

Let's Learn ...

SONG

'PARISH ANTHEM'

Introduce the 'Parish Anthem' (music online, setting p. 323) to the children. An anthem is a song of loyalty or devotion. The 'Parish Anthem' calls on God to bless the parish. Encourage the children to sing the 'Parish Anthem' with enthusiasm and joy for their own parish.

SACRED SCRIPTURE

THE MISSION OF JESUS

Before reading the Scripture passage, invite one child to read aloud the definition of '**mission**' in the list of 'Key Words' on page 70 of their book. Then explain to the children that God sent Jesus to live on earth and gave him the mission to tell people the Good News of God's love and to show them how to live in love of God and of others.

Before Jesus began this mission, he went into the synagogue in his home town of Nazareth and read aloud some words from the book of the prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament. The Evangelist Luke later recorded these words in his account of the Gospel. We will listen to those words now.

Jesus' Mission (Lk 4:18-19)

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has chosen me to bring good news
to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the
captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free the oppressed
and announce that the time has come
when the Lord will save his people.'



After you have read the Scripture passage, check the children's understanding using these or similar questions:

- Who did Jesus say had chosen him to do the things listed in this passage?
- How many of the things that Jesus was sent to do can you remember?

- What kind of things do you think the 'Spirit of the Lord' wants you to do at this stage in your life?
- What might be another name for the 'Spirit of the Lord'? (Holy Spirit)
- Have you ever been inspired to act in a certain way by things Jesus did or said? If so, tell us about that.

Then dig deeper by asking questions such as:

Refer the children to page 70 of their book.

BIBLE EXTENSION ACTIVITY

THE MISSION OF JESUS

Note: The children will need a selection of art materials and, ideally, access to PowerPoint for this activity. They will also need at least one Bible per group.

- Begin by chatting with the children about Jesus' mission. Invite them to recall some of the things that Jesus did when he was on earth. Prompt them using these or similar questions:

- » Why did God send Jesus? What Good News did God want Jesus to bring to people?
- » Do you know what a miracle is? (The miracles of Jesus were extraordinary things that happened when the power of God worked through Jesus) Can you remember any of the miracles of Jesus? How did Jesus bring God's love to others through his miracles?