

The World Needs You Kids Pack

Covenant Renewal 2020

Introduction

The theme for this year's covenant renewal is *The World Needs You*, and it focuses on Matthew 5:13-16. You may notice from the wider pack that covenant renewal is running a little differently this year. With that being the case, the kids pack is not intended as a strict curriculum for your children's ministry, feel free to use or adapt the activities below to suit however your corp chooses to operate this service. If you choose to make this service intergenerational, we believe some of these options will work well.

Current world events show how badly the world needs God's love and compassion. Many of our children will be aware of - but may not understand, or know how to process - the grief and hardship caused by the global pandemic, and of the injustices that the Black Lives Matter movement confronts.

These are not easy issues to discuss with our children. There are no easy answers to questions about why natural disasters happen, or why racism exists. However, we know that we serve a God of love. It is His love that we called to share with the world. With that in mind the bottom line for this pack is that when Christ calls us to be salt and light in the world, he calls us to show love.

Salt & Light Brainstorm

This activity will help children understand how we use salt and light to improve our lives and the lives of others.

You will need:

- Whiteboard or large sheet of paper
- Markers
- A bible

Read Matthew 5:13-16

Ask the children: "Jesus tells us that we should be salt and light. It's a strange thing to say isn't it? What do you think it could mean to be salt? What does it mean to be light?"

On a large sheet of paper or a whiteboard write up all the uses the children think of. Here are some examples if they get stuck:

- Seasoning with salt improves food's flavour
- Mixing salt with water makes saline which can clean cuts

- Melts ice on the roads
- Curing meat

- To help you see at night
- To make the dark less scary
- Lighthouses guide ships in dangerous waters
- Light can help warm you up, like the sun, a fire, or a heat lamp

Story

“This story is about a man named Saul and a man named Ananias. Saul and Ananias lived a long time after Jesus asked us to be salt and light in the world. God used them both to show His love to the world.

One day, Saul and his friends were travelling on a dusty road. They were travelling to Damascus.

Saul hated Jesus and his followers. He wanted to catch them and put them in prison. Saul wanted everyone to forget about Jesus. He was going to Damascus to ask the leaders if he could catch some more of Jesus’ followers.

While Saul was travelling on the road, a bright light flashed around him. It was so bright his eyes hurt and he had to close them. It was so surprising that he fell to the ground.

Then he heard a voice. “Saul, Saul, why are you fighting me?”

“Who are you?” Saul asked.

The voice said, “I am Jesus, the one who you are fighting. Now, get up, go to the city and you will be told what to do.”

Saul’s friends were so confused. They had heard the voice, but they did not see a person. They did not see a light.

When Saul opened his eyes, he could not see his friends. He could not see the dusty road. He couldn’t see a thing! So his friends took his hand, and led him to the city, Damascus.

In Damascus, was a Jesus follower called Ananias. Ananias loved God.

One day, Ananias heard the voice. Jesus said to him, “Go to Saul. Pray for him, and I will make him see again.”

Ananias was afraid. He said, “But Lord, he has come to take us and to hurt us.”

Jesus spoke again. “Go to him. Saul is who I have chosen to tell everyone about who I am.”

So Ananias said yes and went to the house where Saul was. Ananias came close to Saul and prayed for him.

And Jesus healed Saul's eyes so that he could see again. He could see the house. He could see his hands. He could see Ananias. And now, Saul saw and understood who Jesus was. He saw everything differently.

And because he was so different, Saul changed his name to Paul. Paul travelled along many other roads, across oceans, telling everyone about who Jesus was, and showing God's love. As people heard, the family of God's children, the Great Family, grew and grew until they numbered more than the grains of sand in the desert and more than the number of stars in the sky."

Unpacking the story

- I wonder what part of the story you like the most?
- I wonder what part of the story is the most important?
- I wonder if there is any part we can leave out and still have all the story we need?
- I wonder where you are in this story or what part of this story is about you?

"Saul was not kind to people who loved Jesus, in fact he was very hurtful to them. But Ananias was God's light to Saul. He showed Saul love. He helped Saul see that Jesus loved him. And when Saul became Paul, Paul became God's light.

We have chances every day to be God's light and show His love to people around us. Later in the service you will be given one of these cards [show the commitment card]. The card says 'God's got me to be His light in the world'.

Some of you have already said yes to God - maybe when you enrolled as a Junior Soldier, at Kids Camp, or here at Kid's church, or at home with your family. You can sign the card to show you still want to be God's light in the world.

Some of you are like Saul and you've heard God asking you to follow Him for the first time today! That's so exciting – we want to help you invite God into your heart today. You can ask A leader to pray with you and sign your card to say, 'Yes God, I want to be your light!'

Maybe you're not sure you've heard God, or you're not sure yet if you want to say yes. That's okay too. You can take your card and keep it. You might like to think about it more about listening to God and saying yes to Him. You might like to pray about it or talk to a leader about it. You can take your card and keep it somewhere close, somewhere safe, until a day when you decide to say yes.

So let's pray. And then you can head to your small group, and have a time listening and talking to God."

Pray with the children – you may like to ask a child/children to pray as well.

Salt Dough Decorations

Using the recipe in the link below, make salt dough decorations with the children in your ministry, or with your entire congregation. You can add food colouring to the dough mixture for a pale coloured dough, or you can paint the decorations once they are dried and cooled. If your church has the time and facilities to bake the decorations, you can bake them together, or send them home on paper plates with instructions to air dry or bake.

You will need:

- 1 cup salt
- 2 cups of flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of water
- Food coloring (optional)
- Cookie cutters (optional)
- Airtight container or large ziplock bags
- Paper plates or baking paper & oven tray
- Oven (optional)

If you have lots of children in your ministry, or if your entire congregation is taking part, you will need to increase the recipe. This recipe was trialled with a group of 3 children and they made 12 medium cookie cutter decorations between them with some wastage.

You can make the dough ahead of time and store in an airtight container or ziplock bag so it does not dry out.

Instructions for making the dough can be found here:

<https://www.learning4kids.net/2012/12/09/how-to-make-salt-dough-recipe/>

Tissue Paper Lanterns

You will need:

- Clean, dry glass jars (jam jars with labels removed are great)
- Paintbrushes
- PVA or Elmer's glue
- Tissue paper in assorted colors (scraps from other projects work great)
- Scissors (optional)
- Wire / string (optional)
- Candles or battery powered tea lights

Decorate the jars using cut or torn pieces of tissue paper stuck to the jars using glue. You can choose to cover the jar in glue and stick the tissue to it, or you can use the glue similar

to a paper mache paste and cover the tissue in glue (just don't go overboard or the tissue will come apart).

Once dry, tie the string or wire around the neck of the jar to fashion a handle. Place a candle or battery powered tea light in the jar (if using candles, ensure children are well supervised, and matches are handled by an adult).

Do not allow children to carry their jars without a handle if you are using candles, as the jar will get hot.

Spotlight

If your gathering is at night, or if your building is dark enough you could play a game of spotlight.

You will need:

- Torch
- A really dark space

Set a spot in your building or outside your building as "home" a tree or large piece of furniture works well for this. Pick one person to be in and give them the torch. All other players get a headstart to run off and hide, and when given the command to start they must try to sneak "home" without being spotted with the torch. If they are caught they are out (alternatively they could be sent to the other end of the playing area / building to try again). The winner is the first one to reach "home".

For more ideas for your ministry, check out our pinterest board:

<https://www.pinterest.nz/childrensmisson/covenant-renewal-2020/>

