



St Lawrence  
with St Paul  
Longridge



## Family Activities: Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020

### Jesus says, "Come"

*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](mailto: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:** To learn to trust Jesus and come to him when life's worries crowd in.

#### Setting the Scene:

Place cushions and blankets on the floor and ask the children to come in and lie down. Say the person who can stay the stillest can have a prize. Encourage them to slow down their breathing and to be quiet enough to hear their breath going in and out. This is their chance to think about God and how much he loves them.

**Song:** Sing and dance along to 'My Lighthouse' at:

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



**Bible Passage:** Matt 11, v16-19, 25 onwards.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQGKLA4AfXs>



#### Matthew 11:16-30

<sup>16</sup>“What can I say about the people who live today? What are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace. One group calls to the other,



<sup>17</sup> ‘We played music for you, but you did not dance;  
we sang a sad song, but you did not cry.’

<sup>18</sup> John came, and he did not eat like other people or drink wine. And people say, ‘He has a demon.’ <sup>19</sup> The Son of Man came, eating and drinking wine, and people say, ‘Look at him! He eats too much and drinks too much. He is a friend of tax collectors and “sinners.”’ But wisdom is proved to be right by the things it does.”

### Jesus Offers Rest to People

<sup>25</sup> Then Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth. I praise you because you have hidden these things from the people who are wise and smart. But you have shown them to those who are like little children. <sup>26</sup> Yes, Father, this is what you really wanted.

<sup>27</sup> “My Father has given me all things. No one knows the Son—only the Father knows the Son. And no one knows the Father—only the Son knows the Father. And the only people who will know about the Father are those whom the Son chooses to tell.

<sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all of you who are tired and have heavy loads. I will give you rest.

<sup>29</sup> Accept my work and learn from me. I am gentle and humble in spirit. And you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> The work that I ask you to accept is easy. The load I give you to carry is not heavy.”

#### Questions to ask:

- 1) Which part of the story or video did you like best and why?
- 2) In the film what was Martha worried about?
- 3) What things do you worry about? When do you worry? Why do you think that is?
- 4) In the film was Mary worried? Why not?
- 5) What do you do about your worries? How can you stop them bottling up?

#### Explaining the Passage (adapt for younger children):

The words of Jesus (in red above) are comforting and full of empathy. He knows we struggle, get burdened and feel weary. Jesus has been human and understands our physical weaknesses. The great chasm between human understanding and God’s wisdom is clear in this passage. Jesus points out that whilst the adults misrepresent important things; for



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instance, when they say Jesus is a glutton and drunkard; and that God has revealed truth to little children. Jesus praises God for this surprising twist. But Jesus also wants us to stop striving, anxiously trying to fix ourselves. The answers to our greatest problems lie in trusting him who is gentle and humble in heart. He longs to give us his rest.

The story of Mary and Martha in the film is an example of when somebody was worried and anxious. God didn't make us to be worried and anxious – but everyone does it occasionally – we all worry from time to time. When you are having fun is there a niggling worry that threatens to ruin a lovely day. Stop now and take that worry to God. The God of the impossible can be trusted with that problem, he is big enough to bring peace beyond our understanding. God is in control of our lives, and nothing catches him by surprise. He knew it was coming. And if something is a concern to you, then it's also a concern to him.

#### Prayer:

***“Lord you ask us to give our worries to you. Help us not to waste time thinking about things that may never happen or we don't have control over. Give us your peace. Amen”***

***Clench your fists tight and each think of one thing you need to pray about that's on your mind. As you say this prayer open up your hands as a symbol of letting go of your worries and leaving them with God, who cares and can do the impossible.***

#### Pebble Painting:



Provide marker pens and enough pebbles for every child. Invite the children to choose a pebble and write on it, “Jesus you are my rock”. Remind the group that Jesus will never let them down, never leave them and can always be trusted to keep his promises – he is like a rock.

#### Musical Statues:



Play musical statues which illustrates stillness well. Whilst the children are still you could remind them of Jesus' words that you've looked at today. Remind them that sometimes we feel rushed or embarrassed, flustered or angry, worried or lonely and it is in those moments we need to be still and remember God loves us and we can talk to him about how we feel.