

Holy Trinity Headington Quarry

Sunday Club at Home (21 June 2020)

1. Gather

Everyone chooses a partner. Take 60 seconds to count the hairs of your partner's head. When the time is up, discuss just how amazing it is that God knows the number of hairs on everyone's head, and how that shows just how much he knows and cares for us.

Pray

Living God,
being a Christian can be hard.
Thank you for a safe space
to enjoy your presence
here and now. **Amen.**

2. Read the Word

Context

In the story today, Jesus prepares his disciples for their mission. It will not be easy but Jesus tells them not to be afraid because God is with them. Following Jesus doesn't mean that all of our problems will disappear, but our challenge is to keep trying to be a disciple and follow our mission, even when it is hard. We know that Jesus loves us and will walk along with us

Action: Ask everyone to think of an action that describes the words, 'Do not fear', e.g. shaking their heads, wagging a finger. Ask them to listen out for 'Do not fear' as you tell the story, and every time they hear the phrase to repeat the action they came up with.

Story (Matthew 10.24-39): Jesus tells his disciples that being a disciple may involve suffering, but that everyone is known and valued by God.

One day, Jesus was talking with his disciples. 'Students are not better than their teacher,' he said to them. 'A slave is not better than his master. Instead they need to be like each other.' He continued, 'So do not fear. Everything that is hidden will be found and everything that is secret will be discovered. Anything I say to you in the dark, I want you to tell in the light. Anything that is whispered, I want you to shout from the rooftops!'

Jesus reassured them. 'Do not fear those who try to kill you, as they cannot kill your soul. The only one you should be worried about is the one who can destroy both the body and the soul in hell. Two sparrows are sold for only a penny. But if one of them falls to the ground, God

knows this. Even the hairs on your head are counted and known by God. Do not fear, you are much more valuable than the sparrows.'

Jesus said to his disciples, 'If you tell others that you are my follower, I will tell God in heaven that you are my follower. But if you say you are not my follower, I will tell God in heaven that you don't belong to me. I didn't come to bring peace; I came to bring a sword. Families will turn against each other because of what I say. Anyone who loves their family more than me is not good enough to be my follower. Anyone who is not willing to take up their cross is not good enough to be my follower. If you try to hold onto your life, you will give up true life. But do not fear. If you give up your life for me, you will hold onto true life.'

3. Explore the Story

Reflect with children

- Why do you think the disciples needed great courage to go and tell other people about Jesus?
- If someone asks you what you did on Sunday, would you tell them you went to church?
- How can we share the story of Jesus with others today?

Reflect with young people

- How does it feel to be more valuable than sparrows?
- Do the challenges in this passage outweigh the promises Jesus makes?
- What does the passage tell us about being disciples of Jesus?

4. Create

Happy/Sad prayers

Invite everyone to draw a happy face on one side of a paper plate and a sad face on the other. Show the happy faces, then pray together:

*Thank you, Jesus, that we can follow you.
This makes us happy.*

Then turn the plates over and pray:

Sometimes life can be hard and that makes us sad.

Turn the plates over to the happy side for a final time:

*But we know that however we feel, you value us. **Amen.***

5. Pray

Finish by praying together:

Play follow my leader, walking, tiptoeing, jumping, etc., and end by pretending to trip or slip.

Follow in the footsteps of Jesus,
when you are walking...
when you are...
(add in other ways you are moving)
Jesus, catch us when we fall or fail,
and walk beside us through this week.
Amen.

More activities for the week

Jelly bean relay

You will need: four bowls, two tablespoons, jelly beans (or any other sweets).
Divide into two teams (teams can have just one person each if necessary). Put a bowl of jelly beans (or other small sweets) at the opposite side of your space to each team and give each team an empty bowl and a tablespoon.

Members of each team take it in turns to run and collect a jelly bean, put it on the spoon and return it to their bowl. If the jelly bean falls off the spoon, the child can return it to their spoon and carry on. The first team to transfer all the jelly beans to their bowl wins.

After everyone has played, discuss how the children felt when things went wrong: did they feel like giving up? What were the biggest challenges? Remember that we can always start again when things go wrong.

Live your faith actions

When you find something difficult this week, count to 10 and remember that Jesus knows the number of hairs on your head.