

The Hands of Jesus Christ



The Hands of Jesus Christ

1. Welcoming Hands
2. Praying Hands
3. Healing Hands
4. Powerful Hands
5. Teaching Hands
6. Loving Hands

1 - Welcoming Hands

Begin with 2 scenarios (set up beforehand) and ask the children to spot the difference between:

(A) Person is introduced to the Worship Leader and they keep their arms folded or hands in pockets.

(B) Person is introduced to the Worship Leader and their arms are open and they shake the person's hand.

The words used e.g. very nice to meet you, are the same in both circumstances.



What was the difference? How did it affect the feelings of the other person? Even though the words were the same the actions of the hands were important in order for the person to feel welcomed. What other gestures do we use to show a person that they are welcome in your company/life e.g. hug, wave, holding hands, touch on the shoulder, beckoning someone.

During this series of collective worship we are going to be looking at how Jesus used his hands.

Did he keep his arms folded or did he open his arms and hands and welcome people?

The welcoming hands of Jesus -
Jesus welcomed the children
Jesus welcomed the lepers
Jesus welcomed the tax collectors

In situations where others folded their arms Jesus opened his arms and hands and welcomed everyone.

Jesus' hands are always open to welcome us into his arms.

Reflection

Ask the children to close their eyes and imagine Jesus walking along their street. As he walks along people wave and he waves back, someone walks up to him and they shake hands, when he reaches their house they run out and Jesus opens his arms and gives them a big hug.

In a short time of prayer, **pray** that we have hands that are ready to welcome everybody just as Jesus did.

2 - Praying Hands

Quick reference to welcoming hands, moving on to think about Jesus' praying hands. When did Jesus pray?

Are there any/what are the stories about occasions when Jesus prayed?

- In the wilderness (reference to Lent)
- In Gethsemane
- Taught the Disciples the Lords Prayer
- Bible does say Jesus went to quiet places to pray.

Why did Jesus pray?

We are challenged to follow Jesus' example welcoming hands and praying hands.



It is not always necessary to have your hands together when you pray, you can pray anytime. But putting hands together is a gesture a symbol that you are praying, you and God having a chat. So let's follow Jesus' example and pray.

Reflection

Use a recording of the song 'Be Still for the Presence of the Lord'. Encourage the children to be still with God and pray quietly and then **say Lords Prayer together**.

3 - Healing Hands

After making a quick reference to welcoming hands and praying hands move on to healing hands.

Many times in the Gospels we are told stories about Jesus healing people, can the children remember any of these stories? In the Gospel of Luke it is recorded that Jesus went to the Synagogue in Nazareth stood up and read the scroll of the Prophet Isaiah, he chose to read from Isaiah 61 which includes (write these words on a piece of paper you have made into a scroll) 'he has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind.' Jesus announces that this scripture has been fulfilled, it is almost as if he has read aloud his own job description.



Healing was a big part of Jesus' work.

When you look carefully at the stories of Jesus healing, again and again it mentions Jesus' hands. Matthew 8 v 3, 8 v 15, Matthew 9 v 25, 9 v 29.

How can we follow Jesus' example? Discuss with the children about using our hands to comfort, to help, to put plasters on etc.

Reflection

Give the children an opportunity to sit quietly, looking at their hands thinking about all the caring things they use their hands for.

Pray for all people in professions that use their hands to heal, comfort and help. Place pictures of people in these professions in an empty First Aid Kit and invite children to come out ,choose a picture and then say a prayer e.g. Thank you God for nurses, Dear God please give firemen courage.

4 - Powerful Hands

After making a quick reference to welcoming hands, praying hands and healing hands move on to powerful hands.

What is power? What does it mean to have power?

How is it different from switching on electricity?

Explore the concept of powerful hands, looking at and discussing the Queen, Prime Minister, a religious leader, sports stars and superheroes!



Why can we say that Jesus had powerful hands?

What did Jesus do that means we can say that he had powerful hands?

How are Jesus' hands different to those people and imaginary characters we have just mentioned.

Briefly tell the stories of events such as the miracles of - Feeding of the 5000, turning water into wine and the calming of the storm.

Where did Jesus' power come from?

Sometimes when people have power they use it selfishly and to do wrong. Jesus used his power to do good things and to reveal God's power and love.

Reflection

We must follow Jesus' example and if we are ever in a position of power e.g. older children looking after younger, in charge of a piece of equipment, asked to do a responsible task etc. use that power wisely and to do good.

Pray for God's guidance and Wisdom

5 - Teaching Hands

This act of worship brings together all the previous ones. Make quick reference back to welcoming hands, praying hands, healing hands and powerful hands, moving on to Teaching Hands.

Jesus was a great teacher and a brilliant storyteller. But we are focusing on Jesus' hands, how can we learn from the way Jesus used his hands? Have a giant pair of hands on a board and write down the children's ideas. He welcomed, he prayed, he healed, he comforted, etc. We learn from what he told us but also from how he behaved and he challenged us to follow his example.

Play a simple game of charades using hand actions for the children to guess what behaviour is expected of them at school.



Reflection

I wonder what you think is the most important thing that Jesus taught us?

I wonder what you have learnt from the way Jesus behaved?

Pray for God to help us to put these things we have learnt into action.

6 - Loving Hands

"I asked Jesus how much he loved me and he stretched out his arms and died." This series of worship ends with focusing upon Jesus' loving hands. In each of the previous acts of worship Jesus' actions showed love but there is no greater act of love than to lay down your life for another. Jesus' hands which he used to welcome, pray and heal were nailed to a cross where he died for us.

Begin by using a story which explores the concept of love for example:-

- *Guess How Much I Love You* by Sam McBratney
- *I'll Always Love You* by Paeony Lewis.

Is it possible to measure love?

What sort of things do we do that show love?

How do we know that someone loves us?



Use as a focus the painting by Salvador Dali of Christ on the Cross looking down on the world as this is not a gruesome image and can be interpreted as emphasising Christ's love for the world.

Briefly tell the story of Good Friday and Jesus' loving hands.

Follow this with a brief retelling of the story of Easter morning and Jesus' triumphant loving hands. Use a picture of the resurrected Jesus showing his scarred hands.

Reflection

If possible play a quiet piece of music and show a power point presentation of images of Jesus on the cross and Jesus resurrected.

OR repeat the time of reflection from the act of worship on healing hands and ask the children to sit quietly, looking at their hands thinking about all the loving things they use their hands for.

Instead of a quiet time of **prayer** sing prayers of praise to God for Jesus, his life death and resurrection.

