





that he sat alongside him and leaned over him. Putting his hands on the boy's hands, he was probably moving the boy's arms from across his chest where they would have restricted any CPR, and he was breathing into the boy with his own breath to revive him. You may want to have looked at <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/>

## Together

How do I help my group to come together and get started with the theme?

### Gathering prayer

#### Jesus, our friend

(use alternate index fingers to point and tap the middle of opposite palms)

#### Be with us today

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move up and down twice)

#### As we share together,

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move one forward and one back and alternate twice)

#### Pray together,

(hands together, palm against palm, as though praying)

#### Play together,

(hands to each side, palms up, make two small circles outwards)

#### And get to know you better,

(point up with one hand)

#### As children together in your family

(one hand out, palm down in front of you, move it sideways and up in three 'steps' as though to indicate children of three different heights)

#### AMEN

(T4c03.14.13)





And make sure the waiting doesn't feel so long.

Could love be a medicine, after all?

This stillness and quietness doesn't feel like us,

How can I help and not make too much fuss?

I could lie still and hold you, I won't be a bother,

And of course I won't wriggle and steal all the cover.

Perhaps love is a good medicine after all.

It feels really strange, you're not up and about,

I can't wait 'til you're stronger, so we can go out,

When I'm eating a biscuit, I'll offer to share,

And keep thinking of ways, to show you I care.

Yes, sometimes love can be the best medicine after all.

## Modern parables

Jesus used stories to help people understand the things of God, even though they weren't necessarily overtly Christian stories. Lots of children's books can be used in a similar way as a conversation starter on the week's theme. Examples are shared here but you may think of others too.

**'Emergency' by Margaret Mayo and Alex Ayliffe**

<https://youtu.be/DjiQBbPMMf0>

## Talking together: How might we talk about the story together?

- Elisha knew what to do, even though it was an emergency. Do we know what to do in emergencies? Are there people we can ask to help us? Who do you know, who is really good at staying calm in difficult situations?
- How do you think the family might have felt when the boy got better? Why do you think they trusted Elisha to help them?

## Wondering together: suggested questions to use during activities

- I wonder why Elisha prayed to God before he did anything to help?
- I wonder why the mother was cross with Elisha?



## What's in the box (for under fives)

Use the special box or bag and sing "what's in the box/bag? What's in the box/bag? Let's see, let's see, what's in the box/bag" (to the tune of The Farmer's in the Dell). You could tap the top of the box twice after the word 'box'. Pull out the things one by one and then let the children play with them, talking about the theme or the story in simple terms.

This week's box could include:

- Bandage (talk about making people better when they're hurt)
- Heart (talk about love, God's love and being loving to ot





### **Ask an expert**

If you have time, it would be good to bring in a first aid expert to give a demonstration of CPR (if your group are old enough) or other simple first aid skills. Perhaps someone in your congregation might have skills they could share, or you could ask the Red Cross, St Johns Ambulance or Heartstart.

### **Tissue box cover**

Talk about how we may not be able to do CPR or anything that would save someone's life or bring them back after they have died, but we can all do things to help and care for people in need and we are like God's hands



We hope you enjoyed exploring the story of the Shumamite woman's son with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing [lorrainewebb@urc.org.uk](mailto:lorrainewebb@urc.org.uk)

Why not have a look at next month's resources on the theme of Celebrations







Jesus our friend,

Join us today

as we share together

Right middle finger touches centre of other palm, repeat

Alternate hands

Right hand touches left hand

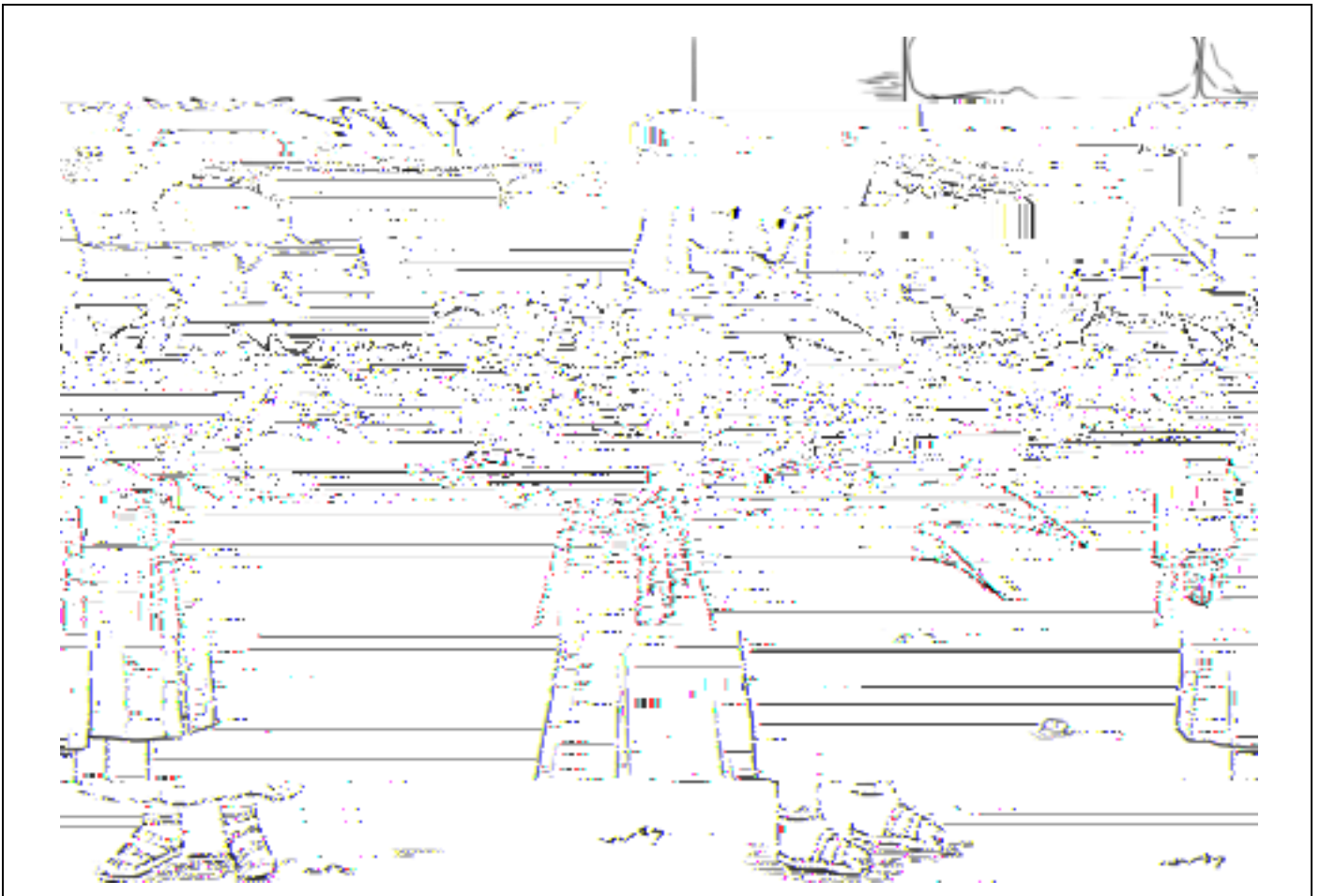


Illustration by Deborah Liu and Tan Chen Chen via <http://www.creativecommonschristian.com/52Stories.html>

