

Together

Let's start our time with God and each other well

If used in a mixed-age group, then young people can support younger ones in using the gathering prayer in Faith Adventures: Children Together. If used in a youth group, you could use this opening prayer or encourage young people to open the session with a prayer of their own.

All mighty God,

Be with us as we learn more about you through stories and people in the Bible.

Help us to walk in your way and follow your path.

Be with us as we make decisions that affect our lives, and the lives of those around us.

Amen

In-person game - Taps

Sit round a table.

Everyone is to place their hands on the table.

Each hand needs to cross over or under the hand of the person next to them (this needs to be done on both sides). Sharon's right hand should cross over or under Lorraine's left hand. Sharon's left hand should cross over or under Duncan's right hand, etc.

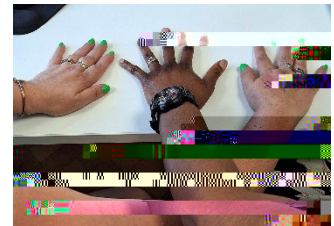
One person begins by tapping their hand on the table. This "tap" is passed clockwise around the circle.

Explain then that anybody who chooses to can tap twice. This changes the direction the tap travels in (i.e. it goes back to the person it just came from).

When someone claps three times the clap misses a person.

Try to build up speed without making mistakes! If you do, they have to remove a hand if this happens twice, then they are out of the game and the game continues until there is one or two people left.

You could make up your own rules for this game with the group.



Other alternative games

See this week's Faith Adventures : Children Together for suitable games for this theme.

Experience

Research different versions of this reading on <https://www.biblegateway.com/>
Recommended versions to try are NRSV, Easy-to-read, The Message, NIRV

Watch: What is the Holy Spirit by Christian questions -
<https://youtu.be/YF0ovoQW4C0?si=sqMa7uZD8jI5NAMS>

Questions for discussion

Watch the YouTube video

Is that your experience of the Holy Spirit or what you know of it?
 How would you describe what the Holy Spirit is to someone else?
 The clip says the Holy Spirit is given to those who promise to serve God, only then does God give us the Holy Spirit. What are your thoughts on that statement? What does it mean to serve God?

Explore

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

A new way to explore the theme

You may wish to use the explore section from this week's Faith Adventures: Children Together to guide your exploration of the theme this week.

This passage is a great opportunity to have a go at some puppetry work. It is VERY simple to make and work this Paper Boy Puppet, even under fives can get involved in the making and working of the puppet boy.

Here is a video of one of our writer's churches nativity based on a puppet boy – to give you an idea of what you can do with them.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJozozqFUgU>

Explain that just as Ezekiel saw the bones comes to life, rise up and walk; we are going to have fun making this pile of paper become a walking 'person'.

Start by making the puppet, one puppet for each group of three children.

You will need two long bits of paper and some seltape.

Measure the strips of paper to be about the length of a trestle table. Thin lining paper works best.

Next work along the strip of paper crunching it in your hands to make a long crumpled roll. Repeat with the second paper.

Then fold the paper roll in half and tape about 20-30cm to make a circle at the top. This will become your head / tummy. Repeat with the second roll.

Take the circle of one roll and place it up between the long 'legs' of the first roll. You will see that the top roll will make the head and arms shape with the bottom roll making the tummy and legs. Tape in place where the shoulders would be.

Now you are ready to bring your puppet person to life.

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