

Faith Adventures Youth Resource



Free to use – please acknowledge when using beyond local church children's and youth work so others can find and use the resource themselves.

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: www.bit.ly/How-To-FAYR

Title: Luke 17: 11–19

Theme: God provides... healing

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Introduction: What would be helpful to know in my planning? Please use this section as a reference and information guide for leaders only – we don't expect it to be read out to the children.

There are many stories throughout the Bible which describe how God provides. Stories of healing feature often in the Gospels. Today's healing focuses on the ten lepers, their healing, and on the one man who came back and thanked Jesus for what he did.

Healing is a subject that needs to be approached carefully. There are examples of people asking God for healing and not receiving it – sometimes people suggest that to not be healed must mean a lack of faith or not asking persistently enough.

Today's session is focusing more on the different types of healing that God may provide. However, this subject may prompt some searching questions. Some in your group may have had a negative experience with healing or heard negative stories. Rather than avoiding the fact that some people are not healed, be honest with your group and wonder together. They are big

questions, but they are questions we shouldn't be afraid to face. You know your group best: read the session so you can decide if it's right for you.

Together – prayer and games

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

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.

Alternatively, you may join with the widgeit prayer found in Faith Adventures: Children Together, or else the Lord's Prayer found at the end of this session.

Active game – Marco Polo

The game is a light-hearted reminder of the character in the story who returns to Jesus – and that not everyone finds their way back to him.

Choose one member of the group to be "Marco". All other players must close their eyes while Marco hides. From their hiding place, the chosen player says "Marco" – they can choose how loudly or quietly; whether they use a silly voice or their own. If the other players move, they must say "Polo" so that Marco can hear them approaching. The other players must work together to make sure they can hear when Marco calls. When they reach the correct hiding place, another player can be chosen to be "Marco".

Quieter game – What's changed?

Create a circle – take a few minutes to note what each person is wearing, what their hair is like, whether they have jewellery on etc. Then invite one person to leave the room and change something about their appearance. The aim, when they come back in, is for someone to guess what has changed. For extra challenge, reverse the task, so that the person who comes back into the room has to guess the changes everyone else has made to themselves.

Experience – Bible story and songs

Hear, watch and sing the Bible story

When planning the session, the team of writers read many different Bible versions to find the one that is most suitable for the age range. We also look at vocabulary and how God/Jesus is described. We are aware that a lot of churches stick with one Bible version. We appreciate it can be difficult to have many different Bible versions and that access to them online isn't always easy. Therefore, we have provided the passage in the recommended version for your convenience.

This link takes you to Luke 17: 11–19 *The Voice*

You may wish to research different versions of this reading on www.biblegateway.com
Recommended versions to try are NRSV, Easy-to-read, The Message, NIRV

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2017%3A11-19&version=VOICE>

¹¹ Jesus was still pressing toward Jerusalem, taking a road that went along the border between Samaria (*considered undesirable territory*) and Galilee. ¹² On the outskirts of a border town along this road, he was greeted from a distance by a group of ten people who were under quarantine because of an ugly and disgusting skin disease known as leprosy. Lepers (*shouting across the distance*): ¹³ Jesus, Master, show mercy to us! Jesus: ¹⁴ Go now and present yourselves to the priests *for inspection of your disease*. They went, and before they reached the priests, their skin disease was healed, *leaving no trace of the disease that scarred them and separated them from the community*.

¹⁵ One of them, the instant he realised he had been healed, turned and ran back to Jesus, shouting praises to God. ¹⁶ He prostrated himself facedown at Jesus' feet.

Leper: Thank You! Thank You!

Now this fellow happened to be *not a Jew* but a Samaritan.

Jesus: ¹⁷ Didn't all ten receive the same healing this fellow did? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Was the only one who came back to give God praise an outsider? ¹⁹ (*To the Samaritan man*): Get up and go your way. Your faith has made you healthy again.

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Listen: The healing in the bible story is physical, and yet there are lots of different ways that we can experience healing...

You Say (Lauren Daigle), by One Voice Children's Choir

https://youtu.be/EPw_0FWk8CI?si=TxtsmSw7il-4cy2X

Questions for discussion

- When might we feel we are not enough?
- How might this song relate to the subject of healing?

Explore

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

A new way to explore the theme

This is a new way to explore the Bible passage and the theme for this week.

Alternatively, 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.

Story Scrapbook

Today we are going to gather some stories about a time when we have been healed or needed healing.

Invite everyone, including the leaders, to engage in this activity. You could also open it up to the whole congregation.

You may want to offer a gentle reminder that healing comes in many forms and that each person's story is unique.

Help children remember and share a personal experience of healing by focusing on one moment in time, using sensory details rather than explanations.



"I Remember a Time When I Was Healed"

Today we're going to tell a true story from our own lives. Our story begins with one sentence:

"I remember a time when I was healed..."

Healing can mean many different things:

- Sometimes our bodies heal after being sick
- Sometimes our hearts heal after being hurt
- Sometimes a friendship is healed
- Sometimes we feel less afraid
- Sometimes someone helps us feel loved again

There is no wrong answer.

Choose the memory that feels right for you.

Story Sharing No-No's

No laughing at someone else's story.

No interrupting.

No giving advice.

No comparing stories.

No talking immediately after someone shares.

Respect everyone's story.

Story Sharing Yes's

Listen carefully.

Be fully present.

Be yourself.

Share only what feels safe.

Thank each person by giving them your full attention.

Today you are not going to explain your story.

Instead, imagine you are a camera. A camera notices.

Imagine you are a microphone. A microphone hears.

Your job is simply to let us experience the moment with you. Using describing words:

- Instead of saying, "I was scared," you might say, "My hands were shaking. I looked at the floor."
- Instead of saying, "Everything got better," you might say, "My nana hugged me. I could smell her perfume."

Small details help us step into your story.

Reflecting time

Invite children to sit comfortably.

Speak slowly.

Take a slow breath.

Think of the words: I remember a time when I was healed...

Don't choose a whole year.

Don't choose a whole day.

Choose one small moment.

Where are you?

Look around.

What do you see?

What colours are there?

What sounds do you hear?

Can you smell anything?

What does the air feel like?

Who is there?

What are they doing?

What are your hands doing?

What is happening inside your body?

What emotions do you feel?

Stay in that moment.

Just notice.

When you're ready, slowly open your eyes.

Writing Time

Write or draw your story beginning with:

I remember a time when I was healed...

As you write or draw ask yourself:

- What did I see?
- What did I hear?
- What did I smell?
- What could I touch?
- What was happening around me?
- What was happening inside me?
- What did someone say?
- What did my body feel like?

Remember:

Don't explain.

Don't tell us what you learned.

Just let us experience the moment with you.

Write between four and five sentences.

Finish with:
Your first name and the year it happened.

Sharing Circle

Using a talking stick: One person shares at a time. Everyone else listens.
After each story have a pause.
No comments, no applause, just a few seconds of silence.

After everyone has shared, invite the group to reflect.

You might ask:

What was it like to remember a moment of healing?

What did you notice about healing from everyone's stories?

There are no right or wrong answers.

Thank everyone for their courage, honesty, and respectful listening.

Here is an example of a story:

"It was a relief feeling the nurse slowly cut the cast of my arm. After six weeks of being in it, I was finally free of the itchiness and free to do normal things again. My arm was healed, and I could carry on with all the little things I hadn't been able to do recently. My arm feels light and strange too. The skin is flaky, but I am healed.
Judy 2019"

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.

Today's session has focused on the sorting of healing God provides. In *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, Ron gets hurt – Hermionie heals him using a potion made from plants.



- How does the plant help with healing?
- Do you know about any plants with powerful healing properties?

Group discussion

- I wonder how the people's lives/hearts were changed because of the healing Jesus gave.
- What does it mean to be healed? What does it look like?
- Is a strong faith the only thing that keeps you healthy?

Personal reflection

- I wonder why it is that not all people are physically healed.
- I wonder if you know of anyone who has been healed.

- Do we all get healed in the same way?
- Do things/ people always need to be healed?

Express – prayer and creative activities

Praying together: enabling your group to respond spiritually

Praying together

Prayers 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

God of Healing,

when we read Luke 17, we're surprised by the one person who turns back.

Thank you for the person who turns back in our lives. Thank you for the person who says thank you. Thank you for Jesus who came to heal the world, and all of our hearts.

Help us to go into the world and be like the one who turns back, help us to be kind and compassionate. Help us to be caring and loving like your son Jesus. Help us to show people in our community mercy. Just as the lepers were outsiders, help us to love those who are alone in our world.

This week, God, challenge us to be like the leper who said thank you. Show us one part of our life where we need to be kinder, one friend who needs more care, and one situation where we need to have more faith in you.

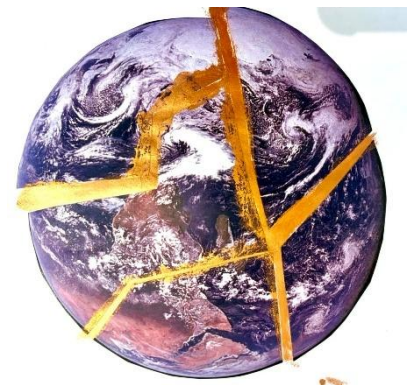
May we be kinder like Christ.

Amen.

Creative prayer

You will need:

- a range of pictures, some of which might be familiar to the group, such as their church, local playground; and others more generic e.g. a picture of the world, a group of people. Cut the pictures into five or six pieces before the start of the session
- glue sticks
- gold pens or crayons
- card to glue the pictures on to



What you do:

Take each picture in turn. Arrange the pieces to make the picture whole again. Say the words: "Loving God, you know the brokenness in...", and name the image on the picture – for example, "the world". Encourage the group to help glue the pieces back together on the card.

As the picture is glued back together, pray for any needs the children and young people wish to name.

Say: "Thank you that you are a God that heals. Help us to be healers like you."

Once the picture is stuck back together you might like to ask the children and young people to use the gold pens to cover along the cracks. Explain that this is a practice that is used in Japanese ceramics to repair broken pottery. It is called *kintsugi*. This makes the pot stronger than it was to start with and even more beautiful.

Say: "Thank you that you are a God that puts things back together. We thank you that through the power of your healing, things are made strong and are beautiful.

Help us to see the strength and beauty in all the places and people we have been praying for today."

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. Choose whatever will work best for your group.

Linked to this week's modern parable, encourage your groups to explore plants that can heal in real life – or the wide variety of medicinal plants that can be found in the rainforest.

The Healing Power of Plants: RHS

The healing power of plants / RHS Gardening

Protecting our rainforests – medicinal plants that can be found in rainforests

The Healing Power of the Rainforest, by Rainforest Trust

https://youtu.be/U4ZhBZ6xpHc?si=_RoSYVSdhwppo8Ny

Kintsugi Biscuits

Ingredients

- 125g Baking Margarine
- 55g Caster Sugar
- 180g Plain Flour
- Icing and a selection of sweets and sprinkles to decorate

Method

- Pre-heat your oven to Gas mark five/190c
- Mix the margarine and sugar together until smooth
- Add in the flour and mix until it forms a ball
- If you have time, chill your dough
- Roll out the dough to 1cm thick on a surface sprinkled with flour



- Use shaped cutters to cut out biscuits from your dough
- Bake until the biscuits are golden brown (about 15 mins)
- Once cooled, break your biscuits into sections
- Use icing (coloured using yellow or gold food colouring if preferred) to “mend” the biscuits
- Use sweets and sprinkles to decorate the icing

If you don't have time to make the biscuits in your session, bring ready-made biscuits to break and mend.

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. **I wonder who the healers in our society are.**
- Research something suggested by JPIT Resources (jpit.uk) or *Commitment for Life* (cforl.co.uk).
- Take some time to notice at school, home and in your community who the healers are and how healing takes place.

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

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing sharon.lloyd@urc.org.uk or by sharing it on www.bit.ly/FACT_FB

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

and forgive us our sins As we forgive those who sin against us

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory

For ever and ever . Amen

