



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>

I Corinthians 12: 27-31 Body of Christ

Theme: God has a plan for each person, each plan different

Contents:

Introduction	1
Together	2
Experience	2
Explore	3
Express	5
Handouts	8

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

Corinthians

In this week's passage, Paul is writing to the early church in Corinth (Greece). He has become aware that the believers are struggling with keeping God's word and staying true to Jesus in a city where the exact opposite was normal – and rewarded.

He reminded them that God had given each of them gifts that they could use, that they should use, as part of the body of Christ.

When we look at the roles Paul described, it can be easy to think only of adult roles or jobs: doctor, nurse, teacher and so on. It may be helpful to think about how young people might also fulfil these roles. A comforting word can be healing, showing a friend how to do something can be teaching.

Paul's letter suggests that we can be given different gifts – no one person has them all – and that we should work together to make things better.

It is also worth thinking about how you would respond to questions such as "Does that mean I *have to* become a nurse/teacher?" Maybe the gifts we are given are for a particular time or situation – and we must always remember that one of God's greatest gifts to us is free will, to do, or not do, as we choose. But if we can use our God-given gifts to make things better for someone, why wouldn't we?



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: Potter's Hand by Hillsong with lyrics <https://youtu.be/bgXL3y9RlBl?t=127>

Stuart Townend- Vagabonds lyrics Video <https://youtu.be/qoUeQsPYjRM>

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:

In order to decide how we should use our gifts, we should first explore the needs of our local community. This is sometimes called a 'community audit'.

There are many ways of doing this. The most obvious one is to ask people. Perhaps your group together could devise a simple questionnaire that could be given to people to complete. It doesn't matter if there is some confusion between 'needs' and 'wants'.

There is also lots of information online that the group can use to find out about the local area and use that as a basis for exploring what the community needs might be.



You can find lots of good advice in this (UK based) article: [How to do a community audit: building profiles using neighbourhood statistics – infed.org](https://infed.org):

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.

Watch: Nooma - Rhythm <https://youtu.be/0t3l8D6jySU?si=amAmowFOHOr3t3aF>

The narrator of the clip poses questions throughout his talk. It may be useful to stop the clip at those points and discuss them together using the following questions:

- What parts of the clip stand out to you? Can you briefly explain why?
- Do you feel you are part of the song? What part do you feel you play?
- Are you in tune with God?

Talking together: Going deeper

- I wonder which of the roles described in the Bible reading is the most important. Could you do a diamond ranking for them?
- I wonder what are the important roles in society today, and in the church today?
- Can you be anything you want to be or are our roles preordained by God?

Conversation starters

- Some people believe some of the gifts and talents we have are part of who we are when we are born, sometimes referred to as 'nature' as they are in the nature of who we are. Some people believe some of the gifts and talents we have, have been learnt and nurtured as we grow, sometimes referred to as 'nurture' as in that they have been nurtured as we've grown. What do you think? And with this in mind, how can we develop in the skills God has given us?

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.

Spoken Prayer

Lord,

Thanks for creating us all uniquely.

Help us not to worry about being different, or stress about fitting in.

Help us to appreciate our individuality and celebrate our diversity.

Help us to recognise the different skills and talents that you have given to each person.

Help us to remember that you have great plans for each of us.

Help us to support our friends in their own journeys.

Help us to grow and learn together, so that our skills may be used in ways that benefit all people.

Amen.



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.

Domino Run Challenge

You will need: dominos (or Jenga-style blocks), flat stable surface e.g. table or floor.

Each person should create their own section of a domino run (working individually or in pairs) which will then be connected to form a large chain. Dominos should be stood on their ends next to each other so that, when a domino falls, it knocks over the next in line, creating a chain reaction. Be creative, whilst remembering that each section must be able to connect. Once all sections are completed, test to see if the run is effective by knocking over the first domino.



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 gifts do you have and what gifts do I have that I could share with you?**
- Over the coming week, have a think about what sort of gifts you have. To help you decide these, you could look at what you are good at and what you enjoy. You could ask someone of another generation, friends or family the question: **What gifts would you say I had?** Maybe there is one gift you could dedicate to God!
- Research something suggested by JPIT, [Resources \(jpit.uk\)](https://www.jpit.org.uk) Commitment For Life [cforl.co.uk](https://www.cforl.co.uk)

Thank you for exploring the John 16 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