

Beatitudes – Meek (The Disciples share all their belongings)

Theme: God blesses you when you are humble and happy with what you have and who you are. You will receive what God has promised. (Matthew 5v5)

Games:

Do you know your partner?: Get the children into pairs and sit them back to back. The children need to ask questions about their partner, once they have asked each other questions they then work out what they already knew and what they have learnt about one another. (see questions in resources.)

Pass the ball: Get the children into two teams, standing in a line. They have to get a ball from one end of the line to the other, but only using their knees. If the ball drops then they start from the child who dropped the ball. The team to get their ball from one end to the other wins.

Haul away!: Get the children into two teams, standing in a line. The front child needs to go to the opposite side of the room sit down and face their team. The child sitting down will have a cardboard box in front of them with a long piece of string attached to both sides of the box, s/he will hold the string one end and the child at the front of the team will hold the other. The team will have to collect objects that they need to send to the child, but they can only do it one object at a time. The idea is to get all the objects from the team to the child by only using the box.

Introduction: Have a bag of sweets and say how much you love them, how yummy they are and that they are all yours. But then say to the children that you're thinking about sharing them. Ask them what the best thing would be for everyone. Today's story tells us about the disciples who share everything they have with one another.

Story: The story is 'The Disciples share their Belongings' from Acts 4 v 32-37. (see resources) You could get the children to act it out whilst you are reading it.

Memory verse: "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up." James 4 v 10. Write the verse on the back of the money bag, (see resources) cut it up and hide it around the room, get the children to collect the pieces and put it together.

Application: The Disciples gave everything that they had away and God blessed them and they were in no desperate need for anything. God did this because The Disciples were happy with what they had, they didn't say 'I want this... I want that', they were content and God blessed them because they were humble. We need to be happy with what we have and open to what God wants us to give to others; when we give we will receive.

Song: 'Hands, hands, fingers, thumbs' – Doug Horley from 'We Want to See Jesus Lifted High'

Prayer: Pass a bag of grapes around the circle, they take a grape, pray and then they eat it.

Resources: Funsheet; story; money bag picture; 'Do you know your partner?' questions

The Disciples share all their belongings

Peter and John were set free from The Council who held them in prison. They went to their fellow disciples and told them that they had been set free, because it was impossible to punish people who were praising God for what had happened. They then prayed together.

When they finished praying, the place where they were started shaking, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to proclaim God's message with great confidence.

The group of Disciples was united as one in heart and mind! They didn't claim ownership of their own possessions. No one said, "That's mine; you can't have it." They shared everything with each other. The apostles who were with the Disciples gave powerful witness to what the Disciples were saying about the resurrection of Christ Jesus, and grace was on all of them.

No one was now in need of anything. Those who owned fields or houses sold them and brought the money they made from the sale to the apostles and made an offering. The apostles then gave out the offerings according to each person's need.

Joseph whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means 'one who encourages') sold a field he owned, brought the money and handed it over to the apostles.

Questions for Do you know your partner?

1. What colour eyes do you have?
2. What pets do you have?
3. Do you have any brothers and sisters?
4. What is your favourite football team?
5. What is your favourite TV programme?
6. What do you like best about school?
7. What is your favourite food?
8. If you could go anywhere in the world where would it be?
9. Who is your favourite singer/band?
10. What do you want to be when you are grown up?

