

Appendix 1: 11 to 14s

Going deeper

Following God – Following with others

You are getting ready for a long trip to an unknown destination. What are the absolute essentials you are going to take with you? Make a list.

Can you carry it all? Are you travelling light?

The Bible passage doesn't tell us what the Israelites took with them (apart from the bones of Joseph) – what items are on YOUR list that might have been on the Israelites' list?

Game

Obstacle course

Whilst a volunteer is out of the room, arrange the room so that there is a pathway through, but put some obstacles in the way that must be climbed over/around. The volunteer is then blindfolded and brought into the room and the group must shout instructions to help him/her get to the end of the course safely.

Questions for the volunteer:

1. How much did you trust your group to give you correct instructions?
2. Whose voice did you hear most?
3. How did you feel not being able to see where you were going?

Question for group:

1. What was it like being responsible for the safety of someone else?
2. Did you get frustrated at the pace of the volunteer?
3. Do you think it's easier to be someone giving instructions or following instructions?

Question for all:

1. How do you think Moses felt with the responsibility he had been given by God?

Listening to God

Play a game of 'Chinese Whispers'.

Sometimes, when adults call us to do something ("Dinner's ready", "Tidy your room") we pretend not to hear because we're doing something more interesting or fun.

Samuel heard that he was being called – but it wasn't who he thought was calling him! It wasn't Eli, it was God.

Questions:

1. How do you think Eli felt when he kept getting woken up by Samuel?



2. How do you think Samuel felt when Eli kept saying it wasn't him who was calling Samuel?
3. Why do you think Samuel didn't recognise God's voice?
4. I wonder what God's voice sounds like? Do you think God has an accent?
5. Do you think God still calls and talks to people today? To whom does God talk?

In the Middle East, shepherding is very different to how it is in the UK. The flocks are much smaller (because there isn't enough grass to support big flocks) and, whilst shepherds in the UK stand behind the sheep and use dogs to get the flock where they want it to go, in the Middle East the shepherd leads from the front and the sheep follow. Imagine if Jesus had said: "I am the Good Shepherd. If you don't do what I want, I'll set the dogs on you!"

Meeting God

There is a lake in northern Israel. It's where Jesus began his ministry – he would have been well known around there. The lake has many names: Lake Galilee (named after the region in which it is), Lake Tiberias (named after the biggest town on its shore – established AD20), Lake Gennesaret (Gennesaret is the Hebrew word for "harp" and the lake is shaped a bit like a harp), The Sea of Chinnereth (Numbers 34:11) and it's even called the "Syrian Sea" in the hymn "Dear Lord and Father of mankind".

Activity

Find the lake on a map of the Middle East. What other inland bodies of water can you find (the Dead Sea, for example)?

In Jesus' time, the lake was a good source of food for the fishermen (like James and John) who would sell their catch in the local towns and villages. What sort of activities do you think take place on the lake nowadays?

In 1986, after a severe drought, archaeologists discovered the remains of a boat in Lake Galilee dating from Jesus' time. The boat is preserved in a specially built museum at Kibbutz Ginosar (which is the Hebrew pronunciation of the name of the ancient town Gennesaret). You can learn more about the boat here: www.thegalileeboat.com/the-boat/

Loaves and Fishes

Questions:

1. Which do you think was more expensive – the five loaves or the two fish? Why do you think that?
2. How do you think the boy felt when he first met Jesus?
3. Did his feelings change when Jesus asked if he could take his lunch?
4. Do you think the boy was there on his own, or was he with his family?

Activity

Get a bag of Maltesers and bag of M&Ms. Split the group into three smaller groups. One group can only have Maltesers, one group can only have M&Ms and one group can have both. How do you share the sweets out equally? Is one M&M equal to one Malteser?

Belonging to God

Activity

Using a map, trace Paul's journey from Troas to Philippi.

Question:

1. Why do you think the writer mentioned that the cloth Lydia sold was purple? (Purple cloth was a very expensive colour. It was the colour of royalty and to wear purple meant that you had status). The dye is extracted from the shells of thousands of snails! You can find out more about how they would dye cloth purple in the Roman Empire here: <https://bit.ly/ancientromepurpledye>.
2. Why do you think Lydia invited Paul and his friends to stay with her?
3. People in the UK are inviting refugees from the war in Ukraine to stay in their homes. Is this the same thing as Lydia did? Are there differences?

Activity

Using some plain white cloth (t-shirts?) use a tie-dye method to spice them up a bit. You can get instructions on how to do this here: www.vogue.co.uk/article/how-to-tie-dye.

Worshipping God

Palm Sunday is a joyous day in the church calendar. We wave palms to commemorate the way Jesus was received in Jerusalem by the people who lived there. We often get palm leaves that have been made into crosses.

Activity

Make your own palm cross.: https://media.acny.uk/media/How_to_make_a_paper_cross.pdf

Of course, over the next few days the mood changed. It changed so much that less than a week later the people who had been welcoming Jesus to the city told the people in charge that they wanted him to be executed.

Questions:

1. What do you think it would be like to see somebody who was your hero riding on a donkey?
2. Why do you think people turned against Jesus so quickly? (The people thought he was going to free them from Roman occupation and those in charge thought he was a threat to their power and prestige).
3. Can you think of a modern comparison where someone is a hero one week and a villain the next? (eg politicians, football managers).