



Vision and Commitment 2018
A year to focus on discipleship

Every day, in
everything
&
everywhere

Discipleship Series Children - Acting Out (Practising)

Aim

- To understand how we can serve in our own environment.
- To know that to be like Christ is the Holy Spirit to mould and shape us in our actions and in our prayer life.

Preparation

- A way to play YouTube to your group:
'Be our Guest' - song from Disney's Beauty and the Beast
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afzmwAKUppU>)
- Bowls of warm water
- Towels
- Bibles
- Paper and pens
- Snacks for Worship time - e.g. crackers, butter, slices of cheese and ham, sliced salad vegetables, drinks and cups, plates, raisins (check with parents about allergies beforehand)
- Paper plates
- Business card-sized plain card

Background for leaders

Read Luke 13:10-17 and John 13:1-17.

What sort of person do you come across as? When others see you, what do they think? 'Oh there goes.....They're a right so and so! Nothing's ever right!' or how about 'I really like They're such a kind and thoughtful person. They would do anything to help anyone!'

In our daily walk with Christ, we each have our own way of acting out our faith. Simple gestures in our day to day service speak volumes about how our lives can be focused on others rather than ourselves. From the small acts of kindness through to a life given over to sacrifice, we each have an important part to play in showing our passion for Christ through the way we live. As we serve other people, we help them to see that Jesus is real in our lives and that he changes us. Hence, other people are attracted to Jesus.

Jesus took time to reach out to those who were in need. He fed them and he healed them, he spent time with their children. He even washed the feet of his own disciples. Jesus laid





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himself out to be our role model - this surely is our motivation. As Jesus lived out a life of servanthood, he showed us that we can too, and that we ought to! No one is too important to pick up a chair or wash up a cup, we all ought to be willing to serve to the best of our ability, including our children!

By taking Christ's example, adopting the qualities of love and kindness, we model a life of service through how we live. By showing who we are to others through the way we live for others we start to model what it is to be Christ-like. As Mark Greene states in his book, 'Fruitfulness On The Frontline':

'...godly character will often lead to loving actions - and should. But here the emphasis is on 'modelling', on the way we come across to others, on how our character leads people to expect certain kinds of responses from us...'

If we manage to achieve this foundation, our godly character will shine through as we act out a life in devotion to Christ.

Icebreakers

'Be our guest'

Using a clip of the song '*Be Our Guest*' from *Beauty and the Beast* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afzwmwAKUppU>), ask the group to start thinking about serving. The clip shows Belle staying in the Beast's castle. Having initially turned down dinner, she has come to the kitchen to see if there is something she can have to eat. The crockery and cutlery (enchanted courtiers) are delighted to do something for her, to serve her.

Once you've played the clip, challenge the group to think about what Lumiere and the other utensils feel about serving. Why do they like doing things for others? How do they feel when they are not serving?

This can lead to asking the young people whether they like serving. Let them know that today they are going to look at how we show our faith in action, and that one way this is shown is through serving.

Miracles

Take your group, and divide them into two. In their groups, give them a pen and paper, and get them to come up with as many miracles of Jesus as possible in two minutes. Make sure you time them!

Once the two minutes is up, come together and create a master list with all the miracles on (make sure none of the miracles are made up!).

Ask the group why they think Jesus performed miracles? What was the purpose behind these?





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Let the group know that Jesus performed miracles because of his love for us and the people he met. Jesus was trying to tell people about his Father and miracles gave him this opportunity, but it also happened because Jesus loved them all. Remind the group that when we follow Jesus we also have this same love for other people and want to help them as best we can.

Where's my shoe?

Have all the children take their shoes off and place them in the middle of the room. Get the group to close their eyes and muddle up the order of where the shoes are, so they are harder to find. Take two pairs of shoes out, and hide these somewhere in the room. These children will find it harder to find their shoes, and may need some help. See if others help out along the way and support them to find their shoes. Ask the children: *how quickly can we all get our own shoes back?*

As we introduce servanthood this will get your group to think how they can help one another. Let them know it was interesting to see everyone try and find their own shoes first.

You may have a couple of children saying that you, as a leader, hid these pairs making it unfair and that you asked the group to find their own shoes. Let the group know that at no point was this activity a competition against each other and that sometimes it is even more important to care for others before themselves.

Lesson

Split your group into two if possible and share the following scenarios with them. Invite the group to discuss this scenario, and then make up a short role play to go with this and show everyone.

1. Imagine that yesterday your best friend had broken their leg. Their leg is in a cast and they have to use crutches to move around. Would you help your friend to carry their stuff for them, or get their dinner? How would you help? Would you do the same even if they had not broken their leg?
2. You are running late, and you should have been at church ten minutes ago. But as you get near to church you see that an older person drops something in the street and can't bend down to pick it up. You know that if you stop you will be really late, but you feel like you should help out. What would you choose?

As we learn more and more about Jesus, we keep on learning that it is really important to know Jesus ourselves, and to follow his example. If we are going to be the best we can be for Jesus, then a great place to find out about this is the Bible.





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When we look in the Bible we see that Jesus did so many amazing things, and said such wonderful things that people followed him because of what he was doing! Jesus was an incredible man. He lived a life that was clean in thought, word and deed (you may want to see if the children can recognise where this line is from?) But he also spent time with people nobody expected him to.

Jesus was different to what people expected, and he wasn't afraid to upset them. One day Jesus performed a miracle for a lady whose back was not straight, so she could stand properly. This upset a number of people because Jesus had done this on the Sabbath, the holy day (You could choose to read Luke 13:10-17 here if you wish, or get a couple of helpers to act this out as you speak). Jesus didn't mind upsetting people. Jesus didn't even stick to the rules when it meant he could help someone.

For Jesus the most important thing was being able to help, and show love, no matter the cost. A really good example of this is when Jesus washed his disciples' feet (John 13:1-15)! His friends saw him as a King, and so when Jesus started doing the job of a servant, they were horrified! But Jesus was a servant king. Someone who put others before himself. Jesus has given us an example of how we should be living. We can act out what Jesus did in our own lives, wherever we are. We need to serve others, and make sure we show them God's love by being a servant.

Activities

Exploring the passage

If you did not read John 13:1-5 earlier you may wish to now. Ask the group if anything strikes them as odd in this passage. Ask them what it means when it says that Jesus knew what he was going to do next? (Die!) So what did he choose to do?

Explain that washing feet was the worst task a servant had to do. Explain how 2000 years ago everyone would have worn sandals, and with all the paths being sandy, and the heat, people's feet would have been really dirty! So when Jesus washed his disciples' feet he was showing them that they should be prepared to follow his example and serve other people - however unpleasant it might be!

Show the bowl of water and ask each child to wash the feet of the person next to them (ask the children beforehand if they are comfortable with this). You may prefer to ask each child to wash the hands of the person next to them, which will cause slightly less chaos!

Alternatively have a leader wash the hands of each child if you prefer. Ask the group at the end how they felt about this.

Act it out!

Explain to the group that it is not just Christians who serve one another. There are many other people who do this, but remind them that we do this because we love Jesus in





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everything we do. Using Appendix 1, ask the children to read out the scenarios given either in groups of three or four or as a whole group. Ask the groups as it is read through or acted out to make a note of the main differences between people who serve because they want to help and people who serve out of love for God.

- What are the main points that stand out?
- How does following the life of Christ set you apart differently to someone who is just serving?

Our actions can show a servant heart, but it is important we do this with Christ-like qualities. Once you have looked at the example, use Luke 13:10-17 to see some of these qualities. You'll want to highlight that it isn't about lots of rules and regulations, but how much we are able to demonstrate Christ in our lives.

Four Pictures

Give each person in your group a sheet of paper, and ask them to fold it in half and then in half again to make 4 equal rectangles. In each square they are going to draw a picture of a way that people serve God.

Say that part of being a disciple of Jesus is serving and helping others. Jesus gave up everything for us so we should give up our things and our time to help other people because we love God.

- In the first picture, ask the group to highlight somebody who serves someone else in the Bible. This could be Jesus washing his disciples feet, but don't be afraid of the children using their imagination to think of a different time they can recognise an act of service.
- In the second picture, get each person to think about how Jesus served a lady with a bent back in Luke 13:10-17. As they are drawing a picture of this, highlight how Jesus was setting an example, and performing this task on the Sabbath, where it was more important to care for somebody than it was to stick to the rules.
- In the third picture, tell the children about a programme/activity that happens at the corps that involves service to others. You may want to invite someone in to briefly talk about this, or even better still, show a quick video of this taking place.
- For the final picture, explain that Christians all around the world serve Jesus. It doesn't matter who we are, how old we are or where we are from, the example of Jesus is something we should follow no matter what. As an example of this taking place you may want to show a video about the Salvation Army serving in another country (eg Chikankata Hospital <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpVP4NwOXHM&list=PLDB4CB3BC6799727E>).





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Explain that these are people caring for others, through service, because of what Jesus did, and how it is important we do the same. Get the group to colour in their pictures, and keep hold of them as a reminder of different ways they can serve.

Feet models

This activity will work well if you used the previous activity of feet washing. Have some modelling clay and scalpels available for the young people to make models of feet. As they do this, get the children to think of what their feet represent, and how it can act as a challenge for them that each time they see the feet it reminds them to live out their life in the same way Jesus did. As the group is completing this, read John 13:1-15 - where Jesus washes his disciples' feet. Make sure your group are aware of what the feet model represents and that in the same way we have built model feet, we are trying to build model lives with Christ's example.

If you started the session with the Beauty and the Beast clip, you may like to ask the group to make a teapot or cup and saucer as a reminder of serving. For younger children you may want to use Play-doh instead.

Worship

Each part of this worship time could be used individually, however, you may wish to leave the songs on in the background as children eat their snacks.

- *Help me be your eyes Lord Jesus* by Doug Horley
- *Shine* by Powerpack Ministries

Prayers

Serving

Ask the children to think quietly about the people who serve them most. Challenge the group to think of a way that *they* can serve that person. It should be something specific that they can see - i.e. help with the washing up rather than be a bit nicer! Ask them to take a minute now to talk to God to commit to this and to ask him to help them remember to do it and to enjoy doing it!

Written prayer

Ask your group to think for a moment how they feel about the idea of being a servant. It's not such a good image really - but it's not a role for wimps, in fact it takes a lot of guts. Ask them to write down or draw their thoughts on a piece of paper and pray about it, asking God to help them become the person he wants them to be.





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Persistent prayers

Use this time to think about how prayer is another way your group can act out what Jesus taught. Prayer is a powerful way to support others. Ask the group to think of a situation where they feel they want to serve, but are unable to do much about. Let them know that one way of serving is to commit to praying for what this is, over and over again. Challenge them with the importance of what it is to keep these topics in their prayers. You may want to encourage your children to start a prayer diary to remember the different things they commit to pray for.

Response

Give the children a piece of card about the same size as a business card. Get them to think of how they can act out God's love this week potentially through service, and use this card as a 'Free Pass'. To help your group commit to serving someone in the week, get them to write on the card what they will do, and give this to the person they will serve. This may say 'This card is worth... one cleaning of the bathroom' or 'This card is worth... helping you unpack the shopping this week' etc. Get your group to decorate this and to pass it on to someone when completed.





Appendix 1

These scenarios can either be acted out or given to the groups to read together.

Name	Dave
Who am I?	I'm a student. Growing up, I looked after my younger brothers and sisters.
What was your summer job?	I worked in a summer camp - it was good but the pay wasn't great.
Who was the camp for?	Children from difficult backgrounds, with extra physical needs or have parents struggling to care for them.
What does the camp do?	Movies, games and swimming! The food is really good.
Anything else?	Lots of fun stuff - the kids are busy all day!
What happens when a kid's behaviour is difficult?	I try to be patient and not shout. But some kids are facing a ban next year.
Why do you do it?	I feel that it is important to do good things as much as you can. You only get one life to do this and I think it is really important to be kind to one another. By doing this it makes life nicer for everyone!
What happens when the kids go back home?	We try to give them a holiday to remember. It probably won't change much when they go home, so it is good that each summer they can look forward to this week!

Name	Daisy
Who am I?	I'm a student. I go to church and I became a Christian at eight years old.
What was your summer job?	I volunteered in at my church's summer camp. I also worked a Saturday job in a shop for extra cash.
Who was the camp for?	Children from difficult backgrounds, with extra physical needs or have parents struggling to care for them.
What does the camp do?	Movies, games and swimming! The food is really good.
Anything else?	We tell them about Jesus. We always pray with them before they go to bed, and because of the love we give them they begin to see Jesus loves them too.
What happens when a kid's behaviour is difficult?	We pray for them and we see God working in them. We never turn anyone away because Jesus never did.
Why do you do it?	I'm passionate about kids and I want to make their lives better. Knowing God loves me has made my life so much better and I want to show the kids that God loves them too.
What happens when the kids go back home?	Some of the kids have started to pray and have given their lives to Jesus. Their lives may still be the same when they go home, but they've got God with them now to help them.

