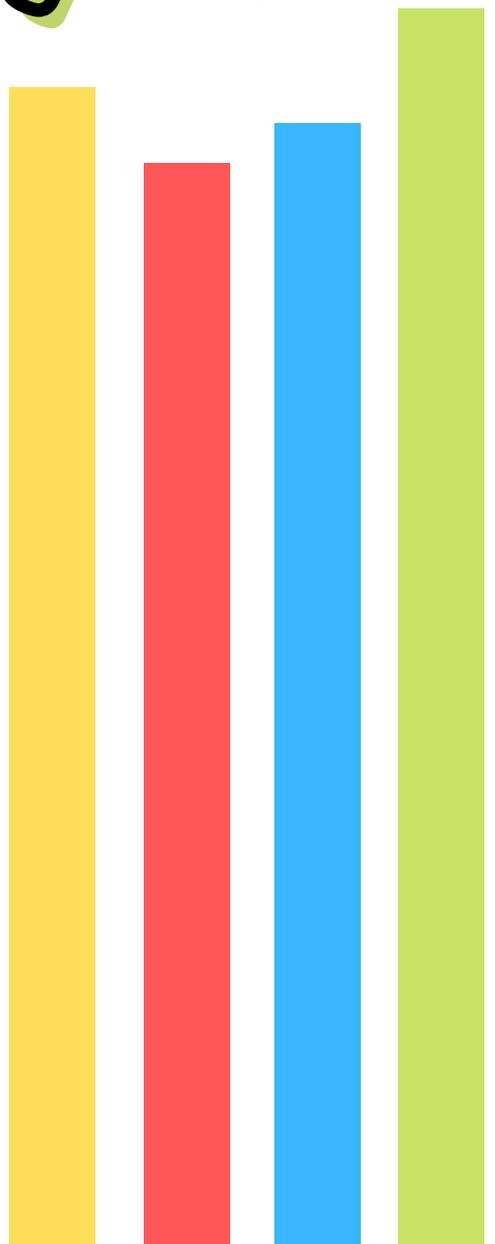


MAY - JULY 2021



weekly@

LECTIONARY RESOURCE



weekly@

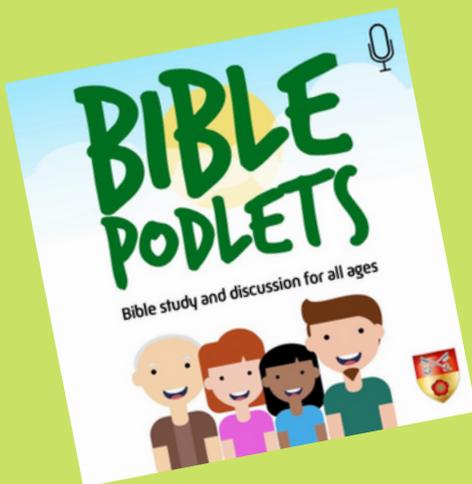
LECTIONARY RESOURCE

WELCOME

Welcome to our Weekly@ lectionary resource which has been created to support your children's ministry by providing ideas which sit along side the themes within the weekly gospel lectionary reading.

You will find that many of our suggested activities come with adaptations, which vary from age adaptations, to budget and even location adaptations, making sure you're fully equipped to be able to modify Weekly@ to suit your group context.

IF YOU LOVE THIS RESOURCE....



If you love our Weekly@ materials then don't forget to head over to the resources area of our website where you will find lots more free resources, including Bible Podlets, our children's Bible study and discussion podcast, a series of e-booklets with ideas for under 5s and seasonal specials such as our summer holiday club!

Products – Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education
(bdeducation.org.uk)



We love seeing the way you use this resource so make sure to share with us on Facebook and tag us in @BDBEUpdates.

Aim: To know that we are welcome to be part of a special family - the family of God.

OVERVIEW

In today's Bible passage Jesus was in the city of Capernaum, along the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. News about Him was beginning to spread and large numbers of people were coming to listen to him speak, or be healed by him. At the same time, there was also a growing opposition against Jesus from the religious leaders of the Jewish people. Jesus' family had heard about all the things that were happening and decided to make the twenty-mile trip from Nazareth up north to Capernaum to take action. The members of Jesus' family - his mother and brothers - were acting out of sincere love for him, but they had completely misunderstood Jesus' mission. Jesus' response to the arrival of his family shouldn't be interpreted as rejection but shows us that he had a set of family relations that were deeper and more eternal than those understood only through the ties of flesh and blood.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for our families and we thank you for the opportunity to be welcomed into **your** family where we find brothers and sisters in Christ. Help us to love and serve you and one another. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

ALL AGE TALK

The film is a bit out of season, (which is sure to grab the congregations attention!) but if you have the technology, show a clip from the 2003 film 'Elf' which is about Buddy the Elf who sets off from Santa's Workshop in the North Pole to find his real father in New York. In this clip Walter takes Buddy for a DNA test to find out if he is actually his son: [Elf \(2003\). Buddy goes to the doctor - YouTube](#) or you could show this clip where Buddy is at the family dinner table and it is apparent how different he is: [Elf Dinner Scene \(spaghetti w/ syrup, and pop belch\) in HD - YouTube](#)

If you're not able to show a clip, you could ask the congregation who is familiar with the film and get them to help you to describe what happens for the benefit of anyone that hasn't seen it. In the film, Walter doesn't want to acknowledge that Buddy is his son and refuses to welcome him into his family.

In our Bible passage for today, Jesus has entered a house, and a large crowd is gathered there. Mark refers to the crowds following Jesus, coming to hear him teach, coming to be healed, coming to see who Jesus is. But this time, the crowd is so great that Jesus and the disciples aren't even able to eat. When Jesus' family get wind of what has been going on, they decide to go and find Jesus to try and intervene. When they arrive they send word inside the house to call him, but Jesus responds by saying, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" That must have been incredibly hard for Mary to hear. She had borne him, had raised him and had given her all for him. Family ties were even stronger in those days than our family ties are today. Jesus went on to say, "Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother." That means that anyone—no matter who they are may enter into a spiritual 'family' relationship with him. There is no past sin, cultural background or limitation that would keep anyone out. Of course Jesus loved his mother and brothers, but he wanted people to know that he had another family. A family made up of those who love his Heavenly Father and want to do his will. A family that we can be a part of too.

SONG

[Big Family Of God \(Official Lyric Video\) - Nick & Becky Drake // Worship For Everyone - YouTube](#)

SET THE SCENE

Play the traditional card game 'Happy Families' where the children have to collect sets of cards featuring complete family units. If you don't have the game, you will find printable versions online. Alternatively, you could show the children a variety of different items and ask them to group them in 'families', for example a pen, pencil, rubber, ruler and sharpener are in the stationery family, whilst a needle, thread, a button and pin cushion are related to sewing. Ask the children to tell you about their own families.

DISCUSSION

Think about your family and who is a part of it. Do you have brothers and sisters? Grandparents? Aunts and Uncles? Cousins? Often family members become scattered and end up living in different towns or cities far away from one another, which means it takes real effort to keep in touch. The Bible tells us that family is very important, reminding us that God intended for family members to be there to care for one another in times of need.

When Jesus' family hadn't seen him for a while they went looking for him and found him at a house talking to a crowd of people who wanted to listen to him. Jesus was informed that his mother and brothers had arrived to see him. Jesus' response was a little unusual...

He asked, "Who are my mother and brothers?" Jesus was not rejecting or being disrespectful towards his family, but he was trying to explain that he came for ALL people. Jesus was saying that all the people of God are his mothers and brothers. So he loves not just his mother and brothers but all who were following him. Jesus says that whoever does God's will is his true family, but how do we know that we are doing that?

Sometimes, things appear to be a good choice because they seem attractive but really, they are tempting us away and creating a barrier between us and God. Although it can be hard, if we keep praying, keep talking to one another, sharing our experiences and reading the Bible, we can start to know when we are following God's will which leads to become part of the family that Jesus is talking about.

ALTERNATIVE

Tell the children the story of the baby hippo which was rescued after floods in Kenya. The one-year-old hippo calf christened Owen was found dehydrated by wildlife rangers on the shores of the Indian Ocean. The rest of the Hippopotamus herd had been washed out to sea. Owen was put in an enclosure at a wildlife sanctuary in Mombasa. Also in the enclosure was a male tortoise called Mzee. (In Swahili, Mzee means old man). The two animals quickly became inseparable and would sleep together and eat together. The two of them formed a family. Not all of us are blessed with families that include a mother, father, brothers, and sisters. Families are made of people who love and care for each other. Jesus tells us that we can find family in our fellow believers who love and care for each other.

TAKE HOME

Membership Cards Invite the children to create their own credit card sized 'Membership Cards' which show that they are part of God's family. On them they can include their name, a picture of themselves, date of birth, etc. You might also want to include 'Date of Expiry - NONE' to remember that as long as we believe in Jesus, our inclusion in God's family never runs out. Laminate the cards, or cover them with clear sticky back plastic to protect them. Suggest that the children keep their card in a purse or wallet, or put them somewhere safe at home. When they look at them they will be reminded they are members of the family of God.

RESPONSE

Family of God In advance of the session you will need to print or draw the outline of a bare tree onto a big piece of thin card. When we put our faith in Jesus we become part of God's family. Invite the children to acknowledge their faith commitment (if they want to) by putting some green ink from a stamp pad on the end of their finger and making a fingerprint on the piece of card, like a leaf on the tree. You could mount this picture and put it up on the wall as a reminder that you are all part of God's family. Some children might not feel ready to make this commitment, but they can do so at a later date. You could also invite the wider church family to add their finger prints too.

ACTIVITY

Peg Dolls Provide everyone with a blank wooden peg doll. You can source them in a variety of sizes but small ones can be a bit fiddly so the bigger the better! Invite the children to decorate their peg doll so it looks like themselves. You can do this using paint or marker pens, and can even use fabric for clothes and yarn for hair if you want to. All the dolls will look unique. Make or buy a special box where the peg dolls will be kept in church. The children can get their peg doll out of the box each time they attend a session and place them together in your room so you can remind them about being part of God's special family. Make sure you have spare peg dolls so any future newcomers to your group can make one!

GAME

Don't wake Dad! Select someone to be 'Dad'. They must sit in the centre of the room on a chair, wearing a blind fold and pretending to be asleep. A bunch of keys should be placed underneath the chair. All of the other children should sit in a large circle around 'Dad'. Secretly nominate someone who has to silently walk all the way around the circle, then towards 'Dad' through their gap in the circle to collect the keys without being heard. 'Dad' has 3 chances to guess where the person is by pointing in the direction of any noises they hear. If the person nominated gets caught they become 'Dad'.

ADAPTATION

Instead of using finger prints, you could make a 'Family of God Tree' by asking each person to draw round and cut out their hands from green paper. Collect these in and use them as leaves to create a large family tree collage on a wall in church / your meeting room.

ADAPTATION

Make paper chain people and ask the children to decorate them to look like people in God's family. With older children you could use this activity to open up discussion about how people of all shapes, sizes and colours are welcome to be part of the family of God, not just those that look like them.

ADAPTATION

Choose one person to face the rest of the group and ask them to start moving slowly. Everyone else should try to mirror their movements as closely as possible. Allow the children to take turns at being the person that leads the movements. Talk about how when we're part of God's family we try to live by following Jesus' example.

LET'S CHAT

Ask your child what they did and tell them what you learned in church today!

Talk about your extended family. Is it big or small? Do you spend a lot of time together, or do you only see each other occasionally?

What does being a part of God's family mean to you?

LET'S PRAY

As a family, play a game of sardines, which is a bit like Hide and Seek but in reverse; one person hides and everyone else looks for the one hidden person. When someone finds the hidden person, they quietly join them in hiding, with everyone squeezing in together like sardines! When we put our faith in Jesus, we are welcomed into God's special family, and God wants that family to get bigger and bigger so everyone can be a part of it. Say the following prayer, or one of your own together:

Dear Jesus, help us to learn how to put our faith in you instead of trying to work things out on our own. Thank you that through doing this we can be part of your special family. Amen

LET'S CHAT

Ask your child what they did and tell them what you learned in church today!

Talk about your extended family. Is it big or small? Do you spend a lot of time together, or do you only see each other occasionally?

What does being a part of God's family mean to you?

LET'S PRAY

As a family, play a game of sardines, which is a bit like Hide and Seek but in reverse; one person hides and everyone else looks for the one hidden person. When someone finds the hidden person, they quietly join them in hiding, with everyone squeezing in together like sardines! When we put our faith in Jesus, we are welcomed into God's special family, and God wants that family to get bigger and bigger so everyone can be a part of it. Say the following prayer, or one of your own together:

Dear Jesus, help us to learn how to put our faith in you instead of trying to work things out on our own. Thank you that through doing this we can be part of your special family. Amen

Aim: To think about how we can plant seeds of faith to help grow God's kingdom.

OVERVIEW

Earlier on in Mark chapter 4 we can read the Parable of the Sower, or the Parable of the Soils as some people prefer to call it and this week's reading offers two more agricultural parables of the Kingdom of God. The first parable of the Kingdom is again a story of sowing and harvesting. The sower sows and then sleeps and rises, night and day, as step by step the Kingdom grows, invisibly at first and then in the form of a stalk, then a head, then the full grain in the head. We know from the earlier parable that some seeds will fall on deaf ears and into rocks and among thorns and will not be fruitful, we are encouraged not to dwell too much on that. We cannot control what happens after the word is sown - we just sow it. The second parable illustrates the growth of the Kingdom from something hidden and minute (the mustard seed) to something fully visible. This Kingdom will grow generously and abundantly from the smallest of all seeds to the largest of all shrubs. The passage emphasises the small and quiet beginnings of the Kingdom and reminds us that the sower does not make the Kingdom happen by force, but by God's hidden, mysterious work in the world and in us.

PRAYER

Father God, help us to plant seeds of faith wherever we go. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

ALL AGE TALK

I have something very important to show you, today. That very important thing is in this box. [*Hold up the box*]. What could it be? I'm going to show you what that very important thing is now. Look very carefully as I open the box... You might want to come a little closer... [*Open box and show them that it's empty*] Have you ever seen anything so beautiful!?!? [*Pause*] You know, now that I think about it...I don't think you can actually see what I wanted to show you. Perhaps I should've thought this through a little more carefully... Oh! You know what I can do instead? I can describe this very important thing to you and then maybe you can guess what it is. The thing I wanted you to see is very important. We all use it. And there's a lot of it (thankfully)! It's not very heavy. It's all around us - not just in this box. It actually gets inside of us. In fact, we breathe it in! The thing that I have in my box that I wanted to show you is air! Even though air is very important to us, we can't see it. But once I described it to you, you knew what I was talking about, right?

In a similar way, in today's Bible reading, Jesus is trying to help people "see" what the Kingdom of God is like. To help people "see" God's Kingdom, Jesus describes the Kingdom of God by telling some short parables. Jesus said, "The Kingdom of God starts small, but can become really big, like a mustard seed starts small and then grows into a big tree.

So...that's what the Kingdom of God is like, even though - like air - it can be hard to see with our eyes. Just like air is something that is good and important, and shouldn't be kept from others.... so too is the Kingdom of God something that is good, important, and to be shared with others. With air, we already know how to use it. We know how to breathe it in, but with the Kingdom of God, we have to learn what it is, how to choose it, and how to share it. Jesus wants us, as part of his Kingdom, to change the world around us and make it better. This can feel like a pretty huge task... but remember, the ministry of Jesus started very small—twelve men in a small corner of Galilee—but it has spread throughout the world. So, although we may feel small, like the mustard seed, we are important in the Kingdom of God and can make a big impact.

SONG

[David Crowder Band - We Won't Be Quiet \(Lyric Video\) - YouTube](#)

SET THE SCENE

Show the children an apple and ask them to guess how many seeds will be inside. Once everyone has guessed, cut the apple open and count out the seeds. Imagine that you planted these seeds and each grew into an apple tree. How many apples do you think each tree might produce? Fifty? A hundred? Two hundred? I read that an apple tree can produce from 150 to 300 apples each year and that an apple tree will produce apples for about fifty years. Just think how many apples that is! Today we're thinking about how something small, like the apple seed, can have a big impact.

DISCUSSION

Hold up an apple. There was once a man called Johnny Chapman, better known as Jonny Appleseed. (*Turn the apple around to reveal a face drawn on the apple. Role play the rest of the story with this apple as Johnny*). He was born a long time ago in 1774 in America (*show a simple map outline of America*). He loved apples and wanted people everywhere to enjoy them, so he travelled around America planting and giving away apple seeds (*scatter some seeds on the map*). Johnny's life wasn't easy, but he loved what he was doing. Whilst he was planting orchards, Jonny would tell stories and share the good news of Jesus with people. He became an American legend as a result of his life's work and kind, generous ways.

The story of Johnny Appleseed is a bit like one of the parables in today's Bible passage. Jesus said "The kingdom of God is like a man who scatters seeds on the ground. Night and day, whether he is asleep or awake, the seeds sprout and grow, but the man doesn't know how it happens." The kingdom of God is like a growing thing. Just as Johnny Appleseed was passionate about apples, when we love God, we scatter that love around like seeds which sprout and grow. If we tell someone about Jesus, a faith could take root in their life and begin to grow. We cannot force that faith to grow, just like we cannot force a seed to grow, so we have to do our bit and leave the rest to God!

The other story in today's Bible passage is Jesus' parable comparing the mustard seed to the kingdom of God. Jesus said, "The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of all plants; it grows long branches, and birds can make nests in its shade." Jesus was teaching his followers that the Kingdom of God had a small beginning.

DISCUSSION CONT.

How many disciples did Jesus start with? Jesus began his ministry on Earth with a very small group of twelve followers, but as they followed Jesus and told others about him, the Kingdom grew and grew until it covered the whole Earth. You might think that you are too small to be an important part of the Kingdom of God, but when we tell others about Jesus, we help the Kingdom to grow and to spread over the whole Earth. So, when you start to think that you are too small to be important in the Kingdom of God, remember the Parable of the Mustard Seed.

TAKE HOME

Provide each child with a plant pot which they can decorate. You could do anything from painting small terracotta pots, decorating plastic pots with coloured tape, stickers or decoupage. Fill the pots with soil and plant seeds in them. If you've planted flower seeds before, you could have a go at planting something like runner beans which are one of the fastest growing plants - you can usually see them pop their heads above the soil within one to two weeks. You could ask the children to measure the height of their plant and also the actual beans. Allow the children to take the pots home to watch the seeds grow, reminding them of how faith grows.

RESPONSE

Rubber Band Ball Gather the group together so they are sat in a circle. Put a pile of coloured rubber bands in the centre of the circle. Give one person a marble (representing a seed) and ask them to wrap an elastic band around it, then pass it to the person next to them. That person should pick up an elastic band and add it to the ball. Keep passing the ball around the circle with each person adding an elastic band so it grows and grows. As you do this, talk together about how things can grow from small beginnings - what other examples can they think of?

ACTIVITY

Seed Bombs Repurpose some of your paper recycling and make seed bombs. First shred or tear the paper up then soak it in warm water to make a pulp. Depending on the type of paper you are using, you may need to blitz the mixture with a hand blender, then remove some of the excess water. Give each child a small bowl of paper pulp and some wildflower seeds. Mix the seeds into the pulp then make a ball with it - roughly the size of a tennis ball. Continue to squeeze out excess water if it feels too wet. Stick small squares of coloured tissue paper to the outside of the seed bomb to decorate. As long as the ball is still quite wet, the tissue paper will stick to the paper pulp. Allow the seed bombs to dry - this could take a week or so!

GAME

Seed Sorting Place a bowl of mixed seeds (e.g. sunflower, pumpkin, cress, etc.) at one end of the room and ask the children to stand at the other end. Either as a relay in teams, or as individuals, the children should run to the bowl and carefully take out a seed, then bring it back to where they started. As more seeds are collected, the children must sort them into bowls (or you could use ice cube trays) so that all the same types of seeds are together. As an extension to the game, once all the seeds are collected and sorted, you could get the children to match them up with pictures of what the different seeds will grow into.

ADAPTATION

Provide all the children with paper apple shapes and ask them to spend a few moments considering how they could spread seeds for God. Encourage them to write or draw these things on their apple shape. If you made a family tree collage during last week's session, you could stick the apples onto your tree.

ADAPTATION

Look at some maps together of your local area. Try to include some which show your church. Ask the children to draw maps of the area around where they live. Discuss where they walk, places they visit, hidden routes they know, etc. Encourage everyone to share. Then talk about where on your journeys you could plant seeds for God.

ADAPTATION

Play hangman using words from the parable of the mustard seed (mustard, tree, plant, grow, kingdom, bird, etc.) or using different kinds of seeds (sunflower, pumpkin, cress, apple, etc.) If you are meeting digitally, you could use the whiteboard function so that everyone can see the number of letters and correct guesses of the word chosen.

13TH JUNE 2021

SEEDS OF FAITH

MARK 4: 26-34

LET'S CHAT

Ask your child what they did and tell them what you learned in church today!

Discuss what it means to be 'green-fingered'. Share your experiences of growing things.

Have you ever scattered the seeds of the gospel (told people about Jesus) but not seen any result? How did it feel?

LET'S PRAY

Go on a seed hunt together. How many different seeds can you find? Sunflower seeds, dandelion seeds, poppy seeds, tomato seeds, strawberry seeds, grass seeds, etc. Notice how the seeds are all different shapes and sizes and talk about how the plants begin life as that small grain but grown and transform into something different. After you have spent time examining the seeds, say the following prayer together:

Father God, we sometimes think we are too small to be important in the Kingdom of God. Help us to remember the parable of the mustard seed and that we can all have a part in growing your Kingdom. Amen

13TH JUNE 2021

SEEDS OF FAITH

MARK 4: 26-34

LET'S CHAT

Ask your child what they did and tell them what you learned in church today!

Discuss what it means to be 'green-fingered'. Share your experiences of growing things.

Have you ever scattered the seeds of the gospel (told people about Jesus) but not seen any result? How did it feel?

LET'S PRAY

Go on a seed hunt together. How many different seeds can you find? Sunflower seeds, dandelion seeds, poppy seeds, tomato seeds, strawberry seeds, grass seeds, etc. Notice how the seeds are all different shapes and sizes and talk about how the plants begin life as that small grain but grown and transform into something different. After you have spent time examining the seeds, say the following prayer together:

Father God, we sometimes think we are too small to be important in the Kingdom of God. Help us to remember the parable of the mustard seed and that we can all have a part in growing your Kingdom. Amen

Aim: To learn that we can always turn to Jesus when we are going through difficult times.

OVERVIEW

In today's Bible passage, Jesus is travelling by boat with his disciples to the other side of the Sea of Galilee - the area that would be the present-day Jordan. The sea, which is more accurately described as a lake, was 14 miles long by 8 miles wide, and the surrounding landscape meant that sudden storms quickly transformed the calm water into a raging torrent. Although some of the disciples were competent fishermen they had tried everything their experience had taught them to combat the weather, but nothing had worked and they were scared the boat was going to sink. It's unknown how Jesus manages to remain asleep though all this, but it's possible that he slept deliberately to test the faith of his disciples and provide him with opportunity to show a glimpse of his divine power. It was still relatively early in Jesus' ministry and so imagine the disciples' amazement when the angry waves instantly became still. The disciples came to learn that no matter how bad a situation seemed, the first thing they needed to do was turn to Jesus.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the times when you have calmed storms in our lives. Help us to always turn to you first in our times of need. Amen

ALL AGE TALK

People have been known to sleep through all sorts of things, including fire alarms, tornadoes and rock concerts. Ask the congregation if they have ever slept thought anything like this and gather some feedback. You might also like to share some of these incredible stories:

- The child Douglas Spedden slept through the sinking of the Titanic. His nanny woke him briefly to take him to board a lifeboat at which point he fell asleep again.
- French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte was renowned for his ability to sleep on the battlefield, even as cannons were going off around him.
- Terry Pierce fell asleep while commuting in a single-engine plane... and didn't wake up until he was lying in the woods some distance from the wreckage. He had broken limbs but no memory of anything other than a peaceful sleep.
- One morning Winnie Withers got up and found an 8ft hole in the middle of her kitchen that led straight outside. Somehow she had slept through a vehicle smashing through her exterior wall in the night and then fleeing the scene.

Today's bible passage is the familiar story of Jesus calming the storm. Jesus and his disciples were travelling by boat across the Sea of Galilee when a sudden storm erupted and the disciples were terrified that they would drown. Incredibly, Jesus slept soundly on the boat throughout the commotion whilst the storm increased in intensity. Despite the stories that we've just heard, isn't it amazing that Jesus continued to sleep? When Jesus woke up, he immediately demonstrated that he was in control. The disciples had already witnessed Jesus healing people, but now they had seen the raging waves suddenly become calm which opened their eyes to who he truly was. This experience helped to grow their faith and helped them to learn to turn to Jesus before the panic sets in. This is a good lesson for us too. We will all face storms in our lives - different storms - and we will all have different reactions to those storms. But there is one thing we all have in common - we can always go to Jesus and trust in him to bring a calmness to our stormy situations.

SONG

[Rend Co. Kids - My Lighthouse \(Hand Motions\) \(Official Music Video\) - YouTube](#)

SET THE SCENE

Provide the children with lots of instruments that make storm sounds, such as rain sticks, drums, rice shakers, etc. Encourage the children to create a noise like a storm, but when you signal 'STOP' they must do so immediately. Repeat as many times as you like. Alternatively, if you don't have access to instruments, you could encourage the children to make storm sounds with their voices and bodies, clapping their hands, drumming on their thighs, etc. If there are enough of them, you could allocate them to a sound and then conduct them like an orchestra so the sound of the storm builds to a big crescendo.

DISCUSSION

You will need a toy boat and a container of water (*you might want to place this on a tray or plastic sheet to catch any spills*). Discuss what kind of things people do on a boat. Have they ever been on one? What kind of boat was it? You might like to show pictures of different boats from small rowing boats, to large yachts and enormous cruise ships to illustrate the variation. How do you keep safe on a boat, and why is that important? Today's story is about a time when Jesus and his disciples were travelling on a small fishing boat...

One day Jesus and some of his disciples were out in a boat on the lake. Suddenly, without warning, a storm came up, (*start shaking the container of water so that the boat is moved about*) and the wind blew so hard (*ask the children to blow or create wind using a fan or balloon pump*). The waves were so high, that the water was coming into the boat and it was about to be turned over. Where was Jesus? Asleep! (*Keep shaking the container*). Some of the disciples woke Jesus up and asked him whether he cared about what was happening! Jesus got up and spoke to the wind and the waves, telling them to be still! As soon as he did this, the wind stopped blowing (*ask the children to stop blowing*) and the sea became calm (*stop shaking the container*). Jesus' disciples were amazed but terrified, asking "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Jesus can still calm storms today. Sometimes there are sudden storms in our lives such as fall-outs at school, illnesses, or family problems, etc. During these times, Jesus can calm the storms of doubt and fear. He doesn't always take away the problem, but if we trust in him he will give us peace in our hearts.

ALTERNATIVE

If you have older children, you could introduce the Bible story for today by making a cloud in a bottle. You will need some rubbing alcohol and an empty plastic water bottle with the label removed. Pick the disposable kind with ridges in the plastic that can be crumpled up easily. Pour around 1cm of rubbing alcohol into your plastic bottle. Put the lid on and shake the bottle around so the liquid coats the inside of the bottle. Turn each end of the plastic bottle in opposite directions so that it crumples and twists at the centre and creates a build up of pressure. Release one end and the bottle will spring back to its original shape, creating a cloud inside the bottle in the process. You will find various videos showing this process online, with some suggesting using a bicycle pump to create pressure in the bottle, however this seems to be the simplest method.

TAKE HOME

Story Stones Story Stones are a great tool to use for storytelling which create a visual prompt for each element and help to build a narrative. Encourage the children to make their own set of story stones to go with today's Bible story. Discuss what the key elements of the story are and then talk about what image might represent each element on the stones. Once the story stones are finished, you might want to help the group practice using them to tell the story. Challenge them to use their stones to share the story with someone at home. [Flame: Creative Children's Ministry: Make Your Own Bible Story Stones: Pictures to Print and Use](#) (flamecreativekids.blogspot.com).

20TH JUNE 2021

STOP THE STORM

MARK 4: 35-41

LET'S CHAT

Ask your child what they did and tell them what you learned in church today!

What things do you find calming? It could be a particular person, certain music or a stunning view, etc.

Discuss if it is easy or hard to trust God when you have stormy times in your life?

LET'S PRAY

Spend some time playing with water together. You could go wild and have a water balloon fight, or simply splash about in a bowl of water with things that float and sink. Enjoy the experience and refreshment that water can bring and be reminded of Jesus who calms the storms in our lives. When you are all drying off say the prayer below, or your own prayer of 'thanks' to God.

Lord Jesus, thank you for being our safe place when our troubles and fears seem so much bigger than we are. Help us to remember we can trust you to hear us when we cry out to you, and that you have the power to calm the storms in our lives. Amen

20TH JUNE 2021

STOP THE STORM

MARK 4: 35-41

LET'S CHAT

Ask your child what they did and tell them what you learned in church today!

What things do you find calming? It could be a particular person, certain music or a stunning view, etc.

Discuss if it is easy or hard to trust God when you have stormy times in your life?

LET'S PRAY

Spend some time playing with water together. You could go wild and have a water balloon fight, or simply splash about in a bowl of water with things that float and sink. Enjoy the experience and refreshment that water can bring and be reminded of Jesus who calms the storms in our lives. When you are all drying off say the prayer below, or your own prayer of 'thanks' to God.

Lord Jesus, thank you for being our safe place when our troubles and fears seem so much bigger than we are. Help us to remember we can trust you to hear us when we cry out to you, and that you have the power to calm the storms in our lives. Amen

Aim: To be reminded of the amazing power of Jesus which helps us to put our faith in him.

OVERVIEW

Our Bible passage for today is two for one! It begins with the synagogue leader, Jairus, approaching Jesus and pleading for him to come and heal his dying daughter. Jesus agrees to go with him, but their journey is interrupted by a sick woman who receives healing by touching Jesus' cloak. As had become the norm, Jesus was surrounded by people who wanted to see him, so getting through the crowds would have been a persistent challenge. The woman doesn't actually approach to ask for Jesus' help like many others, perhaps because her illness would have meant that she was considered to be unclean. Instead, she joins those pressing close to him and touches his garment. Just touching Jesus' clothing heals her immediately and Jesus confirms that her faith had relieved her of her ailment. In the meantime, news reaches Jesus that Jairus' daughter had died. The expectation at this point was that Jesus would call off the mission to save the girl, and some even laughed at his suggestion that she was not dead but asleep. Only a select few were allowed to see Jesus bring the girl back to life. He wanted the news kept secret because he knew that most of the people present would not have the faith to understand what had happened.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for your love and healing power. Help us to have faith and to believe in you. Amen.

ALL AGE TALK

Choose a volunteer from the congregation to come forward and help you. Explain that you are going to set them a simple task to do - this can be anything from following some written instructions for something, such as tying a particular type of knot, to learning a memory verse or simply counting down backwards from 100. Unfortunately, the task is not going to be quite as straightforward as it first appeared, because whilst they are trying to do what you have asked, you and the rest of the congregation will be doing everything you can think of to try and distract them. Techniques might include telling silly jokes, pulling faces or doing funny actions and general larking around. Afterwards, review how successful your volunteer was at completing the task you had given them amidst all of the distractions.

In today's Bible passage, Jesus had set off on a mission to go and heal Jairus' daughter who was very poorly. Jairus was a leader at the synagogue and had been desperate for Jesus to go with him because his daughter was dying and he believed that Jesus was the only person who could help him. Jesus was surrounded by people wanting to see him, which already made travelling difficult, but then Jesus halts the journey because he had felt someone touch him. The disciples, sensing the urgency of their pursuit, can't understand Jesus wanting to know who it had been - they were surrounded by people - EVERYONE WAS TOUCHING HIM! Eventually a woman steps forward and admits it was her. Jesus told the woman that her faith had healed her from her illness and to go in peace. Jairus had to wait whilst Jesus responded to this distraction and as a result his daughter's situation went from bad to worse. News arrived that she had died but Jesus asked Jairus to have faith. Sometimes God does what is right by not doing anything right away or by doing something other than what we want him to do. Jairus had to wait for his daughter's healing while Jesus healed the sick woman but Jesus did not give up on Jairus, and Jairus did not give up on Jesus. Even when God doesn't answer our prayers in the way we want him to do, we can have faith that God does love us and answers our prayer in the way that is best for us and in line with his will for our lives.

SONG

[God is for Us \(Lyric Video\) - YouTube](#)

SET THE SCENE

Provide the children with some first aid supplies, such as plasters and bandages and encourage them to have a go at using them on each other. With older children you could also provide instructions on how to bandage properly or how to put an arm in a sling so they can practice. Talk about how even though doctors and nurses do an incredible job, they are not able to heal people of all illnesses, however much they try. In today's story there were two people that could not be made better, however Jesus showed that he had the power to heal them.

DISCUSSION

Examine a selection of items that are broken that cannot be fixed, such as a broken crayon, a broken biscuit, a broken egg shell or a broken toy. In today's story there were two people that could not be fixed or made better, and unlike anybody else, Jesus had the power to fix them and make them well. Read today's Bible passage using a Children's Bible Story book or suitable translation.

Jairus had a respected job as a synagogue leader; he was a religious man and had a high status in society. The sick woman was poor and because she was believed to be unclean, she lacked confidence and had no obvious friends. Jairus was confident enough to speak to Jesus and ask him for help, and even though the woman was not, her faith meant that simply reaching out to Jesus and touching his cloak was enough. Which of the two of them do you think was seen as the most important by the people around them? Why? Although Jairus was seen as being superior by the community, both of these people had something in common. They both had faith in Jesus, knowing that Jesus could heal. Jairus' daughter was very ill, and the woman herself was poorly. Which of the two of them do you think was seen as the most important by Jesus? Neither; Jesus saw both of them as equal! They were both equally important to God, just as with us, whatever our age or status God loves us all equally.

Another thing we learn from this story is that with God, all things are possible. Jesus has stopped to heal the sick woman when the news arrived that Jairus' daughter was dead. The situation looked hopeless and Jairus must have felt so disappointed that Jesus hadn't got to her in time. But Jesus said, "Don't be afraid, only believe!" When we face what seems to be a hopeless situation, we can remember these words of Jesus, "Only believe!"

ALTERNATIVE

As an alternative way to present your Bible Story and discussion today, take a look at our children's Bible story and discussion podcast, Bible Podlets. Episode 8 of series one is all about Jairus and the power of his faith in Jesus. Each episode of Bible Podlets has accompanying notes to help adults guide children through the story and activities. You will find more information on our website here:

[Bible Podlets – Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education \(bdeducation.org.uk\)](http://bdeducation.org.uk)

TAKE HOME

Make a Badge Talk to the children about how nothing is too small for God. He notices the little things in our lives, just like Jesus noticed when the woman touched his cloak. Help the children to design and make badges which say 'V.I.P' on them. Encourage the children to take the badges home and wear them as a reminder that they are a 'Very Important Person' to Jesus and they can put their faith in him like the people in our story today did.

RESPONSE

FAITH Provide the children with five large pieces of paper with letters that spell out the word 'Faith' drawn or printed onto them. Encourage the children to write or draw people/places where they'd like to see God's healing power, using the key below:

F = Friends

A = Area

I = In Me

T = The World

H = Home

ACTIVITY

Rocket Power For this activity you will need a plastic tube of effervescent (fizzy) vitamin tablets, 2 of the vitamin tablets from out of the tube and some warm water. First, if you want to, take the lid off the tube and then cover it with paper so you can decorate it to look like a rocket. When you are ready, take the 2 vitamin tablets and break them in half so you can pack them into the lid of the tube. Once you have loaded the cap, quarter fill the rocket tube with warm water. Quickly put the cap on the tube and turn it upside down, placing it on the floor so it sits on the lid. Then stand back - we suggest you do this outside! The effervescing tablet will release carbon dioxide and the build up of pressure will power the rocket and make it shoot into the air. In today's story Jesus demonstrated his power when he brought Jairus' daughter back to life.

GAME

Beat the Distractions Source some 'Where's Wally' pictures or something similar where you have to spot a character in a crowded image. Show each picture one at a time and challenge the children to identify the character you are looking for amongst the crowd and busy distractions. You could add a competitive element by awarding points to the person that finds the character first each time. Remember that in today's story, Jesus was surrounded by a crowd and stopped to heal the sick woman but these things didn't distract him from demonstrating God's power though the healing of Jairus' daughter.

ADAPTATION

Invite the children to write down or draw pictures of things that they are afraid of. In today's story, Jesus said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe." Talk about how we don't have to be afraid of things because Jesus is powerful and his love is greater than all the scary things in the world.

ADAPTATION

Lots of children will be familiar with 'Wake and Shake' from school where they spend some time moving or dancing to wake up their bodies. You will find lots of 'Just Dance' videos to follow on YouTube, or you could simply play some lively music to move around to. In today's story, Jesus said Jairus' daughter was sleeping. How can we 'wake up' and have faith in Jesus like Jairus did?

ADAPTATION

Prepare a tray with approximately 15 different things that might be found in a First Aid Kit on it. The children can look at the tray for one minute before it is taken away. They then have to try and remember as many of the things that were on the tray as possible. For older children you can put more items on the tray to make it more challenging, or put fewer items on it for younger ones.

LET'S CHAT

Ask your child what they did and tell them what you learned in church today!

Talk about the different people who help others that are hurt or unwell. Why are their roles important?

What experiences do you have of people being healed? Had you prayed for these people beforehand?

LET'S PRAY

Either go for a walk or look at a map of your town or local area. Look for places where people are likely to be in need of healing, such as hospitals, doctors' surgeries, hospices, residential homes, etc. Pray this prayer asking God to bring healing to those places:

Heavenly Father, you have the power to heal the sick. We pray for healing for all those that need it in our community. Amen

LET'S CHAT

Ask your child what they did and tell them what you learned in church today!

Talk about the different people who help others that are hurt or unwell. Why are their roles important?

What experiences do you have of people being healed? Had you prayed for these people beforehand?

LET'S PRAY

Either go for a walk or look at a map of your town or local area. Look for places where people are likely to be in need of healing, such as hospitals, doctors' surgeries, hospices, residential homes, etc. Pray this prayer asking God to bring healing to those places:

Heavenly Father, you have the power to heal the sick. We pray for healing for all those that need it in our community. Amen