



St Lawrence
with St Paul
Longridge



Family Activities: Sunday June 28th

Welcome Jesus

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:

How do we welcome Jesus in our worship and include him in our everyday lives. How do we welcome other people and how do they feel when they step into our churches (when we can go back). How can we help them to feel valued and included so that they will want to come back again. Giving what we can, sharing, taking time, listening, using our gifts – all these things are expressions of our love for Jesus as well as for others.

Setting the Scene:

Song: Sing and dance along to

The Singing Song

<https://youtu.be/MV16tQK4UPg>



or you could end your time together with

Alligator Goodbye

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijlmXiyIbW8>



Bible Passage: Matthew 10 v40-42



Welcome Jesus

Whoever accepts you also accepts me. And whoever accepts me also accepts the One who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever meets a prophet and accepts him will receive the reward of a prophet. And whoever accepts a good man because that man is good will receive the reward of a good man. ⁴² Whoever helps one of these little ones because they are my followers will truly get his reward. He will get his reward even if he only gave my follower a cup of cold water.”

or you may prefer to watch the Parable of the Lost Son from Luke Chapter 15 v20-24

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJgROx4wFKM>

Questions to ask:

- 1) What would be your favourite way to be welcomed home (e.g. house tidy, slippers ready, hot chocolate prepared and your favourite programme on TV)?
- 2) How does it feel when you aren't made to feel welcome?
- 3) If Jesus walked into your home right now how would he know he was welcome?
- 4) When you go to church or do church at home, how easy is it to focus on Jesus?

Explaining the Passage:

In today's Bible verses from Matthew 10, Jesus tells us to welcome others who love him and that when we do, it makes him feel welcome too. Think about how we can make people feel welcome when they are new (and even those that have been coming to church for a while) and how could we do more to help them know what's going on. Do we tell them there's a drink and biscuit afterwards? What could we do to make people feel more welcome?

Think of 5 ideas – here are some hints to help (e.g. cushions for uncomfortable pews, making sure someone goes to talk to them before and after the service, inviting them to other events at church especially if church has small groups where you can get to know people) *and write them down.* Ask the children if they have ever had a turn at being on the door shaking hands with people as they come in and giving them a smile and a welcome. If they haven't perhaps you could arrange for them to have a go at doing this if they'd like to.



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Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you are welcome here. Help us to remember you are always with us and to treat others in a way that makes you happy. Amen

Game: Musical Chairs

Play a game of musical chairs. Afterwards, discuss how it feels to be out of the game because there is no seat for us. Musical chairs is often a game where we see the frustration of not having any space left for us. Imagine if Jesus came to church and we didn't let him sit in our seat!

Activity: Welcome Bunting

Using ribbon or string and triangles of card you can make bunting to decorate the church entrance for when we are back. Draw a story from the life of Jesus on your triangle and on the back of your triangle write 'Welcome' and what your picture is of so that visitors to church can see that the you are welcoming them.



Activity: Wordsearch

This includes part of the story of the Lost Son and is a great reminder to take away of how God welcomes us and gives us a great example of how wholeheartedly God loves to welcome people

God's Welcome

Part of the story of the Lost Son from Luke 15:20-24 (NCV)

While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt sorry for his son. So the father ran to him and hugged and kissed him. The son said, 'Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Hurry! Bring the best clothes and put them on him. Also, put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get our fat calf and kill it so we can have a feast and celebrate. My son was dead, but now he is alive again! He was lost, but now he is found!' So they began to celebrate.

H	G	V	R	S	U	N	O	S
S	U	L	I	T	D	D	F	L
E	D	G	N	T	S	E	B	A
H	N	M	G	W	P	S	F	D
T	L	E	C	E	R	S	E	N
O	K	I	D	A	D	I	A	A
L	H	U	N	S	I	K	S	S
C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	E

Find the words underlined in the Bible story in the wordsearch.