

Unit RB Who were the friends of Jesus?

ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit uses friendship as a theme to introduce children to the friends of Jesus. Through storytelling, children are introduced to Jesus' disciples and are encouraged to explore their own thoughts and feelings about friendships in and out of school.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit is an introduction to the adult life and teachings of Jesus, which is developed in key stage 1 in units 1B 'What does it mean to belong in Christianity?' and 2B 'Why did Jesus tell stories?'

PRIOR LEARNING

It is helpful if children have:

- had experience of listening to stories
- opportunities to talk about their own feelings and experiences

VOCABULARY

In this unit children will have an opportunity to use words and phrases related to:

- stories about Jesus, *eg disciples, Zacchaeus, friends, feelings*

RESOURCES

- children's Bibles
- books and pictures illustrating the parts of the New Testament used in this unit

EXPECTATIONS

At the end of this unit

most children will:

know that Jesus chose special friends – disciples – to help him; retell simply the stories of Jesus calling the disciples, Jesus and the children, and Zacchaeus the tax collector; know that Jesus offered friendship to all

some children will not have made so much progress and will:

know that Jesus had many friends and some special helpers; recall some of the features of the stories covered in the unit

some children will have progressed further and will:

retell the stories covered in this unit in detail; explain the significance of the stories

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	POSSIBLE TEACHING ACTIVITIES	LEARNING OUTCOMES	POINTS TO NOTE
CHILDREN SHOULD LEARN		CHILDREN	
WHAT DOES FRIENDSHIP MEAN?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> about the term 'friend' about the qualities that make someone a friend 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss with the children what makes a good friend. Use a children's book or story which illustrates friendship as a starting point. <i>Were the characters in the story good friends or not? Why?</i> Make a class list of good and bad qualities. Discuss how children can be a good friend to others and how they can make new friends. Ask the children to make a montage of friendly faces, a collage of friendly pictures or posters showing friendly actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> explain what being a friend means to them identify the personal qualities of characters in a story and relate this to their own experiences demonstrate their own ideas of friendship using pictures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For many children this will be their first encounter with this topic.
WHO WERE THE DISCIPLES?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> that Jesus chose special friends (disciples) to be his helpers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell the story of Jesus calling the fishermen to be his helpers and followers (disciples). Discuss how the disciples felt at various points in the story. <i>Why do you think Jesus chose these fishermen to be his disciples?</i> Introduce the children to the 12 disciples. <i>How many friends do you have? What are their names and how do they compare with the names of the disciples?</i> Ask the children to make a collage of their friends, or make a display using the names of the disciples and the names of their friends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> know that Jesus chose 12 disciples to be his special friends, helpers and followers talk about the feelings of the disciples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and safety: children must never go off with strangers. Disciples were adults. The story of Jesus calling the disciples is in the Bible: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew 4¹⁸⁻²² Mark 1¹⁶⁻²⁰ Luke 5¹⁻¹¹
WHY WAS JESUS A FRIEND TO CHILDREN?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> that Jesus was a friend to children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell the story of the children being brought to Jesus. <i>Why did the disciples try to stop this? Why did Jesus want the children brought to him? Why did Jesus say that everyone should be as a little child? Why were children special to Jesus?</i> Ask the children if there are other adults that they consider to be their friends. Discuss, then paint large figures to display on the wall, including one of Jesus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> talk about why they think Jesus liked children and was their friend 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and safety: adults befriending children. This could be extended in a PSE session to cover child protection issues such as false friends and keeping secrets. The story of Jesus and the children is in the Bible: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew 19¹³⁻¹⁵ Mark 10¹³⁻¹⁶ Luke 18¹⁵⁻¹⁷
WHO WAS ZACCHAEUS?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> about the story of Zacchaeus why Jesus chose to visit Zacchaeus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell the story of Zacchaeus the tax collector. <i>Why was Zacchaeus unpopular? Why didn't Zacchaeus have any friends? Do you think Zacchaeus was lonely? Why did Zacchaeus have to climb a tree? Why did Jesus choose Zacchaeus to be his friend?</i> Act out the story. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> retell the story of Zacchaeus through drama and role play give some reasons why Jesus chose Zacchaeus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and safety: children should know that climbing trees can be dangerous. The story of Zacchaeus is in the Bible: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luke 19
HOW DID ZACCHAEUS CHANGE?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> how the visit from Jesus changed Zacchaeus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retell the story of Zacchaeus with the children. Discuss how Zacchaeus felt at the beginning of the story, when Jesus chose him, and at the end of the story. <i>What happened to Zacchaeus because of this event? What can we learn from this story?</i> Children can illustrate or write about their favourite part of the story and make it into a class book. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> explain in simple terms how Jesus' friendship affected Zacchaeus select and illustrate parts of the story 	
WHO ARE OUR FRIENDS?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> that Jesus was a friend to many different people that many different people can be our friends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss what the children have found out about Jesus' friends, and how Jesus offered friendship to all. Talk about our many different friends: adults and peers, in school and out of school. <i>Does everybody need friends? Who can we offer friendship to and how can we value our friendships?</i> Ask the children to make a 'thank you for being my friend' card. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify what they have learnt about the different friends of Jesus explain in simple terms that true friendship is about behaviour and feelings, <i>eg being kind</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This unit could be extended by looking at Jesus' friendship with other people, <i>eg Martha and Mary</i>.

FUTURE LEARNING

Children could go on to:

- find out more about the life and teachings of Jesus and the people who followed him