



St Lawrence
with St Paul
Longridge



Family Activities: Sunday 16th August 2020

Running the Race

Introduction: Children's Church at St Lawrence with St Paul is not meeting in person at present due to the advice given by the Church of England to suspend services. However, the team is putting together a sheet each week for families to do 'Children's Church at Home' and we are also meeting on Zoom on Sunday mornings at 1045am to go through some of the activities together!

We are very grateful to the Blackburn Board of Education and their 'Weekly@' resources which we are drawing on to help us to put together each week's activities.

Please do e-mail Carolyn Barton at carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk to be added to the Children's Church private Facebook group and/or to be sent the link to the Sundays @1045am Zoom Children's Church Meeting.

Theme: This week we consider that the Bible talks about life being like a race. The Bible story will look at Philip running to catch up with someone to tell them about Jesus. The key Bible verses will be Hebrews 12:1 'Run the race with perseverance' and Philippians 3:14 'Press on towards the goal', focusing on encouraging the children to go to church, read the Bible, pray and live in the right way.

Setting the Scene:

Talk about sports day and ask the children which is their favourite race? Why do they particularly like that race? How does it feel on the starting line? How does it feel as you are taking part? How does it feel when you cross the finishing line?

Then have your own race seeing who can be the quickest to find something eg an item that is red, or to bring back a TV Remote etc.

Do you know that the bible talks about life being like a race? Highlight the verses from Hebrews and Philippians as outlined above.

Song: Sing and dance along to 'Big Family of God' at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smkYUzrgD7A>



Bible Passage: Acts 8 (26-40).

Have a look at this video or read the bible passage below:





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2D72x1dMwU>

Philip and the Ethiopian

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian^e eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

³¹ "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth."^[b]

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" ^[37] ^[b] ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Questions to ask:

Today's passage is taken from the book of Acts in the bible. Jesus has died, risen from the dead and returned to heaven. His followers are spreading the news about Him far and wide



and the early church is growing. One of his followers who was helping to spread the news and to grow the church was called Philip.

- 1) At the beginning of the story, an angel asks Philip to go to a particular road and then later the Holy Spirit tells him to run up to a particular chariot. God is speaking directly to Philip – how do you think he felt?
- 2) How does the Ethiopian man reply when Philip asks him if he understands what he is reading?
- 3) After the Ethiopian man has been baptised what happened to Philip?

.....he disappears and then keeps sharing the gospel in many more towns.

- 4) How would you feel if God spoke directly to you like he did to Philip and asked you to do something for Him? Would you be ready to trust Him and say yes?

The bible describes life as being like a race. Philip was running the race well – he obeyed God and went to speak to the Ethiopian man; he was ready to explain all about Jesus to him. If Philip hadn't obeyed God, the Ethiopian man would never have understood about Jesus.

- 5) How can we get to know Jesus better so that we can hear Him when he speaks to us and know how to answer questions about Him? How can we run our race well?

Explaining the Passage (adapt for younger children):

Bible Story Summary: Philip was one of the seven men chosen to help the poor in the early church. • God spoke to Philip and told him to go down a particular road. Philip ran all the way and chased to catch up with a chariot like God had told him to. • Through obeying God, Philip met an important Ethiopian man who was in charge of the treasury of the Queen of Ethiopia. • The Ethiopian man was reading from the book of Isaiah. • Philip asked the man if he understood what he was reading. The Ethiopian man didn't! • Philip explained all about Jesus. The Ethiopian man believed and asked Philip to baptise him, which he did.

What about us? We are very fortunate to have people who can teach us about Jesus. We need to make the most of this and put ourselves in positions where we can learn more about God. We should thank God for these people. • Do we hear God speaking to us? • Philip ran to catch up with the chariot. The Bible describes the Christian life as being like a race. Hebrews 12:1 'Run the race with perseverance'. Perseverance means to keep going with something even though it might seem hard or we feel tempted to give up. • The Bible encourages us to fix our eyes on Jesus and follow his example. Philippians 3:14 encourages us to 'Press on towards the goal'.



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There are many things we can do to help us live our lives in God's way. We can go to church, learn from other Christians, read the Bible, pray and live in the right way. The Bible encourages us to fix our eyes on Jesus and to follow his example. There are many things we can do to help us live our lives in God's way. We can go to church, read the Bible, spend time with other Christians, pray and make good choices. Sometimes it's good to stop for a moment and think about what we do every day. Do we think about God and live how He would want us to? Do we help other people? Do we think about what God might want us to do to tell others about Jesus? Invite the children to think about something that they do regularly that they find difficult, for example maths homework, or tidying their bedroom. These are things that they have to persevere with in order to get them done! When they face these tasks this week, ask the children to remember that God tells us to keep going because when we do, we will be rewarded. Challenge the children to persevere and even try extra hard with the things they might feel like giving up on.

Prayer:

"Lord, please help us to get to know you better and run the race well so that we can hear from you and tell others all about you just like Philip did. Amen"

Game:



Each player needs 2 squares of fabric roughly 25cm x 25cm - face cloths would work well. The children should place the two squares on the floor, one in front of the other, like stepping stones. When you 'start the race' the children should step onto the first, and then the second stepping stone, then pick up the stepping stone behind them and place it in front on the square of fabric they are stood on. They can then stand on this square and collect the one behind them to move forward. They should continue travelling forward using this technique until they have reached the finish line. If you have several children playing, you can turn this into a race, or if not, allow them several attempts and record their quickest time. Afterwards, discuss how well they think they 'ran the race'.

Craft:



Provide the children with a circle of card approximately 10cm in diameter. Help the children make the two holes in the centre of the circle about 2cm apart. Ask the children to decorate their card circle on both sides to make it look like the wheel of a chariot. Show the children how to thread one piece of string through both holes to make a loop and knot the ends. Demonstrate that if the children now hold the string at both ends either side of their wheel and swing it round the string should twist together. If they then suddenly pull the strings apart tightly, the circle will spin around like the chariot's wheel in today's story.