



Vision and Commitment 2018
A year to focus on discipleship

Every day, in
everything
&
everywhere

Discipleship Series Children - Letting Go (Sacrificing)

Aim

- To consider the things that really matter to us
- To understand what it means to follow Jesus in the daily choices we make, knowing that these choices are not always easy

Preparation

- Plastic balls from a ball-pit
- Long rope for tug of war
- Tray of small objects covered with a cloth and copies for each child of Appendix 1
- Paper and colouring pens
- Large coloured beads and thread or string
- Copies for each child of Appendix 2 and 3

Background for leaders

Read Luke 14:25-35 and Luke 18:18-23.

Luke's Gospel provides some of the most challenging teaching from Jesus. This passage (Luke 14:25-35) is no exception. Jesus explains that to follow him means giving up everything - and he pulls no punches. It is challenging to consider how appropriate it is to teach children to '...hate your father and mother...and even your own life...' (v 26), but we need to understand the context of these words. In summary, Jesus wanted his listeners to understand the true meaning of sacrifice before making a decision.

As these concepts are shared with children, they will have little problem grasping the idea of making the right choices, choosing what's important and what's not.

To summarise this whole passage, Jesus states very clearly that to follow him is a serious business. Being a disciple means letting go of everything. Jesus goes on to talk about counting the cost. A simpler way to put it would be to say: 'You have a decision to make. Think about it seriously'.

The story of the rich young man (Luke 18:18-23) is a perfectly presentable but no less challenging story. Here we find someone who did and said all the right things but at the end of the day was not prepared to give up everything.





Vision and Commitment 2018
A year to focus on discipleship

Every day, in
everything
&
everywhere

Here are some questions as you prepare to share this session with children:

- What are the things which really matter to you?
- Would Jesus feel the same way about them?
- Does 'counting the cost' help you as you make choices to follow Jesus?

Icebreakers

Ball Challenge

Start the session with a fun game using plastic 'ball pool' balls which come in large quantities and are inexpensive. Challenge one child at a time to see how many balls they can hold as you pass them one at a time. This is a fun game which can be played repeatedly, or as part of a team challenge. Use upbeat music backing to enhance the excitement. Ask the children: *how many can you hold before you have to let go of one or more? How did it feel just before one more was added?*

How Many Words?

Ask the children to write the phrase 'Letting go of everything' (or a phrase of your own choice related to the theme) at the top of a blank piece of paper. Challenge the children within a short time frame to see how many words they can make from the letters in this phrase. You may want to do this in small groups.

Favourite Things

Ask the children to write or draw a list of ten things they would pack to go on holiday to make sure they had a good time. Be sensitive to the fact that this needn't be a list of possessions. Once they've done this, challenge them to imagine narrowing down the list to half. Once they've done that, ask them to choose just two, or perhaps one of the items. Please note that some children may get upset depending on what they have on their list. As a final thought, ask the question: *Did we really need so many possessions before starting our journey to go on holiday?*

Tug of War

If your group are livelier and can cope with a physical game, play a game of Tug of War. Afterwards, talk about what it felt like to hold on to something and not let go.

Lesson (with activities)

To begin unpacking the story of the rich young man found in Luke 18:18-23, play 'Kim's Game.' This is a traditional game which requires a tray of ten small objects covered with a cloth to be placed in the centre of the room. Uncover the tray and give the children just one minute to look at the objects. When the minute is up, cover the tray again and hand out paper and pens. Ask the children to list everything that was on the tray (Appendix 1).





Vision and Commitment 2018
A year to focus on discipleship

Every day, in
everything
& everywhere

Think about ways that you might share the Bible story. Perhaps you might want the children to listen to the story as you read it from a story book, or directly from a good translation of the Bible. Could the children act the story out for themselves?

You will find a range of video clips online simply by searching for 'rich young ruler'. The following link provides a very good video version of this story, narrated by children with the repeated phrase 'nothing was impossible for him' - until he wanted to follow Jesus:
<http://www.worshiphousekids.com/kids-church-videos/48627/the-rich-young-ruler>.

Once the children have listened to the story, explore some of the following questions:

- What was the young man asking for?
- How did Jesus respond?
- Was it important that he gave up everything? Why?
- What happened next?
- The man left sorrowfully, not angrily. What does this tell us about him?
- What do you think happened next to the man?

OR

Use 'wondering' questions in relation to the story:

- What part of this story did you like best?
- What part of this story was the most important part?
- What part of this story is about you - where are you in this story?
- What part of this story could we take away and you would still have all the story you need?

Worship

Sing or play tracks of the following songs (all available on YouTube).

- *I'm Gonna Jump Up and Down* by Doug Horley
- *I Will Offer Up My Life* by Matt Redman
- *I Love You More Than Words Can Say* by Doug Horley

Prayers

Most Important

Invite the children to spend some time thinking of the things which are most important to them. You may want to do this as a whole group, just being still and quiet for a few moments, or inviting the children to spend some quiet time reflecting on the lists they





Vision and Commitment 2018
A year to focus on discipleship

Every day, in
everything
&
everywhere

made at the start of the session. Ask the children to give thanks to God for ‘the things which matter most’.

Bead Prayers

Provide some large coloured beads and thread or string and ask the children to choose five beads which represent the things which are important to them. As they thread the beads onto the string, ask them to thank God for those things.

Response

Two lists

An activity sheet (Appendix 2) has been provided which features space for two lists. In the first column children list the things which matter to them. In the second column list the things which matter to God. Challenge the children to think more deeply about what’s important with these questions. How do we know what matters to us? How do we know what matters to God? Are any of the things on the two lists the same?

Choices

Talk with the children about the choices we make and the fact that following Jesus is a choice for us to think about and to decide upon.

An activity sheet (Appendix 3) has also been provided, which asks the question ‘How do I follow Jesus?’ This can be offered to the children to take home and think about. Instructions are included on the sheet.





Vision and Commitment 2018
A year to focus on discipleship

Every day, in
everything
& everywhere

Appendix 1

KIM'S GAME

NAME _____

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

7) _____

8) _____

9) _____

10) _____

Total score _____

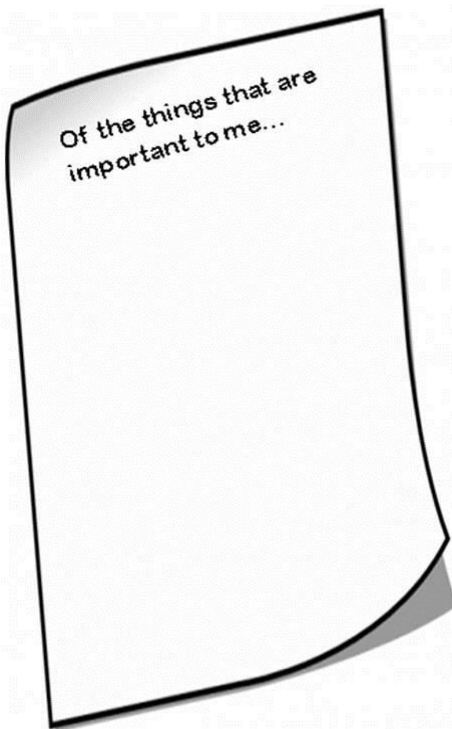




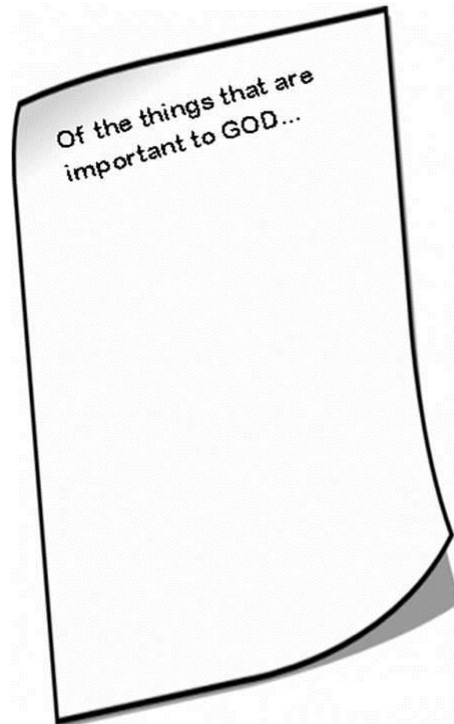
Appendix 2

THINGS THAT ARE IMPORTANT

Make a list...



How do you know what is important to you?



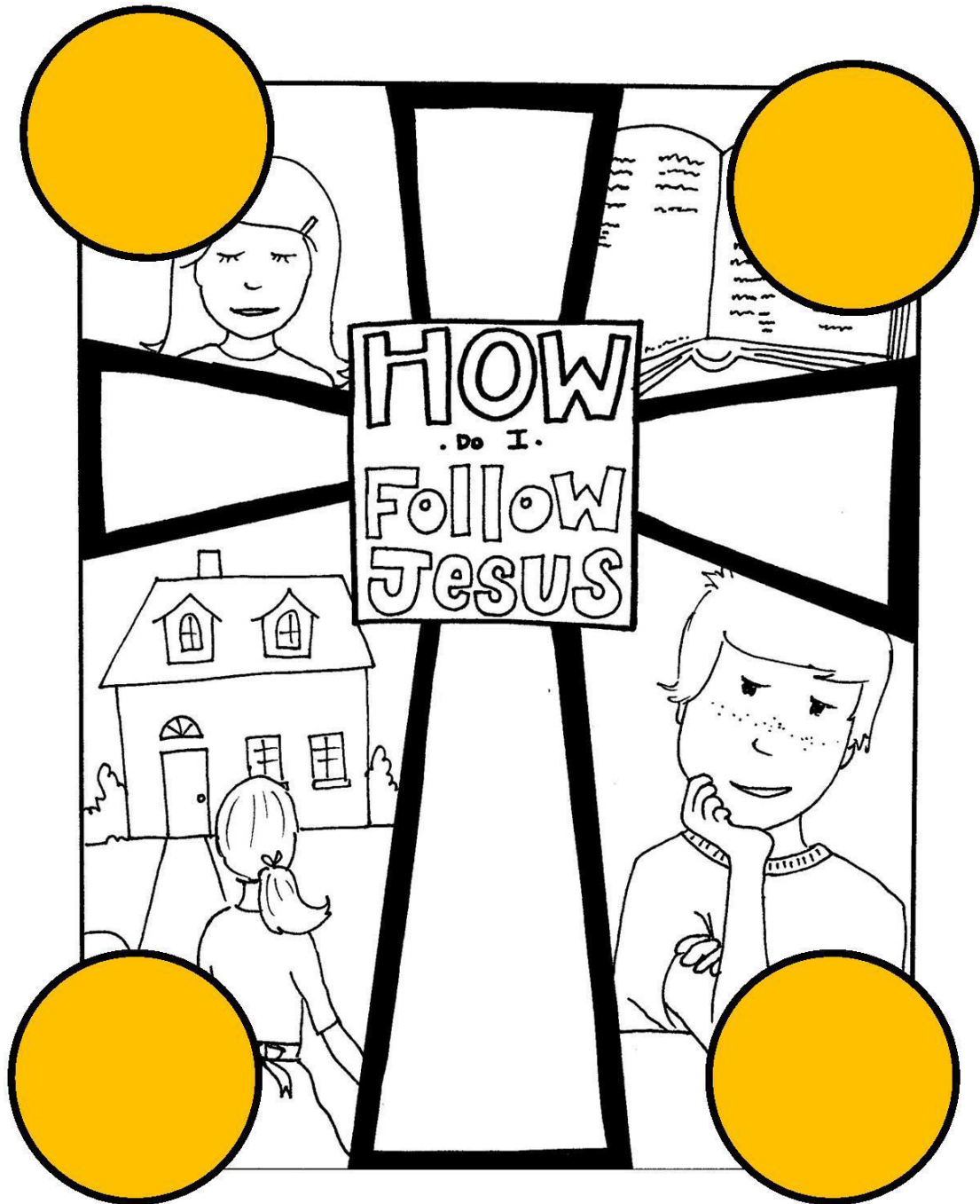
How do you know what is important to GOD?

Are any of the things on your lists the same?





Appendix 3



Write in the yellow circles the ways you can follow Jesus. There are clues in the pictures. Once you've done that, write prayers about this in the spaces on the cross. Ask Jesus to help you to follow him...

