

Explore It

FOR LEADERS

SESSION
09

AN ACTIVE FAITH

 **Matthew 25:31-46** The sheep and the goats

Please refer to the Introduction document for more details

Start it

Play a game of I-Spy with your group. You can only 'spy' things that can be seen on screen so everyone is seeing the same. Choose somebody to start and let a few people have a turn.

● **Say:** Some people really enjoy playing I-Spy as they are observant people who notice what is going on around; other people find it frustrating as they might not spot what is in front of them. How did you find it?

Screen share: Do an internet image search for an appropriate 'spot the difference' picture and share it with the group. You could either take it in turns for children to say one difference they can see or ask them to write down all the difference before comparing the results together.

Sing It

This happy, upbeat song reminds us that we serve a mighty God.

'What a Mighty God We Serve' (Listener Kids)

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

Tell It

Say: We are going to watch and listen to a story Jesus told to his disciples.

Show this YouTube video to the group.

Sheep and Goats | Bible Story | LifeKids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWSkdx-XwWY>

Share the whiteboard and draw a line to split it into two halves. On one side write sheep and on the other write goats. Ask the children if they can remember the differences between the sheep and the goats. Jot down their answers on each side.

Read the following Bible verses to the group, taken from *The Message*.

Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what's coming to you in this kingdom. It's been ready for you since the world's foundation. And here's why:

I was hungry and you fed me,

I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,

I was homeless and you gave me a room,

I was shivering and you gave me clothes,

I was sick and you stopped to visit,

I was in prison and you came to me.'

Then those 'sheep' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we

ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me - you did it to me.'

Ask: How can we be like the good sheep?

Give time for response and discussion.

Action It

In the video it says: 'If we want to do something great for Jesus, we should do something great for people in need and care for them like Jesus does.'

Over the last few weeks there have been lots of people in our communities who have been struggling due to the coronavirus. This has meant that we have seen some fantastic examples of people caring for each other, even caring for and helping out strangers.

Here are three examples of children making a difference. Choose one to share with your group (or use an example from your own community):

i) Project Malachi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88ounhVIPbA>
or <https://www.facebook.com/MalachiPlacellford/videos/125182518934360/> (For a younger group you could just watch to 1min 28.)

ii) A boy called Joshua who raised £200 to buy goodies for his teachers working throughout the school shutdown to support their pupils.

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2622734041375403&id=1436224443359708

iii) The Woodgate family from Penge Corps have been raising money for the South London division. They have done this by making and selling cards, having a day in complete silence, shaving their hair and walking up and down the stairs to do the same amount of steps it would take to climb Everest! They have raised over £2000 and continue to have donations which will be spread across projects in the South London division.

For photos of the Woodgate family doing their challenges, as well as other stories of young people making a difference at this time, please see The Salvation Army's Youth and Children's Ministries Facebook page.

Split your group into pairs using the 'breakout rooms' function and ask the pairs to chat about one thing they could do to help people in need over the next few weeks. Bring the group back together and share the ideas. Encourage the children to chat to their parents/ carers after the session for help to make it happen.

Pray It

Share screen: Display a Google Maps street view starting at your church.

● **Say:** We are going to go for a walk. Not an actual walk, but a virtual walk. As we walk, I want you to think about the community in which you live. Think about the people, the homes, the schools, the businesses, the parks, and so on. Which parts of our community is God's love needed most?

Ask God to help us walk as Jesus did and to pray, act and seek out the places and people most in need of God's love.

Ask young people in your group who are comfortable to pray aloud for your community.

Explore It

Remember to share the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.

Explore It FOR ME

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Here are some ideas and activities you could do on your own



Hear

Do you know what Fairtrade is? It means the people whose products you buy are being treated and paid fairly for their work. Chocolate, bananas and drinks all have options for Fairtrade, as well as many other items. Search online for the Fairtrade symbol, then look on products around your house (especially food items) to see which ones display the logo. When you shop, ask questions and ensure the people making your food, clothes, and other products are being looked after.



Play

Have you got a Where's Wally book? Or some spot the differences? You could look for some spot the difference pictures on the internet. Enjoy searching and find the differences!



Share

Share the love! Kindness is infectious. If someone is kind to you, it will make you feel good; you'll want to share this kindness with others. Be kind. Always. And help spread God's love in the world.



Build

Build a domino chain. Place the dominos carefully and when you have them all set up, knock the first one and watch the chain reaction. Each one impacts on the next if you put them close enough. If you don't have dominos you could use books, DVDs, etc. (Check with a grown up first.)



Investigate

Research a young person who has made a difference in the world. Look online and create a poster or PowerPoint or video and share what you find with friends, family, your club, your church, and/or your school.



Watch / Read

Have you seen Matilda the Musical? There is a song in it which says, 'even if you're little you can do a lot; you mustn't let a little thing like little stop you'. Can you think of any films you could watch or books you could read about children making a difference?



Create

Write a letter / draw a picture of encouragement / create some artwork for someone who is unwell in your community.

KIDS ALIVE ONLINE

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic - is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

