

# YEAR

# 6

# UNIT B

## FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST

### ABOUT THE UNIT

In this unit of work we consider the call of the disciples by Jesus. The children will learn about the demands that the call of Christ placed on these first disciples and they will think about ways in which people answer the call of Christ today through the life of the Church.

### WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds upon previous work in Key Stage 1 and in Year 4 about discipleship. It will also help to support children who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

### PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children have:

- some knowledge of Bible stories concerning the call of the disciples and the life Jesus shared with them.

### SKILLS

Research skills, thinking skills, writing for different audiences, group work, speaking and listening.

### VOCABULARY

Disciples, call, vocation, Body of Christ, discipleship.

### ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

	A.T.1	A.T.2
<b>Most children will</b> know that Jesus called many people to follow him. They will be able to identify reasons why these people responded to his call. The children will understand that following Christ sometimes demands sacrifices and they will be able to identify some vocations that exist in the life of the Church.	4a 4b 4c	4a 4b 4c 4d
<b>Less able children will</b> have a more limited knowledge of stories about people following Christ. They will know that Christians today are called to serve Christ in the Church and world.	3a 3b	3b 3c 3d
<b>More able children will</b> be able to discuss in greater detail reasons why the first disciples of Jesus chose to follow him. They will be able to talk about some of the challenges of being a disciple of Christ. They will be able to ask questions and give answers about why some people have died for their belief in Christ.	5a 5b 5c	5a 5b 5c 5d

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

**R5** Hear about and recall Gospel accounts of how the lives of men and women were changed by their encounters with Jesus.

**Ch3** The cost of discipleship.

**Ch1** God's call to individuals and their different responses.

**Ch2** The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to individuals and groups for the service of the whole community.

- Ask the children to think about the question "Who is Jesus?"
- Children to imagine that they were meeting a group of people who had never heard of Jesus Christ before. Consider together What they would tell them? What important words and actions of Jesus would you recall? What titles would you give to him? What personal opinions about Jesus would you share?
- Create a class drama of an interviewer stopping people in the street and asking them what they think about Jesus?
  
- Read Mk. 8: 27-30 about Peter's Profession of Faith.
- Why do you think that Jesus asked the disciples this question?
- Find out who Elijah was and the names of some other prophets.
- What does the title "Christ" mean?
- Explain and revise with the children that this title was attributed to a Messiah type figure that the Jewish people were expecting to come into the world.
- Why do you think that Peter thought that Jesus was this figure? What words and actions of Jesus might have convinced Peter that Jesus was the Christ?
  
- Explain to the children that it is evident from the Gospel that Jesus had a major influence on the people he called to follow him
- Read the account of the Call of the Disciples in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. Compare and contrast the different accounts.
- Ask the children to consider the type of life that these men would have had before they met Jesus. Children to write a short presentation of their ideas.
- Imagine the conversation that James and John would have had with their father Zebedee when they told him that they were going to follow Jesus. What do you think Zebedee would have said in reply?
- Write a three-character play script describing the departure of the fishermen to follow Jesus.
- Read the Call of Levi in Lk. 5: 27-32. What might be considered unusual about Jesus' choice of Levi to be one of his followers? Why were the Pharisees unhappy at the dinner that Jesus was having at Levi's house?
- Consider some of the different tasks that Jesus gave to the disciples. Read Mk. 6: 10-15. What does this tell you about some of the work that the disciples were called to do? Why do you think that Jesus asked the disciples to preach? What might they have said to people about Jesus?
- In the Gospels we find that Jesus provides certain criteria for being a disciple.
- Children to read Lk. 8: 19-21, Jn. 13: 35, Jn. 15: 15, Jn. 8: 31. What does Jesus teach about discipleship in these passages of the Gospels?
- Identify ways in which followers of Christ might live out this teaching of Jesus.
  
- In the Gospels we find that Jesus describes being called to be a follower as something that can be difficult.
- Children to read Mt. 8: 18-22 and Lk. 9: 23-27. What challenge does the person called to follow Jesus have in front of them? Is it always easy?
- From what the children have learnt about those who were called to follow Jesus, create an advertisement for the post of a disciple and a job description. What slogans would you use? What would you say about the rewards and benefits of the job?
  
- Revise and explain again to the children the meaning of the term "Vocation". In what ways do you think the disciples of Jesus listened and responded to the call of Jesus?
- Consider with the children the range of vocations that are apparent in the life of the Church today. It is not just priests and religious who have a vocation, but every Christian who is trying to follow Jesus Christ.
- Revise and recall the Image of the Church as the Body of Christ. Read with the Children 1 Corinthians 12: 12-28. What implications does this have for somebody who follows Christ.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

You might consider using this material during/to prepare for a school assembly.

**R5** That Jesus called people to follow him.

- Know some of the stories of the call of the disciples.
- Understand different reasons why people decided to follow Jesus.
- Be able to recognise the variety of people that Jesus called to follow him.

Produce some art work for the class room on the call of the disciples.

**Ch3** That following Jesus demands sacrifice.

- Know that the call of Jesus to follow him was a challenge for some people and demanded sacrifice.

**Ch1** Of the variety of forms of Christian life and service.

**Ch2** That belonging to the Church brings privileges and responsibilities of sharing life, gifts and service of each other.

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## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

**Ch4** Opportunities they have to be Church in the parish, diocese and wider world.

- Ask the children to think about what part they might play in the Body of Christ now and in the future.
  - What might God be calling them to do with their lives?
  - Revise with the children the prayer of St. Teresa of Avila, "Christ has no hands but your hands."
  - Explore with the children marriage and family life as a special vocation. What responsibilities does marriage and caring for a family bring? Is it always easy?
  - Invite your local priest to talk about his vocation and how he lives it out in his daily life.
  - Invite people to school who live out their vocations in different ways. Invite them to form a panel and provide the children with opportunities to ask them questions about their vocation. You might include the head teacher as one of the members of the panel.
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- Ask the children to say what they think a saint is. Explore with the children about saints being people who listened to and responded to the call of Jesus to follow him.
  - Research lots of stories of the lives of the saints.
  - Children to work in small groups and consider how these saints responded to the call of Christ. What important attributes do they display?
  - Talk to the children about some saints having to die because of their faith in Christ.
  - Ask the children to find out the meaning of the word "martyr".
  - Introduce the children to some stories of the English martyrs from the Reformation. You might include here St. Thomas More, St. John Fisher, St. Nicholas Owen and St. John Wall.
  - Why did these people give their lives for their faith?



## RELATED SCRIPTURE

*Mk. 8: 27-30* – Peter's Profession of Faith

*Mt. 10: 2-10* – Accounts of the Call of the Disciples

*Mk. 1: 1-20*

*Lk. 5: 1-11*

*Lk. 5: 27-32* – The Call of Levi

*Mk. 6: 10-15* – The Sending Out of the Disciples

*Mt. 8: 18-22* – The demands of Being a Disciple

*Lk. 9: 23-27*

*Lk. 8: 19-21* – The Disciple of Jesus Keeps His Word

*Jn. 13: 35* – Teaching on Discipleship

*1 Corinthians 12: 12-28* – The Image of the Church as the Body of Christ

## OTHER LINKS

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

## EVALUATION

**What went well?**

**Which areas of planning need to be developed/adapted next time?**

**What needs to be revisited/developed in a later unit?**