

Inclusive catechesis & prayer

Everybody's gifts are needed to build God's world.



Introduction for catechists: We are all beloved children of God. Inclusive catechesis is about making sure that everyone has the chance to get to know about God the Father, Jesus His son, and the Holy Spirit. You can adapt this resource to meet the needs of your child / group, so that each one can build an engaging and joyful relationship with God – who loves each of us, just as we are.

Opening hymn: Playing quietly to introduce the liturgy. Our suggestion is *This Little Light of Mine*. See missiontogether.org.uk/sing-with-mission-together

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

Introduction for children

Today we are going to talk about how lucky we are to be different from each other. We're going to think about the different gifts and talents that God has given each one of us, and how God wants us to use these gifts and talents to help each other and make His world a beautiful and happy place.

Bible reading

In the Bible, which is our special book about God, it says: 'Each of you received a spiritual gift. God has shown you his blessing by giving you different gifts. So be good servants of God and use your gifts to help each other.' 1 Peter 4:10-11

Bible reflection

I have always wanted to be good at X (e.g. painting, running). I have seen how good my friends are at X and it made me sad that I found it hard. Then I found out that God has given us all special talents and gifts. I am good at Y. God wants us all to be good at different things so that we can help one another and work together to build his world. Can you imagine if God made everyone good at X but he took away their other talents? That would mean we had no one who had the talent of growing food for us to eat, or making up stories for us to read together! God is very wise and made sure that we are all good at different things so we can use our gifts and talents to work together and make the world a happy place for all God's children. Let's say a prayer together now for all the children in God's beautiful world:

Mission Together prayer: to the right.

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

Closing hymn: *This Little Light of Mine*. This time children can join in with percussion instruments and sing along if appropriate for the group.

Follow up activities: *Our gifts make God's world beautiful*. Found on page 2.

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.**

Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission.

23 Eccleston Square London SW1V 1NU missiontogether.org.uk missio.org.uk

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Tips for catechists / parents

We all have special gifts and talents that God has given us. Within your group there may be children who make others laugh, or know lots about a special interest, or like taking care of animals or enjoy making art or music. This activity is to encourage these children to think about their special gift that God has given them and how they can use that gift to help each other.

- Start by asking the group if they can all think of one thing that they are good at. Some may find this difficult and may need support in thinking of things that they know a lot about or are good at. It's worth reminding everyone that a gift can be making others happy, being good at offering to help, knowing about things. Gifts and talents are all different.
- When each child has decided upon their gift, draw a shape that represents that on a sheet of paper; a smile shape for making others happy, a hand for helping others, an animal shape for a child who is good at taking care of their pet, or who knows about animals.
- Support the children to put their paper, image facing down, in the bottom of their tray or box
- Next support the children as they select the colours they want to use for the next step. Two or three colours work well for this activity.
- Put a splodge of each colour you are using on the paper sheet contained in the tray or box. Then place into the box the marbles or water beads.
- Encourage each child to tip the box in different directions so that the marbles or water beads slide through the paint and leave trails across the paper. They can tilt the box left and right and backwards and forwards however many times they like so that there are patterns all over their shape.
- Take the paper out of the box and put to one side to dry. The gift shape can be cut out when dry.
- You can create a display of the children's gifts to remind everyone that God blesses us with different gifts to be used to help others. The display is also a reminder that even when we have the same gift as someone else, it is given to us *uniquely*, for us to use *uniquely*. Just as each shape will have a different set of colours and designs, we are all unique and we can use our different gifts to help one another and build together God's beautiful world.

For this activity you will need:

- A high sided tuff tray or cornflake box with all sides sealed up but either front or back cut off – 1 per child
- Paper to line the bottom of each box
- Paper to cut shapes out for each child.
- Poster paints - various colours.
- Marbles - 2 per child. Or water Beads - 5 per child. Use whichever is safest for your child/group.

Fundraising ideas



Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio – the Catholic Church's official children's charity for overseas mission. Thanks to children in England and Wales, we can provide life-changing aid around the world in whatever form it's needed. That could be a new school, feeding programme, or a generator for a children's home. Mission Together helps all children, regardless of background or beliefs. That's how we show the all-embracing nature of the Catholic Church and the true meaning of 'mission'.

Fundraising is a brilliant way to involve everyone in raising money for Mission Together. Below are a few ideas for different times in the year. You can find other ways to get involved by visiting our webpage <https://missiontogether.org.uk/fundraising-ideas/> Please **share your** fundraising events with us @missioUK adding the hashtag #missiontogether

Ideas for Spring & Summer

Valentines biscuits: bake heart shaped cookies and sell them in pretty bags around Valentines Day. Try to involve children as much as possible, from adding ingredients and cutting cookies to shaking sprinkles.

Spring flower sale: everyone loves the first signs of spring after winter! Work with children to pot spring bulbs – snowdrops, mini daffodils, crocuses and hyacinths to sell as Easter gifts.

Easter bonnet competition: charge children to enter a competition for the best Easter bonnet. Prizes for the most fabulous creations!

Weeding Week: While the days are sunny and warm, why not raise money by weeding gardens? Ask for suggested donation, or sponsorship per bag of weeds. Maybe green fingered children could plant too!

Scavenger hunt: this is a great outdoor activity! Print off some sheets with summertime things to spot e.g. flowers in the garden, leaves on trees, birds singing. We have an accessible Scavenger Hunt available to download on our 'Inclusive Resources' webpage. Charge an entry fee. Every complete scavenger sheet is placed in a hat, with the pulled out winner receiving a prize.

Ideas for Autumn & Winter

Rake-a-Thon: With autumn leaves falling, who not fundraise for Mission Together by tidying gardens for a suggested donation. Make sure children have strong gloves and bags if they take up the Rake-a-Thon challenge.

Winter walks: brave the elements and hold a torch-lit hike or winter walk to raise money for Mission Together. Make sure you have plenty of adults to supervise and assist when organising outdoor events with children. Better still, get the whole family involved!

Christmas crafts: get children involved in making and selling Christmas cards, ornaments, wreaths, biscuits, and any other Christmassy gifts and treats you can think of. Donate the proceeds to Mission Together. Visit our Advent webpage for instructions for our Handy Advent Wreath and other craft ideas.

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