

Faith Adventures Youth Resource

Embedded in Faith Adventures: Children Together, this youth resource is intergenerational in nature and designed to foster God-connection in church, home and beyond.

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children and families, please use this link: <https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Faith-Adventures-How-To-FAYR.pdf>

Matthew 19: 16-22

Theme: Jesus as an influencer

Contents:

- [Introduction](#) 1
- [Together](#) 2
- [Experience](#) 2
- [Explore](#) 3
- [Express](#) 4

Introduction: What would be helpful to know before we begin?

Matthew

The book of Matthew is the first book of the New Testament. Most people think that it was written by one of Jesus’ close friends, Matthew, who gave up being a tax collector to follow Him. Matthew shows his readers that Jesus is a great teacher, healer and leader who is the good news that God has promised everyone.

Last week we looked at how God might influence people. This week we explore how Jesus influenced people through his words and his actions – using the story of the rich young man.

This man came to ask Jesus a question. Why? Did he know Jesus? Had he heard about Jesus? He is not the only person in the Gospels who asked Jesus for advice – though he might be one of the few who



This chapter of Matthew has a lot of material that might take your conversations and explorations





Talking together: Going deeper

- Do you know of those who speak the right words of influence but don't necessarily live their life that way? How do we feel about that?
- Are you more likely to take advice from somebody you like than someone you don't like?
- Who do you go for advice and why them?

Conversation starters

- Why did the man go to Jesus with his question rather than another leader, especially if he knew of Jesus and could probably guess the answer would be one he wouldn't like?
- What do you think is the most important thing that Jesus has said that are of greatest influence? If there was one thing we'd share that Jesus said what would it be?
- Do we go to people who tell us what we want to hear?

Express

How do we respond to what we've discussed and express our faith personally?

Praying together

Prayer Respond to the theme by writing or saying a short prayer. Alternatively use the creative prayer from Faith Adventures: Children Together for this session, or use the prayer activity below.

Alternatively light a candle and play some music while you listen and talk to God together.

Prayer 'pass it on'

You will need:

- Paper
- Pens

Sit the young people in a circle. Give each person a piece of paper and make a suggestion for a prayer idea. You could use an acronym to give ideas for each prayer.

For example:

SPOON: Sorry, please, others, ourselves, needs

or

ACTS: Adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication (request, petition)

Or encourage the young people to come up with different ideas.

Make your first suggestion for prayer and get everyone to write their prayer at the top of their paper. Fold down the paper and pass it on to the next person. Give your next suggestion for prayer and write on the paper and then fold it down again. Continue until you have gone through all your prayers. Encourage everyone to unfold the piece of paper they are holding at the end and read out the prayer. The idea is similar to a game of consequences and the person writing remains anonymous.



Responding together

This is an opportunity for a social justice challenge, some research, craftivism, or a craft or STEM activity. You may have a specific activity chosen but free choice is also an option. Here are some suggestions for this week's theme. See Faith Adventures: Children Together for a craft and a STEM activity which may also be appropriate. Choose whatever will work best for your group.

Scruples (A game of cards that each have a description of an ethical dilemma, i.e. you see someone drop a £10 note on the floor – do you hand it to the person? You know a friend is lying – do you call them out on it? You see an injured animal – do you stop to help?)

Either make up your own game of scruples or use the board game version, you could just use the question cards. Have some fun exploring the different scenarios set and why each person may make the decision that they do, what influenced their decision, could they be persuaded to change their mind?

Research Advice Organisations

Spend some time reflecting on where people can go when they need advice or guidance. Ask people to share examples of different advice organisations that they are aware of both locally and nationally.

Encourage participants to research some of the organisations listed below and share their findings with the group.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) - <https://capuk.org/>

Citizens Advice - <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

Trusts and Foundations - <https://www.trusts.org.uk/>

Thank you for exploring the **Matthew** passage with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing children.youth@urc.org.uk or by sharing it on https://bit.ly/FACT_FB

