

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES FOR

Sunday 14th June 2020

In the *Gospel According to Matthew*, we read about the many times that Jesus healed the sick: for example, when Jesus told a paralysed man to stand up and walk because of the strength of his faith and when Jesus touched the eyes of two blind men and they could then see again.

This week, we hear how Jesus passed on some of His powers to His disciples so that they could heal the sick in His name. Jesus also told the Disciples where they should travel to and what they should take with them.

Getting Started

Whenever we go away from home, we have to decide what we need to take with us.

If you are going to school, you have to remember your book bag, any homework, a pencil case and possibly your packed lunch. When we go on holiday for longer, we have to take lots of other things like clothes, a toilet bag with toothbrush and toothpaste, a book to read, and possibly a camera or phone to take some photos.

Look around your house and gather as many things from this list you can find (*remember where you found them all because you will need to put them back afterwards!*):

Your book bag, a pair of trainers, a pair of school shoes, a cuddly toy, a book to read, a ball, a board game and a plastic cup and plate.

First of all, try to make a tall tower using as many of the items as you can. How high can you make it before it falls over?

Now try packing as many of the things from the list into your book bag. *Be careful not to break the bag!* You probably can't fit everything inside, can you? You will have to decide what is important and what can be left behind.

The Story

Jesus gathered his twelve disciples and sent them out. He gave them these instructions:

"Don't go to Gentile or Samaritan towns. Instead go to the people of Israel, for they are like a flock of lost sheep. Tell people the good news about the kingdom of heaven. Cure the sick, raise the dead, heal those with skin diseases, send out demons. You have been given all this freely, for no payment. Now you must help others without being paid."

Jesus reassured them, "You won't need gold or silver; don't take a travelling bag or an extra shirt; don't take sandals or a walking stick. When you go into a town, find out who the good people are and stay with them until you are ready to leave.

If you enter a home, bless it with your peace, but if it is not worthy, take the blessing back. If someone doesn't welcome you or they won't listen, leave at once, shaking the dust from your feet."

(Matthew 10:1-15)

Gentile - the name Jews give to non-Jews;

Samaritan - a person who lived in Samaria and worshipped God differently from Jews. Jews and Samaritans hated each other;

demons - spiritual forces that trouble people – could be interpreted as mental illness;



Thinking About It

Jesus was giving His Disciples a lot of instructions. First, He was sending them out to tell people the good news about the kingdom of heaven. He told them which places to visit and which to avoid.

He also gave them powers to cure the sick, heal the diseased and raise the dead. This was something which Jesus could do but now the Disciples would be able to do themselves.

And then He told them to travel lightly - not to take much with them, just the clothes that they wore and the sandals on their feet; no food or drink, no walking stick (which makes travelling a lot easier) and with no idea where they would sleep each night. They would have to trust that someone in each town would make them welcome, offer them food and invite them to stay in their homes overnight.

The Disciples were probably very anxious about doing all that Jesus asked them to do, even though they were travelled in pairs. But Jesus didn't send them out alone, the Holy Spirit would be with them.

Jesus had also told them that they wouldn't need any money. They had received both the Good News of the kingdom and the power to heal without being charged, and so were to give help to others without asking for money, "you have been given all this freely, for no payment. Now you must help others without being paid".

We have been living in very strange times recently, when we haven't been able meet up with family and friends. A lot of people have volunteered to do all sorts of things within our villages in the last few weeks for no payment.

People who can sew have been making masks, hats and special clothes for the workers in hospitals. Neighbours have offered to buy groceries for people who cannot go to the shops themselves. Others have baked cakes and taken meals to elderly friends. Some people have made a point of talking to their neighbours regularly, checking that they are OK and spending time with them, because we can all get a little lonely at times. Maybe you sent a letter or card to someone so they knew you were thinking about them. All these things were done freely, for no payment.

Activity

Write the first letter of each object to work out these words from the story.

								
								
								
								
								
								

Prayer

Dear God, help us to encourage each other to be more like Jesus. Help us to be loving and kind and to share your love. Amen.