



IP DIP DOO – I CHOOSE YOU!



INTRODUCTION

It's lovely to be chosen, to be picked out of the crowd to do a special job or to be the first member of the team. It might be that you were especially chosen by your parents, or you have chosen your children by adopting them, or perhaps you have friends who have been adopted into their family.

We hope that when you have been able to share some of the thoughts and activities from this session with members of your family, you'll all have more of an understanding of what it means to be especially chosen and what that looks, feels and even TASTES like!

You'll also be able to reflect on the Easter story and how Jesus was chosen by God to do something no one else would ever be able to do – to lay down his life for his friends.

PREPARATION

✦ Make sure you have been given a *Meal Planner* sheet.

BIBLE READING/THOUGHT

'You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other'

JOHN 15:16–17

Read John 15:9-17 out loud to each other from time to time this week; take time to draw a picture, make a mind map or write down words that seem important to you. It will be a record of your journey this week. Take turns sharing the reading so everyone can join in. You can keep adding to your visual journal as you explore day by day.



FAMILY ACTIVITIES

During the week, have a look at different translations of John 15:9-17, online if possible. www.biblegateway.com has lots of versions, though not all.

What differences can you notice? Which version helps each person understand more? Which version would each family member choose as their favourite?

IP DIP DOO

Challenge each other to play 'Ip Dip Doo...' when you need to make some choices this week; what you are going to wear, which direction you might take to school or work, what to have for breakfast. How easy is it to stick to a choice that might not be the best one – do you REALLY want to wear THAT to school or work? Have some fun playing the game wherever you are – see what happens.



MEAL TIMES

Give everyone a chance to choose what to eat for your main meal each day this week. It will help you to remember what being chosen 'tastes' like. You may wish to use the *Meal Planner* for this activity.

A GOOD FRIEND

Think about your friends, the people you like spending time with. Talk to each other about the characteristics that are good to look out for when you are choosing a friend. Perhaps draw a picture of them or write a list of the reasons you chose them – or maybe they chose you!

While you draw or write, take the time to listen to some worship music.

SIMON SAYS

Play, or talk about, the game Simon Says.

How to play:

- * One person is chosen to be 'Simon'.
- * When they give the command 'Simon says' followed by an action such as 'Put your hands in the air', everyone has to obey.
- * If they do not say 'Simon Says' but just call out 'Put your hands in the air', you should ignore them.
- * But if someone DOES obey, then that person is 'out' for one round.

When each person has had a turn being Simon, read John 15:14–15 and talk together about what kind of commands you might obey at home and which ones you choose to ignore. Is it easy to ignore commands at school or at work? I wonder what the difference is between being a friend and being a servant?

SHOW THE LOVE

Here are some ways you can show your friends and family that you love them and that you love spending time with them.

- * Plan some surprises that you can give to or show your friends – decorate some hard-boiled eggs, make a card, or buy some little chocolate eggs to give them, for no other reason than you are glad they are your friend.
- * Offer to do some gardening or housework for a friend or family member who lives nearby.
- * Perhaps you could do a 'litter pick' in your road or local park to show the whole community that you care about them.

FRUIT FRAMILY

Create a 'Fruit FRamily'. A 'Framily' are friends who feel like family! Take some pieces of fruit and cocktail sticks, some play-dough or plasticine for the hands and feet, create faces on paper, a bit like Mr Potato Head, and cut out features to stick on the fruit with a water-based glue, and make a family. Take photos of your fruit family, because they won't last long – you'll either eat them or they will eventually go mouldy! Which part of the Bible reading that you have been sharing this week does this activity illustrate?

I wonder if your family can choose to carry good 'fruit' with them this week?

SONG TIME

Spend time listening to, reflecting with, or singing along to...

- * 'Now I belong to Jesus' by Steven Ponsford
- * 'I'll not turn back' by John Gowans/John Larsson
- * 'Walking with the Lord' by Tristessa Aberg

Visit www.salvationarmy.org.uk/faith-at-home

REFLECT

Jesus told his disciples that laying down his life for his friends was the greatest example of love; and he actually did lay down his life, not just for his friends 2,000 years ago, but also for his friends now – for you, in fact. You can read about it in Mark 15. Be sure to read chapter 16 too because that is the reason that we celebrate on Easter Sunday. I wonder what the greatest example of love is for you and your family?

SHARE

Share your visual journals with each other and with the person who gave your family the Faith@Home Challenge and ask them any questions you have. Also let them know if you'd like another Faith@Home Challenge for next month, or choose some other Bible stories and accounts that you can explore as a family. Maybe you can choose another family to create a Faith@Home Challenge for? Who knows?

