

## MESSY CHALLENGE!

Very quick run around as there are running around activities too. Sit down but save squash for the final activity.

### INTRODUCTION

Did you know that Jesus was part of a big family? In Matthew's gospel it says (13.55,56) "Aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? "Aren't all his sisters with us?"

So, 4 brothers and (probably) at least three sisters. Well one of the brothers, James, we think went on to write one of the letters in the Bible. He was a leader in the church in the years after Jesus's life.

Today you are going to do 6 challenges to help learn about some of the important things that James says in his letter. Sometimes you work on your own, sometimes in a group.

<b>Activity 1</b>		
James 1:19 Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.		
<b>What you do</b>	<b>What you talk about</b>	<b>What you need</b>
Get everyone to sit back to back with a partner. One of them has a copy of the shapes A picture. The other has some blank paper and some coloured felt pens. The person with the picture has to describe it to the other person, who must try to draw exactly what they are describing. When they've had a few minutes let them compare their version with the original and see how well/not they've done. Then swap over and give shapes B picture to the other person so that they can describe it to their partner.	Listening is often quite hard to do. Why was it important in this task to listen carefully – maybe because it's easy to get hold of the wrong idea if you just half listen. In this verse from James, he is saying that in our Christian lives we must listen to what God is saying. How do we do this?	Several copies of Shapes A and B sheets. Plain paper Colouring pencils/felt pens. Chairs, back to back.

<b>Activity 2</b>		
James 1:12 Blessed is the man (person) who perseveres under trial.		
<b>What you do</b>	<b>What you talk about</b>	<b>What you need</b>
Explain that this task will need great perseverance. The task is to be the person that is able to balance the greatest number of nails onto the one that is hammered in. Let them try for a bit, then give a few helpful hints.	What does it mean to persevere? With a task like this it means to keep going, try everything you can think of, ask others what they think etc. This is how we must be in our Christian life. It won't always be easy to be a follower of Jesus, but we need to always persevere.	Nails Some hammered into blocks of wood.

<b>Activity 3</b>		
James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word...Do what it says.		
<b>What you do</b>	<b>What you talk about</b>	<b>What you need</b>
Make a small model out of about 20 lego bricks. Use different sizes and colours. Give the children a bag of bricks between 2 or 3 of them and keeping your model hidden describe what it	We learnt in the first Activity that listening is important and that is absolutely right. But James says that we also need to act on the things that we hear. Can you think of anytime when you've heard some	A ready made lego model using a range of colours and sizes of bricks. Bags of mixed bricks for the children. Check that they have enough of the right sizes and colours to make the model.

is like so that they can build one too. When you've finished get them to compare theirs with yours.	Christian teaching and have known that you'll have to DO something in response. (Share something from your experience if they can't think of anything)	
---	--	--

Activity 4 James 5:1 (Easy to read version) You rich people, listen! Cry and be very sad because much trouble will come to you.		
<b>What you do</b>	<b>What you talk about</b>	<b>What you need</b>
Each pair/three has a long piece of golden tinsel and a matchbox. The task is to support the matchbox using only the tinsel as high as possible off the ground. Measure each effort from the floor to the matchbox (it has to stay there for at least 5 seconds)	It seems strange that James is telling rich people to cry and be sad, but the truth is that like the tinsel, money and riches are not reliable. The tinsel kept collapsing and that is what money tend to do too. James says that it's better to trust in God than in riches.	Long pieces of tinsel (gold) Matchboxes Ruler

Activity 5 James 5:15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well.		
<b>What you do</b>	<b>What you talk about</b>	<b>What you need</b>
On your own this time, think about someone you know who isn't well. It can be any illness, just a cold or anything at all. Give everyone a tissue and a felt pen. Now write or draw carefully on the tissue the name of the person and write down what you want God to do for them. Pray altogether, then put the tissue in your pocket and everytime you feel it there, pray again for the person.	Writing and drawing on the tissue is quite hard to do and that reminds us that when you're not well everyday things all seem hard. It can even seem hard to pray which is why James reminds us that we must pray for each other, and have faith that God will hear our prayer.	Box of good quality tissues Felt pens

Activity 6 If time – do just one or two of these, or more if you need.		
<b>What you do</b>	<b>What you talk about</b>	<b>What you need</b>
Give each person a copy of all the verses from James that you've learnt about. Split them into two groups and give each group a large piece of paper and some pens. One person from each group comes up to you and you point to just one of the verses. They have to run back to their group and draw that verse, Pictionary style. When someone has guessed which verse they take their copy of the verses to you and check that they have the right one. Then give that person another one to draw... and so on.	Reinforce what each of the verses was about as everyone draws.	Copies of each verse Large sheets of paper Pens.

James 1:19 Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man (person) who perseveres under trial.

James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word...Do what it says.

James 5:1 (Easy to read version) You rich people, listen! Cry and be very sad because much trouble will come to you.

James 5:15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well.