



'Touched by God – heart-warming' – Young Church Sunday 7th June 2020



1) Introduction:

Hello to everyone at St Mary's and Christ Church young and youth church, we hope you are all safe and well. The weeks continue and we hope you are finding ways to cope in these unprecedented time. You are all in our thoughts and prayers and we hope you find some joy in these weekly online sessions.

Today's 'social distance' young church is more about...Pentecost and being touched by God.

Heart-warming. This session is all about how the Holy Spirit fills and warms our hearts. As the Holy Spirit warms our hearts, so he encourages us to tell other people about Jesus. It is – or should be - a reflex action: we cannot help telling people about Jesus' love because it is the most important thing to us, and we feel constrained to tell others because the Holy Spirit gives us compassion on them and we want them to know God for themselves.

The other Bible story is that of Philip telling Nathaniel about Jesus, which he did immediately. There are two points to be taken from this story – we should be eager to share the good news about God with our friends, and secondly, it is abundantly clear that Jesus knew all about Nathaniel before he met him face to face: in the same way, Jesus knows all of us intimately – he already knows the friends that we will introduce to him; he already loves them.

Overall, the main aim of this session is to recognise that God softens our hearts, and helps us to feel for other people, which lead us to want to tell them about Jesus.

2) Warm up game 'I can make you laugh'.

Equipment needed:

Non

Whilst at home, find ways to make someone laugh. Maybe tickle them, share a joke, and pull a funny face.

Once you have done this, ask then other person to try to make you laugh.

The Point: Just for fun, links with the idea of Jesus spreading joy, and how, as Christians, we can try to spread the good news showing people how to follow Jesus.

3) Digging in: – Philips incredible news!

Equipment needed:

-Access to the Internet to play the videos and listen to the audio retelling.

- 1) First, watch one the video – Jesus and Nathaniel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9j5CPuAUCAg>

- 2) Read the story of Philip calling Nathaniel (John 1: 43-51)

Jesus met Philip, and he invited him, “Follow me,”

Philip was excited, and as soon as he could, he rushed off to meet his friend Nathaniel, who was sitting under his fig tree, enjoying the shade.

“Quick! Come with me! We’ve found the saviour – it’s Jesus, the man from Nazareth!” he panted.

Nathaniel was not impressed. “Is it really possible that something good could come out of Nazareth?” he asked.

“Come and see,” Philip suggested.

As Nathaniel came close, Jesus smiled. “Ah,” said Jesus, “This is a true Israelite – an honest man.”

“Do you know me? How do you know me?” gasped Nathaniel.

“I saw you sitting under your fig tree when Philip came to get you,” answered Jesus.

Nathaniel was amazed. “Wow!” he gasped. “You really are the son of God!”

Jesus was amused. “Nathaniel,” he said, “You will see more amazing things than this when you are following me.”

Jesus knows all about everyone. When we tell our friends about Jesus, we must remember that Jesus already knows all about them. He loves them already. And even if our friends don’t seem interested (like Nathaniel wasn’t), God is interested in them.

Think about and discuss with an adult:

-How do think Nathaniel might have felt when he came to see Jesus?

Would he be excited? Would he be disbelieving? Bored? Fed up?

-Were surprised by anything in the story?

-Were you surprised that Jesus already knew Nathaniel?

4) Take away: 'Heart-warming'

Equipment needed:

A copy/print off of the A4 heart-warming template PDF [Click Here](#)

Ice cream tubs (or tub to use to hold the paint)

Red paint

Bubbles

Water

Straws

Scissors.

Craft idea 1 –

Take the A4 paper/card template of a heart. Mix red paint and a little water with a squirt of washing up liquid in a small tub – a take-away box or a small ice cream tub would work well.

Take the straw and blow gently into the paint mixture. Bubbles should rise above the top of the box. Place the A4 heart template paper on top of the bubbles, press slightly and then removed. The bubbles should have stained the paper so you have a red bubbly pattern.

Let the A4 paper dry and then cut out the heart shape.

The Point: To create a heart that looks warm represent that God softens our hearts, and helps us to feel for other people; which leads us to want to tell them about Jesus.

Activity 2 –

“God loves you” in different languages! Why not learn one or two of these and share them with others.

Afrikaans – God het jou lief

French – Dieu t'aime

German – Gott liebt dich

Spanish – Dios te ama

Swedish – Gud älskar dig

Slovenian – Bog te ima rad

Croatian – Bog te voli

The Point: To spread the word that God knows and loves everyone.

5) Close prayer and St Mary's key reflection questions:

- 1) What does this teach us about God/Jesus/Holy Spirit?
- 2) What do we need to do (this week)?



Active Prayer:

Equipment

Vinegar

Bicarb of soda

A bowl or cup

Towels or wet wipes.

Make a larger amount of bicarbonate and vinegar mixture in a bowl, watch and listen to it fizz.

Discuss when the Holy Spirit filled the disciples, they were excited about everything Jesus had done and they wanted to tell their friends all about it. The Holy Spirit can excite our hearts in the same way today.

Put your finger into the bicarb mixture and then go to a space to pray that God will fill your heart with excitement and love so that you tell your friends about Jesus.

Say "amen" and wipe your fingers clean with a towel.

Links to other ways to worship:

<https://www.diddydisciples.org/storytellingforaprilandmay>



Diddy Disciples 'church at home' is a creative and playful worship and Bible storytelling on line resource for babies, toddlers and young children. This is a great resource for all our Young Church children, so we thought we would share.

<https://www.diddydisciples.org/thechurchathome>