

Session 1

How do Christians try to be like Jesus?

What you might an 'ordinary day' look like for you?

The Bible tells Christians that God had given Jesus an important job to do. He wanted him to spread the Good News of God to the whole world. Jesus did this through stories and by his example.

Jesus knew he could not do this work alone, so he called ordinary people to come, follow him and be his disciples.

Read this Bible story of an ordinary day which suddenly became extraordinary.

It comes from the book of Matthew in the New Testament.

Matthew 4: 18-19, The Message

Walking along the beach of Lake Galilee, Jesus saw two brothers: Simon (later called Peter) and Andrew. They were fishing, throwing their nets into the lake. It was their regular work. Jesus said to them, "Come with me. I'll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I'll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass." They didn't ask questions, but simply dropped their nets and followed.

Being a fisher of people is a practical action Jesus wanted his disciples to help him do. It did not mean they were going to go around with nets actually catching people!

By following the example of Jesus, loving your neighbour, and sharing the teachings and love of God, the disciples then and Christians today brought people into God's family. These new followers of God want to follow God because of all they had seen and heard.

TASK:

What do you think a 'fisher of people' might actually do?

How might being a fisher of people help to create a world that Jesus wanted?

Session 2

What challenge does Jesus give people about how to treat others?



What does this phrase mean?

What does it mean to judge someone?

To judge – To form an opinion or conclusion about someone or something (positive or negative) without information or understanding.

Read this Bible passage from the book of Mark in the New Testament.

Mark 1:40-44, International Children's Bible

40 A man who had a harmful skin disease [leprosy] came to Jesus. The man fell to his knees and begged Jesus, "I know that you can heal me if you will."
41 Jesus felt sorry for the man. So, he touched him and said, "I want to heal you. Be healed!"
42 At once the disease left the man, and he was healed.
43 Jesus told the man to go at once. But Jesus warned him strongly,
44 "Don't tell anyone about what I did for you. But go and show yourself to the priest. And offer a gift to God because you have been healed. Offer the gift that Moses commanded. This will show the people that you are healed."

Leprosy is a disease of the skin and nerves. In advanced cases, the disease disfigures the body, or ruins its normal appearance.

In Bible times, those suffering from the disease used to be called lepers and were often separated from the rest of society, living away from their families, on the outskirts of the towns or villages to prevent other people from catching it. People believed it was highly infectious, so would not touch or go near people out of fear of becoming infected themselves. There were no cures for Leprosy then, so those suffering lived a miserable, painful life unable to work or spend time with their families. They were also not thought of being good enough to meet with God because of this disease. Those few who did get

better had to prove they were free of Leprosy by being checked by the Temple Priest. It is actually quite hard to catch leprosy from someone else. Today, there are very few cases of leprosy as it can be treated effectively with antibiotics.

Why was it so surprising that the leper came to Jesus?

Why did Jesus touch and heal the leper? Why was this surprising?

What might this account teach Christians about how God wants them to treat people?

If everyone didn't judge people for how they looked and 'loved their neighbour' how might the world be different?

TASK:

What challenge does Jesus give people about how to treat others?