

Church at Home Pack – 22nd November 2020

Join us for our online service at 10:30am on Sunday at www.ccwsm.org.uk

(Please bear with us as we work out how we continue with our services during this time. There may be a mix of live streamed and online services – we will keep you informed.)

If you like, join in with the discussion on Facebook with our church family (@ccwsm)!

In some sections we make several suggestions of ideas. Some may be more appropriate to you or the different people in your family than others. We're not expecting you to do all of them (although you are very welcome to!) Choose the ones which best suit you.

GATHER TOGETHER

A prayer to start –

Lord Jesus,
may we keep other people in our hearts
as we worship with joy;
may we remember those
who are hungry, sick, afraid, lonely or sad today;
let us be filled with your love and compassion.

Amen.



Action reminder –

From the top of my head
(Touch head)

to the tips of my toes;
(Touch toes)

from the lobes of my ears
(Touch ear lobes)

to the end of my nose;
(Touch nose)

from my back, to my front
(Turn round)

to my wiggly fingers,
(stretch out arms and wiggle fingers)

God loves me!
(jump up and down)

READ TOGETHER

Matthew 25: 31-46



International Children's Bible (ICB)

³¹ "The Son of Man will come again in his great glory. All his angels will come with him. He will be King and sit on his great throne. ³² All the people of the world will be gathered before him. Then he will separate them into two groups as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ The Son of Man will put the sheep, the good people, on his right and the goats, the bad people, on his left.

³⁴ "Then the King will say to the good people on his right, 'Come. My Father has given you his blessing. Come and receive the kingdom God has prepared for you since the world was made. ³⁵ I was hungry, and you gave me food. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was alone and away from home, and you invited me into your house. ³⁶ I was without clothes, and you gave me something to wear. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'

³⁷ "Then the good people will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you food? When did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you alone and away from home and invite you into our house? When did we see you without clothes and give you something to wear? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and care for you?'

⁴⁰ "Then the King will answer, 'I tell you the truth. Anything you did for any of my people here, you also did for me.'

⁴¹ "Then the King will say to those on his left, 'Go away from me. God has said that you will be punished. Go into the fire that burns forever. That fire was prepared for the devil and his helpers. ⁴² I was hungry, and you gave me nothing to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me nothing to drink. ⁴³ I was alone and away from home, and you did not invite me into your house. I was without clothes, and you gave me nothing to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you did not care for me.'

⁴⁴ "Then those people will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty? When did we see you alone and away from home? Or when did we see you without clothes or sick or in prison? When did we see these things and not help you?'

⁴⁵ "Then the King will answer, 'I tell you the truth. Anything you refused to do for any of my people here, you refused to do for me.'

⁴⁶ "These people will go off to be punished forever. But the good people will go to live forever."

New International Version (NIV)

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

⁴¹ "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

⁴⁴ “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

⁴⁵ “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

⁴⁶ “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

Sheep and goats

based on Matthew 25.31-46

Jesus told stories that people found surprising. Some people who were pleased with themselves at the beginning of the story were often a bit worried by the end, and people who were worried at the beginning often felt better by the end. His stories turned ideas upside down.

One day Jesus told a story about what would happen at the end of time. He said something like this:

‘All the people were gathered together and the Son of Man sorted them into two groups: sheep and goats. The people in the “sheep” group wondered why they were there.

‘The Son of Man said to the sheep: “I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was lonely and you visited me.” Now the sheep were very confused – they did not remember doing any of these things for him. But he told them that whenever they had done these things for anyone, especially for someone poor, they had done them for him.

‘The goats could not understand why they were in their group either. The Son of Man told them: “I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink. I was lonely and you didn’t visit me.”

‘But they were confused: “When did we see you hungry, Lord?” they asked. He told them that whenever they had not done these things for someone in need, they had not done them for him.’

And so, in the end, it turned out that serving God was all about these small moments of kindness.



WATCH TOGETHER



Sheep and Goats – Life Kids

<https://youtu.be/iWSkdx-XwWY>



Douglas has some thoughts for us on: *Helping those in need*

<https://youtu.be/uonGMljPmSQ>

TALK TOGETHER

Julie said that the King decides who goes where according to how the marginalised, the needy and the overlooked are noticed, loved and attended. We are the kingdom of those who love, whether we feel like it or not, because God first loved us.

- When have you instinctively responded to a human need?
- How might you/your church/our society become more compassionate?



STUDY TOGETHER

- If you were asked how does someone enter God's kingdom, what would you say?

Read Matthew 25:31-46

- Why are the sheep invited to inherit the kingdom – how are their lives different to the goats?
- Why are the goats sent away – how are their lives different to the sheep?
- Notice that neither group realised that their actions were being done or not done to Jesus. Does this tell you anything about who/what Jesus is interested in?
- Are there any ways in which you already show love and kindness to those in need that you maybe hadn't thought about before?
- Could you be involved in any of the activities that Jesus talks about in this Bible passage?
- Think back to your answer to the first question. Is Jesus saying here that we are saved by works, by what we do?
 - Ephesians 1:8-10 and James 2:14-18 may help you think through this

SING TOGETHER

When I needed a neighbour – Young Praise: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7a7LdqRh-k>

Your friend – Lifetree Kids: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GD9CkOstIJq&t=64s>

Follow you – Leeland with Brandon Heath: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ajlFfSaEzE>

Vagabonds – Stuart Townend: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s27D7M8biul&t=123s>

REFLECT TOGETHER

When I was... you...

In the Bible passage, Jesus describes acts of mercy, kindness and love that we can all do every day. It doesn't depend on how much money you have, what you are good at or how clever you are; they are simple acts that we can give freely. Jesus demands our personal involvement in caring for the needs of others.

- Read the Bible story again.
- Think about a new list of actions that you could do for Jesus in school, college, work or at home; maybe you have already done some without even realising.

For example: 'You sat beside me when I was lonely'.

'You cooked a meal for my family when I was poorly'

'You phoned me while I was isolated'

'You helped me with that project I was so worried about'

"you did it for
Me!"

Matthew 25:31-46

PRAY TOGETHER

Prayer for others

For those who are sick: may they have healing.

For the those who are isolated: may they have company.

For those who are oppressed: may they have justice.

For those who are exposed: may they have dignity.

For those who are mistreated: may they have humanity.

For those who are ignored: may they be heard.

For the times when we ignore, or isolate, or oppress, or expose or mistreat: may we change.

Amen.

Prayer Helpline

Pray for the 'least'

You will need: string, paper and pens, clothes pegs.

- Make a line out of string running that you can hang up in your home.
- Think about areas in the world where there are problems and difficulties, and perhaps situations in your local community. Write or draw prayers for those who need help, and peg them on the string.
- If you live in a house with other people, spend some time reading what the others have written, and then praying quietly for those that need help. Finally, pray:

Lord Jesus,

help us to notice and want

to help people in need.

Amen.



Action Prayer

Lord Jesus,
you reached down low
(reach down and touch toes)
to help us up.
(stretch up tall)
Make us the kind of people
who hold out our hands to others.
(shake hands with person next to you)
Amen.

DO TOGETHER

Get Practical

The Gospel story talks about the physical needs people have. Going to church, reading our Bibles and praying are all vital, but if we don't let those things affect how we live and treat others, then we're not doing what God wants.

What are you passionate about? Where do you see a need to help?

This week you could spend some time finding out about charities or projects that help those in need –



For example: the work of **Christians Against Poverty (CAP)** has been highlighted in **Connected** for the last few weeks – see their latest newsletter here

<https://ccwsm.org.uk/cap-newsletter-31-october-2020/>



Reverse Advent Calendar

It's not Advent Sunday until next week but as the Foodbank need to collect and distribute before Christmas Day, you might like to start your Reverse Advent Calendar now!

See the information on their website to find out more:

<https://westonsupermare.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/reverse-advent-calendar/>

Carry a piece of cotton wool with you as a reminder to be like the sheep in Jesus' story – a blessing to others through their attitudes and actions (and not like the goats, hard-hearted or dismissive of other people).



Email: family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk

Prayers, Action Reminder, Talk Together ideas taken and adapted from

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