

Inclusive catechesis & prayer

God Knows and Loves Each One of Us



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

We are all different and like different things, but people who love us and care about us know what we like. God is so big and clever, and he can love so much, that he knows and loves each one of us.

Bible reading

In the Bible, which is our special book about God, it says: ‘Even the hairs of your head are all numbered.’ (Luke 12:7).

And ‘I have called you by name, you are mine.’ (Isaiah 43: 1).

Bible reflection

The Bible is telling us that God knows every single person’s name in the whole world, whether they are little or big or young or old. He even knows how many hairs are on your head. I don’t even know how many hairs are on my head! God loves us so much that he wants to know everything about us and he loves us for who we are. God will never stop loving us and every one of us is part of God’s family.

Let’s say a prayer together about being loved by God:

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: *Portrait in a Tray*. 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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Activity: Portrait in a Tray



Tips for catechists / parents

Sometimes it can be frustrating to know what something or someone looks like but not be able to draw or paint what you can see. This can be particularly difficult when children have problems with fine motor skills, and may not feel confident at drawing. This activity allows children to create a portrait, but if it goes wrong, they can simply ask you to shake the tray and start again. This encourages children who are anxious to take part as they know that mistakes won't matter.

For this activity you will need:

- A tuff tray, large plant saucer, or large shallow container
 - Flour, glitter, or fine sand
- Sprinkle a layer of flour, glitter or fine sand in a tuff tray so that the surface of the tray is not visible.
 - Invite the children to use their finger to draw a picture of themselves in the flour. Ask them to use their finger to give their picture hair that looks like theirs, reminding them of the line we heard from the Bible, that God knows every hair on our head.
 - If the child wants to draw other people you can simply shake the tuff tray to even out the layer of sand/flour/glitter and they can start again.
 - You may want to take pictures of all of the different drawings. Then you can print them out and make a display to show how the pictures are different – just like we are.



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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