

## Bible study and response with young people

- Beforehand, read **John 12.20-33**. Read and print out a copy of the Bible study sheet [WEB](#) for each group member. There are additional Bible notes on the [WEB](#).
- Gather interviews and profiles of celebrities from magazines and newspaper supplements, to use in the *Explore* section. Use an internet search engine to find and print a few images people have created of Jesus.
- In the session, read the Bible passage together, preferably from a Bible so the group can see what happened immediately before and after the events here. Look at the *Bible notes* and *Make connections* sections.
- Use this conversation spark to provoke first reactions from the group:  
*What's the difference between an A list celebrity, a Z list celebrity, and you?*
- Encourage people to respond to the reading using the response activity below or the options on the next page.

### Respond Random acts **YP** 15 MINS

*An act of service*

**You will need:** marker pens or paints; paper or card to create signs.

- If you can, watch together the YouTube clip(s) entitled *Random Acts of Kindness Signs*. These are short videos of people holding up signs in random places (on a bicycle wheel spoke, over a balcony, on a lamp post, etc). The signs encourage attitudes or actions, e.g. Share a smile, Ring your mum, Pay for a stranger's meal, Show compassion.
- Ask, Do you think these signs change people's behaviour? How might they help them to grow?
- Invite the young people to discuss and decide on one phrase they would like to pass on to other people, to encourage people to grow in faith.
- Allow time for everyone to prepare signs with their phrase, think about where they will be displayed, and make them an appropriate size.

### Live in faith

Encourage the group to try to complete the actions suggested for this week on the Lent calendar from p.5 or on the [WEB](#).

## Growing and changing John 12.20-33

### Bible notes

The feast of Passover is a major Jewish festival for which thousands came to Jerusalem in Jesus' time. Jesus had already openly been in the city. It seems surprising then that some people found one of the disciples, Philip, and asked him to take them to Jesus. It may have been their custom to be introduced in this fashion, or they may have been fearful of a direct approach to a man developing the reputation Jesus had. Indeed, Philip seems to have mustered the support of Andrew.

The Gospel does not actually confirm that they got to meet and speak with Jesus, however, because in response to the disciples' approach, Jesus revisits a theme he had previously developed about dying and rising; giving up life to save it and being lifted up. Now he emphasises that he will follow God's will to the last and, when he is lifted up, people will be called to respond by following his example of service.

### Make connections

One of the prizes frequently offered by local and national music radio stations is a backstage visit to meet a celebrity performer or band at a concert. These celebrities are heavily guarded and getting access to them is not easy. Jesus had become a celebrity in his own time, yet he rarely made himself difficult to contact even though he knew various groups wanted nothing better than to see him dead and buried.

In a few sentences Jesus makes clear his life and death has a purpose and that it's now beginning to unsettle him. We all get nervous at major life events. Whether it's an exam, an operation, the first day in a new job or a stage performance, the butterfly feeling begins and everything from sleep to appetite can be disturbed. It was the same and more so for Jesus as he knew what was going to happen to him.

### Explore

- Look at some celebrity interviews and see what insights they give into the lives of these well-known people. What can you find that amuses, surprises or shocks you?
- Work in threes or fours to design a magazine profile of Jesus. Allow space for a picture and a paragraph that you write as the magazine editor, introducing Jesus to your readers.
- Then complete the feature by selecting six of these questions and write Jesus' imaginary answers.
  - When and where was your most vivid childhood memory?
  - The most important thing you've learned from your parents is...?
  - Where's your favourite place to eat?
  - What's the most important thing to achieve in life?
  - What do people think of you?
  - What would you most like to do for your friends?
  - How would you like to be remembered?
  - What are the best and worst things that anyone has ever said about you?