



Primary Collective Worship Resources

What would Jesus do?

Step 1: We gather

Gather the children and begin your session by introducing some music to convey the message of the session. Since this is about asking the big question, “What choice should I make?” with the reply, “What would Jesus do?” I suggest the refrain of Jesse Manibusan’s “Open my eyes, Lord”.

Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face. Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.
Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice. Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.
Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you. Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love.

In this session, we will be exploring the choices we think Jesus would make by asking ourselves if we would make those same choices. Introduce the idea by giving an example. Ask them to think of a time when someone new joined the class or the school. Ask them if they chose to invite him or her to join them or if they chose to exclude him or her. Ask how they felt about it? Then, ask them if they have ever been the one who is excluded. If so, how did they feel about it?

(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

You now 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 same first three verses of Jesse Manibusan’s “Open my eyes, Lord”. Point out that this hymn is a powerful prayer, asking Jesus to open their eyes, their ears and their hearts in preparation to listen to him speaking through the Bible.

Open my eyes Lord, help me to see your face. Open my eyes Lord, help me to see.
Open my ears Lord, help me to hear your voice. Open my ears Lord, help me to hear.
Open my heart Lord, help me to love like you. Open my heart Lord, help me to love.

Now, invite the children, if they want to participate, to copy you as you trace the sign of the cross on yourself with your thumb and pray:

God be in my mind (sign the forehead)
God be on my lips (sign the lips)
And God be in my heart (sign the chest).

Holding the book, speak reverently and clearly and read the Scripture to the whole group. We suggest using this simplified version of the Gospel of Luke 19:1-10:

There was a man called Zacchaeus who really wanted to see Jesus.
Zacchaeus was a tax collector, who used to cheat people out of their money.
Many other people also came out to see Jesus, and Zacchaeus, who was too short to see, climbed a Sycamore tree and waited for Jesus to walk past.
When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said: “Zacchaeus, I want to come to your house for lunch.”
So Zacchaeus hurried down and was happy to welcome him.
The other people were angry and said:
“Look, Jesus, has chosen to stay in a sinner’s house.”
Zacchaeus said to Jesus, “I will give half of what I own to the poor; and if I have cheated anyone out of money, I will pay them back four times as much.”
Then Jesus said to him, “Today you have been saved.
I have come to find and save people like you who are lost.



Tell the children a little bit about the passage they have just heard. Zacchaeus was a crook, who used his job as a tax-collector to steal from and swindle other people. Despite this, Jesus still chose to spend time with him. Zacchaeus promised that he would make up for the things that he had done wrong.

Ask them what they will say to Jesus and give them time to think before you move quietly to your new place.

Step 3: Our life experience

In this session, we are going to explore how conscience works by thinking through some scenarios that will help the children understand. A way of explaining to the children what conscience is, it's that little voice inside us that helps us to know right from wrong. Christians believe that our conscience is given by God, and they might say it is God speaking from within us and guiding us. Depending on the age and ability of your children, you might either act out, or just discuss with the children, a few scenarios. At the end of each question ask, "What would Jesus do?" Here are some examples:

- A group of people are talking to each other, but one person is being left out. Pause for a moment and then ask, "What would Jesus do? Would he include or exclude that person?"
- Two people are watching television and one person has the remote control and will not let the other choose any programme s/he wants to watch. Pause for a moment and then ask again, "What would Jesus do? Would he only think of himself or would he consider what the other person wants to watch?"

Give each of the children who wants one a "What would Jesus do?" "WWJD" bracelet, or provide the materials for everyone to make one. It will help children to think of Jesus' choice before they decide what to do themselves.

Step 4: How God's word affects our lives

The Bible story doesn't tell us what went on between Jesus and Zacchaeus while they shared lunch at Zacchaeus' house. So get the children to apply what they have learned in this session by imagining what might have been said. If there is time, they could then role play their ideas in pairs, with one person being Jesus and the other being Zacchaeus.



Activity Sheet: What would Jesus do?

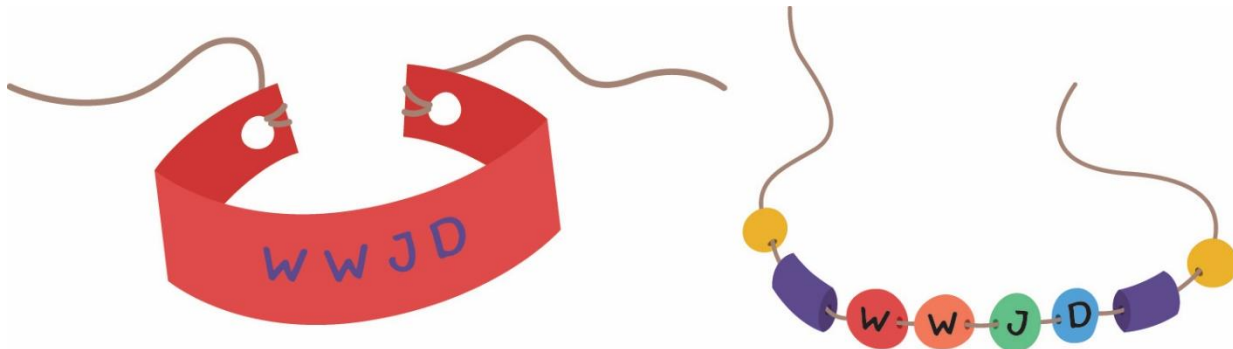
To make WWJD bracelets:

Cut light card or heavy paper into 3.4" (2mm) strips, 8" (20mm) long.

Write the words "What would Jesus do?" or the initials – "WWJD" onto the strip.

Cut it out and then punch a hole in each end.

Tie with string or ribbon to make a bracelet.



If you are doing this activity with older children you may like to provide a variety of beads, letter beads and stretchy cord or elastic so that they can make a beaded bracelet instead.