

11-14s APPENDIX

SNAPSHOT HOLIDAY CLUB MATERIAL



LOVE IS CREATIVE

God created the world using only a blank canvas – what sort of things did God have to consider?

Activity

A Planned Paradise. Give the group a sheet of A3 paper and some coloured pens. Their task is to create an island 'paradise' on which they would like to live – starting from scratch. What would they need to be able to survive? Who would they want there with them? What luxuries would they like to include? Would they need people they don't know to live there too (specific skills)?

Discussion

God started with a blank sheet, too. Are there things that you would have liked God to have created that weren't? What choices did you have to make that God also had to make? What can we do to ensure that God's creation remains true to God's vision of paradise?

Planting prayers

Praying for the environment

You will need:

- Pots
- Compost
- Seeds
- Pens and sticky notes (depending on the type of material your pots are made from)



Choose a place in the world that is impacted by climate change or choose a particular environmental issue to pray for. Ask the young people to plant a seed and commit to praying for that place or issue as they look after the seed at home and watch it grow. You could choose an issue as a group, or individually.

LOVE IS ADVENTUROUS

The disciples had to take a leap of faith when Jesus called them – but Jesus knew he couldn't do everything on his own, he needed people to support and help him.

Activity

A Leap Of Faith. From a standing start, see who can jump the furthest.

Discussion

Sir Edmund Hillary climbed Mount Everest – but he couldn't have done it without sherpa Tenzing Norgay (and the other 398 people on the expedition!). Neil Armstrong was the first man on the moon – but he couldn't have done it without the others in his crew and many

scientists who prepared and ran the mission from NASA – including Katherine Johnson (look her up on Wikipedia).

We often need people with special skills to help us achieve things. Look at the 12 disciples that Jesus called to help him on his adventure... what special skills/gifts did they have?

What skills/gifts do you have that could be used to help others?

Compass prayers

Praying for the local community

Young people can take it in turns to be the 'compass'. Standing in the middle of the room, they can choose a place in the local area (such

as school, community centre, GP surgery), point in the direction it is in and say a simple prayer or ask a leader to say a prayer for their chosen venue. The rest of the group can stand in the direction the 'compass' is pointing, and join in with 'Amen'.

LOVE IS BRAVE

Peter had to put his fears behind him when stepping out of the boat and onto the waves. Refugees have to be brave when they leave behind everything they have known and flee to safety.

Activity

Using a map of the world, chart the journey of a refugee from Afghanistan to the United Kingdom.

Discussion

What obstacles do they face? Why do they feel the need to leave? Why do you think they might want to come to the UK? Joseph, Mary and Jesus had to flee from their home (Matthew 2:13-23) Do you think they were accepted in Egypt? Do you think we treat refugees fairly in the UK?

You can find out more about refugees coming to the UK here: Refugee Voices – Refugee Action (refugee-action.org.uk)

Reflective prayers

Praying for myself

Encourage the young people to find a comfortable position – sitting, lying down or standing – so that they can be still. You could use some quiet music. Use a spoken prayer, such as the one below, allowing space for the group to reflect and bring to God any situations that they may be feeling worried about.

Dear God,

When I feel overwhelmed,

Help me keep my eyes on you.

When I feel worried,

Help me keep my eyes on you.

When I feel angry,

Help me keep my eyes on you.

When it feels like there's no hope,

Help me keep my eyes on you.

Amen



LOVE IS BELONGING

Jesus belonged to the family that was created when Abraham and Sarah were given a child by God. We are part of that family, too.

Activity

Make a list of all the groups that you belong to (family, school, friends, clubs, etc.) Which do you belong to because you choose to belong, and which do you have no choice about?

Discussion

Usually, when we say we 'belong' to a group, we don't mean that we are owned by that group. But, throughout history, and even today, there are people who believe they have the right to 'own' another human being. The people they believe they owned are called slaves – and they can be treated very badly. What do you think is the difference between a slave and a servant? Do you think that it is OK to 'own' someone else?

Read Leviticus 25:44-46, Galatians 3:28-29 and 1 Peter 2:16. What do these passages tell you about attitudes to slavery in Biblical times? Do you think attitudes have changed? The United Reformed Church is currently exploring the Legacies of Slavery; how we as a Church might have benefitted from slavery in the past and what we ought to do about it. Watch this video <https://youtu.be/KrZaswCeXoU> and talk about what YOU think the United Reformed Church should do.



Biscuit prayers

Praying for each other

You will need:

- Plain biscuits
- Writing icing

Split your young people into pairs and ask them to choose a word to describe the other person, which they can thank God for. They can then write the word onto the biscuit and give it to the other person. Share the words that have been written with everyone and close the activity with a prayer thanking God for everyone who belongs to the group. (Then eat the biscuits!)

LOVE IS SURPRISING

Mary was very surprised, and shocked, to be visited by an angel and told that she was going to have God's child. She had to make a decision.

Activity

Would You Rather? Invite the group to decide which they would rather:

1. Would you rather never play video games again or never use your favourite mobile app again?
2. Would you rather live without a microwave or live without a toaster?
3. Would you rather be a famous songwriter or a famous drummer?
4. Would you rather have to do laundry for your family or cook meals for your family?
5. Would you rather never wear deodorant or have really bad dandruff?

Discussion

Mary accepted the news that she was to have God's child, saying to the Angel Gabriel: "I am the Lord's servant, may it happen to me as you have said." (Luke 1:26-38). Her fiancé, Joseph, was not quite so happy (Matthew 1:18-19).

What do you think would have happened if Mary had said "No"?

Surprises can be good as well as bad. Can you think of a way you have been surprised recently? Do we respond differently to good and bad surprises? How would you feel if an angel told you that God had plans for you that would change your life forever?

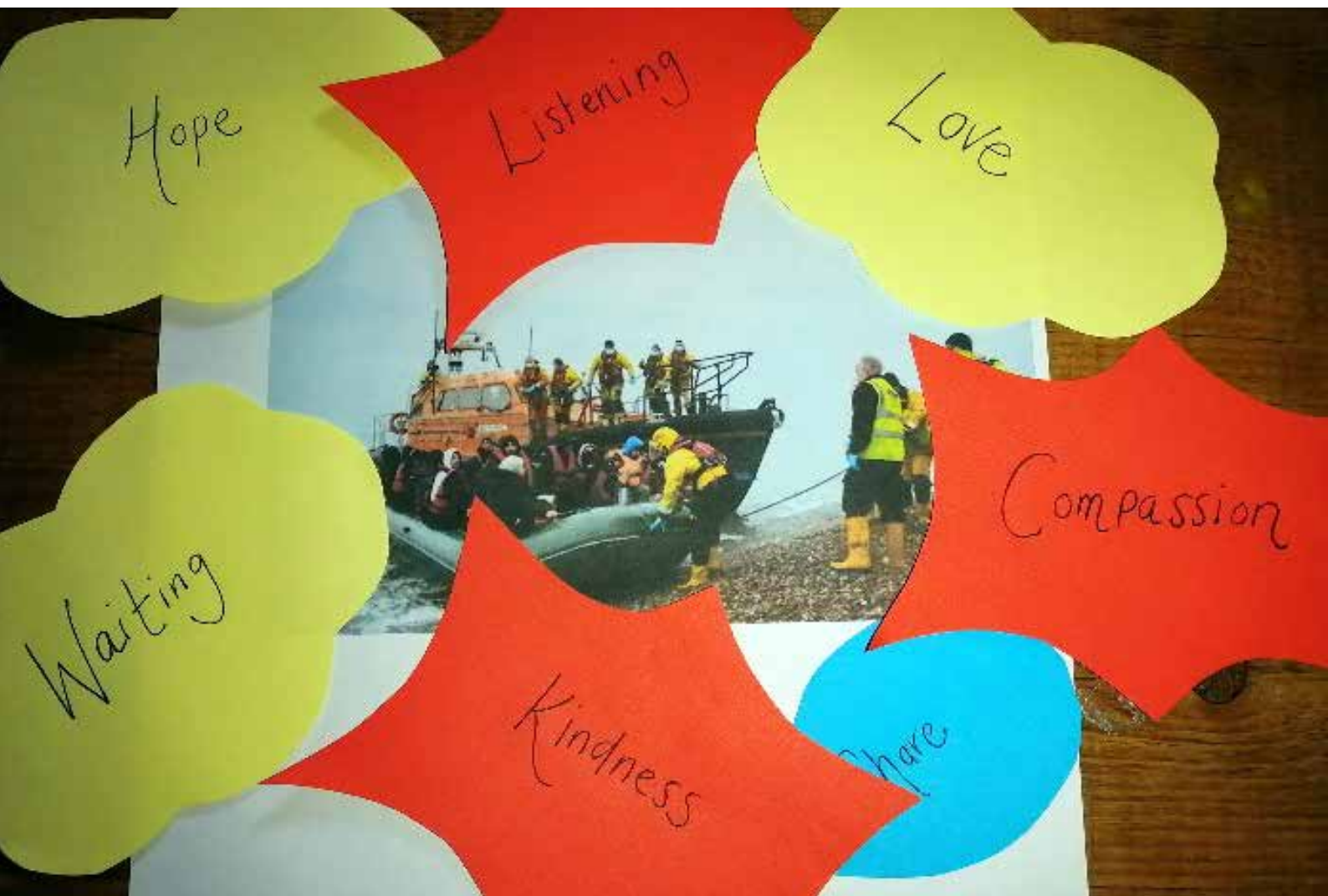
Newspaper Prayers

Praying for the world

You will need:

- Newspaper articles or paper with places in the world to pray for.
- Paper or sticky notes in comic strip style shapes.
- Pens or pencils.

Ask the young people to spend time thinking about how people might be feeling in the news story. Individually, or as a group, think of words to write on the shaped paper that might seem surprising but would be a loving response, such as; forgiveness, compassion or patience. Pray for those situations by placing your surprising words on the picture.

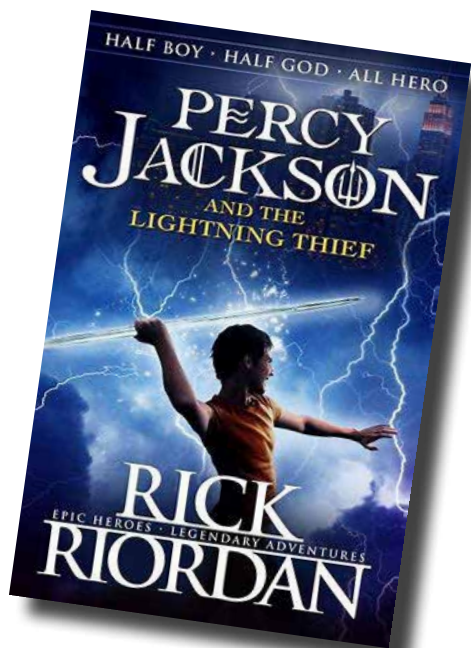


OVERARCHING ACTIVITIES

CAMPAIGNING

If there is an issue that the young people are particularly concerned or passionate about? Perhaps you could help them to draft a letter to Church leaders asking them to consider supporting a campaign or speaking out about an issue. Alternatively, the young people could contact a local councillor or MP about an issue of equality or justice which concerns them.

Rather than pursuing this for all of the themes, it may be more useful to develop their ideas over a few days to help the group express their concerns for one particular issue.



Explore the theme through a movie

Percy Jackson: not all love stories look the same!

Why not try using *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* to look at the theme from a different angle. Watch sections of the film, read excerpts from the book or discuss the characters and their relationships.

Group discussion

As a group talk about whether anyone has seen the film or read the book, then ask questions so that those who have can share information with those who haven't.

Who are the characters? **Where** is it set? **What** happens? **How** is it resolved?

Relationships

Using big paper, explore the relationships Percy has with different people in the book (his mother, father, teachers and friends) and discuss how love is different in different relationships. How are our relationships similar to his and how aren't they? How is our relationship with God unique and how is it similar to our relationships with others?

Themes

Using the daily theme, think about characters that help Percy to be creative, brave and adventurous. Who shows him he belongs and who surprises him?

Who helps us to be more confident in ourselves? Who helps us to find out more about God and how much God values us?



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