

# 4 week Harvest series

## Theme: Thankful and Faithful

### Youth Sessions



These sessions are made to be used alongside the Children's Ripple Resources developed by Jill Hamilton, Diocesan Children's Worker.

#### **Week 1: The Sower**

If you want to re-read the story or lead young people through questions on the Parable it is found in Mark 4:1-20.

#### **Context for Young People**

Jesus is in the midst of his ministry yet there were still people who heard Jesus and did not believe. The disciples could have been discouraged by the response.

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. What does the sower do? Who is our sower? Do we have people in our lives who share the gospel with us?
2. Compare the good soil with the other three types of soil. What makes the good soil special?
3. It can be really difficult to be like the good soil, open to God's word, so in those times we can ask God for help. Does it mean that if we get distracted, doubt God, struggle during times of difficulty that you can't be a Christian?
4. What can we learn about grace from this story? This parable helps us understand the process that happens after we decide to follow God, as we don't suddenly become perfect. Grace can be described as God's Riches At Christ's Expense. Finish by thanking God for his grace.

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#### Week 2: Boaz & Ruth

Read Matthew 1v1-17 together and ask them after if they spotted the characters from the story shared with the children.

#### Post It Note Activity

Give each young person 2 post it notes, or something similar, and get them to write down words to describe Ruth and her character from the story.

#### Discussion Questions

1. What do you think about Ruth's character and how she interacts with other people in the story?
2. How are Ruth and Boaz displaying generosity to one another?
3. Why do you think Boaz and Ruth are mentioned in Matthew 1?
4. What does it tell us about God and the Bible?

#### Pray

Pray together and thank God that he is faithful. From being the faithful God in the Bible and seeing the whole masterpiece.

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#### Week 3: Jesus Heals the Lepers

You can re-read the passage in Luke 17:11-19

#### Prayer Activity

God is healer and there is so many stories in the Bible of him doing miraculous things. So let us spend some time asking God to work in our world and our lives. Ask the young people to think of a situation in the wider world or close to them that they want to pray for. Encourage them to pray silently before saying a closing prayer.

#### Discussion Question

The guidance about leprosy was given to keep people healthy as the disease could spread quickly but it also was seen as a punishment for being sinful or having acted against God. What do you think Jesus' actions tells us about how he sees our sin or how he feels towards us when we are caught up in messy & difficult situations?  
Encourage the young people to thank God for how he loves us.

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#### Week 4: Paul & Silas in Prison

If you want to re-read the story or lead young people through questions on the passage it is found in Acts 16:16-40.

#### Quiet Reflection:

Read through this together silently encouraging the young people to close their eyes or look down to focus on the words. Ask them to imagine what it would be like for Paul & Silas. At the end you might want to discuss how they would feel about their situation and about God.

In the midst of utter darkness. The sun has set for another day and the cold creeps in. The chains around your arms and legs feel a great weight even when you are sitting still. The smell is horrendous. Some of the other prisoners said you would get used to it but that doesn't seem likely. You can't leave. You might be sent to die any time. You long to see your friends. You long to stretch your legs and be completely in fresh air. You think back to talking about God with the people before they put you in prison. You start to consider what this means about what God promises and how to follow him.

#### Prayer Activity

Just like Paul & Silas there are Christians across the world who are being put in prison for sharing about who God is. Take some time to pray for others in the world in this situation or use the Resources from Open Doors to write other Christians to let them know you have been praying for them. More details on Open Doors here: <http://www.opendoorsuk.org/resources/letter/>