Sharing God's message of love: Leader's instructions

During his many missionaries journeys, St Paul met many people. He encouraged them to join together to read scripture and listen to the words of Jesus. He showed them how to share the Eucharist, invited them to pray together, and encouraged them – as followers of Jesus – to love, forgive and care for others. By doing these things the people became a church Community.

Sometimes St Paul would stay with the people for months. They grew to love him as a teacher and friend. When it was time for him to leave, St Paul promised to write letters to guide and encourage the people.

For this activity pupils will need:

- A photocopy of the ancient scroll (on next page)
- Pencils/pens
- Name of the school's parish and parish priest.

St Paul kept his promise and we still have many of these letters in the New Testament. They are often read out at mass or in prayer services, because even today, over 2,000 years later, they still encourage followers of Jesus to share God's love with the world. A simplified example of one of St Paul's letters can be found on the next page.

Tell the children that today we will follow St Paul's example by writing a letter to our own parish church community. This letter should encourage the parishioners and remind them of how Jesus asks us to live and how we can build the Church God wants.

Instructions

- Divide the children into small groups.

- Ask the children to plan the letter together. They should begin by listing what they consider to be the most important lessons Jesus taught his followers e.g. forgiveness, compassion.

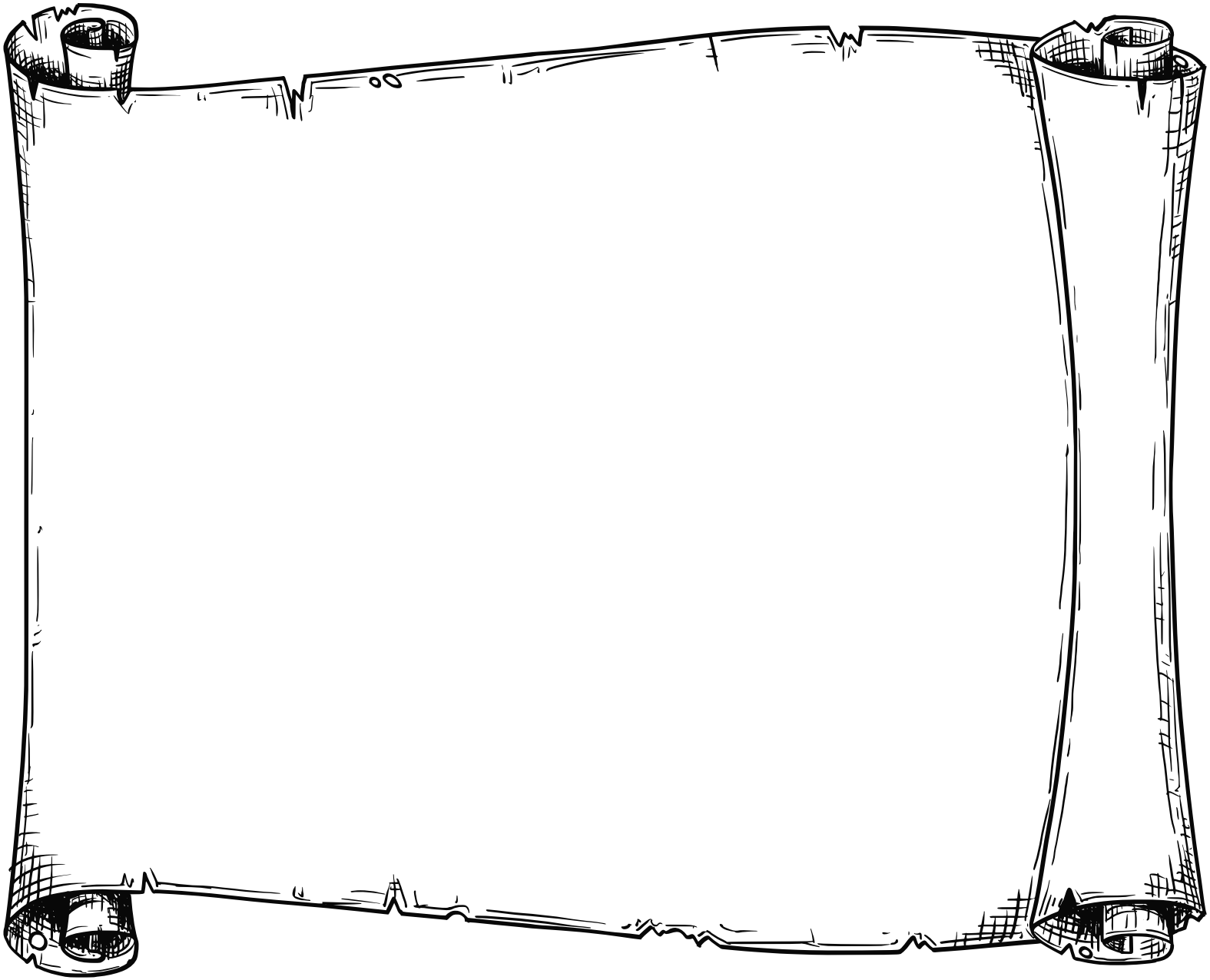
- After they have compiled a list (we suggest no more than six), ask the children to write a letter that includes these lessons. They could be inserted into a story or written as action points.

- The children must imagine that they are St Paul writing the letter to the school's church community. Some time travelling is involved here!

- You may like to have a post box in the classroom for the children to post their letters.

- We suggest, where possible, that the letters are collected by your school's parish priest and displayed in church.

Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio,
the Pope's charity for world mission.
Registered in England and Wales Charity No. 1056651
missiontogether.org.uk / missio.co.uk



Here is an example of one of Saint Paul's letters. This one was written for the early Christians in Rome.

Your love must be real. Hate what is evil. Hold on to what is good. Love each other like brothers and sisters. Give your brothers and sisters more honor than you want for yourselves. Do not be lazy but work hard. Serve the Lord with all your heart. Be joyful because you have hope. Be patient when trouble comes. Pray at all times. Share with God's people who need help. Bring strangers in need into your homes.

1 Romans 12:9-21

missio