

'The Lord's Prayer' by Saddleback Kids (3:03)

Share it

Say:

Jesus gave his followers a special prayer that showed them how they could talk to God. When we pray, we are talking to God who loves everyone.

Watch:

Jesus Prayer (Bible Story) by LifeKids (1:28)

Ask:

In the clip, there were lots of examples of times when Jesus prayed. What kinds of situations and people did Jesus pray for?

Say:

We have already read the special prayer that Jesus taught his followers. We are going to spend some time focusing on one line: 'We pray that your Kingdom will come.'

Ask:

- What do you think God's Kingdom is like?
- How is it different from the world we live in now?

Say:

Sometimes when we watch the news, or see people treating each other unkindly, it can feel like we can't see any of God's Kingdom here on earth. Maybe we need to look a little closer. Maybe we need to realise that we can play an important part in showing people what God's Kingdom is like.

God's Kingdom is full of love. Everyone is welcomed, valued and included. When we pray 'Your Kingdom come', we are asking God to bring his love into the world and to show us how to live that out.

Share a recent news story with your group, perhaps about situations where people are being treated unfairly or excluded.

As you watch or read the story together, chat about what's happening and what it makes you want to pray about.

Help the children think of simple prayer points for the situation.

Then ask: What could we do in our everyday lives to show God's Kingdom?

Encourage the children to think of small, practical ways they can show love and include others at school, at home or in their friendships.

Remind them that when we pray, we are talking to a loving God who cares about every situation, and that we can be part of showing his love to others.

Example:

Prayer point: praying for people who are being treated unfairly or feel left out.

Action point: be careful with the words that we say to each other and try to include others and bring peace to the situations we face at school and at home.

- The 'Fruit of the Spirit - Love' sign - download from **Salvationist**

Say:

Today's fruit is love. God's Kingdom is full of love, where everyone is welcomed and included. When we spend time talking to God in prayer, his love grows in us and helps us to love others.

So when we pray 'Your Kingdom come', we are asking God to fill the world with his love – and to help us be people who show that love by including others and treating everyone with kindness.

Action it

Ask:

What is the Church?

Watch:

The Church is the People (A Sunday School lesson for kids) by Douglas Talks (4:01)

Ask:

What did Douglas teach us about God's house?

Say:

The Church is not a building. The Church is people who follow Jesus.

When we pray 'Your Kingdom come', we are asking God to bring his love into the world. One of the ways he does that is through us, by the way we treat people and include others. Together, we are the Church, showing God's love to everyone.

After discussing the clip and thinking about God's Church, create a large handprint banner spelling out the word 'CHURCH'. Make each letter from the children's handprints.

As the children add their handprints, remind them that each one represents a person who is part of God's Church, and that God's Church includes everyone.

You may like to add the words 'Your Kingdom come' to the banner and display it in the worship hall. The children could share what they have learned in these Explore it sessions with the rest of the church, showing their banner and singing their memory verse song.

Pray it

Say:

We've been thinking about how God's Kingdom is full of love, where everyone is welcomed and included. When we pray, we are asking God to help us live like that. Let's share our 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*)

Say:

This verse reminds us to think about others and to live like Jesus. When we pray ‘Your Kingdom come’, we are asking God to help us live like this. Let’s pray the prayer that Jesus taught us together.

**Our Father in heaven,
we pray that your name will always be kept holy.
We pray that your kingdom will come.
We pray that what you want will be done,
here on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us the food we need for each day.
Forgive the sins we have done,
just as we have forgiven those who did wrong to us.
And do not cause us to be tested;
but save us from the Evil One.**

(Matthew 6:9-13 *ICB*)

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Jesus prays

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:
Matthew 6:5-13



Aim:
To know that inclusion is part of God's Kingdom



Today's fruit:
Love



Create

Gather the people at home together and create your own handprint picture.



Discover

Watch this clip where Douglas will help you to discover more about the Lord's Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer (Explaining the Lord's Prayer for kids) by Douglas Talks

youtube.com/watch?v=69JT4zsV_uY



Song for the week

Watch:
'The Lord's Prayer' by Saddleback Kids
youtube.com/watch?v=ijPuAtrwHYM



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)

