A resource with a Scottish flavour for Worship Leaders, Sunday Schools, Junior Churches and Youth Leaders, based on the Narrative Lectionary.

spillbeans.org.uk

www.facebook.com/spillbeansresources

© 2016 Spill the Beans Resource Team
T THE BEGINNING OF 2009 a conversation began amongst a couple, then a few, then a group about collaboratively creating resources that enabled us to tell the story of faith in a worship context and within age groups for younger people and teens. Spill the Beans was born as the result of that conversation and has grown and developed over the intervening years.

The ethos has remained the same, however. It’s all about story. For we believe story is the lifeblood of faith. In story we can tell the truth and speak with honesty about things for which there are not yet words. Story contains mystery and is the poetry that forms faith. Stories grow as we grow and can reveal new truths at different times in our lives.

So we believe giving stories to people is one of the most important things we can do in sharing our faith. Children and adults hold stories in their being and keep coming back to them throughout life. Our culture is stored in story. The same is true for our faith.

Narrative Lectionary

Over the course of 2011-2014 the Spill the Beans Resource Team completed a full cycle through the Revised Common Lectionary. As we neared the end of that cycle we began discussion about what to do once we had completed that cycle. We considered the pros and cons of remaining with the RCL for another cycle or trying a different tack. We have decided, in a spirit of continual experimentation, to journey with the Narrative Lectionary which began a new four year cycle in September 2014. This is the sixth issue under the Narrative Lectionary. Note that a set of previous issues (1-12) which covered a cycle of the Revised Common Lectionary is available to purchase.

The Narrative Lectionary is a relatively new four year lectionary that focuses on story and retelling the broad sweeping of the biblical narrative in each year. We felt that this focus has a natural resonance with the ethos of Spill the Beans. It is a little experimental and has the feel of a new adventure.

Why have we decided to do this? To fully understand this you need to know that Spill the Beans is a work of love. None of the contributors are paid for their contributions, these contributions are written and prepared with our own congregations in mind. Instead of working in isolation, we bring this work together, give it some spit and polish, and share it with others. This is how we can keep the cost so low.

Many of the team were attracted to the freshness of the different approach taken by the NL and see it as a means of sparking new ideas and experiences for our congregations.

We pray you will also be enthused and enlivened by a new approach within worship and in your age groups, engaging with the great biblical narrative so that all people will let these stories shape their own story of faith.

spilling the beans

IN THIS 18TH ISSUE of Spill the Beans you will find an extensive collection of things to use each week. Each piece is written with specific congregations in mind rather than some average congregation. Thus there may be the need to be a little creative yourselves in adapting and evolving some of the ideas to suit your own place and culture and congregation. That is a good thing.

Of course, if you are creative and you’d like to share what you have done, then we have a place for that on our blog (http://spillbeans.org.uk) and Facebook page http://www.facebook.com/spillbeansresources. There you will find PowerPoint backgrounds for most weeks, a live discussion of the passages for that week and how we might be able to adapt and recreate what has been suggested.

These are a few ideas that possibly expand upon the story offering words, phrases, poetry and ideas that could be used in some way in worship. We encourage you not to use these exactly as they are but rather edit, expand and enmesh these ideas within the culture of your own faith community.

Each week we provide a selection of words, ideas and creative moments to take the theme and the passage a little further. We do not provide a ready made service or perfect prayers but ideas and pointers that hopefully scratch at your own creativity and provoke heaven’s imagination within you.

Here are some helpful tips to guide you in your use of the material in age groups:

1. It presumes some introduction to the story will have taken place in worship together or will play a part in the service when children join it later.

2. Depending on the make-up of your own groups of children you will need to remain flexible in how you use the material.

3. Each idea has been given a guide age range to help your planning, but this is only a guide so use your own judgement about what will work with your group.

4. Before the sit-down activities if you have a group of young children or lots of boys, you may want to add a run-around type game to expend some energy.

5. Use the gathering time exercise with the whole group to get into the story together across the ages.

6. We encourage you to retell the story together.

7. Follow that by choosing as many or as few activities your space and time allow. You could offer a number of activities each at different stations all at the same time for all ages to self-select with a teacher staffing each one, or have traditional classes.

8. During activities, ask children to retell the story to you and ask about their week, what was happy and what was sad and if this week’s story reminds them of other biblical and personal stories.

9. The intention is not to complete “the tasks” brilliantly, but rather to provide opportunities to begin conversations, build relationships, retell the story of the day, and talk about what it means for us today.

10. There are many websites that provide handout-type sheets that will have images, crosswords and wordsearches for the story of that week. They can be helpful in an emergency, but try to be more creative as leaders, the rewards are worth it.
Narrative Lectionary Resources

There is a growing number of other areas of discussion and creativity that relate to the Narrative Lectionary. We encourage you to look at some of the other online resources that are using the Narrative Lectionary (NL).

Luther Seminary, from whom the Narrative Lectionary is sourced, offer excellent weekly notes and an audio podcast available from their website http://www.workingpreacher.org.

A very active Facebook group with super contributions and thoughtful discussion about the weekly issues raised by the scriptural texts can be found at https://www.facebook.com/groups/NarrativeLectionary/.

RevGalBlogPals also provides some nuggets of wisdom on each week’s text. Find them here: http://revgalblogpals.org/category/narrative-lectionary/.

Pastor John Stevens from Oregon is a source of continual creativity for children’s talks using items picked up from the Dollar Store (Pound Store to us here in the UK) based both on the Revised Common Lectionary and the Narrative Lectionary. Find him here: http://dskidsermons.com/.

Key to Abbreviations

In the worship ideas section the following abbreviations may be used to indicate different sources of worship music:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATAS</td>
<td>All the Assembly Songs You’ll Ever Need</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CG</td>
<td>Common Ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH4</td>
<td>Church Hymnary, 4th Edition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH3</td>
<td>Church Hymnary, 3rd Edition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JP</td>
<td>Junior Praise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>Mission Praise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SGP</td>
<td>Songs of God’s People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WGRG</td>
<td>Wild Goose Resource Group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information and extra materials, join us on the Spill the Beans blog: http://spillbeans.org.uk or join the community at http://www.facebook.com/spillbeansresources.

The team producing this issue included:

- Keith Blackwood
- Bryan Kerr
- Stephen Brown
- Caryl Kyle
- Ruth Burgess
- Jo Love
- Scott Burton
- Nikki McDonald
- Liz Crumlish
- John Murning
- Stewart Cutler
- Scott Paget
- Linsey Schafer
- Shuna Dicks
- Lyn Peden
- Jonathan Fleming
- Barbara Ann Sweetin
- Roddy Hamilton
- Jay Thomas
- Karen Harbison
- Julie Woods
- Jean Inglis
- Peter Johnston
- Tina Kemp
through the season

Introduction

In this section you will find some ideas for scene-setting activities and a weekly visual focus as you move through the season.

These ideas are provided for you to use and adapt depending on the size, shape and layout of your worship space and the technology you have on offer to assist.

These ideas provide possible ways of linking all the weeks together which can be a helpful reminder to people of the thread of the story and the key aspects being focused on during worship.

Picking up on the last focal point of Issue 17 for Transfiguration Sunday, a question mark, we bring the questions back into worship by means of a large question mark, to which we will add a variety of questions over the upcoming weeks of Lent.

The question mark could be made of cardboard or, if you are feeling adventurous, you could make a 3D structure out of polystyrene or wood. The various symbols can either be stuck onto cardboard, stuck onto sticks to insert into the polystyrene or pre-drilled holes along a wood structure.

Lent 1 – Easter Day

Prepare your large question mark for this section. Noted below are directions for what to add each week.

Weekly Suggestions

14 Feb Lent 1
Story: Mark 10:17-31
Title: Who do you think you love?
Activity: Add a heart symbol to your question mark with ‘Who do you think you love?’ written inside or beside it.

21 Feb Lent 2
Story: Mark 10:32-52
Title: Who do you think you are?
Activity: Add a cut-out of a person with ‘Who do you think you are?’ written inside or beside it.

28 Feb Lent 3
Story: Mark 12:1-12 (or 12:13-17)
Title: What do you think you own?
Activity: Add a cut-out of a bunch of grapes with ‘What do you think you own?’ written inside or beside it in a winding manner to represent the vineyard.

6 Mar Lent 4
Story: Mark 12:28-44
Title: What’s it worth?
Activity: Add a cut-out of a pound sign or various currency symbols with ‘What’s it worth?’ written inside or beside it.

13 Mar Lent 5
Story: Mark 13:1-8,24-37
Title: What awaits?
Activity: Add a cut-out of a wristwatch with ‘What awaits?’ written inside or beside it.

20 Mar Palm Sunday
Story: Mark 11:1-11 and/or Mark 14:3-9
Title: What next?
Activity: Remove all of the symbols added over the last few weeks and replace with a single Palm branch or Palm Cross with ‘What next?’ written on or beside it.

27 Mar Easter Day
Story: Mark 16:1-8
Title: How do we go on?
Activity: Add an image of an empty tomb below the palm cross with a pathway leading away.
Easter 2 – Pentecost

After Easter, we will use the body as a way of showing the Spirit working through us. Draw around a willing volunteer and cut it out complete with fingers (we need them for the first week). This series has a job for your Junior Church/Sunday School to do in preparation for the next week, which allows the young ones to feel a part of the installation.

3 Apr Easter 2
Story: Acts 1:1-14
Title: Promised Spirit
Activity: Add a pinkie finger (little finger) wrapped around/link to the pinkie finger of your cut-out with ‘Promising Spirit’ written inside or beside it.
Next week: Ask the young ones to prepare a cut-out of a hand (complete with wrist).

10 Apr Easter 3
Story: Acts 3:1-10
Title: Healing Spirit
Activity: Place the cutout of a hand and wrist on the head of your cut-out with ‘Healing Spirit’ written along the wrist (or beside it if you prefer).
Next week: Ask the young ones to prepare a cut-out of another person holding something resembling an olive branch (see enclosed template).

17 Apr Easter 4
Story: Acts 17:1-9 and 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Title: Reconciling Spirit
Activity: Place the cut-out of our new person beside our existing one to portray the handing over of an olive branch. In the gap between the arms passing on the branch of peace, add the words ‘Reconciling Spirit’.
Next week: Ask the young ones to prepare lots of cut-outs of people with the arms and hands about 45 degrees from their body to allow them to be able to be linked together.

24 Apr Easter 5
Story: Acts 18:1-4 and 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Title: Uniting Spirit
Activity: Place the cut-outs of our new people on either side of the existing pair. Link their hands together to portray them all holding hands. Add the words ‘Uniting Spirit’.
Next week: When the service has started, ask the young ones to take the original cut-out away to draw and colour in a heart on its chest, cut the arms off and reposition them in such a way that they are placing the hands on top of their heart.

1 May Easter 6
Story: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Title: Loving Spirit
Activity: Replace the original cut-out (complete with last week’s alterations) in the centre of the people chain. Add the words ‘Loving Spirit’.
Next week: When the service has started, ask the young ones to take all of the cut-outs away. Choose one and draw all the parts of the face, some clothes and so on.

8 May Easter 7
Story: 1 Corinthians 15:1-26
Title: Living Spirit
Activity: Using the newly ‘dressed’ cut-out, add the words ‘Living Spirit’.
Next week: Ask the young ones to prepare long strips of tissue paper or crepe paper in red and yellow colours.

15 May Pentecost
Title: Gifting Spirit
Activity: Add the red and yellow strips around and over the cut out figures to represent the Holy Spirit, wrapping it around them.
On this day in which we remember St Valentine, it might be pertinent to ask, “What or whom do we really love?” If Lent is a time for examining self or for some spiritual spring cleaning, the passage this first Sunday in Lent may help us get to the heart of the matter. How deep is our love? Do we love God enough to relegate everything else? Is it our love of God that motivates us in all areas of life?

Lent is a time perhaps more for asking questions than seeking solutions, a time for re-examining all that we believe and all to which we cling. Questions like “Is it enough?” or “Is it too much?” seem pertinent.

The encounter of the rich man with Jesus is an emotionally charged story. It is possible the rich man thought he would be a useful addition to Jesus’ cause, a welcome asset. What a disappointment to discover that, though outwardly he looked like an ideal candidate, there was something lacking. What a challenge to find his worldly wealth was not as important as his spiritual health. Even his fine, upstanding habitual life, observing the commandments, did not go quite far enough. There was something more required, something less tangible but more pervasive, an attitude to be embraced. And, I imagine, it must have hurt Jesus to have to be the bearer of bad news.

In love, he told him that still there was one thing lacking; and not just a little thing. In love, Jesus refused to compromise. He told the man that he must sell all he had, give the money to the poor and then come and follow. As servants of God today, we often settle for less than that. We often offer less than that. We are frightened to scare people off. So we lure them in and hope for the best, hoping that, by the time they discover that the cost will be much greater than they had envisaged, they will be in a place to go the extra distance. Are we setting people up to be disappointed further down the line when they discover that the warmth and welcome they have encountered has masked the whole story? Perhaps our Lenten discipline might involve our examining how we present the stark reality of the gospel today?

And what about today’s immunity to the shock factor of the good news Jesus brought? The comfort we have come to read into hard words of challenge? How often have we spoken aloud the wish that we could change mindsets, change those cosy complacencies that have crept in and built up over years of affirmation? Jesus challenges mindsets in our gospel this morning. He calls them out and chews them up and spits them out. You think you have it all sussed? Well, think again. The kingdom of God is something that none of us can comprehend with our limited imagination and perception. It is all we can do to keep in mind that, just when we think we have got it, the goalposts move and we are faced with a new challenge, presented with a different scenario that blows apart our carefully thought out “what is the least I can do and still be Christian” practices.

A question for us this St. Valentine’s day at the beginning of Lent: Do we love enough to tell it like it is and be changed by the gospel we share?
the story

What If?

A dialogue between two wealthy women, named in the Gospels, who supported Jesus and his disciples out of their own means. Should directly follow the Bible reading. Could be followed by a time of conversation or quiet reflection, inviting people to consider why Jesus asked different things of different people with respect to their wealth. What sense of call or challenge do we hear concerning our own wealth? How does our wealth or lack of it play a part in our spirituality and witness?

Joanna: Susanna, there you are.

Susanna: Joanna! Hi...

Joanna: Well, that was a shock, wasn’t it? Are you thinking what I’m thinking?

Susanna: Why has he never asked the same of us?

Joanna: Exactly.

Susanna: What would you do if he did?

Joanna: I couldn’t just sell everything I have! For one thing, Chuza would never allow it. My own husband is just like that man—so caught up in his money he doesn’t know who he would be without it.

Susanna: Do I know who I would be without it? Maybe I still let it define me more than I think. Giving to the poor is one thing, but becoming poor... would I actually do that if he asked? If he said I could not be with him unless I stripped away the cushion of my comfortable prosperity?

Joanna: I know. It would scare me, if I’m honest, to be empty-handed, to be dependent. It scares me that I might feel less of a person if I had little to give, no resources to draw from.

Susanna: Do you ever think it’s because we have means that we can be with him at all?

Joanna: Yes. Yes, I do. And then, look what he said today, right in the face of that man’s sincerity and searching...

Susanna: The crazy thing is, I could have wept when he walked away. It was so much to ask, but I was willing him to follow through, to actually do it, to go home and put all his gold and robes and furnishings up for sale!

Joanna: Can you imagine! Can you imagine what people would have said?

Susanna: Some would have called him crazy, would have just thought him a fool. Some would have called Jesus the devil again, for bewitching a righteous man into losing his God-given blessings. Those who are poor—the ones whose lives he might have changed—they would have called him a hero and seen his sudden generosity as a great sign of the kingdom!

Joanna: And us? What would we have said? What would it do to us if a rich man actually gave everything away and came with us?

Susanna: And what is it he would have found? What is that one thing he lacked, that he would have gained?

Joanna: Is there something we still lack, something we have not yet found, because our wealth is still with us?

Susanna: But Jesus hasn’t asked the same of us.

Retelling For Young People

The Found Coin

Names have been changed but this is a true childhood story from one of the Spill the Beans Team. If you have a real life similar story of your own, do use it instead, or in addition.

Alison and Wendy were good friends who walked home from school together every day. They always passed by the sweet shop, just after the railway bridge. Usually Alison had some money from her mum to spend. Wendy never had money to spend. So when Alison had money to spend, she would go into the shop while Wendy waited outside. Alison chose what she wanted, and shared the chocolate or crisps or sweets with Wendy as they walked on through the town to get home. Wendy was glad to have such a generous friend, but sometimes she felt sad that she had no money of her own to choose her own favourite things from the sweet shop.

One day Alison had no money from mum. She was just thinking how nice it would have been to go and buy some chocolate, when something caught her eye and she looked down at the pavement. Somebody had dropped a pound coin! There it was, lying on the pavement.

“Look!” she cried, and then Wendy saw the coin too. Just as Alison stopped and bent down to pick it up, she had an idea. “Why didn’t I think of this before?” she thought excitedly, “Why didn’t I think of this ages ago?”

She had the coin in her hand now, and with her other hand she reached out and took Wendy’s hand, pressing the coin into her friend’s palm. “You have it! Go and choose what you want!” said Alison, and watched as Wendy’s face broke into a huge excited smile.

“How, thanks, Ali!” she cried, and rushed into the shop where for the first time she could choose her own favourite things.

Alison waited outside, feeling so very happy. It was a funny kind of happiness. She knew it was a very different feeling from the happiness she would have felt if she’d spent the pound coin found on the pavement herself. There was something that felt so good about giving it away to Wendy! Alison decided there and then to try and find more ways to give things to other people: not only would it make them happy, it would make Alison happy too!
worship ideas

Through the Season

Please visit pages 4 and 5 where you will find ideas that can be used to help create a linking theme using a large question mark. This week add a heart symbol to your question mark with 'Who do you think you love?' written inside or beside it.

Gathering Activity

For each Sunday in Lent, prepare a slip of paper for each worshipper with the focus question for the week, in this case “Who do you think you love?” to help worshippers reflect and make choices about their attitudes to life and the kingdom. Do not feel limited by these suggested questions. Adapt or re-write them to bring out your focal point.

If you want to develop this idea a bit further there is an 'Ups and Downs of Lent' Journey Sheet in the resources on page 134.

1st Sunday: Ups and Downs

Which of these attitudes is the snake that makes the kingdom slip away and which is the ladder to the kingdom come?
A. Everything I have came from hard work and determination to bless me and my family.
B. All I have is a gift of grace and a resource for creating a better world.

Call to Worship

Today, the journey begins with our hand in God’s and our hopes in the future as we head for Jerusalem.

Come, now is the time to worship, to face the challenge of discipleship, to open our hearts to the call of God and let the love we know become a reality we live.

Opening Responses

Leader: What is this time in our lives?
All: It is the time to turn to God.
Leader: What does God ask of us?
All: God asks that we follow.
Leader: Where is God taking us?
All: To new places we have yet to discover.
Leader: Following Jesus to Jerusalem, let us begin our journey of Lent and let us sing to God’s praise.

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

God of Love,
we worship you today because you are worthy of all our praise.
You are the giver of all good things,
embracing us as part of your outstanding created order and including us in your family of love,
despite our faults and failings.

Day after day, you call us to be your disciples,
revealing to us along the way the reality of what following means:
giving as well as receiving,
serving as well as being served,
loving others as well as you loving us.

So assist us in offering our heart-felt worth-ship today,
by giving of ourselves in ways that show sacrificial love for you,
for our neighbour,
for your church,
for your world.

What must we do to receive eternal life, Lord?
Sell all that we have and give it to the poor?
Really, God?
Seriously, Lord?
You are kidding, right?

We love so many of the hymns we sing.
We are grateful for this opportunity to say our prayers.
We relish the reading of your word.
Help us, then, in the aspects of honouring you that we find more difficult:
Assist us in the actions that we must take to enter into the life of your Kingdom for the heart of the matter is often a matter of the heart.

We confess that we find aspects of following you difficult at times and we admit it is easier to receive than to give.
Help us in making choices that please you, honour you, resource the building of your Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

So, challenge us and change us in our time of worship.
In Christ’s name,
Amen.
Prayer of Dedication

One way we follow you, Lord, is by giving what we have. So, accept these gifts, we pray, as tokens of our human love in response to the immensity of your divine love.

You offer us your blessings; we bless you with our offerings. You meet our every need; we respond in word and deed. You accept us in our living; we respect you in our giving. Take these gifts, then, as our sacrifice of praise. Amen.

All-Age Prayer

Leader: You have given us much, Lord.
All: We accept your gifts with gratitude.

Leader: You call us to freely give.
All: We give what we can with gratitude.

Leader: You make us in your image, Lord.
All: We respond with a sense of gratitude.

Leader: Shape us, mould us, model us on your example we pray.
All: As we live in a sense of gratitude. Amen.

Reflective Prayer

I love you, Lord. But I love my bank account too and my money: mine, mine, mine. And I love food, for me, that I don’t want to share with others. And I love sleep more than work, rest more than labour, peace more than dealing with injustice, my habits more than the effort to change.

Oh, and I love the church, but... some of the people... Oh my, God. How hard this verb can be: to love. And what about the acceptance of being loved too. I fall so short. I mess up so magnificently. I sin (that’s the church word, isn’t it?). I sin too well, too often, too naturally. And yet, you... love... me. How bonkers is that?

Love Divine loves little old me. Love Eternal loves the child that I am. Love Everlasting includes me rather than excludes me from grace and hope and mercy and peace.

I love you, Lord!
**Reflection**

**What Price Love?**

You mean everything?
All I have?
I can’t, I won’t...

I have been a good man,
I have obeyed all the commandments,
all my life I lived these out.
Is that not enough?

Everything you say?
And give it to the poor?
This will get me eternal life?
And riches in heaven,
what good are they to me there?

I can’t do it,
o I just can’t.
Eternal life will have to pass me by.

It didn’t need to be that way,
this young man could have followed Jesus.
He could have followed and had it all.

Except the ‘all’ is not what he thought it was.
He thought having was all that mattered.
And yet love is all about giving.

Love is not about self but about the other.
Love turns the usual order of things upside down.

Love comes from the inside out.
Love....

**Take Home Ideas**

Why is money so important to us? Is it a sense security? Don Marquis said, “There is nothing so habit-forming as money.” Researchers claim that the major concern of most college and university students is getting the right education to land the right job in order to make the right amount of money. Money is perceived as power and security—the more you have of it, the more you have of them.

A story of tandem bikers is telling. Riding their two-seater along a road, they encountered a steep hill. Panting and groaning, they finally achieved the summit. “What a climb!” said one when they stopped for a rest break. “Yeah!” said the other. “And if I hadn’t kept the brake on, we would have slid right down again!”

That is often a picture of us, racing through life. We puff up the hill expanding our earnings and savings while gripping the brake ever more tightly, scared of what might happen if we ever let go.

- During this week stop and think of what you own, your possessions. What value do you really place on them?
- Think about your eating and drinking habits. Do you only buy the best of the best, the brand labels or do you have a mixture?

Pray for those people who have no security, no money, no home and those who rob, cheat and steal to find that security.

**Sending**

May we go from here
leaving a trail of love
in our wake
that others may find it
and treasure it
as the way to God’s heart
and the path to a life
lived in the richness
of God’s promises.

**Praise/Hymns**

Courage brother, do not stumble  CH4 513
God loves you and I love you  JP 348
I have decided to follow Jesus  MP 272
I want to serve the purpose of God  MP 859
I want to walk with Jesus Christ  MP 302
Jesus’ love is very wonderful  JP 139
Lord, you have come to the seashore  CH4 532
Love divine  CH4 519 / MP 449
May the mind of Christ my Saviour  CH4 536 / MP 463
Only by grace can we enter  MP 914
This little light of mine  JP 258
When we walk with the Lord (Trust and Obey)  MP 760
Will you come and follow  CH4 533
Your hand, O God, has guided  CH4 511 / MP 705
age group ideas

gathering

Through The Small Gap **all age**

You will need: items for creating an obstacle course.

Set up an obstacle course which includes a section where children have to try to get through a very small space. Let children (either all children or three or four children, depending on numbers and time) go round the obstacle course.

Talk about how difficult it was to squeeze through a small space. Use this as a way into the story of the rich young man.

crafts

Camel Lacing Card **age 3-5**

You will need: simple outline drawing of camel (these should already be cut out with holes punched round the edge), crayons, bright coloured wool, sellotape, laminating pouches, laminator.

Give each child a picture of a camel and get them to colour the picture. Give each child a length of wool, with sellotape wrapped round one of the ends to make a stiff section of wool. Show the children how to go in and out of the holes ‘sewing’ round the edge of the camel, using the wool and the stiffened end as a needle. When you get back to the first hole, cut the sellotape end off and then secure two ends of wool with tape to the back of the picture. While the children are doing other activities, one leader should laminate the camel pictures. (If you do not have time to do this, laminate the pictures during the week and give them out next week).

Talk about people wanting to follow Jesus but sometimes finding it hard as hard as a camel going through the eye of a needle. Talk about some of the things that make it difficult for people to follow Jesus and how important it is for us all to help each other to be followers.

Egg Box Camel **age 6-8**

You will need: four wooden spring clip pegs and three ‘egg’ sections of egg box per child, thick A4 card, scissors, paint brushes, brown poster paint, painting aprons/shirts, covering for tables, baby wipes, googly eyes, staples, stapler.

Divide egg boxes into sections, one single and two still joined per child. Give each child three sections to paint: one forms the head and other two form the humps of the camel. Once the paint has dried, place two humps upside down and clip clothes pegs to the corners to form legs. Turn the camel back the right way up so that it is standing. Attach the head to its body using staples and stick googly eyes onto the head.

Talk about the story and how Jesus wanted the rich young man to be his follower but the rich young man could not give up all he had and put Jesus first. Link to the idea in the story of the camel going through the eye of a needle. Discuss with the children how we can be followers of Jesus and some of the things that might make that hard for us.

Terramundi Pots **age 9-12**

You will need: Terramundi pots: these are ceramic pots which have slot for coins to go in but have to be smashed to get the money out (you can buy these fairly cheaply from bargain shops), tissue paper, a small selection of decopatch papers (you can get these from craft suppliers, you only need one or two sheets per pot to brighten up plain tissue paper), watered down PVA glue (two parts glue to one part water), glue spreaders.

You might want to get one terramundi pot per child or one for the group or one per two/three children, depending on the number of children you have and whether you want them to take the pot home for them and their family to put money in or whether you want to keep the pot to be used Sunday by Sunday and the children to collect money as a group. Get the children to tear the tissue paper and decopatch paper into small pieces and then to cover the pot with paper, sticking on the pieces and overlapping them: it gets quite messy. Make sure that you keep the money slot clear.

Talk about saving money for important things, for things you want. Discuss with the children if they have ever saved up money for something. Talk about the story and Jesus asking the rich young man to sell what he had to give money to the poor. Discuss with the children saving up money in the decorated pot(s) during Lent and then choose a charity to which to give the money they have saved.

Lent Journey **all age**

You will need: six large pieces of corrugated card (about carpet tile size), lots of card footprints, string, hole punch, scissors, sellotape, felt tip pens, PVA glue, glue spreaders, collage materials.

Ask the children to work together to make a collage of today’s story. Pictures could include a camel, a needle, a bag of money, a question mark, rich young man and Jesus in conversation, and so on.

The collage should be stuck onto a large piece of card. Ask the children to each decorate a footprint with their name. Punch holes in the card and at the ‘heel and toe’ of each footprint. Thread string through the holes and display. Add to this display each week of Lent with another collage tile and footprints.

Talk with the children about the season of Lent: a journey between now and Easter and talk about learning from the stories we will be reading each week. Talk about today’s story and discuss the ways we can follow Jesus.
age group ideas

activities

Who Do We Trust?  
age 3-5

You will need: print out pictures of people or things that the children might trust (for example, doctors, nurses, vets, teachers, dentists, police, firemen, paramedics, church leaders, parents, money).

Ask the children to identify the people and to give some simple reasons why it is we need to trust them. Examples might be: they help us, look after us, educate us, keep us safe, and so on.

Lenten Calendar  
age 6-12

You will need: copies of the Lenten Calendar available on page 136.

NOTE: IF POSSIBLE GIVE THIS OUT TO THE CHILDREN THE PREVIOUS WEEK TO BEGIN ON WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY (ASH WEDNESDAY).

Explain to the children that this is a calendar of challenges, some that will be easy, others that may be more difficult, to try to complete over the season of Lent as we get closer to Easter Day. The calendar finishes the day before Easter Day.

Rich And Poor  
age 6-12

You will need: images of rich people in the world with a note of how much money they have (look online for the annual “world’s richest” lists, images of people living in poverty, homeless, refugees, paper, pens.

Put all the rich images on one table and on another place the people who have little or nothing. Ask the children to write down ten differences between the rich and the poor images. They might come up with things like appearance, clothes, homes, jewellery and so on.

• Who do the children think would lose out the most if their goods were stolen?
• Who would help the rich? (Insurance companies/family/friends)
• Who would help the poor? (Maybe a friend or family but they may have little)
• Ask the children to study the pictures again and then ask them what the difference is between these people in their lives of faith?
• Who should we be helping?

Note that God does not see wealth as a way of telling how good a person you are, God sees beyond to who we really are.

Love  
age 6-12

You will need: copies of the activity sheet available on page 137, pens.

As it is Valentine’s Day today, use the activity sheet to explore ways in which we express our love of God.

games

Seeking The Camels  
age 3-5

You will need: pictures of camels (you could use the template available on page 135), picture of a needle and thread or have an actual needle and thread available.

Hide the pictures of the camels around the room in which you meet and challenge the children to find them all. Show the children a picture of a needle, or better have an actual needle available and show them how to thread the needle. Then ask them if they think a camel could fit through the hole. You can tell them about the joke Jesus once told about trying to fit a camel through a needle: a joke about impossible things.

Trust Games  
all age

Today’s bible story talks trusting God which would provide the opportunity for playing some games that involve trust. For instance, falling backwards with arms outstretched and eyes closed into someone’s arms, or blindfolding one person and then having their partner direct them around the room and over obstacles.
discussion starters for teens

wealth and poverty

Preparation

For the Activity/Discussion we will spend some time looking at statistics around the local area of the church. The Church of Scotland has a church statistician who ensures the statistical analysis is available and accurate for each parish. These Statistics for Mission are available on the Church of Scotland website. Your church denomination may have similar information available for your church. If not you can find information for your local area, from government websites and local newspapers. One good place to start is the Wolfram Alpha website, which does a great job on statistical information: http://www.wolframalpha.com/.

For Living It Out ensure you have a foreign currency coin for each young person. If someone in the congregation has been on a holiday to a foreign land, they may have a few small denomination coins they would willingly donate to the group!

Opening Activity

Lent

Ask the young people whether they have decided to give something up for Lent, or perhaps whether they have decided to take up a new challenge for the Lent period. If they have not done so already, use this as an opportunity to talk about why people do this during this time to prepare for the coming of Holy Week and Easter.

The Word

Read Mark 10:17-31.

- Ponder how many people they think were present when this story happened?

Activity/Discussion

It is official. The kingdom breaking in with Jesus is one where people with an abundance have to give it away to those with little. Often this is tied up with money. As a young person money usually comes from family, sometimes a part time job, perhaps the government. Traditionally young people do not have much money to spend let alone give away. Often we forget how much power we have on where others spend money for us.

- How do you know who is rich or poor?
- What differences do you think being rich or poor brings?

- Is there a particular area you think of as symbolic of being poor or being rich?
- If so what do you consider are the things that help you make that determination?

Jesus does not see this man as rich, he sees him as someone who has something which gets in the way of following God.

- How do you feel about the statistics we have found?
- How does being rich or being poor get in the way of following Jesus?
- If Jesus is the answer, what questions does this research ask of Jesus and his followers here on earth?

Living It Out

Jesus asks the rich man to give up money. Something which makes his life easy, which gives him power, something he can rely on, yet Jesus tells him to give it away. The agenda for the rich man’s life is set by his money.

This week take a coin, this coin is not a coin from this country, it is not something you can spend here. Keep it in your pocket as a reminder that Jesus wants us to think differently about who and what we are. Jesus challenges us to have a view of our lives in the terms of the kingdom come, not in the terms money sets out for us.
extra resources and activity sheets
THE UPS AND DOWNS OF LENT

1st Sunday
Snake:

2nd Sunday
Snake:

3rd Sunday
Snake:

4th Sunday
Snake:

5th Sunday
Snake:

Palm Sunday
Snake:

Easter Sunday
Snake:

THE UPS AND DOWNS OF LENT

1st Sunday
Snake:

2nd Sunday
Snake:

3rd Sunday
Snake:

4th Sunday
Snake:

5th Sunday
Snake:

Palm Sunday
Snake:

Easter Sunday
Snake:
My Lent Calendar

Each day think about the challenge for this day of the season of Lent, perhaps revisit activities from previous days when the chance comes up.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Challenge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10 Feb</td>
<td>Think of something you can take up or give up for Lent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 11 Feb</td>
<td>Hold open a door for someone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 12 Feb</td>
<td>Ask a parent or carer if they need help</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 13 Feb</td>
<td>Tidy up your room without being asked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 14 Feb</td>
<td>Give your parents or carers a hug for Valentine's Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 15 Feb</td>
<td>Get some exercise today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 16 Feb</td>
<td>Read a bible story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17 Feb</td>
<td>Find out about a saint today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 18 Feb</td>
<td>Say good morning to the first person you meet today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 19 Feb</td>
<td>Make up your own lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 20 Feb</td>
<td>Watch less television today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 21 Feb</td>
<td>Listen to some music that is different for you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 22 Feb</td>
<td>Take up a new activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 23 Feb</td>
<td>Help prepare dinner or set the table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 24 Feb</td>
<td>Read a story in the paper or school newsletter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 25 Feb</td>
<td>Smile at someone today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 26 Feb</td>
<td>Talk to God today and say why you are thankful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 27 Feb</td>
<td>Try not to eat your snack today (this is ‘fasting’)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 28 Feb</td>
<td>Put some of your pocket money in a charity box/tin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 29 Feb</td>
<td>Learn something new about Fair Trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 1 Mar</td>
<td>Give a friend or neighbour a helping hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2 Mar</td>
<td>Remember to say please and thank you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 3 Mar</td>
<td>Write down as many charities as you can remember</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 4 Mar</td>
<td>Ask other people what they are doing in Lent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 5 Mar</td>
<td>Avoid playing computer games for the day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 6 Mar</td>
<td>Give a homemade gift to your mum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 7 Mar</td>
<td>Check what you are recycling at home is as much as can be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 8 Mar</td>
<td>Draw or paint a picture to give to someone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9 Mar</td>
<td>Try not to judge anyone today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 10 Mar</td>
<td>Try not to argue with someone else</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 11 Mar</td>
<td>Give someone a compliment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 12 Mar</td>
<td>Hand in some goods to a local charity shop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 13 Mar</td>
<td>Try not to picky about your food, try something new</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 14 Mar</td>
<td>Help someone at school today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 15 Mar</td>
<td>Do as you are asked the first time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16 Mar</td>
<td>Do not eat any sweets today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 17 Mar</td>
<td>Prepare your school bag tonight ready for the morning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 18 Mar</td>
<td>Do not compare yourself to anyone else</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 19 Mar</td>
<td>Wear your favourite colour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 20 Mar</td>
<td>Spend time with family today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 21 Mar</td>
<td>Do not tell any lies today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 22 Mar</td>
<td>Share a snack or something from your lunchbox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 23 Mar</td>
<td>Watch the news and learn something about the world</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 24 Mar</td>
<td>Eat some bread and drink blackcurrant juice to remember Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 25 Mar</td>
<td>Tell someone something good that you are thinking about them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 26 Mar</td>
<td>Make a list of the good and bad things you remember doing this week</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sample
I Love God...

Can you fill in the acrostic by completing sentences starting “I love God...” using the first letter provided? We’ve given you an example for the first one.

I ...in everything I see, feel and touch.

L O V E G O D

sample