



# Faith Adventures Youth Resource

*Embedded in Faith Adventures: Children Together, this youth resource is intergenerational in nature and designed to foster God-connection in church, home 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/Faith-Adventures-How-To-FAYR.pdf>

## Galatians 3:27-29 – Putting on Christ

**Theme:** we are all unique but equal in God’s eyes

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### Introduction: What would be helpful to know before we begin?

Paul had founded the churches in Galatia and so wrote this letter to them as someone who knew them well. He was travelling off on his first missionary journey to Asia Minor. He had heard that the congregations in Galatia were falling into bad ways and that they were split. Some followed leaders who taught that the law of Moses meant God’s grace was just for the Jewish people and only those who obeyed the law. Other leaders recognised that Jesus had brought a new promise of grace that was for Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews) alike – all who accepted God’s grace would receive it, they did not have to earn it or be a certain type of person.

Paul compared accepting God’s grace as being like ‘putting on Jesus’ like we put on our clothes. It could be compared with the idea that, when we put on our school uniform, we can be identified as belonging to our school and even representing our school. This could raise the question “if we can put on Jesus like clothing, can we take that clothing off?” This could be a good starting point for discussion in your group and some interesting ideas may emerge. It may also lead to discussion about whether ‘putting on Christ’ changes what we look like on the outside or whether it’s just an internal change, and whether it’s important to wear particular things to show we’re a Christian like wearing a cross etc. The important part of this passage is to realise that it’s OK to be different – you don’t have to be the same as everyone else or as they expect you to be – you are equal in Christ. And so is everyone else.

Remember that different people may have different experience and understanding of baptism. They may have been baptised or not. Some families and congregations will practice infant

baptism and some will practise adult baptism. Some may use dedication or thanksgiving services in the place of infant baptism. You may want to read this <https://urc.org.uk/who-we-are/what-we-believe/> to find a concise explanation of the difference if you are not sure. The important thing is not to impose your beliefs on one another and to respect both, both being practised within the United Reformed Church.

## Together

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

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

*All mighty God,*

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

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

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

*Amen*

### Games

See this week's Faith Adventures : Children Together for suitable games for this theme, including the chocolate game!

## Experience

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

New Century Version

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+3%3A27-29&version=NCV>

### Watch and Listen

Song: Something Inside So Strong

Labi Siffre version: [https://youtu.be/7B-4Lsrx8IA?si=4NfZcUW0Foi8veH\\_](https://youtu.be/7B-4Lsrx8IA?si=4NfZcUW0Foi8veH_)

Flying Pickets version: [https://youtu.be/XHCziDaioxc?si=Z-2MIH30DIV\\_LsaB](https://youtu.be/XHCziDaioxc?si=Z-2MIH30DIV_LsaB)

# Explore

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

## A new way to explore the theme

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

Alternatively:

Fast Fashion – How ethical are the clothes we buy?  
Watch and discuss the short video clips below.

Can fashion be sustainable? BBC Earth – <https://youtu.be/ZoiU8sprXpQ?si=4Ox-fFA2VfJCylmh>  
Stacey Dooley Investigates fast fashion – [https://youtu.be/zOe\\_M3GutdY?si=ygARj\\_5wftOJz-Ut](https://youtu.be/zOe_M3GutdY?si=ygARj_5wftOJz-Ut)

Research – Use the website <https://goodonyou.eco/> to find out more about how ethical different shops and brands are. Search different brands using the “brand rating” tool near the top right of the sight. How do the brands that you normally purchase rank? Which brands are ranked most ethical?

Exploring further – Check out the free “Justice X Together” resource pack from Tearfund. Session 2 focusses on the topic of “Fast Fashion.” Download the resource at <https://wearetearfund.org/justicextogether/>

In your opinion, should the clothes we choose to wear be linked to our faith in any way? What do the clothes we wear tell others about us, and does it matter? Is it anyone's business what we choose to wear?

## Modern parables

This section includes references to TV programmes, films, books, TED talks, TikTok etc aimed at this age group that will have been widely seen, or where a clip is available to use as a stimulus for discussion. You may also enjoy the picture book recommended for Faith Adventures: Children Together and explore the relevance of the story to the theme of the session in more depth – young people and adults are often well tuned in to the deeper meanings in materials aimed at younger people and the authors are often very aware of the adults reading the books to or with younger ones.

Video: What Is Equality? (3'39")

<https://youtu.be/V7gX1PRgDRA?si=jpHNBILEYPWYBfng>

Trailer for Mitchells vs the Machines

[https://youtu.be/\\_ak5dFt8Ar0?si=AlcSdVWRD7IrM4vu](https://youtu.be/_ak5dFt8Ar0?si=AlcSdVWRD7IrM4vu)

## Talking together: Going deeper

If you've not been baptised in church, does that mean you're not baptised in Christ – are they linked?

The differences in the Bible passage are set in time and context – what differences do we have in current context that divides people?

What does “protected characteristics” mean? If you look at this passage, what is missing from the list of protected characteristics we recognize today? How might you re-write this passage?

If we're clothed with Christ, how should we view others?

### Conversation starters

What do we wear that identifies us as Christians? Do we need anything? Is it the reason we wear something that's important?

What is the difference between equality and equity?

## Express

How do we respond to what we've discussed and express our faith personally?

### Praying together

**Prayer** Respond to the theme by writing or saying a short prayer. Alternatively use the creative prayer from Faith Adventures: Children Together for this session, or use the prayer activity below. Alternatively light a candle and play some music while you listen and talk to God together.

### Prayer

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Christ be with me

*Use actions with this Celtic prayer of protection, remembering the words of Galatians... 'we are clothed with Christ'.*

Christ be with me, (*hands down by sides*)  
 Christ within me. (*cross arms over chest*)  
 Christ behind me, (*hands back behind you*)  
 Christ before me. (*Point in front of you*)  
 Christ beside me, (*hands down by sides*)  
 Christ to win me. (*raise arms in praise*)  
 Christ to comfort (*hug yourself*) and restore me.

Christ beneath me, (*Point down to feet/ground*)  
 Christ above me, (*reach up*)  
 Christ in quiet, (*finger on lips*)  
 Christ in danger. (*Place hands palms towards your middle and wiggle your fingers*)  
 Christ in hearts of all that love me. (*cross hands over heart*)  
 Christ in mouth of friend and stranger. ( *fingertips on mouth then take them up and out*)

*Based on a traditional prayer and a version of it in Roots for Churches*

## Responding together

This is an opportunity for a social justice challenge, some research, craftivism, or a craft or STEM activity. You may have a specific activity chosen but free choice is also an option. Here are some suggestions for this week's theme. See Faith Adventures: Children Together for a craft and a STEM activity which may also be appropriate. Choose whatever will work best for your group.

This session's responses in Faith Adventures: Children Together include making gingerbread people and engaging in craftivism. Both of these activities may be suitable for the 11 to 14 age range.

## Equality vs Equity

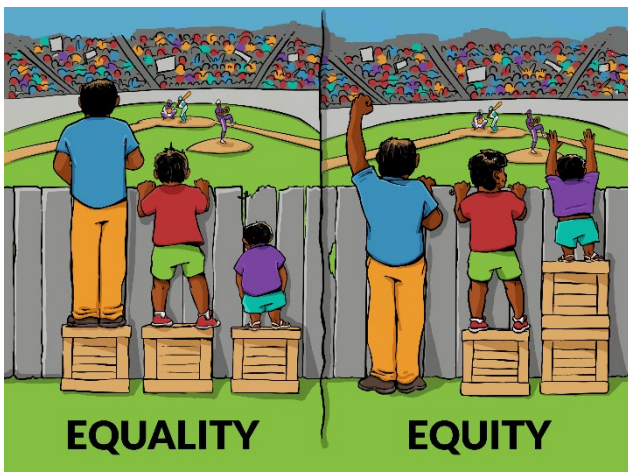
Take a look at the words below taken from the introduction to the American Declaration of Independence:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

### *Preamble to the Declaration of Independence*

- How equal do you think past and current society is in the USA? How do you think this compares to society in the UK and elsewhere?

Show the picture below. (Available to download from <https://interactioninstitute.org/illustrating-equality-vs-equity/>)



*Image credit: Interaction Institute for Social Change [interactioninstitute.org](https://interactioninstitute.org) | Artist: Angus Maguire. [Madewithangus.com](https://madewithangus.com)*

- What are your thoughts on this image?
- What do you think is the meaning of this metaphor?
  - What could the boxes represent?
  - What could the fence represent?
- What might be some of the limits or challenges within this metaphor?

Exploring further – The team at “centre for story based strategy” have produced resources to further explore the equality and equity model, creating discussions by expanding the image to include a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> box. Images, workshop resources and a mobile game can be downloaded at <https://www.storybasedstrategy.org/the4thbox>

The UN Convention on the rights of the child

Take a look at this poster from UNICEF which uses child friendly language to introduce the main articles of the rights of the child. [bit.ly/rights-of-child-poster](https://bit.ly/rights-of-child-poster)

- Which of the numbered articles stand out to you? Why?
- Can you think of examples of positive steps that have been taken to help meet specific rights?
- Can you think of examples of where we may fail to meet specific rights? What could be done about this?

### Challenge

Discipleship doesn't stop when you walk out of the church door – it is a part of everyday life. Take a challenge with you and try to make it part of your week.

You may think of your own suggestion of what you as an individual or a group might do in the coming week in response to what you have explored today? If not here are some suggestions:

- Use one of the “conversation starter” questions or the question below to talk with someone of a different generation or from a different setting and share your questions, thoughts, insights together: **How would the world be different if everyone was treated equally?**
- Research something suggested by JPIT, [Resources \(jpit.uk\)](https://resources.jpit.uk) Commitment For Life [cforl.co.uk](https://cforl.co.uk)
- Create a vision/ mood board for the week ahead, fill it with things that help to motivate and shape who you are.

Thank you for exploring the Galatians passage with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing [children.youth@urc.org.uk](mailto:children.youth@urc.org.uk) or by sharing it on [https://bit.ly/FACT\\_FB](https://bit.ly/FACT_FB)