



# 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>

## John 1 40-44 – St Andrew’s Day

Theme: The saint who was called and chose to follow and share

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

We may know St Andrew as the Patron Saint of Scotland (and of Georgia, Poland, Greece, Ukraine, Russia, Romania and Barbados!) *If you’re working with older children and young people, they might be interested in researching what links St Andrew has to these countries.*

Although Andrew is well-known, he is not as well known (or mentioned as often) as his older brother Simon (who was renamed Peter by Jesus) yet it was Andrew who introduced Simon to Jesus.

Andrew was actually the first apostle called by Jesus – and the first person to make the choice to decide to follow and support Jesus in his ministry. In this session we shall be looking at some of the choices we make (big and small) and the impact and repercussions of those choices. For Andrew, the choice he made to follow Jesus (having been a follower of Jesus’ cousin, John) meant that he left his home and his job, and would ultimately be executed. It is unlikely that our choice to follow Jesus will have such an impact but it is, nonetheless, a choice we can make.

Andrew chose to ‘share’ Jesus with his friends and family. We are called to do the same. We will spend some time in this session looking at what that choice might mean – for us and others.

Andrew is believed to be the apostle who, at the feeding of the five thousand, introduced the young boy with the loaves and fishes to Jesus. The young boy had a choice: he could choose to give his food to Jesus – or not. More choices...



# 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**

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## In-person game - Mini Highland Games

St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland. Let's simply have some fun with the Scottish theme by organising a mini Highland Games. Instead of giving you two options for different games, here are a few games to choose from:

**Farmer's Dash** – in this game competitors run carrying weights. Why not make it a relay race, perhaps carrying buckets of water to a marker and back? Best played outdoors if using water, but alternatively fill your buckets with beanbags or similar.

**Sheaf Toss** – this is a game where competitors usually use a pitchfork to pick up a bale of hay and throw it as high as they can. Instead, use a broom and a pillow. How far can you throw the pillow?



Haggis Hurl – the idea is to throw a haggis as far as you can without it bursting. No, we won't be hurling haggises! Instead use a water balloon or a sandwich bag filled with rice. If you can do so safely, this game is best played standing on a step or a bench to give a bit of height to the thrower.

Hammer – again, throwing a hammer may contravene health and safety guidelines, so instead try welly wanging. Use a largish welly, players take it in turns to stand at the starting line, grab the welly with both hands and either spin (as if throwing the hammer) and release, swing between the legs and release or, for more challenge, stand with their back to the line and throw backwards over their heads.

Tossing the Caber – use three pool noodles taped together, a large cardboard tube or a rolled up rug tied with cable ties. Each player walks a couple of paces to the start line, holding their caber vertically with their hands under the bottom. The aim is then to throw it so that it flips over and lands in as straight a line as possible. Give points for straightness of line and artistic impression!

Highland Fling – cross two canes on the floor in the shape of the cross of St Andrew. Starting in the top square, each player has 30 seconds to move into each corner in turn by stepping with both feet. Someone should count how many complete circuits they can do in 30 seconds.

You don't need to do all the games, and it is usual in the Highland Games for teams to designate one or two people to do each game, so you could run your games that way to make the games more inclusive, allowing individuals to work to their strengths.

## Experience

For this story we recommend using the EasyEnglish version

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%201%3A40-42&version=EASY>

### Where can I find the story online?

Under fives: animation by Crossroads Kids

[https://youtu.be/j1N6YNFhpp4?si=M8zT3\\_cNFhyTwzBK](https://youtu.be/j1N6YNFhpp4?si=M8zT3_cNFhyTwzBK)

Over fives: animation Jesus chooses the disciples

[https://youtu.be/iypUNd5yTn0?si=toWB\\_22OCMj-bdy5](https://youtu.be/iypUNd5yTn0?si=toWB_22OCMj-bdy5)

### Songs to support the story

Under fives: I will follow you by Summit Kids

[https://youtu.be/QtywlgYfCQm4?si=k\\_gljMsGizRwR5Bg](https://youtu.be/QtywlgYfCQm4?si=k_gljMsGizRwR5Bg)

Five to elevens: Go and make disciples by VBS Kids

<https://youtu.be/OUTLi2uIVGA?si=jJSX1RiXNENi4x18>



## Explore

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

### A new way to explore the passage - The weaver and the tartan

*You will need:* One A4 white paper and 10 strips of blue paper (A4 cut into long one inch strips).

*Before the session:* add the following facts to the blue strips, one per strip. (Use your discretion and knowledge of your group to choose which ones you should not include.)

Andrew is the younger brother of Simon

Andrew was the first disciple

Andrew's name is Greek and means Brave

Andrew was a fisherman

Andrew was waiting to meet Jesus

Andrew was the disciple who told Jesus about the boy with five loaves and two fish

Andrew is also the patron Saint of Ukraine, Romania and Russia

Andrew was crucified for being a Christian

Andrew is known as a thoughtful and humble person

Andrew brought his brother to Jesus too

*Preparation:* Fold the white paper in half (portrait, top to bottom) and, holding it with the fold downwards, cut slits into it at one inch intervals (do not cut all the way, leaving the page intact with a border). Weave the blue strips in and out of the white slits to create a tartan pattern.

You are now ready to tell the story.

*Telling the story:* Explain that we are thinking about St Andrew today who was one of Jesus' disciples and is the patron Saint of Scotland. In Scotland families/clans have their own colourful fabric called a tartan. This is similar to Andrew's; his tartan is blue and white. Tartans have meaning in their colours. I wonder why Andrew's is blue?

We are going to use this tartan to learn more about Andrew. What do you already know about him?

Invite the children to take turns to pull a strip out and see if there is a fact on it.

Read them out and you can add information to each one as follows:



Andrew is the younger brother of Simon – Simon Peter was his older brother. We read about him more than Andrew who seems to be the typical younger brother.

Andrew was the first disciple – It is believed that Andrew was the first person that Jesus called as a disciple.

Andrew's name is Greek and means Brave – He should have had a Hebrew name but his family gave him a Greek name. I wonder how Andrew was brave in his life?

Andrew was a fisherman – He and his brother were the sons of Jonah and were fishermen, working hard on the boats. When they met Jesus they had been fishing all night. Jesus invited them to follow him and become fishers of men.

Andrew was waiting to meet Jesus – Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist who had told him about the one who was coming, the Messiah, Jesus. So when Andrew met Jesus he knew who he was. He would stop following John and become a follower of Jesus.

Andrew was the disciple who told Jesus about the boy with five loaves and two fish – It is believed that it was Andrew who brought the boy to Jesus to feed 5,000 people. I wonder why Andrew did this?

Andrew is also the patron Saint of Ukraine, Romania and Russia – After Jesus had returned to heaven, Andrew travelled around telling others about Jesus and making new disciples (Christians) you will see his statue in many countries because of his work travelling and building the church.

Andrew was crucified for being a Christian – Andrew was supposed to be crucified on a cross like Jesus, but he said he wasn't worthy to have the same shape as Jesus, so they crucified him on a X shaped cross. This is why the Scottish flag has a white X on a blue background and you can see it on the Union Jack too alongside St George's cross.

Andrew is known as a thoughtful and humble person – We don't read much about Andrew in the Bible, he just quietly got on with the work of being a disciple.

Andrew brought his brother to Jesus too – Andrew is famous for wanting to tell others about being Jesus' disciple, his brother was the first person he told.

When you have finished exploring the tartan, place all the pieces back together. As you do this, explain that God made Andrew just the way he was, Andrew was part of Jesus' story. God used Andrew to tell others about him and all these stories are woven together just like a tartan: many people, many colours, all together.

You are also part of God's great tartan. God calls you too.

Did you know that you can make your own coloured tartan, I wonder what colours it would be and why? See the creative make it section.



## 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.



'The Smartest Giant in Town' by **Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler**  
<https://youtu.be/6gw-wfxFrFA?si=lr0fTGKvRnC3N45B>

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

- I wonder what small choices we make every day that show we're following Jesus?
- I wonder why Andrew left what he was doing and just followed Jesus' call?
- I wonder what Andrew's dad thought when Andrew left his job and went off with Jesus?
- Is it easy to follow Jesus when other people might not agree?
- When does it help to ask the question 'What would Jesus do?' or "What would a follower of Jesus do?"
- I wonder how Andrew felt when he introduced Simon to Jesus and then Simon became the centre of attention then Andrew is only occasionally mentioned in the Bible?

### Wondering together: suggested questions to use during activities

- I wonder who you might tell about Jesus?
- I wonder if there's something going on in your life at the moment where you have a choice to make?

### 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:

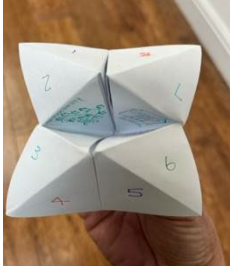
- Scottish flag – St Andrew is the saint representing Scotland
- Footsteps to follow – He was a disciple who followed Jesus
- A coin – He had some big choices to make, do you think he maybe tossed a coin to help make a choice
- Image of brothers – Andrew's brother was Simon Peter
- Fishing boat – He was a fisherman who choose to leave and become a fisher of people
- A small button – Andrew did lots of small things which made a big difference, this button holds things together and may look small but has an important job to do
- 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?

### Chatterbox prayer



Create a simple origami chatter box and on each fold place numbers to choose, words or simple symbols to choose here is how to make them.

<https://kidswantu.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/KidsWantU-Printable-Chatterbox.pdf?x64482>

And then add these short prayers for each place:

- 1-The world – We pray for peace in the world
- 2- My community – We pray for the places where we love to go in our community
- 3- My church – We pray for our church that we can learn and grow together as disciples
- 4- My family – We pray for all who care for us and those who are in our wider family
- 5- My friends – We pray for our friends, people we play and spend time with
- 6- My neighbours – We pray for our neighbours that we can look after each other
- 7- My school – We pray for our teachers and all the people who look after us while in school
- 8- The person next to me – I pray for the person next to me, may they know how much God loves them and that they will want to follow Jesus as disciples

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### Spoken prayer

God

Thank you for disciples like Andrew.

Thank you for the people who have told us about you.

Thank you for choosing us to be part of your story.

Help us to follow you every day.

Help us to be the people you made us to be.

Amen

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### 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.



## What Would a Disciple Do? Bracelets

### You will need:

- Three coordinating colours of embroidery thread or wool
- Six pony beads
- WWDD letter beads



### What you do:

Cut 60cm long pieces of each of the three colours of embroidery thread or wool. Line the ends up and tie them together in a simple knot 5cm down from the ends. Slide a pony bead onto the strands. Tie a knot directly beneath the bead strands to hold it in place.

Braid the thread/wool together into a simple 4cm long braid. Tie it together into a simple knot. Put another two pony beads, and then add on the WWDD letter beads and another two pony beads, finish it with another simple knot.

Braid the threads together for another 4cm and tie a knot, put on another pony bead and tie a knot to hold it together. Trim the threads 5cm along from the beads.

The single letters printed on white letter beads of a WWDD bracelet stand for "What would a Disciple Do?" Use this bracelet to remind you when you have choices to make.

## Design your own tartan – individual and as a group

A fun activity is to design your own tartan (as we saw St Andrew's blue and white one)

All you need is plain paper, rulers and coloured pens and pencils; younger children might appreciate a template to use with lines already drawn.

Design your tartan in three simple steps.

1, Decide what you want your tartan to tell people about you, for example that you live in the country, that you are strong and funny.

2. Choose your colours. Less is more or your tartan will be too busy. Think about how you answered the first step and consider what colours might go with those aspects e.g. you live in the country (brown or green), that you are strong (red) and funny (pink). A colour wheel might help children to choose complementary or opposite colours.



3. Have fun designing the tartan pattern. Think about using stripes of different widths with colours going both directions. Don't make it too busy. Repeating patterns and mirror patterns work best.

Once you have completed your individual tartans, you could make a group tartan by choosing one colour from each individual one and putting them together, remembering what those colours meant.

This website allows you to input your name and see if there is a tartan in your family  
<https://thetartankilt.com/whats-my-tartan/>





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## 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:

- St Andrew brought his brother to Jesus and was one of Jesus' first disciples. How could you help someone else get to know Jesus better? Can you think of one thing you might say or do and how you might do that? It could be someone who doesn't know Jesus at all, or someone who already knows Jesus but could be encouraged by you.
  - Each morning this week, ask Jesus to help you to make good choices which reflect that you are one of Jesus' disciples too.
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We hope you enjoyed exploring the story of **St Andrew** with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing [lorrainewebb@urc.org.uk](mailto:lorrainewebb@urc.org.uk)

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

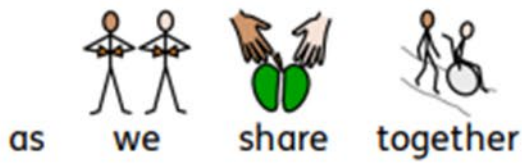




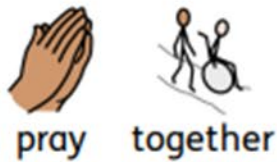
Jesus our friend,



be with us today



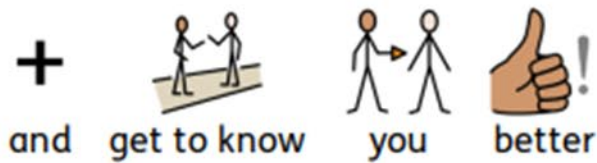
as we share together



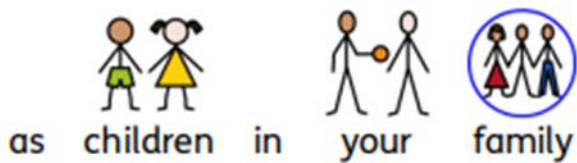
pray together



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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