



Vision and Commitment 2018
A year to focus on discipleship

Every day, in
everything
&
everywhere

Discipleship Series Children - Speaking Up (Testifying)

Aim

- To understand that as a disciple we need to stand up for what we believe in and what is right.
- To understand we are all different and to know that we need to treat people with respect even when we disagree.
- To understand that as a disciple we need to think of ways to change our communities for the better.

Preparation

- Dried chickpeas
- Packet of A5 envelopes (one envelope for each child)
- Plain A4 paper
- Scissors
- Craft bits to decorate a paper doll eg stick-on eyes, wool, etc.
- Colouring pens
- One large jar for everyone to use
- Satsumas - one for each child and a basket to display them
- Appendix 1 - hearts to decorate (one sheet per child)

Background for leaders

Read Matthew 21:12-17 (NIV).

In Jesus we truly see a leader who disciples with full intention to give up his time, life and resources to raise up godly men and women. Breaking religious, social and cultural conventions cost him his life. How often are we willing to sacrifice our 'reputation' at work or school for standing up and speaking out about the things we believe in?

In Matthew 21:1-17 we read that Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey with crowds shouting 'Hosanna in the highest heaven!' (v9). Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there.

The money changers were not an unusual sight as many travellers would make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the Passover and therefore would need to exchange foreign money into temple coins. The same would be true for the doves and oxen bought for sacrifice.





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With Jesus clearing out the temple (that is, the outer court of it, where the Gentiles used to worship) the chief priests felt violated by Jesus' actions. Only they and the elders of the people had the right in purging the temple.

The chief priests felt Jesus had no right to teach in the temple. He was not a priest, nor Levite, nor scribe. So to publicly teach the people and drive out those who had their commission to traffic in the outer court Jesus was really standing up and breaking the religious culture of his time.

This can be a difficult subject to explore with the children to achieve the right balance of what it means to stand up and stand out for what we believe as disciples of Jesus and what we should fight for respectfully and safely within our own context.

Icebreaker

Chickpea game

Before the game place 20 chickpeas in each envelope - do not seal them.

Give each child an envelope and explain that they each have 20 chickpeas.

Ask each child to choose to have one, two or three chickpeas in their hand. They can ask another child how many chickpeas they have in their hand. If their guess is right the other child has to give them the chickpeas in their hand. If their guess is wrong the child guessing has to give them one of their own chickpeas.

Decide how many minutes you wish to play the game. When the time is up everyone counts how many chickpeas they have left in their envelope, the one with the most is the winner.

Ask the children:

- How did you feel when you guessed right?
- How did you feel when you had to give your chickpeas away?
- Do you think it was fair?
- Do you think it would be easy to cheat?

Today we are going to be thinking about standing up for what is right and exploring fairness.





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Lesson

Ask the children if they have ever been really angry. Ask them if they would like to share one of the times they felt angry. Is there a difference between being angry because we can't get our own way and being angry because something isn't right or fair? Ask the children if they can think of a story in the Bible when Jesus was angry?

The following story probably happened during the week leading up to Easter. Jesus had entered Jerusalem on a donkey. Crowds of people came to see him shouting, 'Hosanna in the highest heaven!' There were some powerful people that didn't like how popular Jesus had become and some who didn't like his teaching.

Let's look at the Bible story. Ask the children to read Matthew 21:12-17.

I wonder why Jesus was so angry and upset?

The temple in Jerusalem was a place where people would travel many miles to get to. Many people would gather at the temple, especially at the time of the Jewish Festival of Passover. People would bring different offerings, often animals, as a symbol of thanksgiving or of sorrow for past sins. These animals could be bought at the entrance of the temple. It seems likely that the people who sold the animals were charging too much and cheating the poor, and Jesus saw this happening.

- I wonder what the people thought watching Jesus turn over the tables?
- I wonder how the poor people felt?
- I wonder how Jesus felt?
- I wonder if Jesus was putting himself in danger by being angry?
- I wonder if there are times when it is right to be angry?

What Jesus saw upset him. He stood up for what was right and helped the poor people.

Activities

Craft

Give some of the children paper, scissors and craft bits. Give the other children just paper, scissors and pens (they are not allowed to have craft bits even if they ask).

Ask the children to create a paper doll.

Once they have made their doll ask the children if they thought this activity was fair. Why/Why not?

Explain that this is the same for many people, communities and countries in our world. We are all trying to live but some people have better resources than other people. Some of





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the children had pens and some of them had lots of different craft bits to make their doll better.

Explore with the children:

- I wonder how people feel who live in communities and don't have much?
- I wonder as a disciple what could we do or say to help these people?

As disciples we need to stand up for those who may not have much and try and help them.

What's Right Jar

Ask the children to decorate the jar and write on small pieces of paper some statements that they agree with and are positive (things that they think are right), e.g. Ant and Dec are funny; Mondays are the best day; Pizza is the tastiest.

Help them understand that we may not always agree with what others say and it is common to disagree and think differently, but it must be done in a respectful way.

Take a statement out of the jar and read it. Ask the children who agrees or disagrees and think of a good way to talk about it while being respectful and civil to each other.

Satsumas

Give each child a satsuma and ask them to 'get to know' their satsuma. Have them look for any identifying marks, shape and colour. Would they recognise it if they saw it again?

Take their satsumas and put them in a basket and have the children find their original satsuma. Now ask the children to peel their satsumas. Take them and put them back in the basket. Now ask the children to come and pick their satsuma.

Explain to the children that it is not as easy as when the satsumas had their skin on. As people we all look different on the outside but we are the same on the inside and Jesus loves us all.

Worship

Song suggestions all available on YouTube.

- *Shine from the inside out* by Worship Anthems Kids
- *God You're so cool* by Kids Vineyard Worship
- *The Way It's Gonna Be* by Doug Horley
- *Strength of My Heart* by Rend Collective





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Prayers

Hearts

Read Ephesians 4:32 (NIV).

Give the children three cut out hearts (Appendix 1) and ask them to decorate/colour them in with the pens. Ask the children to take them home and when they do an 'Act of Kindness' this week to give a heart away.

Here are some suggestions: Talking to someone who doesn't have many friends at school, saying thank you to the teacher for teaching them, helping to tidy up the classroom, helping their parents at home or a sibling. Encourage them to leave a heart behind with the person they did help.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

This week help me to see the world through your eyes, help me to step out and do the right thing for you. Help me to recognise when someone needs help or friendship or support.

May I remember to always treat people with respect and be fair, knowing that you will help me.

Help me to stand up for what is right and to speak out when something is not right, doing it respectfully.

Thank you for your presence in my life. Amen.





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Appendix 1

