



# Bishop's Lent Challenge

'What do you want me to do for you?'







## Vision and Overview

The Bishop's Lent Challenge 2025 is about understanding that Jesus healed people. In Mark 10:51 Jesus met a blind man and asked him "what do you want me to do for you?". He was unique because he could stand before people, ask them their needs and was willing to meet them, healing them and forgiving their sins. Asking 'What do you want me to do for you?' gave sufferers an opportunity to reach out and speak about their troubles or pain.

This challenge will help pupils to learn about the importance of their physical, mental wellbeing and spiritual health. This will help pupils to prioritise personal health and support them to recognise the blessings God gave us. Schools will be invited to support pupils to see the good things in life, to stop and take notice of the people around them, and encourage them to ask 'What do you want me to do for you?' in order to help those in need.

Part of the challenge invites our schools to look at arranging a charity event. We have arranged a charity donation page on Givewheel where schools can ask their community to complete a sponsored physical event and donations can be made to help those in need: https://www.givewheel.com/fundraising/6315/bishops-lent-challenge-2025/

The donations will be split between the three charities we have chosen:

- USPG
- YoungMinds | Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People | YoungMinds
- Kick | Transforming young lives through sport

The links for donations can also be found in the Schools Project Booklet.

Join us on this challenge as we explore and support our pupils to recognise positive wellbeing, develop their physical bodies and embrace their spiritual side to flourish in God's world.

Within this pack, you will find Collective Worship planning and PowerPoints. You will also find 'Reflection and Enrichment' ideas that can be used in the classroom as an additional resource. These can be used for a whole class approach or for individual reflection. Please be encouraged to use these however works best for your class/school. These are intended as a guide; you are the best people to work out ideas for your own school, and we know the children will have lots of ideas too. We're also conscious that this theme of 'What do you want me to do?' dovetails well into schools' work on mental health and wellbeing. Please feel free to adapt and use across the curriculum - whether focused on Christian content or not.

This is a framework which can be copied and pasted into teachers' own methods and IT systems. The document is a Diocese of Ely document and all we ask is, that if it is used elsewhere reference is made to The Diocese of Ely.

We would absolutely love to hear from you and how you have engaged with the challenge. Therefore, we invite you to send materials produced by the children to the diocese in electronic





format. We are really looking forward to seeing how creative our children can be. And it couldn't be easier for you to share!

Simply send content to share to <a href="mailto:education@elydiocese.org">education@elydiocese.org</a>

We have created a page on our website for all materials produced from our schools, found via our Schools pages on the Diocese of Ely website: <u>Bishop's Lent Challenge - Diocese of Ely</u>

We would love to have uplifting and inspiring work on how to live truly full lives which can be shared widely with others. We'll be sharing everything with Ely Cathedral, Church Schools of Cambridge and the Diocese of Ely Education, Mission & Ministry Team. And we're sure parents and carers will love to see all your hard work - so please share on your school websites too





#### **WEEK ONE**

# Believe in the Impossible

Scripture Focus: MARK 10:46-52, MATTHEW 20:29-34

'You are healed because you believed'

Key Vocab: JERICHO, BARTIMAEUS, HEALED, BELIEVED

GATHERING	Song for entry/exit:	Sunday is Coming (Lyrics) Phil Wickham <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KofqqkkCrNY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KofqqkkCrNY</a>	
	Lead and Response:	Jesus' hands were kind hands Doing good to all	

Jesus was an amazing man. Many people had been waiting hundreds of years for God to send someone to save them. God's people had suffered at the hands of their enemies. They wanted someone who could free them, who could guide them back to God, who could do special things and who would bring peace to the world. Many people thought Jesus was indeed the man to do this. They believed he was the Messiah, the one they had been waiting for. Some believed he was more than that, some believed he was the Son of God.

Through the gospels, we hear of Jesus performing miracles. He showed himself as someone who could do extraordinary things; including turning water in wine, walk on water and cure people from awful diseases.

Bible passage: Mark 10:46-52 and ask pupils to act out the parts of JESUS BARTIMAEUS CROWD OF PEOPLE DISCIPLES

Jesus was leaving Jericho and a large crowd had gathered, hearing of the special things he could do that no-one could. This made Jesus well-known, and people wanted him to help them. A blind man sat on the road and shouted 'Jesus, Son of David, please help me'. The crowd were loud and surrounded Jesus, but the blind man recognized him, not only as a man but calls him 'Son of David'. He showed that he knew Jesus is the Messiah, the one who had been sent to rescue God's people, without even seeing him. He calls him twice and then Jesus asks 'What do you want me to do?'. Now the man could have asked for anything, he saw Jesus for who he really was.

Reflection: I wonder... what would you ask for?

He could have asked for superhuman powers, or wealth, or power, or success. But he didn't. He asked for normalcy - to be given the thing that most humans have and take for granted. He asked for his sight, he said 'Teacher, I want to see again'. He wanted his suffering to end. He could see Jesus as someone who God had given as a gift to humans. Bartimaeus was spiritually awakened and saw Jesus to be the Messiah. Jesus told Bartimaeus 'You are healed because you believed'. He became a disciple of Jesus. He could see Jesus for who he was, and now he could see where to follow him. His faith healed and saved him. Jesus waited to meet the needs of the man. Bartimaeus put his faith and trust in Jesus, he went to him and asked for help.

It is not always possible to cure people of their suffering. It is not always possible to help someone who is hurt. However, it is possible to make a difference by following in the path of Jesus. It is possible to say, 'What do you want me to do?' because it puts the power and control into the arms of the people who need help. Jesus believed he could help people. People believed he could help them.

ENGAGING





Questions

Reflection: I wonder... what difference could we make in the world if we asked people the question 'What do you want me to do?' instead of assuming how we can help. I wonder... who might you seek to speak to in times of trouble?

Songs for Choral Worship

Jesus is the Healer https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjmTLwKE3GY

Prayer

RESPONDING

SENDING

Dear God,
Help us to place our faith and trust in you,
Knowing that you are with us.
Help us to behave in the way Jesus showed us,
Make us strong to ask 'What do you want me to do?'
Help us to act with compassion,
And show love for those around us who need help.
Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer,
Amen

Message

Jesus does not assume what the blind man needs from him. Jesus asks and acts upon the request. Over this week, try to ask someone what they need to help them, rather than assume.

Classroom Reflection and Enrichment

Design your own Inspirivity Poster words must include: 'What do you want me to do?'
Use the stories of Jesus' miracles to illustrate the words

Reflection music in the classroom for enrichment

Open the eyes of my heart - Michael W. Smith <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vnqb7Vn4AEE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vnqb7Vn4AEE</a>





#### **WEEK TWO**

## **Healing Touch**

Scripture Focus: MARK 6:53-56

'All who touched were healed'

Key Vocab: GENNESARET, HEAL, TOUCH

GATHERING

Song for entry/exit What A Beautiful Name (Lyric Video) - Hillsong Worship https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5L6QlAH3L4

Lead and Response:

Jesus' hands were kind hands

Doing good to all

Jesus was an amazing man. After he started to heal people from their suffering, they would start to pass on the 'Good News', even though he asked them not to tell anyone. This meant large crowds would gather and ask for his healing powers to cure them of many ailments - from physical, mental and spiritual troubles.

Bible passage: Mark 6:53-56 and ask pupils to act out the parts of JESUS CROWD DISCIPLES

This story happens after Jesus had fed 5000 people with just 5 loaves and 2 fishes, what a miracle that was! Wherever Jesus travelled people started gathering. He would spend time talking to them and teaching them about God's Kingdom. On this day, Jesus and his disciples took a boat and rowed out to a place called Gennesaret. This was a place near Lake Galilee and was at the bottom of a mountain. When the people saw Jesus pulling up to the shore they gathered around him. Some people left their jobs and ran to share the good news with the other local villages. Many believed that Jesus was the Messiah, he could do things that no one else could. He could heal people from sickness and pain. Families brought ill relatives before Jesus, and he would heal them. Jesus healed people in the marketplace, in the cities, on the farms. People begged just to be near him, or to touch the edge of his coat because once they touched him, they were healed. Jesus was showing the Old Testament prophecies coming true.

ENGAGING

Have a balloon to pass around the hall. Give the balloon to a pupil. Tell them that they represent someone Jesus had healed. His healing powers are represented by the balloon. Ask the pupil if they would want to keep that to themselves or share the good news? Hopefully, they want to share the good news, therefore pass the balloon to someone else. Ask this pupil, would they keep the news of the healing miracle to themselves, or would they share it? Hopefully, they want to share the good news, therefore pass the balloon to someone else. Do this several times. Tell the pupils this is why the good news about Jesus spread. The prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament told God's people that they would 'see the glory of the Lord'. He said they would know the Messiah because he would come and save them, he would make blind people see, the deaf hear, the crippled jump like deer and those who can't talk shout with joy'. Through healing these people, Jesus showed Isaiah's prophecies to come true, and because of this, people started to talk and share the good news. They also started to believe that God's saviour had finally come. More and more people started to believe Jesus was the one they had been waiting for.



RESPONDING

SENDING



Questions

I wonder... how it would feel to be healed by Jesus?

I wonder... how would it feel waiting to get close enough to touch him?

I wonder... what people felt when they touched his coat?

I wonder... would you keep the news to yourself or would you share it with others?

Songs for Choral Worship

Excited - Hillsong Kids

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NbmIT5u1h8U

Prayer

Teaspoon Prayer

Thank you for... (pause time for pupils to say their 'thank you' part)
Sorry for... (pause time for pupils to say their 'sorry' part)
Please can you... (pause time for pupils to say their 'please' part)

Message

The news spread about Jesus' healing. What kind of news is good news? Go and spread the good news to others.

Classroom Reflection and Enrichment

Create a school picture collage to show how pupils demonstrate these skills and values to make an acrostic poem that spells BISHOPS LENT CHALLENGE

You can choose to create one word or all three. Key words for each letter has been prepared for you.

Reflection music in the classroom for enrichment

King of Kings - Hillsong Worship

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Of5IcFWiEpg





#### **WEEK THREE**

#### Miraculous Water

Scripture Focus: JOHN 5:2-10

'Do you want to be well?'

Key Vocab: BETHESDA JERUSALEM SABBATH HEALING ANGEL SPIRITUAL IMMERSED MIRACULOUS

GATHERING

ENGAGING

Song for entry/exit Praise (feat. Brandon Lake, Chris Brown & Chandler Moore)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=raFnjGVkHe8

Lead and Response:

Jesus' hands were kind hands

Doing good to all

Jesus was an amazing man. After he started to heal people from their suffering, they would start to pass on the 'Good News', even though he asked them not to tell anyone. This meant large crowds would gather and ask for his healing powers to cure them of many ailments - from physical, mental and spiritual troubles.

Bible passage: John 5:2-10 and ask pupils to act out the parts of

JESUS CROWD PARALYSED MAN ANGEL OF GOD

This story takes part in Jerusalem, at a pool, near a sheep market on the Sabbath. The pool was called Bethesda which in Hebrew means 5 porches. It was a shaded area and around the pool, gathered people who were all suffering different ailments. There was a sense of hope and healing. The people were waiting for a miracle. They believed the water had miraculous powers, both physical healing and spiritual cleansing. They believed that angel from God would come and stir the water, and then the first person into the water would be healed. The people gathered were desperate for healing and some had been there for years... decades even! When Jesus entered the pool, he saw people around laying on mats, all watching the water in hope of the angel appearing, all waiting to be the first into the water. Jesus sat with a paralysed man. He had been waiting for 38 years but was always too slow to get to the water when the angel appeared. The man believed that if he was immersed in this miraculous water, he would be healed. Jesus asked the man, "Do you want to be well?" and he explains how he tries to enter the water first but he cannot move. Jesus sees the man has faith, he believes in God, so he tells him to "Stand up. Pick up your mat and walk." And immediately the man was well. He picked up his mat and began to walk. He did not know it was Jesus who healed him. Later, Jesus finds the man again in the temple, he tells him to change his ways and turn back to God. The man now recognised Jesus.

In this story, we see the physical healing and spiritual cleansing of a paralysed man. There is a belief that the pool water washes away all of the pain, suffering and sin. However, here the man is physically renewed and his spirit restored in the eyes of God from Jesus' words. This story reminds Christians of Baptism and power of water washing away sin. Jesus was immersed in the water with John the Baptist. It was after this; he started his ministry. The people gathered around the pool are waiting to do the same, to be renewed and have a rebirth in the way of Christ, through being immersed in the spiritual water.





#### Questions

I wonder... how it felt to be waiting for the angel to appear.

I wonder... how it felt to be healed by the spiritual water.

I wonder... how it felt to be healed by the words of Jesus.

I wonder... how many people were healed by the water in the pool of Bethesda.

## Songs for Choral Worship

This is the story of the cross - REND Co Kids <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1dmm9N-6bl">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=an1Wjsr-Q1o</a>

#### Prayer

RESPONDING

SENDING

5 finger prayer - all you need is your hand!

Each finger represents some one in your life to think about in your prayer.

Your thumb - is for those who are closest to you, your parents, siblings, your grandparents, family and friends. You need to chose one person and you pray for **Love** 

Your pointer finger - is for those who direct you in your life, they teach and guide you. For example, teachers, doctors, nurses, priests. You need to chose one person and you pray for **Wisdom** Your middle finger - is for those who are in authority. For example, leaders, government, royalty.

You need to chose one person and you pray for Guidance

Your ring finger - is your weakest finger, it is for those who need help. For example, those who are ill, poor health, dying, in trouble or pain. You need to chose one person and you pray for **Help** Your tiny finger - is for you and what you need. Remember God will help you with what you need, not

necessarily what you want. You need to pray for Your needs

## Message

Sometimes words can heal more than a physical act of kindness. Talk to someone today - tell them something positive about them as a person

#### Classroom Reflection and Enrichment

#### Artist Challenge

Kristin VG Bailey is an artist who uses art for her mission and evangelism. She aims to 'bring out Godcolours into the world'. Her most recent work has been inspired by female Saints and women of faith, creating artwork in the style of Christian iconography. Kristen has created this video as a challenge for the pupils participating in this Bishop's Lent Challenge. We look forward to receiving your pupil's responses.

Youtube link: Bishop's Lent Challenge with Kristin VG Bailey

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Reflection music in the classroom for enrichment

How Great Is Our God - Chris Tomlin <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBD18rsVJHk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBD18rsVJHk</a>





#### **WEEK FOUR**

# **Touching the Untouchables**

Scripture Focus: LUKE 5:12-16

'I want to be healed'

Key Vocab: LEPROSY DISEASE BOWED BEGGED HEAL COMMANDED

GATHERING

ENGAGING

Song for entry/exit

That's Who I Praise - Brandon Lake

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Q7cR8G4Bal

Lead and Response:

Jesus' hands were kind hands

Doing good to all

Jesus was an amazing man. After he started to heal people from their suffering, they would start to pass on the 'Good News', even though he asked them not to tell anyone. This meant large crowds would gather and ask for his healing powers to cure them of many ailments - from physical, mental and spiritual troubles.

Bible passage: Luke 5:12-16 and ask pupils to act out the parts of JESUS MAN WITH LEPROSY

In Biblical times, there was a disease called leprosy. It was a harmful, painful and contagious disease that would make people suffer. Their skin would be sore, their body would become disfigured and if you had leprosy you would have to leave your home and live outside. People believed that if you had leprosy, then it was a punishment from God and that you turned your back on the way God wanted you to live. If someone thought, they had leprosy they would have to show themselves to a priest, who would declare if the person did or did not have the disease. A priest would ceremonially decide someone was 'unclean'. They then strip the person, only allowing them to wear torn clothes. They would leave their family to live on the streets away from the cities. They would let their hair hang loose and cover their lips. The sufferer would be expected to shout 'Unclean! Unclean' if anyone went near them. You could not touch someone with leprosy, they were the 'untouchables'. It was a devastating disease.

One day, Jesus was walking and there was a man with leprosy sitting on the road. When he saw Jesus, he bowed down and begged him 'Lord, you can heal me if you will'. Jesus reached out to the man and touched him... 'I will. Be healed' and the disease disappeared. The man was told to show himself before a priest so he could have a new life. Jesus told him not to tell anyone, but the good news was spreading. People were hearing about Jesus healing people who were suffering, the crowds would gather wherever he went. Sometimes, Jesus would slip away to be alone and pray.

There are several times in the New Testament when Jesus would find some time to reflect, to pray and to be alone. In Mark 6:46, after feeding 5000 people and showing his disciples he could walk on water, Jesus needed time to himself. Praying is a powerful tool. And often, Christians will find time to be still, to think, to reflect and to talk to God. In Philippians 4:6 it says 'Do not worry about anything. But pray and ask God for everything you need'. It is important to see that Jesus did work miracles but he could only heal those who believed and trusted in him. The people who he knew Jesus was the Messiah, the one they had been waiting for, or saw him as someone greater, the Son of God, they were the ones that Jesus chose to help, to stop their suffering and to give them a new life.





Questions

I wonder... how it felt to be rejected by society when you were poorly.

I wonder... why people believed leprosy was a punishment from God.

I wonder... how brave the man felt when he reached out to Jesus.

I wonder... how many people Jesus told to keep their healing secret.

I wonder... how many people shared their good news.

Songs for Choral Worship

Jesus is alive - Yancy not Nancy

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7hAn3NbXCBU

Prayer

RESPONDING

SENDING

Dear God,

Help us to show mercy and help those in need.
Help us to give love to those who are rejected and suffer.
Give us the strength to open our eyes and see the world.
Give us the ability to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves.
Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer,

Message

Is there anyone who is really 'untouchable'?

Classroom Reflection and Enrichment

Choice One - Word Cloud LENT (Love, Express, Notice, Thank) Choice Two - Scripture through art

Reflection music in the classroom for enrichment

Great Things - Phil Wickham

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ShjtMpmlZR8





# **WEEK FIVE**

# **Share Your Load**

Scripture Focus: MATTHEW 11:28-30

'I will give you rest'

Key Vocab: LIGHTEN BURDEN SHARE REST

GATHERING	Song for entry/exit Every Praise - Hezekiah Walker <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuuZMg6NVeA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuuZMg6NVeA</a>	
GATHI	Lead and Response:  Jesus' hands were kind hands  Doing good to all	
ENGAGING	Jesus was an amazing man. After he started to heal people from their suffering, they would start to pass on the 'Good News', even though he asked them not to tell anyone. This meant large crowds would gather and ask for his healing powers to cure them of many ailments - from physical, mental and spiritual troubles.  Bible passage: Matthew 11:28-30 Get a bag and some big rocks. Talk to the pupils about the things that might weigh you done, filling the bag as you do. Demonstrate how the bag gets heavy. But then, ask staff or pupils to help you to lighten the load by taking some of the responsibilities.  For example,  • share jobs that need doing at home, tell them you will ask your son/daughter to help (empty the dishwasher, doing the washing, make the beds)  • share jobs that need doing in school, ask if the pupils can help (pick up the coats, sharpen the pencils, refill the glue pots, put the books away, tidy the library etc)  • share your stresses and strains with a friend As you distribute the jobs, take the rocks out of the bag, show the pupils you can lighten the load (burdens) you carry. Talk to the pupils about how sometimes we can take on too much ourselves and actually we need to learn to share them out with those around us or with God. Jesus teaches those around him, to share their troubles and woes with him. Talking is amazing. We can all share our story with someone around us, it will help to give you rest and lighten the load.	
RESPONDING	Questions I wonder who you can talk to, to lighten your load I wonder who will listen to your worries and woes I wonder who really sees you for who you are I wonder who will you say 'share your load, I will give you rest'  Songs for Choral Worship  Miracles - Valley Creek Kids <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=daW8aZvGD41">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=daW8aZvGD41</a>	





Prayer Dear God, Let me listen to Jesus' words said 'Share your load, I will give you rest' Let me turn you Lord Jesus, Help me to share my worries and strains. Let me turn to others, To offer my listening ears and seeing eyes. Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer, Amen Message Always remember God is there to help you when you struggle. 'Do not worry about anything. But pray and ask God for everything you need' SENDING Classroom Reflection and Enrichment Choice 1 - Mentally Healthy Guiding Wheels Choice 2 - Mentally Healthy Hearts Reflection music in the classroom for enrichment Holy Forever - Jenn Johnson feat CeCe Winans https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VhdAZ2aQtBk





# **WEEK SIX**

# Praise to the God of Israel

Scripture Focus: MATTHEW 15:29-39

'They put people at Jesus' feet and he healed them'

Key Vocab: GALILEE HEALED AILMENT MIRACULOUS GOD OF ISRAEL MIRACLE

GATHERING	Song for entry/exit  Big God - Terrain  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jft6MfWN6k	
	Lead and Response:  Jesus' hands were kind hands  Doing good to all	
	Jesus was an amazing man. After he started to heal people from their suffering, they would start to pass on the 'Good News', even though he asked them not to tell anyone. This meant large crowds would gather and ask for his healing powers to cure them of many ailments - from physical, mental and spiritual troubles.	
ENGAGING	Bible passage: Matthew 15:29-39 and ask pupils to act out the parts of JESUS PEOPLE WITH ALL KINDS OF ILLNESS LARGE CROWD WATCHING DISCIPLES  This story takes place at Lake Galilee. Jesus was sitting on a hill. The people in the surrounding villages spotted him and started to gather. They brought their sick family members to be healed. People with all sorts of ailments; blind, deaf, lame, crippled, those who couldn't speak. They were placed at Jesus' feet and he healed them. The people were amazed by Jesus' miraculous hands. They praised the God of Israel for these miracles. More and more people gathered and sat with Jesus for days. He told his disciples to feed them. But there was only limited food - 7 loaves and a few small fish. So, Jesus created another a miracle and fed all 4000 people. After they ate, they were all satisfied, and Jesus told them to go home.	
RESPONDING	Questions I wonder how it would feel to see Jesus sitting on a hill I wonder how tired Jesus felt after healing so many people I wonder did the people see God inside Jesus I wonder how the disciples felt seeing Jesus perform these miracles  Songs for Choral Worship  Waymaker - Allstars Kids Club <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wyotu9Twko">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wyotu9Twko</a>	





#### Prayer

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necessarily what you want. You need to pray for Your needs

### Message

SENDING

Jesus did miraculous things with his hands. They were kind, caring and compassionate. Even those who society had rejected. Go out and live as Jesus did. Show kindness, care and compassion. And remember those words Jesus said -

'What can I do for you?'

#### Classroom Reflection and Enrichment

Choice 1 - Write a modern day Psalm that answers the question 'What do you want me to do?' reflecting on Jesus' words, his miracles, his sermons and his ability to help those who suffer.

Choice 2 - 'Fill a bucket' - noticing all of the blessing around you that help you to flourish in the world

Reflection music in the classroom for enrichment

Mary Did You Know? - One Voice Children's Choir https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1H1-scfD1s