

Jesus the Teacher



JESUS THE TEACHER

This series of worship ideas is based on 'The Sermon on the Mount,' which can be found in the Gospel of Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7.

JESUS WENT TO THE TOP OF THE HILL!

MAKE THE CONNECTION

When we want to teach something or listen to a teacher where do we go? Make a list on a flip chart or whiteboard of the children's ideas. Where do we go to learn things? Where do we usually find teachers?

READ Matthew 5 v 1

Where did Jesus go to teach? Jesus went up on a hill.

Who went to listen to him? Why?

Why do you think that Jesus chose to teach on a hillside?



DISPLAY

Have ready a large picture of a mountain/hillside/green meadow etc and a picture of Jesus. When you have finished discussing with the children that the Bible tells us he went up the mountainside/hillside to teach, start to create this display. You have the background of the hill/mountain and Jesus. Who is missing? Ask the children to draw a picture of themselves to be cut out and glued on to the hillside. This could be a class activity, homework or wet playtime activity. Make sure you tell the children what size to draw their picture.

Ask the children hand in their finished drawings cut them out and glue them to the main picture to complete the display.

Jesus is now on a hillside ready to teach and the children of your school are crowding round ready to listen.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

After you have put up the background and picture of Jesus and given the children the drawing task it is time to think! Ask the children to create a picture in their minds of

Jesus teaching the crowds of people. The sun is shining, warm on their faces, the breeze is blowing gently, the flowers and the grass smell beautiful and they are listening to Jesus. What is he saying?

PRAYER

Over the next couple of weeks during our times of Collective Worship we are going to be learning about some of the things Jesus said on the hillside. Pray that God will open our eyes, ears and minds to see, listen and think so that we can learn more about God.

DISPLAY

Each of the following acts of Collective Worship are based on one or two verses from Matthew Chapters 5 - 7. These verses could be displayed on or around the hillside.

Blessed are the Peacemakers

Matthew 5 v 9

PREPARATION

Ask a group of KS2 children to make up a short sketch. Give them a setting and tell them that they must be arguing over something and one of them calms the argument and resolves the problem.

MAKE THE CONNECTION

What does peace mean?

Write the words peace in large letters in the centre of a whiteboard or flipchart and ask the children what it means.

What is the opposite of peace?

Why is peace a good thing?

Do they think that school is a peaceful place?



TALK

In Matthew 5 v 9 Jesus told the crowd on the hillside that people who are peacemakers will be blessed.

What is a peacemaker?

What does a peacemaker do?

DRAMA

Ask the children to perform the short sketch that they have prepared.

TALK

Who was the peacemaker in the drama?

Why?

How?

Ask the children if they can remember anyone being a peacemaker or perhaps they have been a peacemaker themselves. Who are the great peacemakers in our country/world? I think it would be important to mention this briefly so that children can grasp something of the wide ranging 'scale' of peace.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Peace is also a time of calm, quiet stillness. Ask the children to sit with their eyes closed, breathe slowly and think of something that makes them happy. Lead from this time of quiet into prayer.

PRAYER

Play some peaceful gentle music and read the prayers while the music is playing. Pray for peace, peace in our minds, peace in our school, peace in our world. Pray that the children will be peacemakers. There may be a specific situation you wish to pray for. You may wish to use this Celtic prayer.

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you, forever.

Anonymous

Salt - Matthew 5 v 13

MAKE THE CONNECTION

You will need - 2 plates, a bag of caster sugar and tub of salt.

Before worship time pour a pile of salt onto one plate and a pile of sugar onto the other. Put the plates ready on a table at the front of the hall. Begin by asking the children what they think is on the plates. Hopefully sugar and salt will be suggested. Ask them what we use sugar and salt for. Ask a couple of children to come up to the front and guess which is which. How can we know definitely which is which? Taste! Ask one child to taste and find out which is salt. After they have decided give them cards to label the salt and sugar.



TALK

When Jesus was talking to the crowd gathered on the hillside he told them that they were salt! Why did he say that? Repeat the question what do we use salt for? Making food more tasty! Mention some of the foods that taste better with salt e.g. chips! Nothing else can do the same job as salt and if salt lost its saltiness then it would be no good. We are salt and what makes us salty is knowing all about Jesus and God's love for everyone. We must stay salty by sharing this good news with all the people we meet. You could illustrate this by having a large picture of a salt cellar sprinkling God's love on the heads of a group of people. If we don't tell others about our friend Jesus then we will lose our saltiness.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Thinking of ourselves as salt is quite a strange thing to do because we look nothing like salt. So instead imagine that your body is like a salt cellar and every time you do something, say something or think something good then you are sprinkling God's love on to other people and then you are being salt!

PRAYER

Pray simply that everyone will be like salt and try to be salty and share the good news about God's love with others.

Light Matthew 5 v 14 - 16

MAKE THE CONNECTION

You will need a lamp and a bowl that is large enough to cover the lamp.



Place the lamp on a table at the front. Without speaking to the children switch the light on and cover it with the bowl. Now tell the children you would like to show them your lamp, you have set it up especially for them this morning to show them how brightly it shines. Ask them if they can see it. You are very pleased with your lamp and you want to make sure that the children can see how wonderful it is. Hopefully the children will think you are mad! And tell you that the lamp is hidden under the bowl. Remove the bowl, now everyone can see the light shining.

TALK

When Jesus was teaching on the hillside he said.....read Matthew 5 v 14-16. We are lights and we must not hide under a bowl we must shine with the good things that we do, so that people can see the love of God in our hearts. What good things could we do today?

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Ask the children to think of the good things they are going to do today.

PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus please make us bright shiny lights, doing good things so that people can see the love of God in our hearts. Amen.

Love our Enemies

Matthew 5 v 44

MAKE THE CONNECTION

Who do you love?

Do you love the people you don't like?

Do you love the people that don't like you?



TALK

Jesus said that we must love everyone even our enemies!

Wow this is a big challenge.

We must be nice to everyone. Just as God makes the sun shine down on everyone so we must love everyone. We may not like the way in which someone behaves but we can still love, care and pray for them. We must show a good example to everyone. Jesus loved and cared for every person he met even if they hated him. When he died on the cross he died for everyone. I am sure that because people nailed him to a cross he knows how difficult it can be to love everyone.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Jesus said "Love your enemies."

Ask the children to imagine the sun shining, it shines on everyone or the rain falling, it falls on everyone. Just as the sun touches everyone so we must love everyone.

PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus, this challenge is difficult it can be very hard to love everyone but we want to try. Help us to do our best to love all the people we meet in our lives. Amen

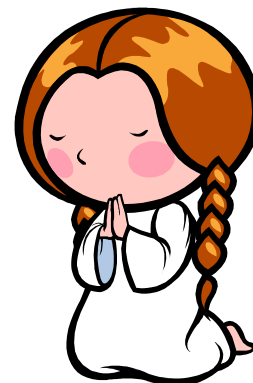
Prayer

Matthew 6 v 9

MAKE THE CONNECTION

Jesus said "When you pray, you should pray like this:" Then what did he say?

Ask the children.



READ - Matthew 6 v 9-13

TALK

Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer to the people. They remembered it and passed it on through the generations and we are still saying it today.

Beforehand write out the Lord's Prayer on a whiteboard or large sheet of paper so that you can display it now. What does the Lord's Prayer say? Discuss this with the children. We often say the Lord's Prayer, we ensure that the children know it by heart but do they really know what they are saying. There is so much in the Lord's Prayer that you could spend several acts of collective worship talking about it so take care not to talk for too long! Briefly look at the sentences that are easy to understand. We pray that God's will is done, that we have food for each day, that we forgive each other and that we will be saved from evil.

PRAYER Pray the Lord's Prayer

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Give the children the opportunity to think about what they have just said. As they sit in silence ask each member of staff to read a sentence of the Lord's Prayer aloud. (Prepare them for this before worship begins so they know what to read and when). The children will then be surrounded by different voices praying.

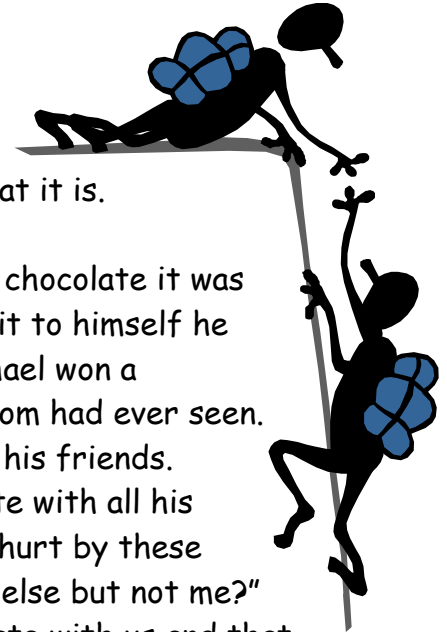
Do for others what you would like them to do for you

Matthew 7 v 12

MAKE THE CONNECTION

Today's message is very simple see if the children can guess what it is.

Describe to them a situation such as the following.....Tom loved chocolate it was his favourite. Whenever he had some chocolate he always kept it to himself he would never share any with his friends. One day his friend Michael won a competition. Michael's prize was the biggest bar of chocolate Tom had ever seen. Wow! This was great, surely Michael would share his prize with his friends. That is exactly what Michael did, he shared the bar of chocolate with all his friends, all his friends except Tom. Tom was very sad and very hurt by these actions so he asked Michael. "Why did you share with everyone else but not me?" Michael's reply was simple. "You never share any of your chocolate with us and that makes us sad, so why should I share with you? If you want us to share with you must share with us." Suddenly Tom realised what he had been doing and he apologised to his friends. Next time Tom had any chocolate, sweets, crisps, games etc he always made sure that he shared and he found that his friends always shared with him.



Can the children guess the message?

TALK

Read Matthew 7 v 12. Jesus said to the people on the hillside that "we must do to others what we would like them to do to us."

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

This is quite a challenge. Is this the way we always behave? Wouldn't it be nice if everyone in the world treated each other as they would like to be treated?

PRAYER

Dear Lord, please help us to think carefully about our actions. Please help us always to treat others in a way that we would like them to treat us.

People Know us by our Actions

Matthew 7 v 15-20

MAKE THE CONNECTION

Do peaches grow on thorny bushes?

Do oranges grow on stinging nettles?

No! Why not? This is a difficult question because this is the way God made things. But Jesus uses questions like these to help him explain to the crowd that we are known by our actions. Before people meet us they may hear of or read about our actions and they start to think that they know us.

Good actions = Good person

Bad actions = Bad person

TALK

Do good peaches grow on thorny bushes? Do good things come from bad people. No!

Jesus said that people know us by our actions. If we do good things we are like a good tree growing good fruit. Ask a child to come out to the front and to hold up their arms like a tree! Have ready various pieces of fruit drawn on card and cut out. Ask the children what they think are good actions. Write these suggestions on the fruit and stick them onto the 'tree'.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

We are known by our actions. We must try and be like a good tree growing good fruit, a good person doing good actions.

PRAYER

Dear Lord may our actions always be good so that people will know us by our good actions. We know that you want us to do good things, help us always to try our best to follow you and be -----read out the ideas on the fruits-----Amen