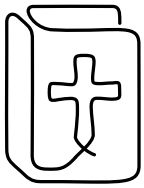
We help each other

Opening hymn: Quietly play Give me oil in my lamp to introduce the prayer time.

Sign of the cross: Where appropriate, children are supported to make the sign of the cross.

Introduction for children: Let's start by thinking about all the people who help us every day. There are people who make our food, people who make sure we have clothes to wear, people who teach us, and people who keep us safe and well. All those people make sure we have everything we need to be happy and healthy.

Bible reading: In the Bible, which is our special book about God, we hear that one day some people came to John the Baptist, to ask how the children of God should behave.



> John the Baptist said, 'If you have two shirts, share with the person who does not have one. If you have food, share that too.' Gospel of Luke 3:11

Bible reflection

In our Bible reading today, John the Baptist tells us that if you have two shirts and someone has none, don't keep both shirts to yourself, even if you want to. When we have more than we need, we should help people who don't have enough. It is better to give one away and so help the person who has no shirt and needs one. It is not often we need to give away our shirt, but sometimes we may have a toy that a friend doesn't have and would like to play with. When this happens it is better to share our toy by taking turns to play with it. If we have spare pocket money, we might decide to give some to charity to help people who don't have enough food, water, or a safe home to live in.

Let's say a prayer for all God's children around our wonderful world: Mission Together prayer (to the right)

Mission Together Prayer

May all children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love
Now and forever.
Amen.

Sign of the cross: Where appropriate, children are supported to make the sign of the cross.

Closing hymn: Sing *Give me oil in my lamp*. This time, children can join in with percussion instruments if appropriate for the group.

Follow up activity: *Share to care* activity

Share to care activity

Tips for catechists/parents

This follow-up activity requires children to decorate two shirts. For some children, activities such as colouring with pencils or painting can be difficult because they require fine motor skills. An effective alternative is to use glue with tissue paper or glitter. This approach breaks the task into several simple, achievable steps, helping children experience success, build confidence, and remain engaged in the activity.

It's important to recognise that a child's developmental delay may affect their physical abilities without impacting their understanding. As a result, they may have a clear idea of what they want to create or accomplish but find it challenging to do so because their fine motor skills are still developing.

This can be very frustrating and lead to avoidant behaviour, as well as affecting their confidence. Even if a child can only complete one step in the activity, this can give them a greater feeling of achievement than an activity they are too scared to begin because they feel they will fail or it won't turn out the way they want it to. Let the child know that if they make a mistake or forget something, it's okay. The important thing is to try and to have fun!

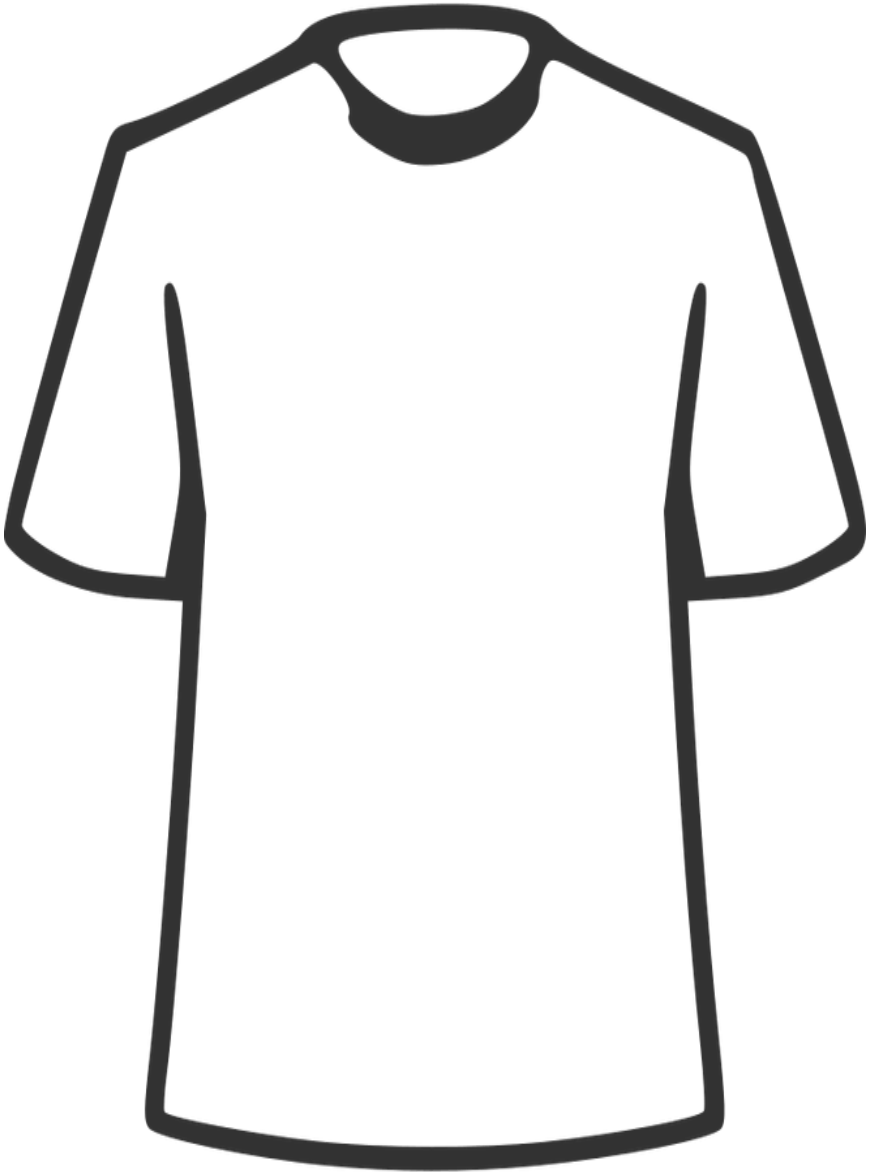
For this activity you will need:

- a printed copy of the shirts template
- PVA glue
- glitter
- coloured tissue paper, cut or torn into small pieces *(prepared beforehand if needed).*

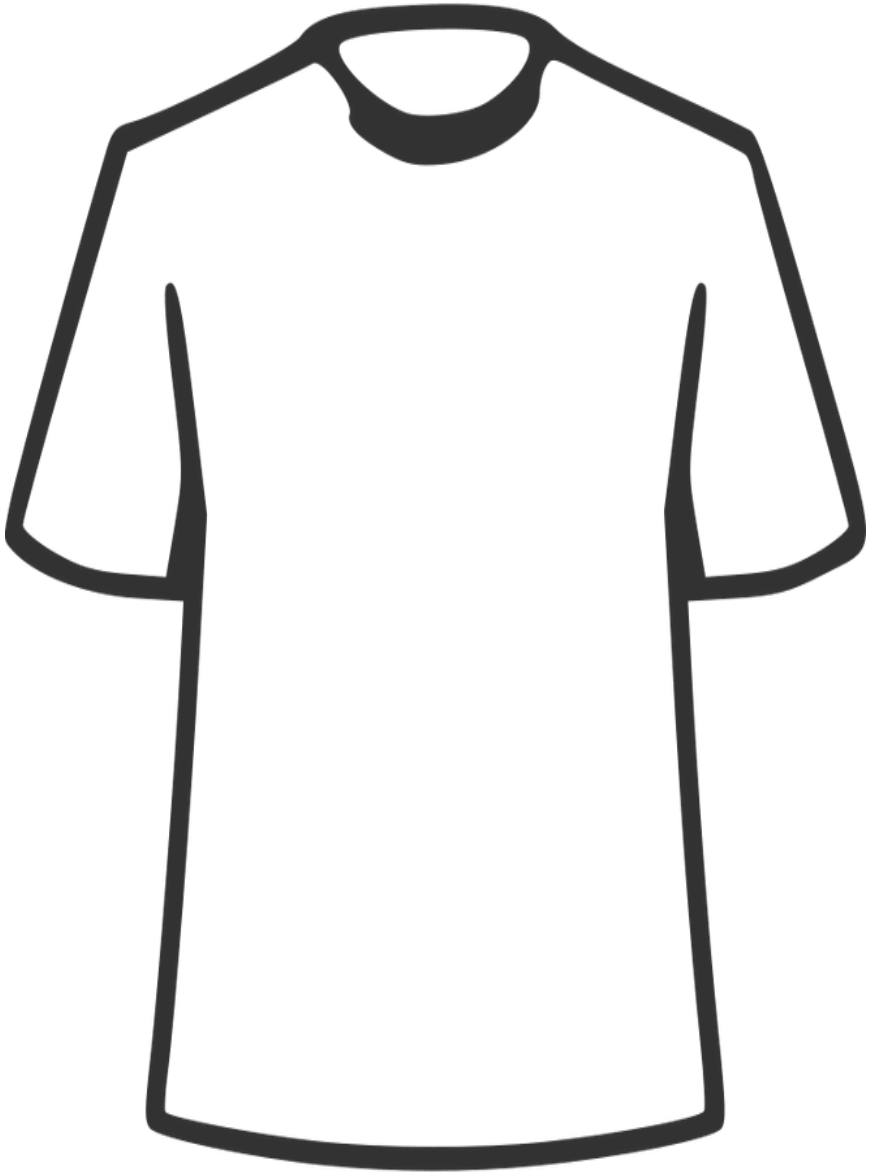
Share to care

Instructions

- Remind the child/group of the lesson St John the Baptist taught, that when we have more than we need, such as two shirts, we should help people who don't have enough.
- Provide each child with the shirts template and explain that they will decorate both shirts.
  Make sure the children understand that they will only keep one shirt and give the other one away.
- If needed, support the children as they spread glue onto the shirt shapes.
- Next support the children in decorating their shirts by adding glitter and/or tissue paper pieces.
- When the shirt template has dried, cut the page down the dotted line.
- Invite the children to give one shirt away to a class mate or staff member. The other they can take home to remind them of St John's lesson: to share with those who need our help.
- They may want to put their shirt picture next to their bed so that when they say their prayers, they remember to ask God to help them be children who share with others.



Share to care



Share to care