



Faith Adventures Youth Resource

Embedded in Faith Adventures: Children Together, this youth resource is intergenerational in nature and designed to foster God-connection in church, home and beyond.

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children and families, please use this link:
<https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Faith-Adventures-How-To-FAYR.pdf>

Isaiah 11: 1-2 – Isaiah speaks about Jesus

Theme: Jesus as God’s servant – can we serve God too?

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Introduction: What would be helpful to know before we begin?

Isaiah

This issue of Faith Adventures is planned for the second week in Lent, as we are travelling towards Easter. During Lent we remember Jesus’ time in the desert, spending time fasting and praying while he prepared to start his ministry. We sometimes talk about taking time out to “find ourselves”, and Jesus was taking time out to explore who he was as both human and divine (God), what God wanted of him.

The prophesy in Isaiah was written almost eight hundred years before the birth of Jesus, and this prophesy and others predicted the coming of Jesus and the role he would fulfil – both caring and bringing justice. Not all of the writing in the book of Isaiah is believed to have been written by the prophet Isaiah himself, some parts may have been written by other prophets who had similar beliefs. In contrast to some other parts of the Old Testament, Isaiah talks about God’s grace and mercy and the promise that, although God would judge the people, God would also send the means of their salvation.

This passage links clearly to Jesus’ baptism, where God says, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+3%3A13-17&version=RSV>

It also links well with the passage where Jesus says, “whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me”.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A40&version=NIV>

It may seem from this passage that Jesus will be passive or meek but take time to explore what Jesus came to do, what the definition is of someone who is a servant of God. Does it mean that we need always to be passive and inoffensive to others? Jesus was no doormat.

Although Jesus served God in many different ways, we are part of the body of Christ which means that we are not called to do everything when we serve God – some people will be called to do one thing, some will be called to do others, but we can all work together to do God's will, just as Jesus did.

Together

Let's start our time with God and each other well

If used in a mixed-age group, then young people can support younger ones in using the gathering prayer in Faith Adventures: Children Together. If used in a youth group, you could use this opening prayer or encourage young people to open the session with a prayer of their own.

All mighty God,

Be with us as we learn more about you through stories and people in the Bible.

Help us to walk in your way and follow your path.

Be with us as we make decisions that affect our lives, and the lives of those around us.

Amen

In-person and online game

See this week's Faith Adventures : Children Together for suitable games for this theme.

Experience

Research different versions of this reading on <https://www.biblegateway.com/> Recommended versions to try are NRSV, Easy-to-read, The Message, NIRV

Good News Translation

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+42%3A1-4&version=GNT>

Watch: Spoken word on theme of serving God:

Called to Serve - <https://youtu.be/MdmxVbDa1Ys?si=xHL2yXWNR6L83ZSM>

Listen:

The Servant King (From Heaven You Came)
https://youtu.be/C4FtZ9XzZag?si=_bj8j04cRQiiV3_G

God's spirit is in my heart (Go Tell Everyone)

<https://youtu.be/nzi2q2m65mA?si=z9Hv5INKBO6pB87p>

Show me how to stand for justice <https://youtu.be/jrMuTxZDGLI?si=Blcb5zM-646AHuib>

Send me <https://youtu.be/nLYKMZE5XL0?si=CZjsU2zilUwX24WN>

Explore

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

A new way to explore the theme

You may wish to use the explore section from this week's Faith Adventures: Children Together to guide your exploration of the theme this week.

Alternatively:

Job description of a servant – what did God want Jesus to do?

This is an opportunity to write a job description for a servant of God. I wonder what sort of tasks would be on it? Perhaps it would also include things this person would be expected not to do! Either complete this together as a group or split into smaller groups or pairs discussing your reasons for including and leaving out certain roles and responsibilities. Some suggested subtitles to focus your thinking.

Roles and responsibilities:

Desirable characteristics:

Compulsory characteristics:

Things we would not like to see in the person:

Modern parables

This section includes references to TV programmes, films, books, TED talks, TikTok etc aimed at this age group that will have been widely seen, or where a clip is available to use as a stimulus for discussion. You may also enjoy the picture book recommended for Faith Adventures: Children Together and explore the relevance of the story to the theme of the session in more depth – young people and adults are often well tuned in to the deeper meanings in materials aimed at younger people and the authors are often very aware of the adults reading the books to or with younger ones.

Watch https://youtu.be/M_U8PkIPOTo?si=H-gTPUmb60jRWu-H

2023 URC Community Project Award Winner - DARE Darwen Asylum Refugee Enterprise

This is one example of a church serving their local community, perhaps you can think of examples in your own church or local area.

Talking together: Going deeper

Put up and shut up? Does this passage mean we should never get angry about things, never speak out? How does it compare with what we know about Jesus's life

Does our hope and courage ever fail us when we need to do something for God? How do we deal with it?

Conversation starters

Do you think Jesus was a glass half full or a glass half empty kind of guy?

Do we have to shout to be heard? How can we best make ourselves heard?

What things do you think are unfair today that Jesus would challenge?

Express

How do we respond to what we've discussed and express our faith personally?

Praying together

Prayer Respond to the theme by writing or saying a short prayer. Alternatively use the creative prayer from Faith Adventures: Children Together for this session, or use the prayer activity below. Alternatively light a candle and play some music while you listen and talk to God together.

Prayer

Loving God,
 You sent us your son,
 You filled us with your spirit
 And you also gave us free will – which means we can choose to ignore both.
 Our days are filled with choices:
 What to wear
 What to do
 What to eat
 What to say
 When we have choices to make, help us to remember to choose love:
 Love of ourselves
 Love of others
 And love of you.
 For then we know that our choices will be made for the right reasons.
 Whatever we choose.
 Amen

Responding together

This is an opportunity for a social justice challenge, some research, craftivism, or a craft or STEM activity. You may have a specific activity chosen but free choice is also an option. Here are some suggestions for this week's theme. See Faith Adventures: Children Together for a craft and a STEM activity which may also be appropriate. Choose whatever will work best for your group.

Repair café

Rather than giving up on something and throwing it away, learn a new skill as a group to re-use or repair something. You could invite another adult or young person to lead this section based on a particular skill or interest such as fixing a bike puncture, recipes to reduce food waste or learning how to fix holes in clothing. You could also watch a video online to learn a new skill together, like this short clip about visible mending.

https://youtube.com/shorts/o2yQ5r7u4_4?si=UNVcEj7W09cU3X0r

Perhaps there is something the group could help to fix in your church, like repairing ripped pages in hymn books or sharpening pencil crayons. Sometimes small things have a big impact!

Challenge

Discipleship doesn't stop when you walk out of the church door – it is a part of everyday life. Take a challenge with you and try to make it part of your week.

You may think of your own suggestion of what you as an individual or a group might do in the coming week in response to what you have explored today? If not here are some suggestions:

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- Use one of the “conversation starter” questions or the question below to talk with someone of a different generation or from a different setting and share your questions, thoughts, insights together: **Is it easier to serve others or to be served by them?**
 - Research something suggested by JPIT, [Resources \(jpit.uk\)](https://www.jpit.uk) Commitment For Life [cforl.co.uk](https://www.cforl.co.uk)
 - Find a way to serve others this week, either at home, when you are out and about or at school or college.
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Thank you for exploring the Isaiah passage with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing children.youth@urc.org.uk or by sharing it on https://bit.ly/FACT_FB