



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>

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 before we begin?

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

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 alternative 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: Watch the clip of Jesus choosing his disciples from The Chosen
<https://youtu.be/yNbPrmil8mo?si=K35so66RzWQNbyUp>

Noah who plays Andrew in The Chosen talks about the character of Andrew
<https://youtu.be/Q48fnDk-wOE?si=98xNK14hNymb7CJ9>

Questions for discussion

- The video shows the moment Jesus calls Simon and Andrew coincides with when they have been fishing all night and caught nothing and Jesus tells them to cast the nets on the other side. This story occurs at different times in each gospel. Why do you think this might be? Does it matter to you?
- What do you think Jesus means when he says “fishers of men”?
- If you had to choose, would you rather be like Simon or Andrew?

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:

This is an opportunity to do some research. What can you find out about St Andrew? Where is he mentioned in the Bible? What other stories can you find about him? How did he come to be the patron saint of Scotland? What images can you find of him and how accurately do you think they represent him?

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.

Talking together: Going deeper

- What do you already know about Andrew?
- I wonder what prompted Andrew to follow Jesus, especially to the extent that he did?
- 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?
- I wonder why Andrew is mentioned so little in the Bible but is a well known Saint with lots of churches named after him?
- Is there a difference between asking 'What would Jesus do?' and 'What would a disciple of Jesus do?' Which do you think is more important?

Conversation starters

- How do you decide what choices to make? Does your faith ever come into it?
- It is easy or difficult to make choices as a disciple of Jesus when others are making different choices or have different expectations of you?
- What do you think it means for a country to have a patron saint?

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

All seeing Lord,

There are times when we choose not to make a big noise about who we are.

There are times when we choose to keep quiet about believing in you and following you.

There are times when it is easier to choose to keep you to ourselves and not share you with others.

There are times when we choose to let others have the spotlight shine on them.

You see us, Lord, and you know our hearts.

When, like Andrew, we have choices to make, give us the strength to make the choices an apostle would make.
We are your apostles, too.
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.

Alternative -

Create a PowerPoint/poster/video to share what you know about St Andrew with others.

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:

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- 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. **Who first told you about Jesus?**
 - Research something suggested by JPIT, [Resources \(jpit.uk\)](https://jpit.uk) Commitment for Life cforl.co.uk
 - Write a prayer that you can say each morning to help you make good choices through the day, especially those choices which require you to be a bit more courageous.
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Thank you for exploring the **John** 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