

WEEKLY@

September - December
2019

Lectionary based Sunday group resource aimed at
5-11 year olds with additional activity ideas for those in
creche and youth groups.



THE BLACKBURN
DIOCESAN BOARD
OF EDUCATION



WELCOME

Weekly@ is a weekly lectionary based resource with activity suggestions for all age ranges from creche to youth groups. Using colour codes to help you identify activities suitable for your children, Weekly@ aims to offer a simple, flexible bible-based resource sheet, plus a handy 'take home' sheet which helps parents carry on the conversation at home. We recommend that you start by 'Setting the Scene' and how you arrange the rest of the session is up to you!

INTRO PAGE

You will find two important and helpful sections in the introduction page to each week:

Overview

This will present some background and a short summary of the Bible passage to offer you as a leader an understanding what's happening, as well as providing context linking in with previous readings.

All Age Talk

Inspiration for an all-age talk for those who deliver a short Bible message where the whole church family are gathered together. This can be adapted to suit your church setting, and will always link into the main message we've suggested for the children's session.

THE RESPONSE SECTION

The Response Section creates an opportunity in your group time for the children to think about what they have heard and how it makes them feel, which means they can start engaging with the Bible passage and the lesson in a deeper way.

You may want to set the Response Activity up in the same area of your room every week, or maybe you would prefer to be creative and move around each time. It is entirely up to you how you present it; we will provide the framework and you can structure it to fit your group. You may wish to play some background music during the response time to encourage an atmosphere of personal reflection.

COLOUR CODES

Weekly@ is categorised by colour codes which represent the different ages that we feel an activity is suitable for, however they are just our suggestions, so please feel free to use them with other age groups if you feel it's appropriate. You may find that some weeks have more All Age activities than others. Some activity headings might be split colours, meaning they are suitable for the two age groups they represent.

Under 5s

Suitable for those aged 5 and under, typically those in creche.

All Age

Suitable for all groups, from creche to youth group.

5-11s

Suitable for those aged 5-11.

Over 12s

Suitable for Sunday youth groups.

Overview

In this passage we see the disciples, who have spent a lot of time with Jesus, again having 'little faith' (remember the storm on the lake). Jesus uses the illustration of a mustard seed, which despite being one of the smallest seeds, can grow into a 20ft tree which can grow in both hot, dry climates, and cool, wet environments, to represent faith. This is symbolic of faith being able to withstand the most testing of circumstances and will still survive. By having even the smallest amount of faith our lives are devoted to God and His purpose, like a servant's life is devoted to their master; the owner of a slave does not become a debtor to the slave no matter how much work the slave does. The imagery of slavery can be uncomfortable for our modern minds, but at it's core, this message tells us to trust God for he can do great things with our small faith.

Aim

To discover the importance of having faith, no matter how small.

Song Suggestion

FAITH - Yancy

<https://youtu.be/7iOgGUfEThA>

All Age Talk

Bring with you large images (at least A4) of the following animals: a Dung Beetle, an Ox, an Elephant, a Leafcutter Ant, and an Eagle. Bring 5 volunteers to the front to hold up the images so the rest of the congregation can see them.

Ask the congregation to help you place these animals in order (by rearranging your volunteers) from strongest to least strong. Once an order has been agreed, reveal the answer (Dung Beetle, Leafcutter Ant, Eagle, Ox and Elephant). Note how the largest animals aren't necessarily the strongest. The dung beetle is the strongest animal in the world (compared to body weight), as they can pull 1,141 times their own body weight. The human equivalent would be an average person pulling SIX double decker buses full of people! Similarly, tiny leafcutter ants can lift and carry in their jaws something 50 times their own body weight. That's the same as a person lifting a truck with their teeth.*

In today's Bible reading we see the disciples asking Jesus to increase their faith, but Jesus reminds them that even having faith the size of a mustard seed, they can do amazing things. Sometimes it can feel like we need super faith, to do fantastic things and live how God wants us to, but Jesus tells us that we don't need to have great faith to produce significant results. This is because the results of our faith don't depend on us, they depend on God. Therefore, don't compare yourself to others; just as a dung beetle can't compare itself to an elephant, we can't compare ourselves to other Christians. Even if our faith is only the size of a tiny mustard seed we can ask God to do great things with it.

*Information taken from <https://onekindplanet.org/top-10/top-10-list-of-the-worlds-strongest-animals/>

Prayer

Father God, we are sorry for doubting and not trusting in you. Help us to nurture and grow our faith so we can use it to serve you. Amen

Set the Scene

You will need: Lots of different seeds, and images of what the seeds will grow into. Pass the seeds around and allow the children to investigate them. Compare the size of the seeds. What do the children think they grow into? A mustard seed is very small and in comparison a squash/sunflower seed is huge, yet the smaller seed grows into something much, much bigger than a squash/sunflower.

Discussion

You will need some bicarbonate of soda, white vinegar, a glass or transparent container, a teaspoon and a small bowl.

We're going to use a the bicarbonate of soda and vinegar experiment to add a visual element to today's Bible story.

Start off with some white vinegar in the glass and one tsp of bicarb in the small bowl. The disciples said to Jesus, "Increase our faith!" (*lift up the bowl containing bicarbonate of soda*). You see, the disciples recognised their weakness and a little bit of faith wasn't enough - they wanted more (*add a tsp of bicarb to the bowl*), and more (*add another tps of bicarb*). Do you think Jesus was happy to grant this request? No, he wasn't. Jesus wanted the disciples to understand that if they wanted to achieve great things for God, it wasn't about the quantity (how much) faith they had; it wasn't about having more (*remove some bicarb*) more (*remove some bicarb*) more (*remove more until you're left with roughly the original amount*). Jesus said that even with faith the size of a mustard seed, which is very small, you can do amazing things. There is only a small amount of bicarbonate of soda left in our bowl; let's see what happens when we pour it in here. (*Pour the bicarbonate of soda into the glass of vinegar*) It makes a big fizz! We too can make a big fizz for Jesus. We don't need to have the biggest faith, because even with the tiniest amount we can do incredible things through the power of God.

Response

Plant a Seed Ask God to help you do great things with your faith as you each plant a seed in a pot. We'd suggest that you do this in pots that can be kept at church initially, so you can water them and watch the seeds grow over the coming weeks. You may like to keep praying this prayer as you observe your seeds progress.

Activity

Small Build Provide lots of small construction materials, e.g. small cubes, lolly sticks, match sticks, very small plastic cups/pots, small lego pieces, and challenge the children to see what amazing structures they can build with small things. Whilst the children are busy with this activity, talk about the small things that they could do for other people which can have a big impact.

Game

Pass the Seed Sit in a circle and provide each child with a plate which the children must place in front of them. Place a seed (sunflower or similar in size) on one of the plates, along with some chopsticks or tweezers. The aim of the game is to pass the seed around the plates using the chopsticks/tweezers. If you have a bigger group you could divide into teams and see which team can pass the seed around the circle the quickest.

Take Home

Impression discs Using air drying clay or similar*, create small circular discs and provide the children with lots of different seeds. Encourage them to roll the seeds in a line across the clay discs. Even the smallest seeds make an impression in the clay. This reminds us that no matter how big or small our faith is, we can make an impact for Jesus.

*Here's an alternative to salt dough that produces a white clay: <https://rainydaymum.co.uk/bakers-clay-recipe-alternative-salt-dough/>

Under 5s This activity is great for developing motor skills so if you can, use jumbo tweezers and pom poms. Alternatively, use spoons and bowls instead of plates and chopsticks.

6th October 2019

SMALL FAITH

Luke 17: 5-10

Ask your child what they did during church today.

Tell them what you learnt during church today.

Do you find it easy to have faith in God? Discuss your answers.

Have you ever experienced something incredible happening as a result of someone's faith?

FAMILY PRAYER

Go for a walk together and hunt for the smallest stone you can find. Bring it home and place it somewhere where everyone can see it. Every time you walk past the stone, be reminded of what God can do with even the smallest amount of faith and say a quick thank you prayer.

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Overview

Jesus has started his journey to Jerusalem, travelling along the border between Samaria and Galilee. This is the start of the last part of Jesus' ministry and this story reveals a glimpse of who he is, as he crosses both social and geographical divides. Jesus' engagement with those who were infected with leprosy would have (at least) made people feel uncomfortable because those with the condition were separated from the rest of society and believed to be unclean. Jesus instructs the ten men to show themselves to the priests, (as it was only a priest who could declare them clean and therefore free to rejoin society) and on the way there, they find they are healed. Only one man returned to thank Jesus; a Samaritan, an outsider. An outsider is the one who shows us how to respond to Jesus, however Jesus demonstrates mercy with no agenda.

Aim

To learn the importance of being thankful for the awesome things that God has done for us.

Song Suggestion

Lovely Noise - Shout Praises Kids
<https://youtu.be/iXydvhY-Kos>

All Age Talk

A word of warning: some very cheesy puns will be used during this session, so feel free to encourage the congregation to groan like they would if they heard a really bad Christmas Cracker joke! First play a game of 'What am I?' displaying the following descriptions (or make up your own) and the congregation have to guess what they are.

- 1) I like flowers, I fly, and I make honey. (A bee)
- 2) I'm hot, I'm often tall and quite milky. (A latte)
- 3) I'm hardy, I'm evergreen and aromatic and can be used in cooking. (Thyme)
- 4) I'm small, juicy and usually brightly coloured. (A berry)

Ask the congregation what connects these items together (they probably won't know the answer to this, but brilliant if someone works it out). They can all be used to make thank you puns!

"Thank you for bee-ing amazing" (*groan*)

"Thanks a latte" (*groan*)

"Thank you for your thyme" (*groan*)

"Thank you berry much" (*groan*)

There are lots of different ways to say thank you, and some of them can be incredibly cheesy. In today's Bible reading we see one person saying thank you to Jesus (although I don't expect he did it via a pun). After healing ten men with leprosy, one man returned, threw himself at Jesus' feet and said 'Thank you'. One man, out of ten! How often are we like the nine who were so consumed by the gift they had been given that they forgot to say thank you to the person that gave it to them? How often are we like the one who returned and remembered to show their gratitude? Let's not forget how important it is to give thanks.

Prayer

Father God, we are sorry for sometimes taking the gifts that you have given us for granted. We say thank you now for the many things you have blessed us with. Amen

Set the Scene

You will need: A tea bag. We're going to spend some time thinking about things we're thankful for. Sticking with the 'puns' theme as introduced in the All Age Talk, pass the tea bag around and as each child takes the tea bag they must say "Jesus, you are tea-rrific, thank you for..." followed by what they're thankful for. How good are we at remembering to say thank you?

Discussion

Find a child friendly version of today's passage in a children's bible and use story stones to help you visually tell the Bible story. You can find a great example of story stones (plus some pre-made images that will work with this particular bible passage) here: <http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2014/10/make-your-own-bible-story-stones.html>

For older children who are likely to be familiar with the story, encourage them to tell the story to you. You may need to assist by adding any details they miss or sensitively amending details that aren't quite right.

In ancient, biblical times, leprosy was a horrible disease for which there was no cure. It was uncontrollable, and someone with leprosy would have swollen lumps under their skin and scabs all over their body, so they would be easy to identify. In this story, it's not just the men's illness that Jesus takes away, but their exclusion from society. As someone with leprosy, they would have been isolated from their friends, family and their entire community. They would have been made to live with other people with leprosy because they were believed to be unclean. After healing the lepers, Jesus sends them to the priests so they will be officially made 'clean' and allowed to return to their families. This must have been a significant moment for the ten men, yet only one returns to thank Jesus. He was someone who was not local and someone who the Jewish people didn't have a lot of time for - a Samaritan. Jesus healed the men without expecting or requiring anything in return, but when the Samaritan does return to express his gratitude, Jesus commends his faith.

I wonder if we say thank you to Jesus for all he does in our lives, or are we too caught up in the joy of the moment to remember to say it?

Response

Spots Prepare a large piece of paper covered in detachable spots (coloured circles stuck on with blue tac). The children must take at least one spot off the paper and write/draw something they are thankful for on it. They can keep the spots and you should end up with a clean piece of paper, like the 'clean' healed men.

Under 5s For each spot they take, the children can say thank you for something.

Activity

Giant Thank You Flower Flowers are regularly given to people as a way of saying thank you. Make a giant flower together - see the example here <https://greenweddingshoes.com/diy-giant-paper-rose-flower/> On each petal the children can write or draw things that are thankful to God for.

Game

'Tank' You This is an adaptation of a traditional bucket toss game. You will need several buckets which will represent fish tanks, and three items to represent fish. These could be sock fish, or bean bags, etc. Place the 'tanks' one behind the other so they are increasing distances away from the children, and assign each 'tank' with a score (the one furthest away should have the highest points). The children should try to throw the three fish into the tanks, aiming to get the highest possible score. At the end of their turn, they should collect their fish and hand them to the next player who must shout 'TANK YOU' before they begin their turn!

Take Home

Doughnut Decorate a doughnut with icing and sprinkles, etc. Wrap the doughnuts up to take home and put a label on them that reads: "Jesus, we doughnut what we would do without you." Ask the children to give thanks for something when they eat their doughnut later.

13th October 2019

THANK YOU

Luke 17: 11-19

Ask your child what they did during church today.

Tell them what you learnt during church today.

How good are you at saying thank you? If someone gives you a gift, do you always remember to say thanks, or do you sometimes forget?

Do you remember to say thank you to God, or are there times you've taken Him for granted?

FAMILY PRAYER

At some point this week, buy or make some thank you cards so you have a stock of them at home. Make time to write one when you need to say thank you to someone. Say the following prayer together :

Heavenly Father, we're sorry for the times when we forget to say thank you for the blessings that we receive. We thank you now for all you have given us. Amen

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Overview

Today's reading is the parable of the persistent widow; another challenging story which prompts us to question the stereotypes of the two featured characters. The widow, who would usually be portrayed as poor and powerless is persistent in pursuing her cause with the judge, who instead of being fair and honourable, is unjust. The widow pleaded for justice, asking the judge to listen and see that she was in the right, and to intervene for her. Eventually there came a moment of exasperation when the judge realized he did not want to see this woman appear before him again, so he issued his ruling in favour of the widow. The parable shows that as the widow didn't lose heart and kept returning to the judge, we must keep going to God in prayer.

Aim

To praise a loving God and discover how to be persistent in prayer.

Song Suggestion

Nothing is Impossible - Planet Shakers
<https://youtu.be/5N3qfxVk2E>

All Age Talk

Watch a clip from the animated film, Cars 3 from roughly 49.44 where Lightning McQueen is in his trailer after Thunder Hollow, up to 52.53 when Cruz drives off. In this film we see Lightning McQueen suddenly unable to keep up with the new generation of racing cars that entering his competitive world. These cars are built to be quicker and smoother than him and have been trained using the most modern equipment. In response, Lightning has to change how he trains but in the process, comes into conflict with his new trainer Cruz, and her training methods. During an argument, we discover that Cruz didn't dream of being a trainer - she wanted to be a racing car herself but at the first hurdle gave up when she saw the other cars looking stronger and more confident than her. They end the argument with Cruz asking Lightning how he knew he would be able to win when he was a rookie racer; his answer: "I just never thought I couldn't"

This clip illustrates that Cruz gave up, but Lightning McQueen had so much trust and confidence, that in his world it just didn't occur to him that he wouldn't be successful. Do we have the same trust and confidence in God? In our Bible story today, there was a judge who felt burdened by his job and all the complaints and decisions that came with it, and a widow that had a problem that was bigger than she could handle. The widow made multiple trips to the judge to plead for help, but he wouldn't listen. Unlike Cruz who gave up after the first hurdle, the widow kept going until judge issued a ruling in her favor.

This story teaches us something about how we should approach our relationship with God. It isn't that God is unjust or uncaring, or gets weary of hearing our prayers, therefore we must be persistent like the widow, believing truth and justice will win in the end. God tells us to be persistent because through Him our prayers will be answered, so be patient and never lose heart!

Prayer

Father God, we know that you are a fair judge. Help us to be persistent in prayer and trust in your perfect timings. Amen

Set the Scene

You will need: A large roll of paper with lots of faint pencilled dots on it that spell out the word 'Persistent'. Provide the children with bingo markers or jumbo sticky dots and ask them to work together to cover each pencil dot and reveal the word. The reason the paper needs to be long is so this task takes a long time! Can the children persist so that they complete the task?

Discussion

After the children have completed the setting the scene activity, ask them to tell you the word that has been revealed on the roll of paper. Do they know what 'persistence' means? It means continuing firmly with a course of action in spite of difficulty or opposition. The only way that the activity could be completed successfully was by being persistent until all of the pencilled dots were covered!

In today's Bible passage, Jesus tells the story of a persistent widow and an unjust judge. This judge was not very nice and had no interest in doing the right thing for the people in his community. In the same town there was a widow who regularly came to the judge begging for him to listen to her and asking for justice to be granted. For some time the judge refused to hear her, but eventually, he grew tired of the woman's persistence and ruled in the widow's favour so he could get rid of her. Do you think God is like the unjust judge? No, because God is fair and is always willing to listen and respond to our prayers! What do you think we can learn from the widow? To be persistent, because through God all things are possible. When we ask for something, we want God to say "yes," and we want Him to act on it right away. This story tells us that we should always pray and not give up. When we keep asking for something over and over again it doesn't mean that God will give it to us, but He loves us and wants what is best for us so will answer, "yes" if He can.

Under 5s. Read the story book 'Zog' by Julia Donaldson. Zog is a dragon who never gives up because he is determined to get a golden star. After working hard for years he finally gets his golden star by capturing a princess. Zog can remind us to never give up with our prayers because God wants us to trust Him and keep on asking.

Take Home

Slap Bracelet Decorate a slap bracelet with the word 'P.U.S.H' which is an acronym for 'Pray Until Something Happens.' The children can take their bracelets home to wear as a reminder to keep praying and not give up knowing that God hears and answers our requests - just not always in the way that we are expecting Him to.

Response

Prayer Board Start a prayer board which will be used over the next few weeks to show the children that God does answer prayers. Find a large board (e.g. cork board) and divide it in half. On one side, pin up slips of paper with the children's prayer requests written on them and pray for those things. The other side of the board is where the answered prayers go. Over the next few weeks revisit the board, and any prayers that have been answered can be moved to the 'answered' side.

Activity

Persistent Prayer Collage What kind of things can we pray about? Make a group collage which reflects these things around the word 'Persistent' created earlier on the roll of paper. Provide the children with lots of different materials (felt tips, crayons, stickers, magazines, and other crafty bits) so they can decorate the paper with their ideas using whatever they like. Display your collage somewhere so it will encourage the children (and wider congregation) to be persistent in prayer.

Game

Card Tower Split the children into groups and provide each group with a pack of playing cards. Challenge them to build the tallest tower they can out of cards. The only way to be successful in this game is to have a very steady hand and be persistent.

Under 5s Play a tower building game, but use building bricks instead of playing cards.

20th October 2019

PERSISTENT

Luke 18: 1-8

Ask your child what they did during church today.

Tell them what you learnt during church today.

Talk about a time when you have had to be persistent. What happened? Did your persistence pay off?

Has there been a time when you've prayed persistently? Was your prayer answered? How?

FAMILY PRAYER

There are lots of things happening in the world today that need persistent prayer. Watch or read the news together and pick one or two stories to pray about as a family over the course of following week.

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Overview

In today's parable, Jesus tells a story about prayer. Jesus told many, many parables. Some were told to his disciples, some were told to the crowds that followed him wherever he went and others were told to Pharisees. The Parable of the Pharisee And the Tax Collector doesn't focus on what people say when they pray, but on what they think. Jesus wanted the Pharisees (and us) to understand that the things we say when we pray are not as important as the condition of our hearts. The Pharisees didn't really like hearing these parables. They wanted to continue believing that the way they did things was the right way. When Jesus spoke to the Pharisees, he wanted them to see that their sins and ways of thinking took them far away from God. He also wanted them to know that it was possible to repent of their sins and be part of God's kingdom.

Aim

To learn what it means to be genuine and humble ourselves before God.

Song Suggestion

All that I am - Rend Collective
https://youtu.be/lucg_fLH68o

All Age Talk

Play a game of 'Own brand vs Real Deal'. This is a taste test and you will need two or three volunteers who will be blindfolded whilst they taste various branded food and drink, **and** their non-branded counterparts (be mindful of allergies and food intolerances). There are lots of branded items that have a supermarket brand equivalent, but here are some suggestions:

- Heinz Tomato Ketchup
- Mars Bar
- Coca Cola
- Walkers Crisps
- Kelloggs Cornflakes

The idea of the game is that your volunteers must try to identify which is the branded food or drink item and which is the non-branded alternative, i.e. which is 'own brand' and which is the 'real deal'.

There are some people who will always buy a branded version of a product and will look down upon the non-branded alternative. Whether the volunteers were able to tell the difference or not, God can always identify when something is genuine - He can always tell what is the 'real deal'. In today's Bible passage, there was a Pharisee who was so caught up in his own righteous behavior that he had become proud and boastful. Jesus was not the least bit impressed with all of the boasting of the Pharisee. Most of the things he did, he did to impress other people. There was another man in the temple that day who, instead of bragging about how great he was, humbly asked God to forgive him for all of the times he failed to be the kind of person that God wanted him to be. God looks at our hearts and our intentions, and this parable teaches the importance of humility before God because that is when God will draw near to us. Beautifully worded prayers mean nothing if the heart behind them contains self-righteousness but no real faith or humility.

Prayer

Father God, help us not to be boastful, thinking of ourselves as better than others. Like the Tax Collector, we say sorry for the things we have done wrong and humbly ask for your forgiveness. Amen

Set the Scene

You will need: Lots of wooden building blocks. Ask the children to list the things they think make them a good person. Add a block to build a tower for every suggestion. Eventually the tower will get too tall and fall over. Ask if the children have heard the saying "Pride comes before a fall"? It means that if we are too confident and become arrogant about our abilities, it can lead to failure. See Proverbs 16:18.

Discussion

Use the building blocks to add a visual element to your Bible story.

Jesus calls for us to be genuine and humble in our faith. When we boast and brag, we're heading for a fall. In today's parable Jesus tells the story of two men who went to the temple to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. People didn't really like tax collectors much and they were seen as outsiders. The Pharisee was trying to follow the law and set a good example so he started to pray, listing all of the things he thought made him a good person. (*Build a tower adding a block for each thing he says*) "I'm not like the robbers, I'm not like the evildoers, I fast twice a week, I give money to charity" and so on, and so on and so on (*keep adding a brick for each 'and so on'*). The tax collector stood at a distance and simply said 'God, have mercy on me for I am a sinner!'

Which of the two men do you think was most pleasing to God? It was the tax collector that went home justified (made free from guilt) but the Pharisee did not (*knock the tower over*). This was because of his humble approach before God, by admitting that he had sinned and because of his faith in God demonstrated by him asking for forgiveness. The Bible often talks about avoiding pride so we shouldn't do things just to look good, we should act humbly and acknowledge our faults like the tax collector did.

Over 12s Discuss and share some of the things that you see on social media; are people displaying real versions of their lives or is it just for show. How can you tell what's genuine?

Response

Prayer Board Continue with your prayer board (see last weeks session). Ask the children if there are any prayers that can be moved over to the 'answered' side. Then ask them to add more prayers to the 'prayer' side and keep the unanswered prayers on from last week.

Pray together and don't forget to praise God for the prayers that have been answered.

Activity

Mask When we pretend to be something or someone we're not, it's like putting on a mask. Make a mask (for example, using a paper plate) and cover it in 'proud' words and pictures of things people like to show off about. You could draw or write these, or cut things out of the newspaper or magazines.

Under 5s Make an animal mask and then pretend to be that animal whilst wearing it. Talk about how we sometimes pretend to be something or someone else, but God wants us to make good choices and be ourselves with Him.

Take Home

HUMBLE Cube Decorate a blank wooden cube* with the letters HUMBLE (one letter on each face). Suggest that the children take the cube home as a reminder to pray humbly. You could perhaps ask older children to come up with an acronym to go with the word HUMBLE which will help them with their prayers.

*If you're unable to source wooden cubes, you could make cubes out of card by printing out a cube net.

Game

Jenga Play a game of Jenga. As each block is removed from the tower and placed on top, the structure becomes taller and less stable, eventually toppling over. Talk about how we should focus our energies on building up our relationship with God (a relationship that will remain strong), rather than using our time to build up ourselves and our own pride.

27th October 2019

GENUINE

Luke 18: 9-14

Ask your child what they did during church today.

Tell them what you learnt during church today.

What does it mean to be genuine? Where have you come across this word?

Out of the two characters in today's parable, only one of them genuinely came to God in prayer. Why do you think they are behaving like they do?

FAMILY PRAYER

Play a game where you have to take turns to tell a story about something that happened to you, but you must exaggerate the truth (for example, if you once won a prize in a raffle, your story could be that you won EVERY prize in the raffle). Afterwards, say the following prayer:

Dear Jesus, we're sorry for the times when we are boastful and haven't been genuine. Forgive us and teach us to be more humble. Amen

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Out of the two characters in today's parable, only one of them genuinely came to God in prayer. Why do you think they are behaving like they do?

FAMILY PRAYER

Play a game where you have to take turns to tell a story about something that happened to you, but you must exaggerate the truth (for example, if you once won a prize in a raffle, your story could be that you won EVERY prize in the raffle). Afterwards, say the following prayer:

Dear Jesus, we're sorry for the times when we are boastful and haven't been genuine. Forgive us and teach us to be more humble. Amen