

Dust and wood



Bible verses:

Matthew 7:1-5

Be careful about judging others



Aim:

To see how Jesus got his message across



Today's fruit:

Self-control



In this session we are going to find out what Jesus taught about the way we should treat each other.

Jesus was an amazing teacher. The people would listen for hours as he taught them about God and how they should live their lives. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus took the time to help his followers to understand how they could love one another. This included treating each other fairly and not being judgemental.

Self-control is part of Jesus' life in us. But looking at our own faults before pointing out those of others might take some practice.

Each child will need:

- Memory verse wristband
- *Judgemental Bible verses* handout - two copies per sheet (optional)
- A Bible (optional)
- Pipe cleaners and scissors
- A heart-shaped piece of paper - to write or draw on it
- Pens/pencils and paper
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- To watch *DIY pipe cleaner heart shape goggles* by Kids Wow Collector (1:07)
- Today's fruit sign: *Self-control*



Start it

Say:

Think about all the lessons you have ever been taught at school.

Ask:

- What was your absolute favourite lesson of all time?
- Why did you love it so much?
- What did your teacher do to make it so memorable?

Divide the children into groups or pairs and give them paper and a pencil. Their job is to create the perfect teacher. They can label their drawing and write personality traits and characteristics to describe their teacher. When they have completed their creation, ask them to share it with the rest of the group. Discuss the common ideas the children have included.

Say:

Jesus was an amazing teacher. The people would listen for hours as he taught them about God and how they should live their lives. In today's session we are going to find out what Jesus taught about the way we should treat each other.

Sing it

Say:

Our memory verse for this month reminds us of an important commandment given by Jesus to us, his followers.

Give each child a memory verse wristband and share the verse together.

Memory verse

'I give you a new command: love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.'

(John 13:34 ICB)

Say:

Our song for today will help us learn the memory verse and, more importantly, remind us of the importance of showing love to each other.

Song

'EL Worship John 13:34' by Saddleback Kids (2:17)

Tell it

Say:

Jesus loved to teach people and share stories with them. He couldn't use a YouTube channel, social media, or go on the television to share his message. Instead, the people would gather around Jesus, and he would talk to them.

Say:

One of Jesus' most famous messages is called the Sermon on the Mount. Our Bible reading for today is part of that message. Let's watch the clip to find out more.

Video

God's Story: Sermon on the Mount by Crossroads Kids (stop at 1:45 'Jesus spent the rest of the day helping everyone he met.')

Ask:

- How did Jesus teach the people?
- Why do you think Jesus chose to be on a mountain to share his message?

Say:

Today we are going to look at one small part of the Sermon on the Mount.

Read:

'Don't judge other people, and you will not be judged. You will be judged in the same way that you judge others. And the forgiveness you give to others will be given to you.'

'Why do you notice the little piece of dust that is in your brother's eye, but you don't notice the big piece of wood that is in your own eye? Why do you say to your brother, "Let me take that little piece of dust out of your eye"? Look at yourself first! You still have that big piece of wood in your own eye. You are a hypocrite! First, take the wood out of your own eye. Then you will see clearly enough to take the dust out of your brother's eye.'

(Matthew 7:1-5 ICB)

Ask:

- What does it mean when we judge people?
- Is judging someone always a bad thing? If not, when is it a good thing?

Say:

If someone breaks the law, they will often have to go to court. At the court there is a judge who looks at all the evidence and, often with the help of a jury, decides whether the person has done something wrong.

Say:

This is not the kind of judgement that Jesus is talking about in the Sermon on the Mount. Recognising that something wrong has happened and speaking out about it is not what Jesus is talking about here.

Ask:

So, if Jesus doesn't see being judgemental as pointing out right from wrong, then what do you think he means?

Depending on your group, either share the following Bible verses together or ask the children to find them and read them out. Discuss what they tell us about being judgemental.

'Stop judging by the way things look! Be fair, and judge by what is really right.'

(John 7:24 *ICB*)

'If you think that you can judge others, then you are wrong. You too are guilty of sin. You judge people, but you do the same bad things they do. So when you judge them, you are really judging yourself guilty.'

(Romans 2:1 *ICB*)

**'A witness who lies will be punished.
An untruthful person will not be left unpunished.'**

(Proverbs 19:5 *ICB*)

Ask:

- In what ways can we be judgemental of others?
- Has anyone ever been judgemental of you? There's no need to share their name, but what did the situation feel like?
- How does Jesus' story about the big piece of wood help us to understand what it means to be judgemental?

Say:

Jesus calls us to judge others fairly. When we are judgemental, we only see another person's faults and can't see our own. We might judge someone on their appearance or decide something about them based on rumours we have heard. Jesus does not want us to live this way.

Action it

Say:

In our memory verse we are reminded of Jesus' commandment to love one another. We've shared it once, but let's try again to see if you can remember it.

Memory verse

'I give you a new command: love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.'

(John 13:34 ICB)

Ask:

How does our memory verse help us to check if we are looking at the right or wrong in a situation instead of being judgemental?

Say:

If we hear rumours about someone and say nasty things based on what we have heard, then we are being judgemental. If we're not careful, then we only see the faults in other people and can't recognise when we are making mistakes. This is what Jesus meant when he said that we should deal with the piece of wood in our own eye.

Ask:

Do you know what the word 'hypocrite' means?

Say:

Here is an example of being hypocritical. Let's say you arrived late to school on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. On Friday you were on time but made fun of one of your classmates for being late to school; then you would be a hypocrite.

Say:

Again, Jesus does not want us to live like this. If we love someone and we see them making the wrong choice, then we might share with them that we are concerned. The difference is we are doing it because we care.

Craft

The children are going to make heart-shaped pipe cleaner glasses. Watch the instruction video in advance; you can also share it with the group. Encourage the children to wear their glasses for the rest of the session.

Video

DIY pipe cleaner heart shape goggles by Kids Wow Collector (1:07)

Explain to the children that Jesus wants us to see people the way he does – and he loves every person on this planet very much. As the children go about their usual activities, ask them to imagine they are wearing their heart-shaped glasses, seeing everyone with love, just as Jesus did.

Display the *Self-control sign*.

Say:

As we choose not to be judgemental of others, we will need the Holy Spirit's help. He will guide us and help us to show self-control if we ask him. As you go through your week, imagine you

are wearing your heart-shaped glasses; and when loving someone is difficult, ask God to help you to show self-control.

Pray it

Say:

In our Bible story today, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus shares how everyone is important to God and that we should treat each other with respect. Jesus asks us to forgive others.

Ask:

What does it mean to forgive someone?

Say:

Let's watch the clip to find out more about forgiveness.

Video

What is forgiveness? by Crossroads Kids' Club (0:52)

Say:

In our prayer time today, we are going to spend time asking God to forgive us for the times we have been judgemental of others. We may want to ask God for help to show self-control when we are tempted to judge other people. We can also take a moment to forgive those who have been judgemental to us.

Give each child a heart-shaped piece of paper to write or draw a forgiveness prayer. When they have had time to write or draw their prayer, they can share them with the rest of the group if they feel comfortable.

Bring the session to a close with a song all about loving one another.

Song

'Love One Another' official music video Yancy & Little Praise Party by YancynotNancy (2:43)

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)

Dust and wood

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:

Matthew 7:1-5

Be careful about judging others



Aim:

To see how Jesus got his message across



Today's fruit:

Self-control



Pray

In our session this week, we had an opportunity to ask God to help us to show self-control. This isn't a one-time request! It can be so tempting to judge other people and so hard to stand out from the crowd by showing love and self-control.

Every day this week, ask God to help you to show love to others both at home and at your school.



Share

Read Matthew 7:1-5 and create a picture that illustrates Jesus' story about the big piece of wood in our eye. Share it with someone at home and discuss what Jesus meant when he asked us to not be judgemental towards others.

In what ways could your family show love towards one another, as Jesus commanded?



Song for the week

'EL Worship John 13:34' by Saddleback Kids (2:17)



Memory verse

'I give you a new command: love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.'

(John 13:34 ICB)

Dust and wood



Bible verses:

Matthew 7:1-5

Be careful about judging others



Aim:

To learn that Jesus teaches us to forgive



Today's fruit:

Self-control



Memory verse

'I give you a new command: love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.'

(John 13:34 *ICB*)



Start it

Who can tell me something they know about Jesus?

Today we are going to hear a story about Jesus, where he is teaching us to forgive.



Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Matthew 7:1-5.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- How do we forgive somebody?
- Think of something big and heavy, then something small and light.
- Have you ever seen a piece of dust?
- Think of something heavy made from wood.
- What is the difference between dust and wood?

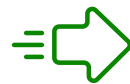
- What helps us to see clearly? (eg wearing glasses, using a torch ...)



Sing It

'If I were a butterfly' (lyrics and music)
'The butterfly song' by Brian Howard,
uploaded by Unreached Corners (3:09)

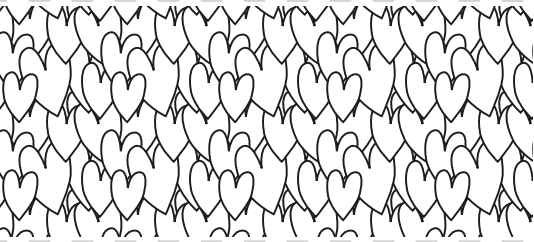
'Wonderful Lord' (official video) by Doug Horley (3:13)



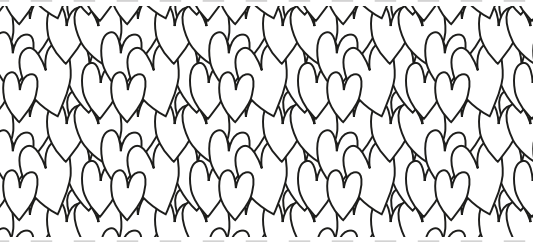
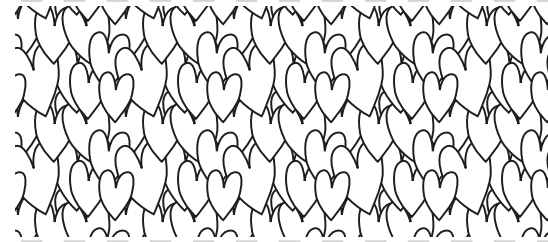
Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

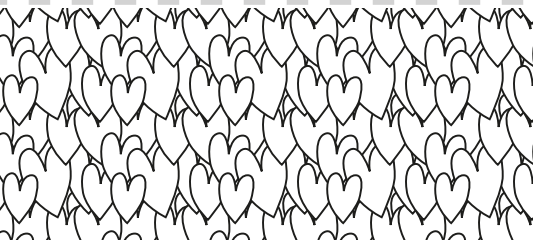
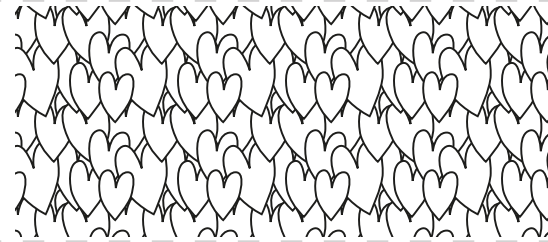
- Lay a piece of string or tape along the floor and get children to 'walk the plank'.
- Pretend to build something from heavy planks of wood.
- Close your eyes and follow an adult's instructions to hit a target – it's hard when we cannot see clearly.
- Contrast big and small by acting as an elephant then as an ant.



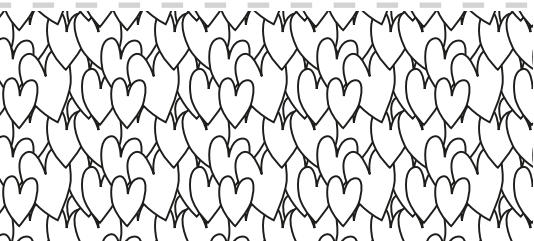
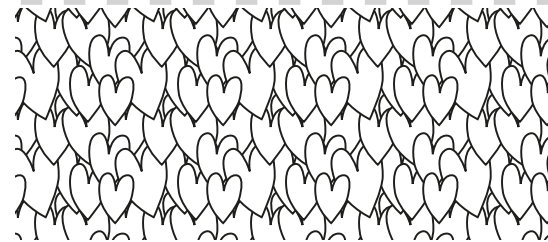
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(John 13:34)



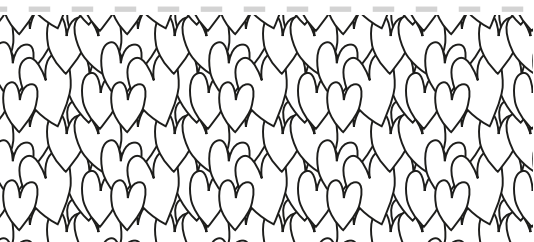
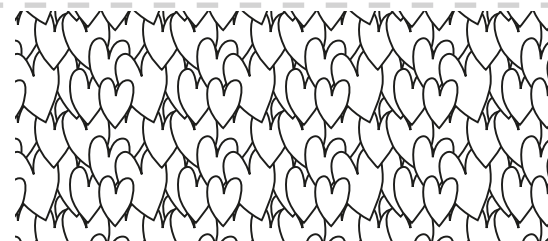
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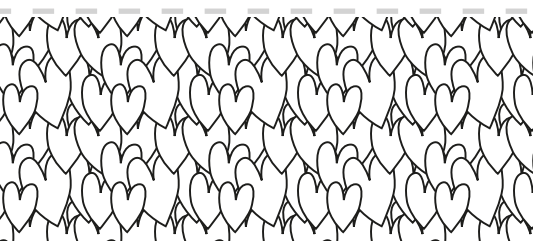
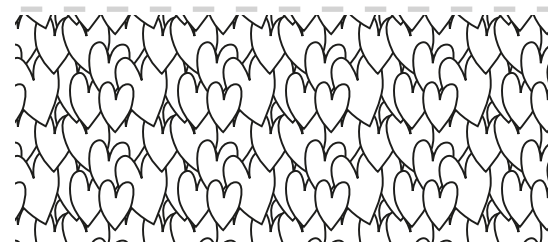
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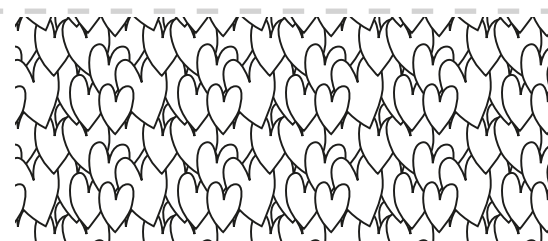
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Explore it

Judgemental Bible verses

‘Stop judging by the way things look!
Be fair, and judge by what is really right.’
(John 7:24 *ICB*)

‘If you think that you can judge others, then you are wrong.
You too are guilty of sin.
You judge people, but you do the same bad things they do.
So when you judge them, you are really judging yourself guilty.’
(Romans 2:1 *ICB*)

‘A witness who lies will be punished.
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 **Explore it**

Self-control

July 2024 session 1



Children
& Youth

One and ninety-nine



Bible verses:

Matthew 18:1-4,10-14

Who is the greatest?



Aim:

To know that children matter to God

Today's fruit:

Love



Today's story reminds us that children are extremely precious to God.

We will think about the moment when Jesus called a small child to stand before him and said, 'The greatest person in the Kingdom of Heaven is the one who makes himself humble like this child.' We'll also discover another one of Jesus' amazing stories that teach us just how much we are loved.

God's love is shown in the way the shepherd leaves the 99 and searches for the one lost sheep.

Each child will need:

- A pom-pom maker or two cardboard discs
- Wool, strong thread/string/twine (if the wool breaks easily), sharp little scissors, black felt or card, googly eyes, glue dots or PVA glue – or a glue gun (optional) – black pipe cleaners (optional)
- Sticky notes or paper cut into sheep shapes and glue/Blu-tak, pens/pencils
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- To watch *How to make a pom-pom sheep* by Red Ted Art (7:05)
- To watch *How to make a pom-pom maker tutorial* by Red Ted Art (6:48) if using cardboard discs
- Extra supervision for any child using sharp scissors or a glue gun
- Today's fruit sign: *Love*
- A large sheet of paper and pens

Start it

Start the session by playing the theme tune to the cartoon series *Shaun the Sheep*.

Video

***Shaun the Sheep* original theme song** by Shaun the Sheep Official (0:39)

Say:

Shaun the Sheep is one of the most famous sheep in the world. He has his own hit TV show and is part of two blockbuster films. Despite his huge success it all started way back in 1995 when he appeared in the Wallace and Gromit film *A Close Shave*. The following clip shows Shaun's first ever appearance. Watch it carefully and see if you can answer the questions.

Video

A Close Shave - the birth of Shaun the Sheep - Wallace and Gromit, a Nick Park film (2:57)

Questions:

1. What does Wallace have ready to eat on his bedside table? **Cheese and crackers**
2. What is Gromit doing in bed? **Knitting**
3. How does Shaun escape from the big truck? **He breaks through the side of the truck**
4. Who stopped the dog in the truck going to get Shaun back? **The woman who is driving the truck**
5. How does Shaun get into Wallace and Gromit's house? **Through the dog flap**
6. What business are Wallace and Gromit running? **Wash 'N' Go - a window cleaning service**
7. Why does Gromit stop knitting? **He runs out of wool**
8. What is the main headline on Gromit's newspaper? **Wool shortage**
9. What does Wallace ask to eat for breakfast? **Porridge**
10. What happens when the porridge machine goes wrong? **It keeps shooting porridge at Wallace**
11. Why did the porridge machine go wrong? **The wires had been chewed**
12. Who is responsible for chewing the wires? **Shaun the Sheep!**



Sing it

Say:

Our memory verse for this month tells us how much Jesus loves us and how we can show that love to others. Let's share it together.

Memory verse

'I give you a new command: love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.'

(John 13:34 *ICB*)

Say:

In our session today we'll be thinking about that phrase 'As I have loved you'. God loves us a huge amount and we are precious to him. Our song for today reminds us just how much we are loved.

Song

'Your love for me' worship song with motions by Lifepoint Kids, LifePoint Church (2:35)

Tell it

Say:

There's a saying that actors use in the world of theatre and film that goes like this: 'Never work with children and animals.'

Ask:

Why do you think they say it?

Say:

It's a little unfair to compare children to animals in such a negative way when you are all amazing and have so much to offer the world.

Ask:

In what ways do adults sometimes overlook children? How do you get frustrated by this?

Say:

Today we are totally ignoring the 'never work with children or animals' rule as they both play an important part in our Bible story. Rather than being seen in a negative way, both children and animals are presented as being very special to Jesus.



Read:

'At that time the followers came to Jesus and asked, "Who is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?"

'Jesus called a little child to him. He stood the child before the followers. Then he said, "I tell you the truth. You must change and become like little children. If you don't do this, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The greatest person in the Kingdom of Heaven is the one who makes himself humble like this child.'"

(Matthew 18:1-4 *ICB*)

Ask:

- What do you think Jesus was trying to say to the adults listening?
- What do you think adults could learn from children?

Say:

Jesus told those listening that they needed to become like children in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Instead of acting as if they knew everything, or thinking a lot of themselves, Jesus said they should be humble and eager to learn, as children are.

Ask:

In what way are children humble?

Say:

Jesus then told a story, teaching that lost people, and children, matter to God.

Read:

'Be careful. Don't think these little children are worth nothing. I tell you that they have angels in Heaven who are always with my Father in Heaven. [The Son of Man came to save lost people.]

'If a man has 100 sheep, but one of the sheep gets lost, he will leave the other 99 sheep on the hill. He will go to look for the lost sheep. And if he finds it, he is happier about that one sheep than about the 99 that were never lost. I tell you the truth. In the same way, your Father in Heaven does not want any of these little children to be lost.'

(Matthew 18:10-14 *ICB*)

Ask:

- How does Jesus explain how important and precious children are to him?
- Were you surprised that the shepherd left the 99 sheep to go and look for one sheep? What does this tell us about God's love?
- What does it feel like to know that you are deeply loved by Jesus?

Action it

Say:

The children are going to make their own pom-pom sheep to remind them of God's love for them. Watch the instruction video in advance, plus there is a second clip if you are using cardboard discs.

Please provide additional supervision for children using the sharp scissors or a glue gun.

Videos

How to make a pom-pom sheep by Red Ted Art (7:05)

How to make a Pom-pom maker tutorial by Red Ted Art (6:48)

When the children have finished their pom-pom sheep, gather them back as a group. As they look at their sheep, remind them that they represent God's love for us. Encourage the children to take their pom-pom sheep home, to help remind them. There is also a follow-up activity on the *Explore It Ideas* handout.

Display the *Love* sign. Explain how God helps us to show his love to others through the Holy Spirit.

Pray it

On a large sheet of paper draw a two-circle Venn diagram – two large overlapping circles. Label the left circle as 'children' and the right circle as 'adults'.

Using sticky notes or sheep-shaped paper, collect prayer ideas for children and adults, eg in your church, the wider Salvation Army, or elsewhere. You may want to link this activity to the *Together 24* Congress that is taking place in Wales this weekend.

For each idea, place it either in the 'children' or 'adults' circle. It is hoped there will be prayer points that are applicable for both adults and children, and these can be places where the circles overlap.

Finish by sharing in a time of prayer together and encouraging the children to read out the prayer points.

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.

One and ninety-nine

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:

Matthew 18:1-4,10-14
Who is the greatest?



Aim:

To know that children matter to God



Today's fruit:

Love



Create

In today's session you created your own pom-pom sheep, to remind you how much you are loved by God.

Create a habitat for your sheep to live in. You could use some cardboard from the recycling bin or create a backdrop for your sheep.



Relax

Today was all about sheep! Have a movie night with the people at home and watch one of the following films together.

Grab five minutes before the film starts to tell your family all about the story of the lost sheep.

- *Shaun the Sheep Movie: Farmageddon*
- *Shaun the Sheep Movie*
- *A Close Shave*



Song for the week

'Your love for me' worship song with motions by Lifepoint Kids, LifePoint Church



Memory verse

'I give you a new command: love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.'

(John 13:34 /CB)



Kids Alive! Online – salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

One and ninety-nine

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Who is the greatest?

**Aim:**

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Memory verse

'I give you a new command: love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.'

(John 13:34 ICB)



Start it

Put out a handful of blocks/cubes. Ask the children to look at (but not count) them and then to close their eyes. Take one away and ask them to say what they notice. Can they tell if there are the same number or if one is missing? Repeat several times, sometimes taking one, sometimes not - all the while increasing the number on display - ideally to about 100. Do they always know when one is missing? Imagine if the blocks/cubes were people - God would always know if one wasn't there!

Today we are going to hear about how much children matter to God.



Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Matthew 18:1-4,10-14.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- What do sheep like to eat?
- Do you have 100 of anything at home?
- What is the largest number you can think of?
- What sort of things might we lose at home?
- How do we feel when we find them again?
- What are children good at that adults are not?



Sing It

'The wise man built his house upon the rock' by Tiny Tree Tunes uploaded by Lithos Kids. Just the first two verses (1:35)

'All through history' Nicky & Becky Drake by Worship For Everyone (3:36)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Hide objects around the room that the children have to find.
- Pretend you are sheep and one person is a shepherd keeping them together.
- Collect/gather or stack up 100 items, eg shoes / socks / jenga blocks ...
- Compare one with 99 to see the difference.

 **Explore it**

Louise

July 2024 session 2



Children
& Youth

Love God and love others

**Bible verses:**

Mark 12:28-34

The most important command

**Aim:**

To discover how Jesus answered a tricky question

**Today's fruit:**

Faithfulness



In today's story a religious leader comes eager to listen and learn.

Jesus faced tricky questions from lots of different religious leaders, often trying to catch him out. One religious leader had seen Jesus tackling tricky questions and was impressed with his answers. We don't know what happened afterwards to the man who questioned Jesus, but he walked away understanding that loving God and loving others is the most important thing we need to do.

Faithfulness is shown when we trust in God's Kingdom. God's faithfulness is reflected in us when we love him and other people.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- A large sheet of paper and pens
- Today's fruit sign: *Faithfulness*



Start it

Say:

In our Bible story last week Jesus reminded the people how precious children are to God. Jesus said that adults should come to God with the humility of children. Children have an important part to play in God's Kingdom.

This week we find Jesus answering tricky questions just like the ones we often ask about our

faith. There's no reason why children like you can't think about tricky questions about Jesus – they're not just for adults. Sometimes, children have better answers!

You may wish to create a challenge between the adults and children in your group. Watch the clip together and see who can solve the most riddles. You do not need to complete all the riddles and can pause the clip if the children (or adults) need more time to think. It's fine if they're far too difficult for everyone – that's part of the discussion you can have with the children.

Video

Five children's riddles that are too hard for 95 per cent of people by Bright Side (6:35)



Sing it

Say:

In our Bible story today we hear Jesus sharing his wisdom about the greatest commandments we should follow in life. Our song for today reminds us of one of those commandments.

Song

'Love the Lord' Kids Worship Motions with lyrics by CJ and Friends (3:14)



Tell it

On a flip chart write the numbers one to ten. Remind the children that we have looked at the Ten Commandments in previous sessions before – now let's find out how many they can remember.

1. You must not have any other gods except me.
2. You must not worship or serve any idols.
3. You must not use the name of the Lord your God thoughtlessly.
4. Remember to keep the Sabbath as a holy day.
5. Honour your father and your mother.
6. You must not murder anyone.
7. You must not be guilty of adultery.
8. You must not steal.
9. You shall not tell lies about your neighbour.
10. You must not [covet]: want to take anything that belongs to your neighbour.

Last August we also used this shorthand version:

1. God first.
2. No idols.
3. Don't misuse God's name.
4. Worship and rest.
5. Honour your parents.
6. No murder.
7. No adultery.
8. Don't steal.
9. Don't lie.
10. Don't covet.



Say:

The Ten Commandments were given to God's people as part of a covenant, or agreement, with him. The people were supposed to follow God's rules for all of their life.

Ask:

How did that work out?

Say:

For hundreds of years the Israelites tried to follow these laws carefully (with mixed success) and then Jesus came along and challenged what they believed. Many of the important religious people were angry about what Jesus was saying and repeatedly questioned him. Often they were trying to catch him out.

Ask:

- Why would the religious leaders want to catch out Jesus with a tricky question?
- How does it feel when someone asks you a tricky question?
- How do you think Jesus felt when it happened to him?

Say:

In our story today one of the teachers of the law came to speak with Jesus. Jesus had handled tricky questions from other religious leaders, from the Sadducees (who didn't believe that people could rise from death), wealthy Jews and merchants, and the Pharisees, priests and scholars. However, this person didn't want to test Jesus; he wanted to know more.

Read:

'One of the teachers of the law came to Jesus. He heard Jesus arguing with the Sadducees and the Pharisees. He saw that Jesus gave good answers to their questions. So he asked Jesus, "Which of the commands is most important?"'

‘Jesus answered, “The most important command is this: ‘Listen, people of Israel! The Lord our God, he is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God. Love him with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ The second most important command is this: ‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself.’ These two commands are the most important commands.”’

(Mark 12:28–31 *ICB*)

Say:

The teacher of the law wasn’t looking for an argument. Instead, he was impressed by Jesus and the answers he gave the other religious leaders. It would have been easy for Jesus to be defensive, ready for a heated discussion, but instead he listened carefully to the man’s questions.

Ask:

What did Jesus say were the two most important commandments?

Read:

‘The man answered, “That was a good answer, Teacher. You were right when you said these things. God is the only Lord, and there is no other God besides him. One must love God with all his heart, all his mind, and all his strength. And one must love his neighbour as he loves himself. These commands are more important than all the animals and sacrifices we offer to God.”

‘Jesus saw that the man answered him wisely. So Jesus said to him, “You are close to the Kingdom of God.” And after that, no one was brave enough to ask Jesus any more questions.’

(Mark 12:32–34 *ICB*)

Say:

The Israelites used to do lots of things to show everyone that they followed God. They made sacrifices, kept the Sabbath, attended the Temple, and prayed regularly. There was nothing wrong with these things, but they often focused on what was happening *on the outside*.

Say:

When Jesus said that we should love God and love our neighbours, he was focusing on what was happening *on the inside*. The teacher of the law understood what Jesus was saying.

Ask:

We don’t know what happened in the life of the man who questioned Jesus. What do you think happened next?

Say:

For some people, God’s Kingdom might sound like a place; but Jesus teaches that the Kingdom happens when God’s ways are being done. When this happens, God is ‘in charge’ and his kingly rule is in place. In Jesus, God’s Kingdom was in front of us, and the teacher of the law saw it close-up. He experienced Jesus.

Action it

The children can complete this activity individually or in small groups. Ask the children to draw the outline of a person on a piece of paper. They will need to make sure there is space inside the person to draw and write other things.

Talk to the children about the different ways we show that we follow Jesus on the outside. One example is that, in The Salvation Army, many people wear a uniform to show that they belong to this church. It is an outward sign of their faith. Ask the children to write or draw other examples of outward expressions of faith around the outside of the person.

Now discuss the way that we follow Jesus on the inside, in the places that no one else can see other than God. Ask the children to draw or write these things on the inside of their person.

Discuss with the children if they think it is possible to do all the outside things while not following Jesus on the inside. And on the other hand, is it possible to follow Jesus on the inside, while not doing the outside things?

Say:

Jesus told the teacher of the law that we need to love God on the inside and on the outside.

Read:

‘Jesus answered, “The most important command is this: ‘Listen, people of Israel! The Lord our God, he is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God. Love him with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ The second most important command is this: ‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself.’ These two commands are the most important commands.”’

(Mark 12:29-31 ICB)

Say:

This is how we will share God’s Kingdom with everyone here on earth.

Display the *Faithfulness* sign.

Say:

God loves us completely, with every part of who he is. He is a faithful God who is always there for us. He wants to grow the fruit of faithfulness in us, so that we can show others his love.

Pray it

Say:

Our memory verse for this month reminds us how important it is to God that we share his love with everyone we meet. Let’s read it together.

Memory verse

'I give you a new command: love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.'

(John 13:34 ICB)

Say:

In our story today Jesus was asked a tricky question. He had already answered lots of challenging questions from people who were trying to cause him problems.

Ask:

How could he have reacted when yet another religious leader said he wanted to ask a question?

Say:

Sometimes people want to make fun of us because of what we believe and try to disprove that Jesus ever existed or that he is who he said he was. This can be challenging when we're not sure how we should answer. There are also people, like the teacher of the law, who genuinely want to learn about what we believe. It is important that we are ready to share God's love with others.

Prayer thoughts

Follow these steps, pausing after each point to give the children time to reflect and a moment to pray.

- Ask the children to close their eyes and think about the people they meet every day.
- Encourage them to think of one person that they can pray for.
- Ask them to think how they could show God's love to this person.
- Now ask them to think about someone who challenges what they believe and to spend time praying for them.

Bring the session to a close in prayer.

As an additional prayer point, you may want to pray for the young people attending Salvation Army residential camps over the summer, not just in the UK and Ireland, but across the world.

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)

Love God and love others

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:

Mark 12:28-34

The most important command



Aim:

To discover how Jesus answered a tricky question



Today's fruit:

Faithfulness



Create

We have one more week to remember our memory verse for this month.

Create a picture version of the verse and stick it up at home to help you remember it.

Memory verse

'I give you a new command: love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.'

(John 13:34 ICB)



Prepare

In today's session we thought about the times when people ask us tricky questions about our faith.

Watch this clip about Jesus with someone at home. Ask them to pretend to be someone interested in finding out more about Jesus. They can ask you questions, and you can use the information in the clip to help you answer them.

Who is Jesus? for kids, GQKidz.org by Got Questions Ministries



Song for the week

'Love the Lord' Kids Worship Motions with lyrics by CJ and Friends



Memory verse

'I give you a new command: love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.'

(John 13:34 ICB)

Kids Alive! Online – salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!



Children & Youth

Love God and love others

**Bible verses:**

Mark 12:28-34

The most important
command**Aim:**To discover how
Jesus answers tricky
questions**Today's fruit:**

Faithfulness



Memory verse

'I give you a new command: love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.'

(John 13:34 ICB)



Start it

Play a game of *Sausages and squashed frogs*. Ask a volunteer to answer questions for 30 seconds, eg How old are you, what is your name, what do you like to eat? But the answer must always be either 'Sausages' or 'Squashed frogs'. If they laugh or say something else, they are out!

Today we are going to hear about about some tricky questions Jesus was asked – and the answers were definitely not sausages or squashed frogs!



Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Mark 12:28-34.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- Do you have a tricky question for God?

- Who do you ask for help at home when you have a tricky question?
- What is the hardest question you can think of?
- What does 'Love God' look like?
- What does 'Loving others' look like?
- Which person shows you the most love?



Sing It

'Great big God!' Vineyard Kids, Vineyard Worship UK and Ireland (2:51)

'Jesus song' by Saddleback Kids (2:45) This song tells us about the amazing thing Jesus did.



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Mime different ways of loving God (some children might pray, pretend to read a Bible).
- Mime ways of loving others (some children might help somebody who is hurt or upset).
- Act out being a teacher in a class, with the class asking tricky questions to the teacher.

 Explore it

Faithfulness

July 2024 session 3



Children
& Youth

Dinner and perfume

**Bible verses:**

Mark 14:3-9

A woman with perfume for Jesus

**Aim:**

To consider the worship we can bring to God

**Today's fruit:**

Love



In our session today Jesus uses an unusual event to teach about the importance of worship.

Jesus was visiting the home of Simon* when an unexpected visitor arrived. Filling the house with a beautiful smell, the woman poured perfume on Jesus' hair. We'll discover how the disciples reacted to this and how Jesus used the situation to teach us about loving God and loving others.

[*Simon is described in the *ICB* as having 'a harmful skin disease'; other versions say that his name was 'Simon the Leper'. It must mean that he had had the disease once, but had been cured, since the law at the time forced people with the disease to live separately from everyone else. Perhaps he was known as 'Simon the Leper' because of the cure – see comment later.]

Love was shown by Jesus for Simon, and love was then shown by the woman for Jesus. His action had made an impact upon her life.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils, paper and a good rubber
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- To cover a sock / piece of cloth with perfume and hide it in the room
- Today's fruit sign: *Love* (or re-use the poster from Session Two)
- A large sheet of paper and pens
- Find out what *Welcome Sunday* means and consider ways to welcome new leaders – see *Pray It* (optional)

Start it

Ask:

- What is your favourite smell? Why do you love it so much?
- What is your least favourite smell? Why do you dislike it so much?

Say:

In our story today a woman fills the room with the smell of expensive perfume (compare John 12:3) as an offering to Jesus.

Play a game of *Smell and seek*. Before the children arrive, cover a sock or a piece of cloth in perfume and hide it in the room. Encourage the children to use their sense of smell to find the smelly sock. The winner is the one who uses their nose to find the smell. If they can be trusted, then ask the children to cover their eyes while you hide the smelly sock for a second go!

Sing it

Display the *Love* sign. Our song for today tells us how amazing God's love is. God wants to grow the fruit of his love within us so that we can love others.

Song

'The LOVE Song' by Cheeky Pandas TV (2:40)

Ask:

- In the song, the Pandas mention lots of things we might love. Which ones can you remember?
- How is God's love different from us loving ice cream or brussels sprouts?
- How does the song describe God's love? **Bigger and stronger and higher and wider ... there's no love greater than his.**

Say:

Our memory verse for this month reminds us that we should show others the same love that God shows to us. Let's share it together.

Memory verse

'I give you a new command: love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.'

(John 13:34 ICB)



Tell it

Say:

Our story today takes place in the home of Simon who asked Jesus to come round for a meal. While they were eating, a surprise visitor arrived. Watch the clip to find out who it was.

Video

Jesus is anointed at Bethany by Saddleback Kids (1:55)

Say:

Jesus was visiting Simon for a meal. The Bible mentions that Simon had had a skin disease called leprosy. Many people who know lots about the Bible think that Jesus may have healed Simon of his leprosy before this visit. He must have been free of the disease when Jesus came to visit, because people with leprosy had to live outside the camp away from everyone else.

Ask:

- How do you think Simon felt about Jesus?
- The other people in the room were Jesus' disciples. How do you think they felt about Jesus?

Say:

Everybody was there to listen to what Jesus had to say. They loved him and wanted to know more about him. Then a woman came into the room and poured expensive perfume on to Jesus' head.

Ask:

In what way did the woman surprise the people at Simon's house?

Say:

In the Bible we read that the perfume was worth a year's salary. In the UK and Ireland today, the average salary is £28,000. Think about if Jesus was here today and he was visiting your house for tea. Imagine someone coming into the dining room and pouring a bottle of perfume worth £28,000 into Jesus' hair!

Ask:

- How would you react?
- Can you see why the disciples were annoyed? Explain your thoughts.
- Do you think it was because they didn't think Jesus deserved to be anointed with such expensive perfume?

Say:

The disciples loved Jesus very much, but they just couldn't understand such an extravagant gift. Sometimes people react in a negative way because they think they are doing the right

thing. The disciples thought the expensive perfume could have been sold and used to help the poor. They maybe even thought that Jesus would agree with them.

Ask:

The disciples were very unkind to the woman. How could they have shared their opinion in a more helpful way?

Say:

Even if we don't agree with someone, we can share it in a kind way instead of looking down on them and being unkind. Jesus wasn't happy with the way the disciples spoke to the woman and how they interrupted her act of worship. All she wanted to do was show Jesus how much she loved him.

Read:

'Jesus said, "Don't bother the woman. Why are you troubling her? She did a beautiful thing for me. You will always have the poor with you. You can help them whenever you want. But you will not always have me. This woman did the only thing she could do for me. She poured perfume on my body. She did this before I die to prepare me for burial. I tell you the truth. The Good News will be told to people in all the world. And in every place it is preached, what this woman has done will be told. And people will remember her.'"

(Mark 14:6-9 ICB)

Ask:

- Jesus told his disciples that the perfume was used to prepare for his death. How do you think they felt after hearing this?
- How would you have reacted to that news?

Say:

It must have been a very confusing time for the disciples, but Jesus didn't speak harshly to them. Instead, he stayed calm and was able to teach the disciples in that moment.

Say:

Jesus' whole life was about loving God and loving others. He wanted us to know that worship is about bringing what we can and offering it to him. Jesus said that everyone would remember the story of this woman. He was right, as we have remembered it today and hopefully it will remind us how important worship is.



Action it

Ask the children to draw a picture of a large jug of perfume. Rather than using a preprinted handout, let's develop their artistic skills. Give each child a piece of paper and pencil and use the video clip to help them draw a large perfume jug.

Video

How to draw a jug by Azz Easy Drawing (stop at 3:20)

Discuss with the children all the different things we can offer as an act of worship to Jesus. It could be our time, our talents, or even our pocket money.

Compile a list of possible ideas on a large sheet of paper, then encourage the children to draw or write some of these ideas inside their large perfume jug. They can then share their pictures with each other.

Pray it

Say:

As we have discovered throughout our *Explore It* sessions this month, Jesus was an amazing teacher. Just like Simon, many people wanted to listen to what Jesus had to say. And maybe sometimes they forgot who they were listening to.

Say:

Jesus was the Son of God, worthy to be worshipped and praised.

Ask:

How did the woman react when she saw Jesus?

Say:

All the woman wanted to do was worship Jesus in the best way she knew how. For her, it was worth it to use all the expensive perfume to anoint Jesus' head.

Ask the children to look at the perfume jug they created earlier. Which offering is as precious to them as the woman's perfume? Ask them to share with the rest of the group.

As you finish with a song of praise and worship together, encourage the children to think about what they can offer to Jesus as an act of worship.



Song

'I Will Praise' **Simply Kids Worship** by Allstars Kids Club (3:50)

This weekend is also *Welcome Sunday* in The Salvation Army. You may have new leaders coming to your church. Find out what *Welcome Sunday* means and, just as Jesus taught with Simon and the woman, see if you can use what you have to offer a loving welcome to somebody new.

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Dinner and perfume

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:

Mark 14:3-9

A woman with perfume for Jesus



Aim:

To consider the worship we can bring to God



Today's fruit:

Love



Discover

Watch the clip to discover how and why music is used in worship.

Introducing Worship to Kids (Why do we use music to worship God?) animated Bible stories for kids by Minno – Bible Stories for Kids



Play

In our session today we played a game of *Smell and seek*.

Find a spare sock or cloth at home, cover it in beautiful perfume and play the game with your family. Make sure first that you ask permission to use the sock – and the perfume!



Song for the week

'The LOVE Song' by Cheeky Pandas TV



Memory verse

'I give you a new command: love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.'

(John 13:34 ICB)

LIVING OUT FAITH

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Children & Youth

Dinner and perfume

**Bible verses:**

Mark 14:3-9

A woman with perfume
for Jesus**Aim:**To find out why
Jesus gets covered in
perfume**Today's fruit:**

Love



Memory verse

'I give you a new command: love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.'

(John 13:34 ICB)



Sing It

'Shine! (from the inside out)' by Nick Jackson uploaded by Tangy Crayfish (2:20)

'Holy Spirit' for children by Aji and her friends. Sing only the chorus (0:44-1:15)



Start it

What's it like when something is put or poured over you? Balls, water, blanket, toys, sand, paint, leaves, goo ...

What was fun - what was not?

Today we are going to hear about something that was poured over Jesus.



Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Mark 14:3-9.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- What is strange about this story?
- What would you think if you were Jesus?
- Do you have a favourite smell?
- What do you love? (perhaps a pet or a meal)
- How do you show your love?



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- This is an excellent story to act out as a group with somebody pouring the perfume over Jesus in Simon's house.
- Have different smells which the children can enjoy, eg an air freshener, some flowers, some chocolate - perhaps with their eyes closed ...
- Encourage them to show love to a trusted adult in the room.

 **Explore it**

Louise

July 2024 session 4



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