



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/FACT-how-to-sheet.pdf>

Luke 4: 16-24 - Jesus reads the holy book

Theme: The Bible is for sharing and for passing on to others

Contents:

Introduction	1
Together	2
Experience	2
Explore	3
Express	4

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

The synagogue is where Jews gather for worship – it is their equivalent to a Christian's 'church'. The original Hebrew name for the synagogue is Beit Kneset (House of Gathering) – the word 'Synagogue' is the Greek translation of this phrase.

To read aloud in the Synagogue is an honour – particularly for Jesus as he came from Nazareth which, although now the largest Christian city in Israel was, in Jesus' time, a small town that was most well known for being the stables for the Roman army so people from Nazareth were not always respected. This suggested that the Elders at the Synagogue knew about Jesus and his teachings and ministry.

Although the passage says that Jesus was handed the 'Book of Isaiah', it would not have been a book as we understand it, but a scroll.

You may notice that the scroll was 'handed to him'. In the Synagogue there are normally three people involved in reading – one who takes the scroll from the Aron Kadesh (where the scrolls are kept) and taken to the reader who stands in the Bimah (similar to a lectern – but a platform in the centre of the worship space). There is also someone who will correct the reader's pronunciation or translate the ancient Hebrew into the local language. After the reading the scroll is returned to the Aron Kadesh and locked away again before a sermon is given (Jesus' short speech would be considered a sermon.)

In this way the scripture is opened, shared, closed and passed on. In our churches, we usually leave the Bible open after the reading – to show that the Word of God is always available to us.

Be aware that there might be some trigger points, particularly in the Isaiah portion of the reading, for those in your group who may be, for example, sight impaired – or know someone who is.

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

In-person and online game

See this week's Faith Adventures : Children Together for suitable games for this theme.

Experience

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

Watch: Jesus reads from Isaiah | Jesus Of Nazareth Scene
<https://youtu.be/zAb0JxWkP20?si=7boX29WvwW9RgLKs>

And watch the beginning of "The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me..." from The Chosen

https://youtu.be/PMO0ykVs8t4?si=W7mec1_ZesQVncOb

Questions for discussion

- Which depiction of Jesus do you think is most accurate?
- Which version is closest to the Bible version?
- Why do you think the mood of the listeners changed so quickly?
- What do you pick up from the videos about the role of scripture in Jewish society during Jesus' day?

Watch Josh Baldwin – I speak Jesus

<https://youtu.be/PcmqSfr1ENY?si=HtXXVkCrgbbM1XsE>

Questions for discussion

- How does this song relate to the Bible passage?

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:

Resources required: a piece of paper and a pen for each person.

Jesus and Me

Jesus said to those listening in the Synagogue "While you heard me reading these words just now, they were coming true!" What evidence is there that Jesus was the person about whom Isaiah prophesied? And what can we do to share the Good News?

Give members of your group a piece of paper. Invite them to draw two columns.

In column one, write the things that Jesus did that showed he was the person Isaiah was referring to.

In column two, write the things that you can do to share the Good News with others.

Have a discussion about what ways we have available to us that were not available to people in Jesus' time.

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.

Clip from movie "Pay it forward" <https://youtu.be/qRj6ySYLOZI?si=aXOED0I5NVz26wuH>

Discussion questions:

- What do you think the world expects of us?
- What do you think God expects of us?
- The class are set the assignment "Think of an idea to change our world – and put it into ACTION." – What ideas do you have to change the world?

Talking together: Going deeper

- How do words from a page come true?
- How did Isaiah know to write what he did about Jesus? Do you think it was about Jesus?
- How do we tell the difference between truth and fake news?
- Why do you think the people in the synagogue didn't believe what Jesus said? How do you think they might have reacted?
- Do you think that Jesus was arrogant?
- Are you aware of any other links between the Old and New Testaments?

Conversation starters

- Are you defined by who your family is?
- What sort of things do we believe which are really out of the ordinary/unbelievable?

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.

Pray it forward

The pray it forward idea as described on the Church of Scotland website creates an opportunity to speak life-changing prayer into a situation in which God can perform the miraculous. Follow this link for pray it forward cards to be used in the session or at home.

https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/45531/Together-We-Pray-Prayer-Cards.pdf

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.

Read more about someone called Mary who was so keen to have her own Bible she walked more than 26 miles to get her own copy.

<https://answersingenesis.org/kids/bible/world-missions/mary-jones>

- Find out more about how the bible is translated.
- What languages are still needing translation?
- How can we help ensure the bible reaches people?

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 **What's the greatest thing anyone has done to help you out?**
 - Research something suggested by JPIT, [Resources \(jpit.uk\)](https://resources.jpit.uk) Commitment for Life cforl.co.uk
 - Spend some time this week looking for ways in which you can help pay forward a good deed someone has done for you. If someone lets you go first in the bus line perhaps you could do the same for someone else. If someone lets you have the last piece of food, you could do the same and so on.
-

Thank you for exploring the **Luke** passage with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing children.youth@urc.org.uk or by sharing it on https://bit.ly/FACT_FB

