



Faith Adventures for Children Together



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

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children and families, please use this link:

<https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/FACT-how-to-sheet.pdf>

Luke 6: 27-36 Love your enemies

Theme: Loving courageously

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

The theme for this session is 'loving courageously' and explores the 'Turn the Other Cheek' passage in the Good News according to Luke.

We will be looking at how we can be brave in our relationships with others – even those whom we, or our friends, don't particularly like – but we must be clear with our group that 'turning the other cheek' is not an instruction to be a doormat and accept constant bad behaviour directed our way. Rather it is a call not to retaliate in kind but to be courageous in our response. You might invite your group to think of this passage as the 'Do to others as you would have them do to you' scripture.

You may need to think about how you will respond, using Safeguarding guidelines, if a child/young person reveals to you that they are being bullied or otherwise mistreated. You will be able to get advice from your Church Safeguarding Lead.

The translation used talks of 'pawnbrokers'. You might want to consider how you would explain that word if you are asked. The definition offered by the Citizens Advice Bureau might be helpful: [Pawnbrokers - Citizens Advice](#). In essence, a pawnbroker is someone who helps someone out financially in the short term – for a price.



We will explore how, sometimes, it takes real courage to not retaliate, but to walk away – and to tell someone else what is happening so that they can provide help and support – not just to the target of the bullying, but also to the ringleader and their supporters.

And we will explore how God invites us to go the extra mile, to do more than is expected of us, in our relationships with others, just as God does with us.

Together

How do I help my group to come together and get started with the theme?

Gathering prayer

Jesus, our friend

(use alternate index fingers to point and tap the middle of opposite palms)

Be with us today

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move up and down twice)

As we share together,

(two hands, palms up in front of you, move one forward and one back and alternate twice)

Pray together,

(hands together, palm against palm, as though praying)

Play together,

(hands to each side, palms up, make two small circles outwards)

And get to know you better,

(point up with one hand)

As children together in your family

(one hand out, palm down in front of you, move it sideways and up in three 'steps' as though to indicate children of three different heights)

AMEN

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

OR

Thank you, God, for bringing us together today.

Help us to grow closer to you in all we do.

Help us to speak and to listen, to learn and to grow together,

Adventuring together with you wherever we may go.

Amen

In-person game – reverse rob the nest

In rob the nest, the group is divided into four teams. There is a pile of things in the centre of the room – balls of different sizes, beanbags etc, the number should not be a multiple of four but will depend on how many people are playing – and each team has a hoop or a bucket in a corner of the room which is their 'nest'. Each team has to try to gather items from the middle or steal items from another team's 'nest', and carrying only one thing at a time, to get as many items as possible in their 'nest'; the winning team being the team with the most when the whistle blows.



This game reverses that. Each team has a nest already full of items but the aim is to lose the game by putting your items one at a time into someone else's nest. You cannot put things in the same nest twice in a row.

Alternative game – feed your neighbour

Sit in a circle and use a large dice which each person rolls in turn. In the centre of the circle is a bowl of small sweets such as Skittles and a spoon. When a player rolls a six, they have to run to the centre and use the spoon to pick up a sweet. They run with the sweet in the spoon to the person who was sitting next to them in the circle and give them the sweet (for hygiene reasons, tip the sweet into their hands). Then they run back and fetch a sweet for the next person. Meanwhile the others keep rolling the dice until someone else gets a six. They then take the spoon, the first person sits down, and the new person starts fetching sweets for the other players, again starting with the person who was sitting next to them. The aim is to 'feed' the whole circle of players before the next six is rolled.

If you have a large group, you may want to have two circles of players with a bowl and spoon each so that the task is not impossible.

Experience

For this story we recommend using The Message version

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+6%3A+27-36&version=MSG>

Where can I find the story online? - Nicola

Under fives: Luke 6: 27 Inspiration Animations <https://youtu.be/08Sb-KtX3ug>

Over fives: Loving your enemies PV Kids <https://youtu.be/nx8DY4uOTDc>

Songs to support the story

Under fives: Love one another – Dakota Pyle <https://youtu.be/LYIkcoAflU4>

Five to elevens: A Little Bit Of Love - Graham Kendrick <https://youtu.be/auwgDr2BA7E>

Explore

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

A new way to explore the story

Snap Shots Bible Story

Use the Bible story to recreate a snapshot scene to explore each part of the passage. A clapper board as used in films 'act one scene one....' would work well.

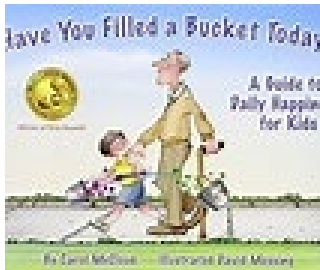
Get everyone to stand in a circle. Read the passage slowly and pause after each part saying 'scene 1' and getting the children to recreate the scene in a 'freeze frame' snapshot. Move around the circle encouraging everyone to take a turn at creating a snapshot. Get one person to operate your clapper board as the scene changes - this is good role for someone who is not keen on taking an active part. Continue through the passage pausing for each section of the passage.

As an alternative you could create snapshot drawings for each part of the story.



Modern parables

Jesus used stories to help people understand the things of God, even though they weren't necessarily overtly Christian stories. Lots of children's books can be used in a similar way as a conversation starter on the week's theme. Examples are shared here but you may think of others too.



'Have You Filled a Bucket Today?' By Carol McCloud
<https://youtu.be/Uy6RR4KPPZM>

Talking together: How might we talk about the story together?

- In what different ways do we need courage to love our enemies, or even just people who aren't in our group of friends?
- Why is it so difficult to love your enemy? What do you think it means?
- Are your enemies always your enemies or are your friends always your friends?
- I wonder why doing the right thing always seems to be more difficult?
- What is an enemy?
- How does God help us to love courageously?

Wondering together: suggested questions to use during activities

- I wonder how you feel when somebody does something nice for you?
- I wonder how other people might feel when you do something nice for them?
- I wonder if you've ever been surprised by who did something nice for you?

What's in the box (for under fives)

Use the special box or bag and sing "what's in the box/bag? What's in the box/bag? Let's see, let's see, what's in the box/bag" (to the tune of The Farmer's in the Dell). You could tap the top of the box twice after the word 'box'. Pull out the things one by one and then let the children play with them, talking about the theme or the story in simple terms.

This week's box could include:

- An angry toy – maybe an angry birds toy or stinky pete from toy story, or just an angry face on a paper plate – talk about how sometimes people make us feel cross
- Some paper or fabric hearts that are cut in two like a simple jigsaw – talk about how sometimes we might fall out with people and not feel like being friends
- A hand shape – this could be rough on one side (e.g. sandpaper) and soft on the other side (e.g. felt) – sometimes we use our hands and our words for hurting but it's better to use our hands and our words to be kind
- A box or pack of tissues or a handkerchief – when people are sad, we can dry their tears, even if they are not our friends
- A box of plasters – when people are hurting, we can help them feel better, even if they are not our friends
- A toy shield – God is with us to help us feel brave
- A set of play people to act out the story or random shapes/bits you can move around to make pictures from the story as you tell it (eg stones, felt, twigs etc)



Express

Praying together: how can you involve the children actively in prayer?

Heart Prayers

You will need:

- Hearts cut from kitchen roll paper
- A large bowl of warm water
- Water soluble pens

Encourage everyone to think about someone who they find it hard to love and draw a heart or write the initials of that person's name on a paper heart.



Place the hearts in the water and watch as the name begins to fade in the water. Pray that God will help you to show that person that you love them and that God loves them. Remind everyone that God hears our prayers and we can ask God to help us to love the people they have been thinking about. The water will start to change colour from the ink and this represent us giving over our prayers to God's care and God helping our feelings about that person to change as God's love washes over them.

Spoken prayer

(Invite the group members to respond with the words in bold type – or agree an action that they can use in response to the words 'You forgive us'. You might suggest using the Makaton sign for sorry)

Forgiving God,

When we say bad things about other people, **You forgive us**

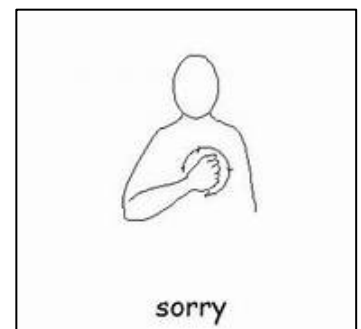
When we do bad things to other people, **You forgive us**

When we get angry with other people, **You forgive us**

When we ignore other people, **You forgive us**

When we hurt other people, **You forgive us**

Help us to forgive others when they do those things to us. **Amen**



Responding together

Here are some suggested crafts and activities, and there is a colouring sheet at the end of this resource. You could also use small play toys and/or have a basket of resources available so children can choose their own way to respond. <https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/FACT-how-to-sheet.pdf> .

With an online group, plan whether to deliver any resources in advance or how you will encourage them to use what they've got to hand in their response.

However you do it, it is good for the adults to engage in the response too, and all chat together.



Enemy Pie

You will need:

Ready rolled pastry.
 Tin of Fruit Filling (or fruit such as apples and blackberries, rhubarb etc)
 Spoonful of forgiveness
 Sprinkle of trust
 Dash of laughter
 Handful of courage
 Touch of prayer

What you do:

To make this pie, you need cooking ingredients but so much more.

Grease a baking dish with butter or line with baking parchment. Preheat your oven to 190C or Gas mark 5.

Roll out your pastry and cut it to the shape of your lined dish, cover it with baking parchment, and then put some rice or lentils onto it to weigh it down.

Bake in the oven for 10 mins, take it out of the oven and take off the rice and baking parchment, then bake for another 10 mins.

Now fill your pastry case with the fruit filling. As you spoon it in, say “a spoonful of forgiveness, a sprinkle of trust...” etc.

Cut some strips of pastry and create a lattice effect over the top of the pie: this helps to let any anger, resentment, and betrayal out. Bake in the oven for 20 mins, until it is golden brown and then sprinkle with caster sugar. Maybe you could send half to the person you want to build a bridge of friendship with and both eat it at the same time.



They just don't mix – STEM activity

Sometimes you need to look closely to see something for what it really is, using the light to help you. Making a simple magnifying glass can help us look at ordinary things from a different angle. Spending time with Jesus helps us to look closely at who he really is and get to know him better.

You will need:

- A glass containing water coloured with red food colouring
- A glass containing water coloured with blue food colouring
- A glass containing clear water
- A pipette or dropper
- A lidded glass jar containing baby oil (other oils will do, but baby oil has the advantage of being clear, like water)
- A small amount of washing up liquid



What you do:

Use the dropper to drip a few drops of the red coloured water onto the surface of the oil. Watch what happens.

Clean the dropper by drawing up some of the clean water and pushing it back out into the clean water glass until it comes out clear.

Use the dropper to drip a few drops of the blue coloured water onto the surface of the oil in different places to the red. Watch what happens.

Water and oil are like enemies – they don't like to mix.

Put the lid on the jar and shake it. See what happens to the oil and to the coloured water.

Let it settle and see what happens.

Finally, drop a little washing up liquid into the mixture and see what happens. The washing up liquid is like God's love which breaks down barriers and helps us show love to those we don't usually mix with.



Everyday with Jesus – Walking the Way

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

- Take the opportunity to sort through your wardrobe or toy box with your parents or carers and find things you no longer use and could give to a charity shop or to someone else who might need them. While it's not exactly giving away to your enemies, it's giving away things and expecting nothing in return.
 - On a similar theme of giving and not expecting anything in return, what random acts of kindness can you do this week without anyone knowing you've done them? Ninja kindnesses, done in secret, is your challenge.
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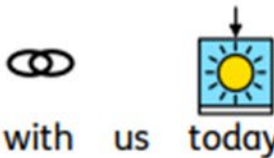
We hope you enjoyed exploring the story of **Luke 6** with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing lorrainewebb@urc.org.uk

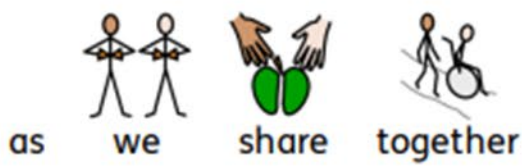
Why not have a look at next week's resource on **Psalm 56**



Jesus our friend,



be with us today



as we share together



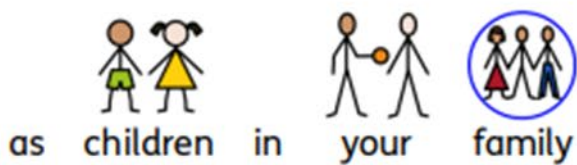
pray together



play together



and get to know you better



as children in your family



Amen



Right middle finger touches centre of other palm, repeat with left hand



Alternate hands back and forth





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