

Ready, Steady, Go.....

As you go, preach this message: "The kingdom of heaven is near. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."

Matthew 10: 7 – 8



Equipment:

- Pens/pencils
- A4 paper
- Magazines/newspaper
- Pictures from the internet
- Photos

Instructions:

Part 1:

Design a poster all about you, using a range of collage materials

Questions for you to think about:

- What makes you unique?
- What hobbies and interests do you have?
- What music do you enjoy listening to?
- What are your favourite T.V programmes?
- What are your likes and dislikes?
- What are your hopes and dreams for the future?

Part 2:

What things can you put into action this week, that will show others the type of person you are and God's love in action?

- Make a list of actions. (See the template below.)

Reflection: Begin by reading this story or listening to an adult reading it.

Matthew 10: 1 - 23

Jesus gathered his twelve disciples and sent them out. He gave them these instructions: 'Don't go to Gentile or Samaritan towns. Instead go to the people of Israel, for they are like a flock of lost sheep. Tell people the good news about the kingdom of heaven. Cure the sick, raise the dead, heal those with skin diseases, send out demons. You have been given all this freely, for no payment. Now you must help others without being paid.'

Jesus reassured them, 'You won't need gold or silver; don't take a travelling bag or an extra shirt; don't take sandals or a walking stick. When you go into a town, find out who the good people are and stay with them until you are ready to leave. If you enter a home, bless it with your peace, but if it is not worthy, take the blessing back. If someone doesn't welcome you or they won't listen, leave at once, shaking the dust from your feet.'

'I am sending you out like sheep into a pack of wolves,' he said, 'so you need to be as wise as a snake and as innocent as a dove. Because of me people will hand you over to those in power and have you beaten. You will be dragged before kings and leaders. But if this happens, don't worry about what to say – you will be given the words at the time. It will be God's Spirit speaking.'

'Because of me there will be unrest in families,' Jesus said sadly. 'Brothers will turn against brothers. Fathers will turn against children. Children will turn against parents. Many will be hated because of me. But if you remain with me until the end you will be saved. If they persecute you in one town, run to the next. I promise that before you have been to all the towns of Israel, the Son of Man will come.'

Glossary:

Gentile: the name given to non-Jewish people. **Samaritan:** a person who lived in Samaria and worshipped God differently from Jewish people. Jewish people and Samaritans didn't get on with each other. **Demons:** spiritual forces that trouble people. **Son of Man:** a title from the Old Testament Book of Daniel, used by Jesus to describe himself.

Talk together as a family:

- What was Jesus sending the disciples out to do?
- Have you ever had to do something that was very hard or that tested you?

In this reading, Jesus is sending his disciples out to do his work. He has set them some very difficult tasks and has warned them that it will not always be easy. Jesus tells his disciples that sometimes people do not want to know about God and that they may be unkind to them because of him. Jesus instructs his disciples to always begin by blessing the house with his peace. He also tells them that if they are not welcome, to leave at once. Jesus reassures his disciples that they do not go alone, that he will be with them always. What they must do is remain with him always.

The way we act and treat others is really important. It isn't always easy to show kindness when we feel others have been unkind to us or to show love and compassion to those who have pushed us away.

We have all been called to share God's love with others and we will all do this in different ways.

Remember our kind actions, however small or big, can change the lives of those around us.

Time to be still and quiet:

Share with your family, if you would like to, your poster and the things on it that make you unique.

Now share, if you would like to, the actions you are going to aim to do this week that will have a positive impact on someone else and show them something of God's love.

I invite you to say this prayer: Dear God, help me this week to show, through my actions, the type of person I am and your love to those around me. Amen.



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My actions this week.....

It is through my kind actions; people will see the person I am and experience something of God's love.



