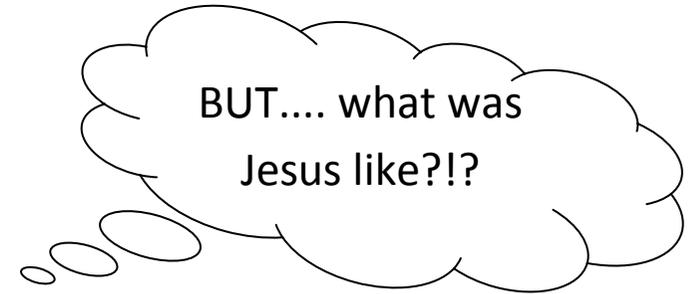




5 Marks of Growing – Children and Young People



Session 1 – Growing in Christ-likeness



Introduction: (J, I, S)

Sometimes we inherit characteristics from our parents – they might be physical things like the colour of our eyes or hair – or they may be some aspect of our personality (eg: if we like reading or football).

ASK: I wonder what characteristics you have inherited from your parents? – invite everyone to share something that they think makes them like their parents.

Note: If some people do not live with, or know, their birth parents, they might still like to answer the question. Only some of our characteristics come from our genes and biology. Many aspects of who we are, are things we ‘pick up’ from the people who are important to us as we grow up.

If we are following Jesus, or if we would say Jesus is our friend, we will be becoming more like him. Our hair doesn’t change to be like his, or the colour of our eyes, but some parts of our personality might change as we spend time with Him and get to know Him better.

Some Bible readings:

2 Corinthians 3:18 *“And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him.”* (The Message)

Matthew 5: 1-11

Matthew 18: 21-35,

Romans 12: 2, 9-21

Philippians 2: 1-11

Galatians 5: 22-26

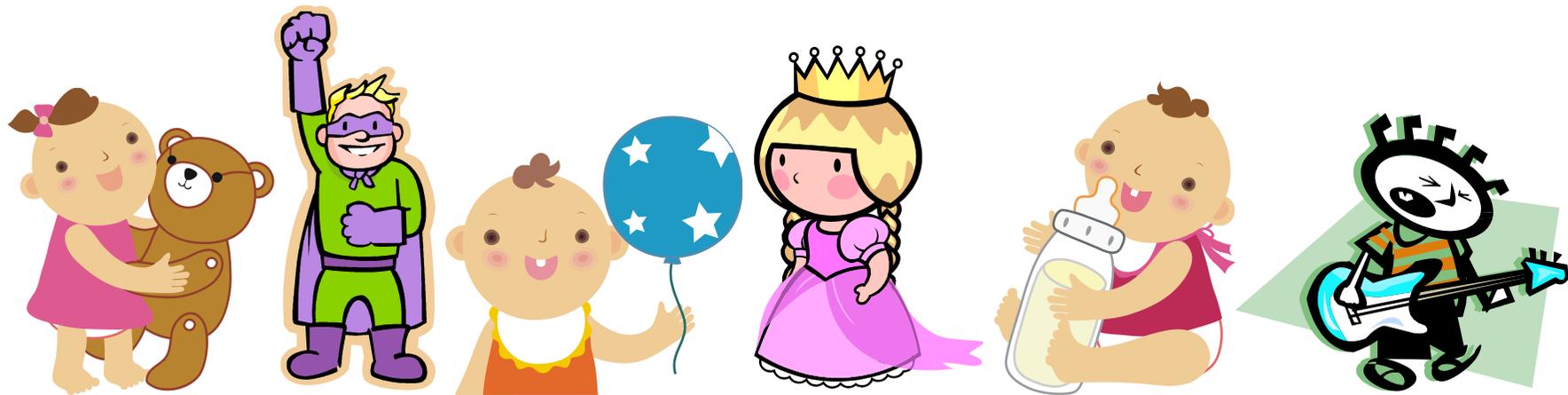


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Activity 1: Guess Who? (J, I, S)

Get hold of some photographs of famous people when they were children and as adults today. Search online “photos of famous people when they were children” and you will come across a number of web sites. Where possible, simply print them off. (NOTE: Be careful with copyright material). Jumble the photographs and ask YP to look at the photographs and match up the child / adult photographs. You can help them by telling them to look carefully at the facial features.



Alternative version: Ask all the leaders to bring in a photograph of themselves and one of their parents. Ask the group to match up family photographs of parents with their child. Ask what features they saw that helped them to recognise whose parent was whose?

Harder version: Get full face photographs of 10 famous people, or church members then guillotine faces into 3 or 4 parts; Forehead, eyes, nose, mouth and chin. Ask the YP to put the pieces together in different combinations until they recognise who it is. (Alternatively you could make your own pictures beforehand from the jumbled up pieces, and then ask the group if they can identify the different people from the mixed up pieces).

We can recognise people from their facial features, especially people we know well or famous people. But the way we look is only a very small part of who we are. There are all sorts of other things about us that make up our character or personality – the things we like, or don't like; the things we are good at; how we treat other people...

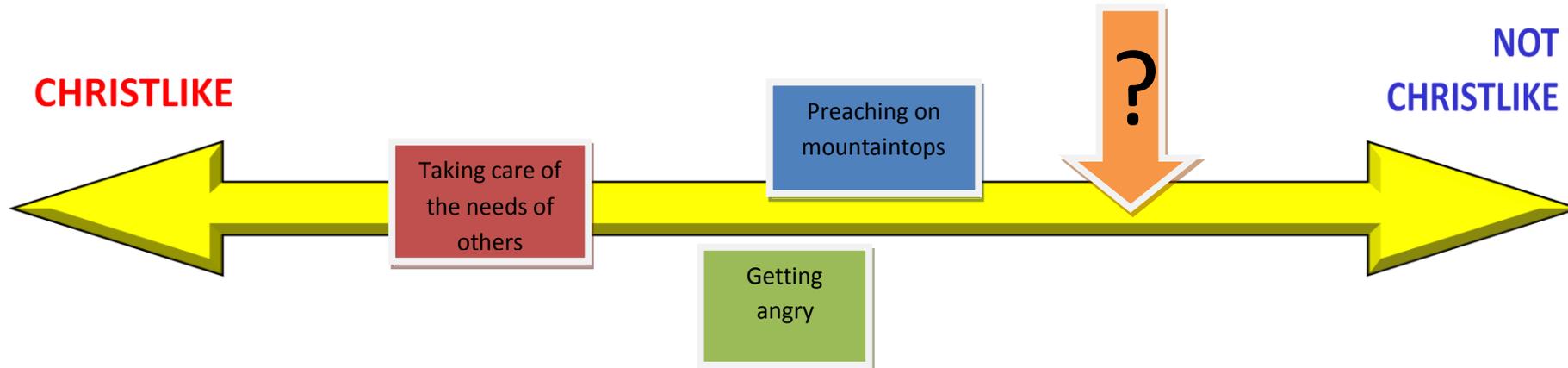


Activity 2: What was Jesus like? – creating a concept line (I, S)

Creating a concept line is a fun way of starting a discussion about what something is. It can help people understand ‘the concept’ better. In this case, we are trying to understand what it means to be Christ-like.

WHAT TO DO

- The next page contains 12 ideas of what being Christ-like may, or may not, look like. Print the page out and cut it up into separate pieces. You may wish to add some extra ideas of your own, or print more than one set if you have a large group.
- Cut the next sheet (Christ-like, Not Christ-like) in half and place one piece at either end of the room – on the floor or wall.
- Split the group up into pairs or threes and give them AT LEAST half of the set of cards (which is why you may need more than one set if you have a larger group).
- Explain to them that the words ‘Christ-like’ and ‘Not Christ-like’ represent two ends of a line. THEY have to decide WHERE they feel each card should go on that line and then place it on the floor or wall. Some cards may seem totally like Christ and they can place them at one end. Others may be less clear (e.g. he was sometimes angry but at other times said turn the other cheek) so they might put those cards in the middle, further up or down the line, depending on how much like or unlike Christ they feel they are.
- This activity will take a little while as people discuss and think about where they want to put their cards. There will be no ‘right/wrong’ answers to correct.
- After everyone has had time to place their cards (and you have had a chance to listen in on some of the discussion in pairs/threes) the whole group can stand back and look at the result. They may find for example, that two groups have had the same card but put it in different places. Ask each group to explain why they put their cards where they did. Then ask them what they think about where other people have put their cards.
- Finally you can decide together which features stand out as being Christ-like – you could choose a ‘top ten/five/three? You might want to change the wording to what is on the cards, or add something you think is missing. What happens in your discussion might produce much better results.





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getting angry	spending time regularly with God - prayer	taking care of the needs of others
meeting together with others who love God	challenging the ways that others think or act	not getting angry
setting an example, leading others	getting involved in what is happening in the world	thinking carefully about how to use money
preaching on mountaintops	spending time with people who <u>don't</u> seem very important	spending time with people who <u>do</u> seem very important



CHRISTLIKE

NOT

CHRISTLIKE



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Activity 3: What was Jesus like? (J, I, S)

Draw the outline of a person on a large piece of paper. DO NOT worry about how 'good' an artist you are – just ask someone to do it for you if you don't want to. If you have a large enough piece of paper you could draw around someone in your group for this.

ASK: I wonder what words or phrases you would use to describe what Jesus is like?

The group can draw or write all the answers they come up with on the outline of the person. If it is a large group, they could split up into smaller groups to do the activity and then come back together to compare their ideas afterwards.

If the group is stuck for ideas (this is quite a difficult question without any preparation), give out some of the Bible passages from the beginning of the session and help them read through them. Add any more you can think of and don't forget some of the less expected sides of Jesus' character eg: he broke the religious rules and conventions; he trusted people who weren't 'trained'; he mixed with people who were 'unworthy'; he was emotional.

ASK: Can you think of any real-life situations you face today? I wonder how Jesus would react to them? Can you imagine 'what would Jesus do'?

Activity 4: Video discussion (I, S)

Watch this video of someone describing a person they think was Christ-like http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jWqZFpPvP_o

ASK: I wonder what you think was Christ-like about the person described in the story

ASK: I wonder if you know anyone you would describe as 'Christ-like'?

ASK: I wonder what it is that makes someone 'like Christ'?

Final reflection: (J, I, S)

ASK: I wonder how you might like to be like Jesus? Which of these characteristics would you like to grow in?

Allow people to give answers to you if they want to, or just let them think about it for themselves.

Allow some time for people to pray (silently or out loud) for themselves or for each other. They could lay hands on each other to do this, or you can provide another way of praying (eg: lighting some candles and placing them on the picture of Jesus' characteristics as they pray).