

Inclusive catechesis & prayer

God made us beautiful (CST Human Dignity)



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 *All Things Bright and Beautiful*. 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

Have you ever heard the word beautiful? Sometimes people think that something has to look beautiful but actually that's not quite true. We are all beautiful because we are all made in God's image. What does that mean?

Bible reading

In the Bible, which is our special book about God, it says 'He clothed them with strength like his own, and made them in his own image.' Ecclesiasticus 17:3

Bible reflection

In the Bible reading we heard how God 'clothed' people with strength. This doesn't mean that we put on strength like we'd put on a jacket. Clothed is another way of saying God gave us all his strength. But we don't all have superhero strength do we? God's biggest strength is His love. He loves every single one of us and because He loves us, we can love each other. The Bible reading then says that people are all made in God's image, but we don't all look the same do we? When God makes us in His own image, He gives us hearts that can love. Being kind and loving other people makes you beautiful just like God. That makes me very happy to be in a room with so many beautiful people. You are all beautiful because you are all full of God's love and kindness.

Mission Together prayer: to the right.

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

Closing hymn: *All Things Bright and Beautiful*. This time children can join in with percussion instruments and sing along if appropriate for the group.

Follow up activities: *I am 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 can all struggle to feel beautiful in a world that defines beauty as something purely aesthetic. This struggle can be even more pronounced for children or young people who do not feel that they fit in with societal definitions of beauty. This activity aims to show children that our beauty is the love we have in our hearts and that as we are created in God's image, we are beautiful: ALL of us.

Instructions

1. The reflective card will be stuck onto the plain card as if you are opening shutters. Prior to the activity you may wish to score one long edge of each piece of A5 reflective card (to provide a margin about 3cm wide) so that the shutters are easier to open when stuck down. The children can also use the score line to know where to put glue when they stick the card down.
2. Support the children to stick the heart onto the centre of the plain card.
3. Support the children to drizzle glue onto their heart and then sprinkle it with glitter.
4. Next, support the children to attach the reflective card onto the plain card by putting PVA along the scored area of the reflective card. You want the reflective side to face outwards and the 2 pieces to open like shutters to reveal the heart.
5. Once the card has dried you can encourage the children to look at their reflection in the shiny card and then open the card and see their beautiful shiny heart full of love too. You can remind everyone that they are beautiful as they are created in God's image of love.

For this activity you will need:

- 1 x sheet of reflective A4 card per child (cut into 2 A5 equal pieces)
- 1 x sheet of plain A4 card per child
- 1 x A5 paper / card heart shape per child
- PVA glue



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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