

Inclusive catechesis & prayer

We help each other (CST Common Good)



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 *Give me oil in my lamp*. 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

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 want to 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 St John the Baptist, to ask how children of God should behave. John said to them: 'If you have two shirts, share with the person who does not have one. If you have food, share that too.' Luke 3:11

Bible reflection

In the Bible reading we've just heard, St John the Baptist is telling us that when we have more than we need, we should help people who don't have enough. St John says, if you have two shirts and someone has none, don't keep both shirts to yourself, even if you want to. 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 or water. Let's say a prayer together for all of the children all around God's wonderful 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: *Give me oil in my lamp*. This time children can join in with percussion instruments and sing along if appropriate for the group.

Follow up activities: *Sharing to care*. 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

This follow up activity requires children to colour in two shirt shapes. For some children, colouring in can be particularly challenging as it requires fine motor skills that may not be developed. Thus typical colouring with pencils and paints can be off-putting. Using glue and tissue paper or glitter is a great alternative and provides a number of achievable steps that can help to build confidence.

It's good to remember that children with developmental delay don't necessarily have cognitive delay, so they know exactly what they want to achieve but don't necessarily have the fine motor skills to achieve it. This can be very frustrating for them and lead to avoidant behaviour, as well as affecting 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.

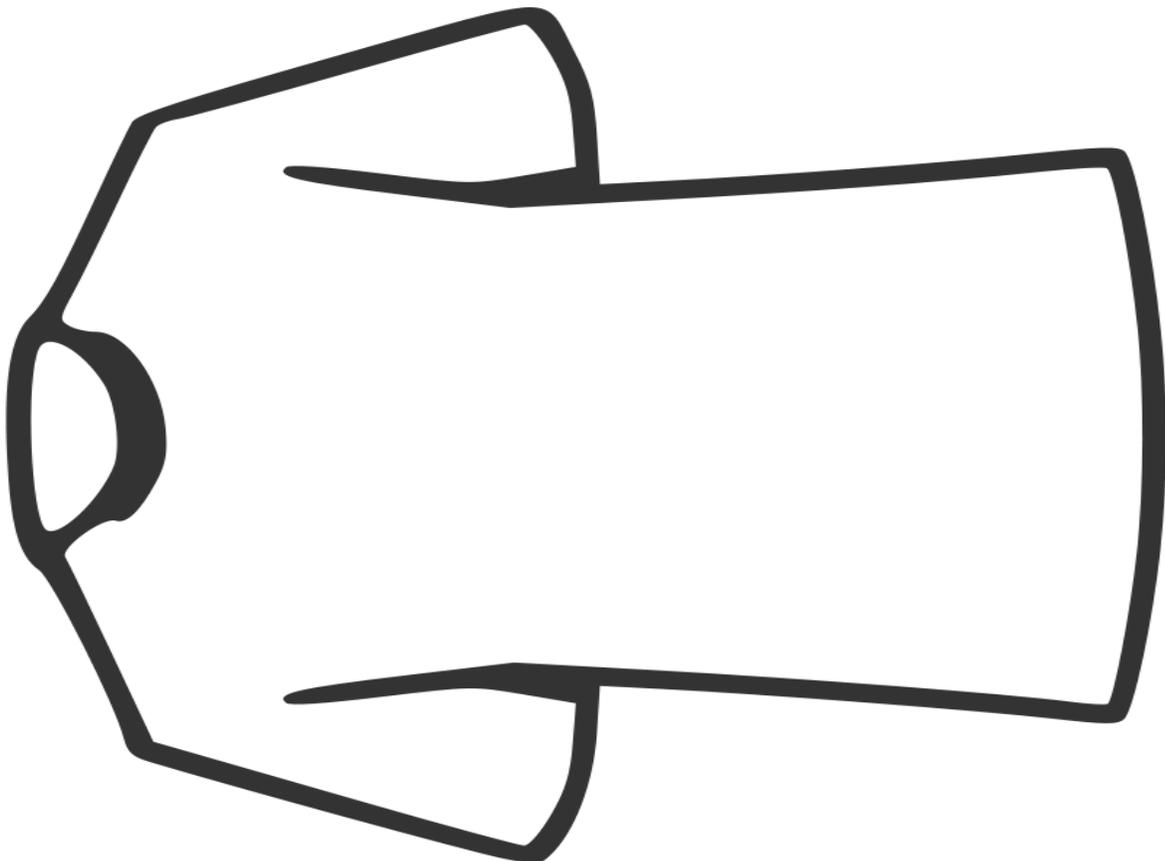
Instructions

- Remind the child/group of the lesson St John the Baptist taught, that when we have more than we need, we should help people who don't have enough. Remind the children that John used the example of having two shirts. Today the children are going to decorate two shirts of their own. One shirt they will give away.
- Provide each child with the shirt templates. Support them as they add glue to the shirt shapes. If a child can't spread the glue, you can guide their hand or they can guide yours. 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!
- Next support the child in decorating their shirts by adding their 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 friend or loved one. 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.

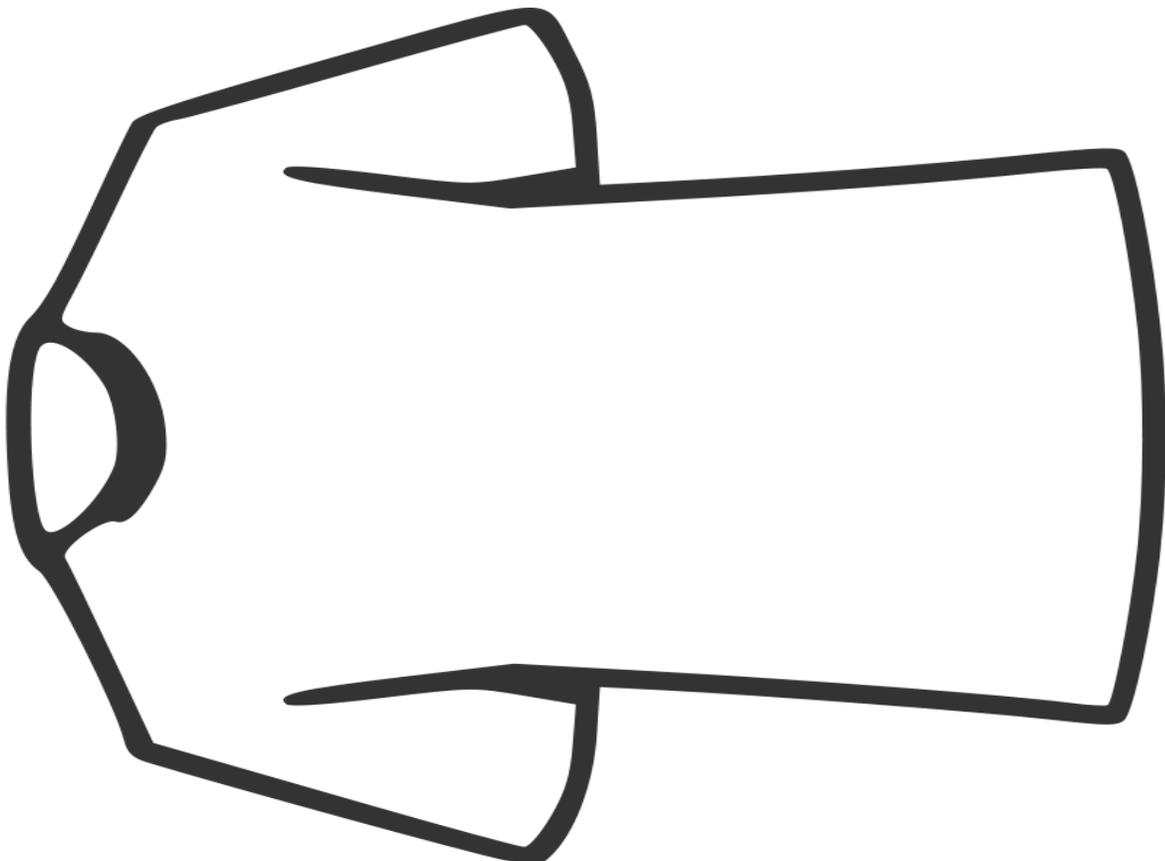
For this activity you will need:

- A copy of the shirt templates (appendix 1).
- PVA glue
- Glitter
- Coloured tissue paper cut or torn into small pieces. *You may need to prepare this depending on your child's fine motor skills.*





Share to care



Share to care

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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