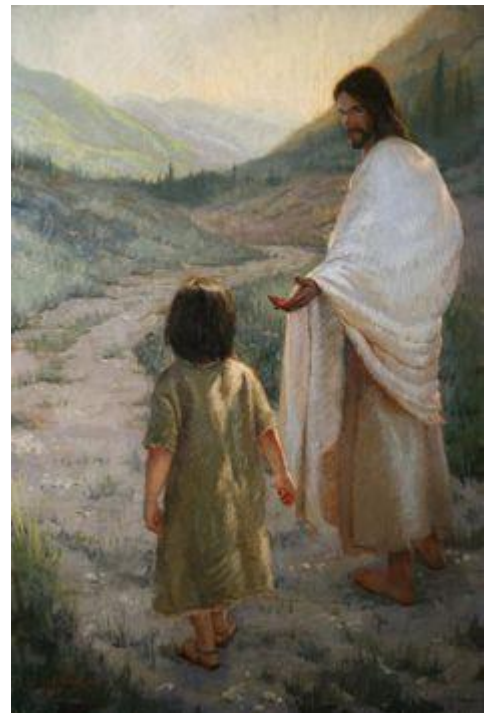


Church at Home for Abridge

5th July 2020

Activities for the whole family

Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30



1. [Here is today's Bible story](#) told with wooden figures and wondering questions
2. [Here is an illustrated song](#) using the words of Jesus in today's story – 'Come to me'
3. **Big ideas to talk about together**

Read verses 16 and 17 together

Maybe it might surprise you to discover that Jesus knew the sort of games children play? Can you work out what the game was?

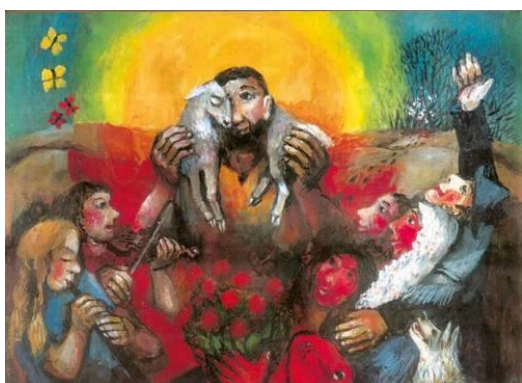
Jesus uses his knowledge to illustrate why people didn't welcome John the Baptist or even him.

Read verse 25 together

It probably won't surprise you to discover that Jesus knew the sort of openness with which young children learn new things. Jesus uses this to challenge us all to be open to God's love.

Jesus paid attention to children - their games and their attitudes and he sees in them lessons for us.

In this story, Jesus tells us that our 'never satisfied' generation is *childish* - playing games in the Marketplace... and that instead, we should not be childish but **childlike**. We need to be open to receive the Lord who comes to us, as we, like children, come to him; everybody who 'labours and is heavy laden' in the marketplace of competition and in a world that never satisfies us, can come and find rest in Jesus.



I wonder what favourite game you would invite Jesus to play with you.

I wonder if playing a game with Jesus would change your idea of God.

I wonder how being able to come so close to Jesus like this would make you feel.



4. The words of Jesus in this story inspired a very famous and much loved hymn that starts "I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'come unto me and rest'"

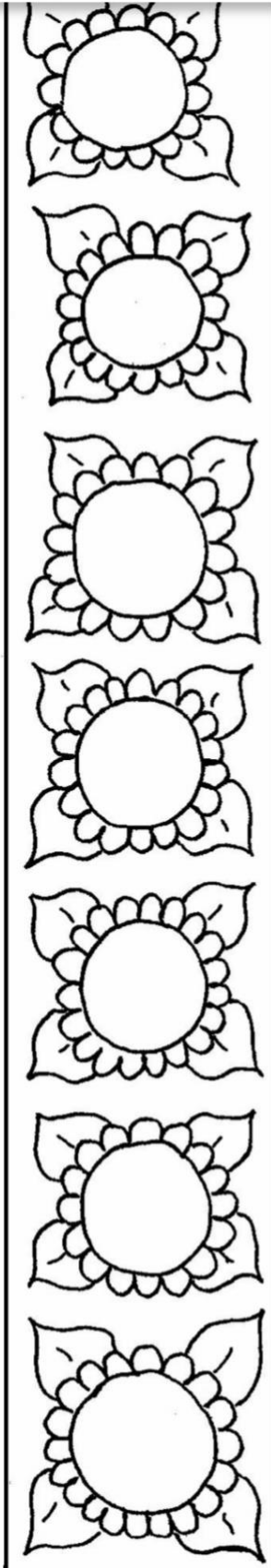
[Listen to this celtic version](#) of that famous hymn by Michael Card

Which words in this hymn do you like?


How does this hymn make you feel?

You can find [the words here](#)

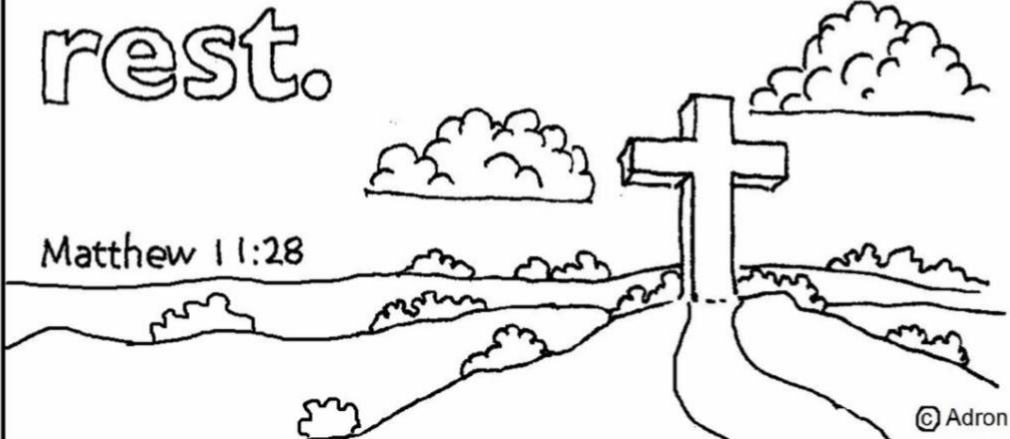
5. Here is a picture version of one verse in this story for you to illustrate. Why do you think so many Christians find this verse so special?



Come to
Me, all who
are weary
and heavy-
laden, and I
will give you
rest.



Matthew 11:28



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