



Primary Collective Worship Resources

Making loving choices

Step 1: We gather

Gather the children and begin your session by introducing some music to convey the message of the session. Since this session is about making loving choices, you might use the refrain of Marty Haugen's "Eye has not seen"

Eye has not seen; ear has not heard what God has ready for those who love him.
Spirit of love, come give us the mind of Jesus.
Teach us the wisdom of God.

In this session, you will be exploring how to make loving choices and we will be looking at the questions we ask which help us become more loving people.

(This session can be used to prepare the children in Key Stage 2 to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.)

Step 2: What the Bible says

Start by asking the children to think about Jesus. Christians look up to Jesus as a good example of how to live. As we learn more and more about Jesus, we discover what he is like and what choices he would make in given circumstances.

Move to your Sacred Place for the Scripture-based part of the session. When the children have settled you might listen to or sing the first three verses of Jesse Manibusan's "Open my eyes, Lord" as a way of preparing to listen to Scripture.

Explain to the children that Christians believe that God speaks to humans through the words of the Bible, and they show this by treating it with great reverence. The reader picks up the book and, holding it up high, reads this simplified version of Luke 10.30-3:

Jesus told this story.

A man was travelling a long way down a road going through the desert and mountains, when some robbers attacked him, stole all of his things and left him there badly hurt. A priest walking by saw him, but did not stop to help him. Neither did one of the helpers from the temple who was also going by. But a Samaritan who was travelling that way saw him and was moved to help him. He bandaged up where he was hurt and took him to an inn to recover, paying what it cost out of his own money.

The reader says, "The Word of the Lord". The response is "Thanks be to God".

Tell the children a little bit about the passage that they have just heard. Jesus told this story to someone who wanted to know how he could get to heaven. It is called the story of the Good Samaritan because the Samaritan made the loving choice and did the right thing by helping the man who had been hurt, rather than ignoring him and not stopping to help. Christians believe that God wants them to make loving choices as well.

Bring this part of the session to a close with some music. The words of Carey Landry's "I will never forget you, my people" work well:

I will never forget you my people,
I have carved you on the palm of my hand,
I will never forget you, I will not leave you orphaned, I will never forget my own.
Does a mother forget her baby or a woman the child within her womb?
Yet even if these forget, yes even if these forget, I will never forget my own.

This is a catchy tune. If you have percussion instruments, you might get the children to join in if there is time.



Step 3: Our life experience

The handout for this session is a set of cards. There are three types of card – ones that describe what Jesus is like and what choice he would make, ones that describe what we are like and what good choices we could make, and ones that describe bad choices we could make.

For each question, the children are invited to choose two cards for each question posed to them – one is the reply for what Jesus would do; the other is the reply for what they would or should do. There are a few cards that describe what the children might actually do and that gives you an opportunity to talk through their choices. Some questions to pose:

- You are in the playground and a child you don't know very well is upset. Would Jesus care about him? Do you care?
- You are given a bag of sweets by your mother for being helpful. Would Jesus share them with the children you are with? Will you share them? Would you always share them or would you sometimes hide them in your pocket so that you don't have to share them?
- One of your friends finds a nice pen on the floor and she picks it up and puts it in her pocket. The owner of the pen asks if anyone has found it. She says she is going to be in trouble for losing it because it was a special gift. Your friend says nothing. Would Jesus give the pen back? Would he tell the truth about who has the pen? Will you tell the truth? Or, will you have a quiet word with your friend to tell her she should give it back?
- You are in the park and you see a boy shouting at his dog because the dog is not obeying his commands. Would Jesus shout at the dog? Or, would he be gentle with it?

Think of other questions that are challenging for the children at the moment. The big challenge for all of us is to be able to see ourselves honestly—to see when we are being loving, to know that Jesus is speaking to us and inviting us to do the loving thing.

We often hear the saying: “Treat others the way you want to be treated”. It is a very important rule that children and adults need to obey in life. Many religions teach this lesson and it's the basis of many of the civil laws we have. Ask the children if they've heard that rule and what it means to them.

Step 4: How God's word affects our lives

Give the children time to hear what Jesus might be saying to them today, and perhaps you might ask them what they want to say to him. You might ask them how they react to hearing that God says they are precious to him.

Consider allowing the children to bring a pack of cards home or some cards each, so that they can tell their parents what they did today in this session – and how the game helped them think about the choices they make if they want to be more like Jesus.


Finish the session with the same song you used to open it: “Eye has not seen.”

Eye has not seen; ear has not heard what God has ready for those who love him.
Spirit of love, come give us the mind of Jesus.
Teach us the wisdom of God.




Activity Sheet: Making loving choices

I am not




always caring

I do not




always share

I am




caring

I




share

Jesus



cares


Jesus




shares




Jesus




loves




I am




loving



I am not



always loving




Jesus is




kind




I am




kind





I am not







always kind











Jesus is  gentle 

I am  gentle 

I am not  always gentle 

Jesus is  helpful 

I am  helpful 

I am not  always helpful 



I do not

always obey

I sometimes

tell lies

I am

obedient

I am

truthful

Jesus is

obedient

Jesus is

truthful