



Faith Adventures for Children Together

*Committed to URC Children Together:
enabling everyone to grow more like Jesus
together in the home, church and beyond.*

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children, visit <https://www.urc.org.uk/childrens-and-youth-work>

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Introduction: What would be helpful to know in my planning? Lorraine

This issue of Faith Adventures is planned for the second week in Lent, as we are travelling towards Easter. During Lent we remember Jesus’ time in the desert, spending time fasting and praying while beliefs. In contrast to some other parts of the Old Testament, Isaiah talks about God’s

mercy and the promise that, although God would judge the people, God would also send the means of their salvation.

This passage links clearly to Jesus’ baptism, where God says “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+3%3A13-17&version=RSV>

It also links well with the passage where Jesus says, “whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me”.



servant of God. Does it mean that we need always to be passive and inoffensive to others? Jesus was no doormat.

Emphasise that, although Jesus served God in many different ways, we are part of the body of Christ which means that we are not called to do everything when we serve God – some people will be called to do one thing, some will be called to do others, but we can all work together to do God's will, just as Jesus did.

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

(Two thumbs up, and bring fists slowly together to meet in front of you)

OR

Thank you, God, for, filng(l)7s 2 (oge)-5 (t)2 (he)-5 (r)-2 ()1to kA n d g e d v r r C



There were many things that Jesus did in his short time on earth.

Encourage the children to choose one of the 'jobs' and design a 'Jesus-Front'. This is a simple hook-on outfit (like we used to do for paper dolls); offer a template for those who might appreciate one.

Gather the finished fronts together and have a look at each one. This will work best if you have many dolls showing all the fronts at once. You could give each child a 'doll' to put their front on, or you can keep swapping and using the same one. Wooden mannequins can be found cheaply in punch shops or perhaps you could use Barbie dolls that are stood in playdoh, or flat card person outlines can work just as well. Another alternative might be to make cone people, then make a 'headless' cone to draw the outfit on which can then be slipped over the first. Once you have explored all the fronts, explain that we are now called to be Jesus in the world. I wonder what these things might look like nowadays.

Ask the group to do a new design showing what the Jesus jobs might look like today. E.g. healing the sick might be someone who is praying for the poorly or practically helping them. Redress the dolls in your updated Jesus fronts and gather them together.

Explain that we cannot do everything all the time – the Bible tells us that as the body of Christ we take on parts of the job – what job do you think you could do? What do you think God might be asking of you in your family, school, community, church etc. Design your own outfit for the job that God has asked you to do. You could make this small on your dolls or even a life-sized version, see the making section.

Link back to previous session, being "clothed with Christ"

Modern parables

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colouring pens or pencils

Reflect on the Bible passage and ask everyone to think about what the images might represent, what the passage tells us about Jesus. Think about Jesus' life and the things he did that show him to be a servant king. You could use the song from the song 'From heaven you came, helpless babe' to help with your reflection time and also play it as you create the cubes.

Once everyone has had time to reflect and chat about the images, they draw the images onto each side of the cube. Then cut out the template and fold along all the lines inward. Shape into a cube and glue together using the tabs as guides.

You can then use the cubes to talk about the passage and encourage the children to take them home and tell others about what they have drawn.

Repair café

Rather than giving up on something and throwing it away, learn a new skill as a group to re-use or repair something. You could invite another adult to lead this section based on a particular skill or interest such as; fixing a bike puncture, recipes to reduce food waste or learning how to fix holes in clothing. You could also watch a video online to learn a new skill together, like this short clip about visible mending.

https://youtube.com/shorts/o2yQ5r7u4_4?si=UNVcEj7W09cU3X0r

Perhaps there is something the group could help to fix in your church, such as repairing ripped pages in hymn books or sharpening pencil crayons. Sometimes small things have a big impact!

Everyday with Jesus – Walking the Way

What could we do this week to carry on what we've learned? Maybe members of the group could come up with a suggestion. If not, get them to choose from these two challenges:

Jesus, as God's servant, spread the good news about God's love for people, healed the sick, fed the hungry and reached out to those on the margins, those who were left out or disadvantaged in some way. Find one way that you can make a difference this week by following the example of Jesus.

It can be easy to feel a bit fed up, but Jesus brings us hope. Send someone a cheery message promising something to look forward to – maybe a playdate or watching a favourite film together or having a picnic together when the weather gets warmer.



