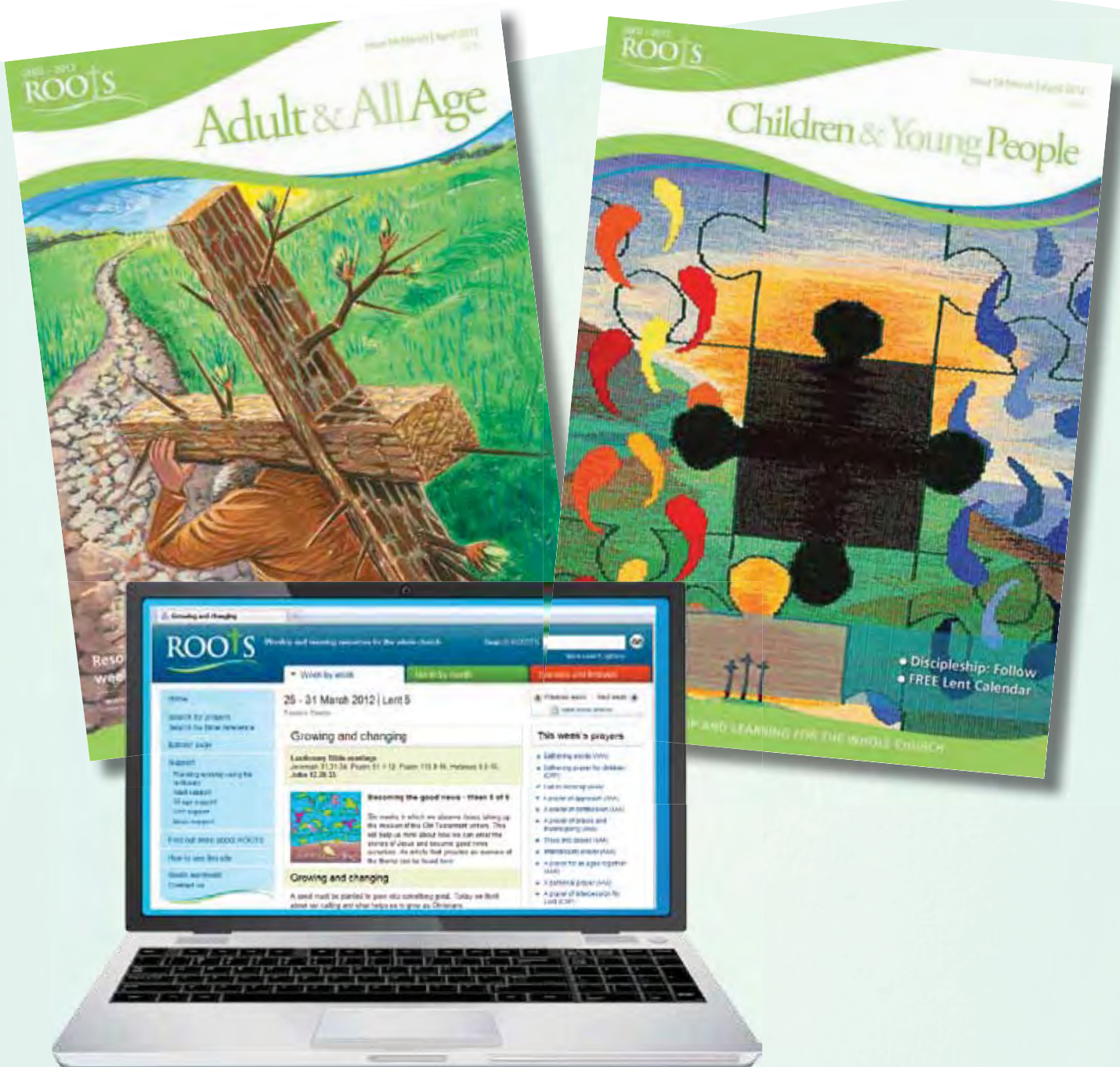


# Enriching worship through the lectionary



**FREE SAMPLE MATERIALS** for use with:

✓ ADULTS

✓ CHILDREN

✓ YOUNG PEOPLE

✓ ALL AGES TOGETHER

# Lectionary-based resources you can rely on – week in, week out



Over the past 10 years, ROOTS resources have encouraged and inspired churches across many denominations. For each and every week, our **Adult & All Age** and **Children & Young People** magazines provide you with a wealth of fresh, new resources to enrich worship and learning with your church or group.

## What do our subscribers love about ROOTS?

### 'It helps me nourish and inspire all ages.'

- ROOTS can help you explore the same Bible reading with all age groups: just adults; families; in an all-age service; and with different age groups of children and young people.
- This shared focus helps your whole church community to grow in faith together.

### 'The resources are fresh and contemporary.'

- We send out a brand new issue of each magazine every two months, so you can be confident that the material is fresh and up to date.
- Every Wednesday we add a *PostScript* feature to our website which links the coming Sunday's readings to current news stories. This helps you relate the Bible passage to the week's burning issues.

### 'Everything I need is at my fingertips.'

- Whatever your role – leading all-age worship, facilitating midweek groups, studying the Bible with teenagers, engaging toddlers, or anything in between – we give you an unparalleled range of ideas and resources.
- Every Sunday, the magazines focus on one of the *Revised Common Lectionary* (RCL) readings. When the *Common Worship Lectionary* readings differ from the RCL readings, we provide CW materials on the website.

## A truly ecumenical project

The ROOTS partnership brings together a range of Churches and other Christian organisations.

Our writers are experienced ordained and lay practitioners from across many denominations and traditions.

We work together to ensure that the resources can be adapted easily for your ministry – whatever your situation and style.

CHRISTIAN  
education

The Methodist Church



churches  
together  
IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

# Which ROOTS subscription is right for you?

You can subscribe to just one magazine, or both magazines together.  
For subscription prices, please turn to the back cover.

✓ Six issues per year – each issue covers two months

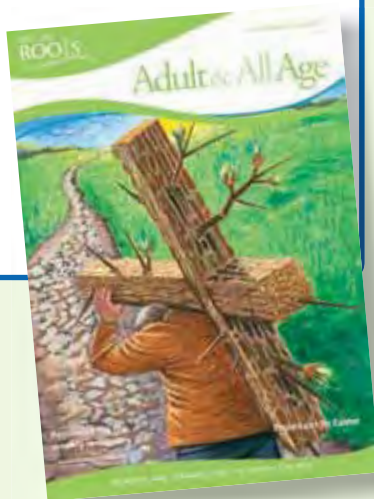
✓ Brand new resources for each and every week, and seasonal materials too

✓ Sent out two months ahead of the first Sunday covered in the magazine, giving you plenty of preparation time

## Adult & All Age magazine

- **Fresh ideas** for use with adults, families and for all ages together
- **Extensive support** for preaching – including Bible notes and theological reflections
- **Unrivalled resources** for all-age worship – from gathering words, right through to closing prayers
- **Easily adapted** for your ministry, whatever your tradition, pattern and style of worship.

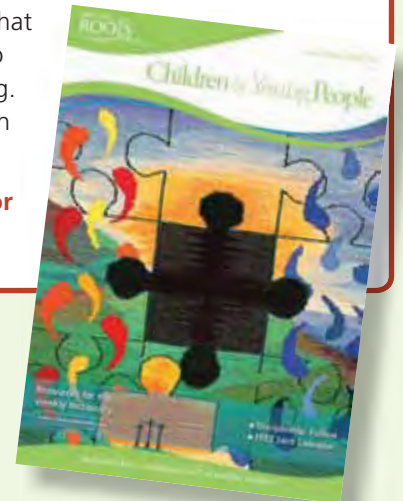
Turn to pages 4-7 for sample material



## Children & Young People magazine

- **Creative ideas** for presenting and exploring the Bible passage with different age groups – from toddlers to teenagers
- **A wide choice** of easy-to-set-up activities, games, craftwork, and prayers to save you vital planning and preparation time
- **Flexible** materials that you can adapt easily to your circumstances (e.g. age groupings, location or length of session).

Turn to pages 8-11 for sample material



**PLUS** Subscribers enjoy unlimited access to [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com)

### Week by week

- Children's activity sheet
- Text for adapting, printing or projecting – including all prayers
- PostScript – up-to-the-minute comment
- Previous resources for the same lectionary week
- Sermon notes on an alternative reading
- Support for *Common Worship* and other lectionary variations, when they differ from the *Revised Common Lectionary*

### Month by month

- Overview of the issue
- Introductory materials
- Seasonal materials

### Seasons and festivals

- Huge selection of materials to follow the church year, celebrate the seasons and special Sundays

### Searchable resource bank

- Easily searchable materials from the past 10 years of ROOTS, providing you with a vast pool of additional resources

Try a sample Sunday from ROOTS

Adult & All Age: see pages 4-7

Children & Young People: see pages 8-11



# Growing and changing

## Planning

### Lectionary Bible readings

RCL Lent 5 Year B  
 Jeremiah 31.31-34, Psalm 51.1-12 or  
 Psalm 119.9-16, Hebrews 5.5-10,  
**John 12.20-33**

### Theme *Becoming the good news*

Six weeks in which we observe Jesus taking up the mission of the Old Testament writers. This will help us think about how we can enter the stories of Jesus and become good news ourselves. An article that provides an overview of the theme can be found on the inside front page and on the [WEB](#).

### Week 5 of 6

#### Growing and changing John 12.20-33

A seed must be planted to grow into something great. Today we think about our calling and what helps us to grow as Christians.

This week's reading provides an opportunity to:

- think about the 'grain of wheat' metaphor
- reflect on how being flexible enables us to grow and develop
- consider how being called might be unsettling.

A Bible study worksheet on this reading, suitable for midweek groups, is available on the [WEB](#).

**ROOTS** [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com)

### Week by week

- Bible notes
- Prayers
- PostScript: up-to-the minute comment
- Bible study worksheet
- Children's sheet
- Further resources
- Drama sketches
- Sermon notes on a different Bible reading
- Links to other materials for this week's readings

Clear opportunities for enabling discipleship, both on Sunday and midweek

## Gather

### Prepare the space

Continue to build the Lenten garden by adding a tray of earth and sowing some grass seed in it. Alternatively, create a display by covering a table with some brown, earth-coloured, rough cloth. Drape some green fabric across the centre and some wheat-coloured fabric across one end to create a colour progression from earth, to green shoots, to ripened wheat. Scatter some seeds across the

Each week explores a different aspect of the theme, so the weekly materials stand alone

## Open the Word

### Bible notes

#### Old Testament Jeremiah 31.31-34

This well-known passage is rightly regarded as one of the most important in the Hebrew Bible, containing the fourth and future covenant. In reality, this represents a variation on a theme. God is not a perpetual legislator but a God concerned to continue in covenant relationship with his people. Thus Jeremiah is not criticising the earlier covenants, though he does by implication comment drily on the failure of people within Israel to keep to the covenant. There is a distinct moral development evidenced here. Jeremiah focuses more on personal obedience and self-understanding, with a greater interest in individual responsibility, and less on the external manifestation of the covenant. This is accompanied by optimism that, when the time is right, people will want to obey the covenant as their dutiful response to God. This purple passage is quoted in full in the New Testament (Hebrews 8.8-12) and it may well have inspired Jesus himself.

A broad theme connects a series of weeks

### Gospel John 12.20-33

John puts a theological interpretation on the ministry of Jesus, hinting at his descent from heaven (3.13) and future return to heaven (6.62). Jesus predicts his death with confidence in John, commenting also on its saving significance. In this passage – which in tandem with John 17 replaces the Last Supper in John – the Evangelist makes Jesus the universal Saviour who embodies God's presence and draws all people to him.

It may be difficult to reconcile the Christ of the Fourth Gospel with his presentation in the Synoptic Gospels. Don't be alarmed at the differences. None of the Gospels gives us a contemporary eye-witness account of Jesus. All the evangelists were theologians and interpreters of the story of Jesus. The basic message of this passage is easy to ascertain. It is that Jesus' death has saving significance; and that, in following God's will to the last, he calls his followers to a path of suffering service.

The focus of the Gospel is that the advent of the divine Son marks a moment of crisis or judgement for the world. How one responds to Jesus is made the criterion of one's own standing before God.

### Growing and changing

#### Becoming the good news Week 5

The element that is 'new' in Jeremiah's prophecy of 'the covenant that God will make with Israel' is that 'I will put my law within them'. This is not a rejection of the law, and within Judaism in Jesus' time there remained a hope that in the Messianic age the law would be better interpreted and observed than ever before. Indeed the Jews of Jesus' day who belonged to the Qumran sect, known to us from the Dead Sea Scrolls, already described themselves as 'members of the New Covenant' and bound themselves 'by oath to return to the law of Moses' (*Damascus Document* 6.19, 16.1-2). God graciously called and delivered the people and gave them the law, and they thankfully and obediently responded by keeping its precepts. When it is written on the heart, the law is not just rules to keep in order to gain

rewards and avoid punishments. Instead its precepts, 'rejoicing the heart' and 'enlightening the eyes', are 'sweeter also than honey' (Psalm 19.7-10). When a young man told Jesus that he had kept all the commandments 'since my youth', Jesus 'loved him', telling him to give his riches away; 'then come, follow me' (Mark 10.20-21). Just keeping rules can be as sterile as an unplanted seed, but responding to God's call will bear much fruit. 'The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ' (John 1.17), and the Gospel keeps them together.

**Q** In the other three gospels, Jesus prays in Gethsemane, 'Remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want but you want'. What is different about John's portrayal of Jesus in today's passage? Which portrayal do you find more comforting, or more unsettling?

**Q** What is 'sweeter than honey' to us?

## Sermon ideas

- For up-to-the-minute comment, see PostScript on the [WEB](#).
- The RAF teaches its personnel that 'flexibility is the key to air power'. Flexibility is also a great asset for any of us to have and possibly the key to many things. Current thinking in management training similarly suggests that to be effective we must develop the capacity to move comfortably from one area of skill to another.<sup>1</sup> A calling to follow Jesus is unsettling, it involves being prepared to change. Verses 24 to 26 of today's Gospel are unequivocal: our fundamental instincts will be challenged and we will be called to be ever on the move. It is no coincidence that the disciples here, who are asked about seeing Jesus, are among those who were called first: Andrew and Philip. What aspects of 'following Christ' do we find difficult?
- Cardinal Newman said 'To live is to change; to be perfect is to have changed often'.<sup>2</sup> We are all affected by the environment we find ourselves in and we must develop the capacity to adapt,



nurturing the capacity to judge how we can bring life to a situation rather than seeking comfortably to fit in. A seed must develop roots as well as shoots.

- 'Father, glorify your name', we hear Jesus say in verse 28. How can we 'glorify' God in the twenty-first century? It has been suggested that we give glory to God by being what we are, when we need to be it.
- The image of shoots sprouting is particularly evident at this time of year. The renewal of the earth can challenge us to consider our own renewal. This organic metaphor of growth and development may be more accessible to some than the idea of a sudden conversion. Nevertheless, this passage is challenging. What is it about hating this life in order to inherit eternal life that sits uneasily with us? Is this statement the complete opposite of what Jesus says in John 10.10: 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full'?
- In a globalised economy, the question of who rules the world is once again topical. It certainly isn't kings; some would say that it is bankers rather than politicians; other might suggest that it is personal ambition or human greed. Do these suggestions connect more readily with the questions that Jesus is asking here? Those of us who might have been mistrustful of the language of spiritual warfare might see a different expression of this idea here.

## All ages together

See p.17 for an idea to engage very young children during worship.

### Present the reading

Teach the congregation to sing the chorus of Bernadette Farrell's song, 'Unless a grain of wheat' (see *Hymns and songs*). Break the reading up into suitable sections and read each section and then ask the congregation to sing the chorus. Some musicians might be able to play an instrumental version of the verses behind the reading and time it so that the congregation joins in for each chorus.

### Explore the reading

**You will need:** some wheat seeds (available from health stores); a tray of sprouted wheat grass (this could be left out if not prepared in advance); a storybook or downloaded version of the story of Persephone for children (see [WEB](#) for sources). If downloading a story, then search on the internet for suitable pictures to accompany the story.

Put the wheat grains in a bowl and hand them round so everyone can take one to hold and look at but don't say what they are. Explain that the tale of Persephone is a famous story from Ancient Greece. It would have been well known across the ancient world at the time of Jesus. Tell the story of Persephone with some projected pictures. Invite people to explain what the story of Persephone is trying to say. The story encompasses many themes – about life and death, the turning of the seasons, the role of memory, and growing and changing. Ask people if they can identify the seed in their hand. Show the wheat grass that has grown from the same seeds. Consider the story of Persephone and think about why Jesus used the grain of wheat metaphor in his teaching. Does this offer any insights into our faith? Is faith always the same or does it grow and change as we grow and change?

The PostScript for this week goes online on Wed 21 March, linking the reading to the latest news

The website offers sermon points on another of the week's readings

## Prayers

The text of these prayers is on the [WEB](#).

### Call to worship

Come to God,  
who wants us to flourish.

Come to God,  
who writes the law of life into every heartbeat.

Come to God,  
who knows our failings – but also our possibilities.

### A prayer of approach

We're here to see Jesus!  
And news spreads fast –  
but Jesus is troubled.

We're here to see Jesus!  
But unless the grain of wheat falls and dies –  
it is just a single grain.

We're here to see Jesus!  
Save me from this hour –  
but it is for this reason I came.

We're here to see Jesus!  
And there is a voice from heaven –  
thunder? An angel?

We're here to see Jesus!  
And Jesus is lifted up from the earth  
and draws all people together.

Here is Jesus!  
**Amen.**

### A prayer of confession

For three voices

1 Come, I am making a new covenant with my people.  
2 But we broke the last one.  
3 And the one before that.

1 Come, I am writing my covenant on your hearts.  
2 But David sinned against you.  
3 And we are not much better.

1 Come, I have written my covenant into a human body.  
2 But the grain of wheat falls  
3 and dies.

1 No, you don't  
my covenant is  
fruit;  
my covenant is not for  
It is eternal  
and it is everlasting.  
**Amen.**

### A personal prayer

I will be their God and they shall be my people.  
I have written my law of love on their hearts.  
**Amen.**

### Ways into prayer

**You will need:** newspapers, pencils, scissors and an ear of wheat template (see [WEB](#)).

Distribute the templates to cut out. Then invite people to look through the papers, find a news story where new life (or a new way of seeing things) is needed and cut it out. Ask people to stick their ear of wheat to the corner of their news cutting and add them to the *Prepare the space* display.

### Prayers of intercession

For two voices and congregation

What are you doing?  
*I'm planting seeds!*

Wherever we find devastation and hopelessness:  
**help us to plant seeds;**  
*make us nurturers of fertile ground.*

Wherever we meet fear and anxiety:  
**help us to plant seeds;**  
*make us nurturers of fertile ground.*

When we find people who want to give up:  
**help us to plant seeds;**  
*make us nurturers of fertile ground.*

When people want to learn:  
**help us to plant seeds;**  
*make us nurturers of fertile ground.*

When people don't want to learn:  
**help us to plant seeds;**  
*make us nurturers of fertile ground.*

Make us workers with you, Lord,  
in your project of creation:  
**help us to plant seeds;**  
**make us nurturers of fertile ground.**  
**Amen.**

### A prayer for all ages together

Just a tiny seed, (*look at something very small in hand*)  
in the earth it goes, (*point finger down into the earth*)  
just a little rain. (*wiggle fingers as hands are lowered*)  
It begins to grow. (*wiggle fingers pointing upward*)

From that tiny seed (*look at something very small in hand*)  
grows a mighty tree. (*open arms out wide*)  
Branches spread out wide (*stretch arms upwards*)  
shelter you and me. (*move hands to protect head*)

In that mighty tree (*open arms out wide*)  
birds will perch and sing. (*open and shut hand*)  
Like the tree, God's love (*open arms out wide*)  
from small seeds can spring. (*look at something very small in hand*)

Richard Atkins and Andrew E Pratt. Copyright ©1995 Stainer and  
Methodist Church Purposes. Reproduced, with  
innet (where you can find a tune).

A prayer each week in  
everyday language, sometimes  
using movement or the senses, ensures  
that everyone is involved

At ROOTS, we listen to our users  
to help make the materials even better.  
For example, we now present prayers on a  
whole page in two columns, so that they  
are easier to read

## Respond to the Word

Ideas to suit different interests, ages and learning preferences. The Children's sheet [WEB](#) offers activities to do in worship & at home.

### Investigate growth

Beforehand, soak some sprouting seeds (larger ones such as chickpeas, peas or use a packet of runner beans) for a couple of days to soften them. Give everyone a seed and invite them to take it apart very carefully to see the parts of the seed and how it is ready to grow. Discuss the conditions: you should see its big fat root and its root waiting to grow. Look up 'seed' on the internet if you want to be more scientific.

### What is your potential?

Show the John Lewis advert 'Growing Up' (see [WEB](#) for link). Briefly consider what people like and dislike about it. Invite people to think about what they would like the next stage in their own lives to be (for children you might want to phrase this carefully). Invite people to discuss this a bit with their neighbours. Then invite people to say together the words of John 12.26.

### Plant vegetables

Agricultural metaphors don't work very well if you have no experience of growing things, so invite some gardeners to lead an experiment. You can grow vegetables very easily in buckets and storage boxes (even in old boots!). Plant a variety of roots and seeds today, put someone in charge of watering and watch the results.

## A simple worship activity for all ages

**You will need:** some yellow and green sticky notes and pens/pencils.

Give everyone a sticky note and ask them to spend some time thinking about a tiny hope, dream or talent that they would like to be nurtured. Invite them to write or draw something to represent this on the sticky note, making sure that the sticky part is at the base. Plant these in the Lenten garden: bend the sticky bit forward and stick it to the flat surface, pulling forward the rest of the note so that it stands upright.

## When very young children are present

Today's activity offers a chance to explore what is involved in planting seeds.

**You will need:** gardening toys – buckets and spades, kneelers, watering can, wheelbarrow, fabric flowers or vegetables; some tiny plant pots; some sand and some dried peas to use as seeds.

Encourage the children to play with the toys in the sand. Finally, help the children to put some sand into a plant pot and then plant a pea 'seed' in it. If appropriate, you might talk about what might happen to the seed. An extension to this activity might be to sow some mustard seed on to damp cotton wool in an egg box lid for the children to take home.

Enabling discipleship involves allowing individuals to respond in their own way, through activities, discussion, reflection and prayer

Weekly ideas help you to use the psalms in worship

## Using today's psalm

### Psalm 51.1-12

Just before he died, St Francis said to his followers: 'Let us make a new beginning, for until now we have done nothing.' Deep into this psalm reminds us that sin is something we must face and we can do that only through God's action: a right spirit replacing actions that separate us. Ask for new life: God gives us that in Jesus.

**Other** Go to 'Musical support' on the left-hand menu for how to use the psalms.

**Response line** Between the verses, everyone says or sings: A clean heart create for me, O Lord.

**Hymns and songs based on Psalm 51 include** Give me a new heart, O Lord (LAU, CFES); Create within me a clean heart (CAN); Create in me a clean heart (RE).

## Hymns and songs

*Songs in italics are suitable for all ages.*  
A key to abbreviations is on the [WEB](#).

A debtor to mercy alone (HTC)  
As we break the bread (HTC, RS, SG)  
Glory be to Jesus  
I cannot tell  
It is a thing most wonderful  
*Lift high the cross*  
My Lord, what love is this  
My song is love unknown  
Now the green blade rises  
O my Saviour, lifted  
Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle  
*Stay with us* (Taizé) (BPW, RS)  
Such love, pure as the whitest snow  
*Take, O take me as I am* (CH4, SG, WGWG)  
*There is a Redeemer*  
*Unless a grain of wheat shall fall*  
When Christ was lifted from the earth  
*Will you come and follow me*

Each week, a straightforward activity enables all ages to worship and respond together

## Send out

### Live in faith

Sow some flower seeds in a gloomy place this week and commit yourself to nurturing them until they flower.

Create a *good news tweet for the week* about dying to bring forth new life.

### Pray

May the God who is patient with us  
bless us as we carry our journey of faith into the week ahead.  
May the Son who redeems us  
bless us as we confess that we are broken and need healing.  
May the Spirit who gathers us together  
bless us as we seek to live as a community that lives in the light,  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

Each week we include an activity to engage toddlers



## Open the Word

Based on John 12.20-33  
Bible notes are on page 20.

Each week we include an activity to engage toddlers

### With very young children

Today's activity offers a chance to explore what is involved in planting seeds

**You will need:** gardening items, e.g. buckets and spades, kneelers, a watering can, a wheelbarrow; fabric flowers or vegetables; some tiny plant pots; some sand and some dried peas to use as seeds.

- Encourage the children to play with the gardening items in the sand.
- If you have someone to work with the toddlers, they could put some sand into a plant pot and then plant a pea 'seed' in it. If appropriate, you might talk about what might happen to the seed. An extension to this activity would be to sow some mustard seed on to damp cotton wool in an egg box lid, for the children to take home.

**Guidance on exploring the Bible reading with young people is on the next page.**

### With children

**You will need:** some gentle music (though not essential); some music and the means to play it.

- Invite the children to become seeds and to curl up as small as they can.
- Explain that they are buried in the ground.
- As you play the music, encourage the children to grow, to push through the soil and then to stretch as tall and as wide as they can. Ask them to stay where they are and listen to the story.

### Talk about

After reading the Bible story to your group, use these discussion points.

Think about how you felt when you were rolled up in a tight ball.

- Did you feel safe? Could you see? Could you hear? Could you do anything?
- If we stay wrapped up in a ball we might feel safe, but we can't grow.
- What do you need to help you to grow?

A storybook-style presentation of the passage appeals to children

## Dying to grow

based on John 12.20-33

Jesus had arrived in Jerusalem. Lots of people wanted to meet Jesus. A group of people from a different country wanted to meet Jesus. They asked one of Jesus' friends, whose name was Philip, who passed the message on to another friend, whose name was Andrew and he passed the message on to Jesus.

However, before Jesus met anyone else, he wanted to try to make sure his close friends understood what was going to happen to him. He told them,

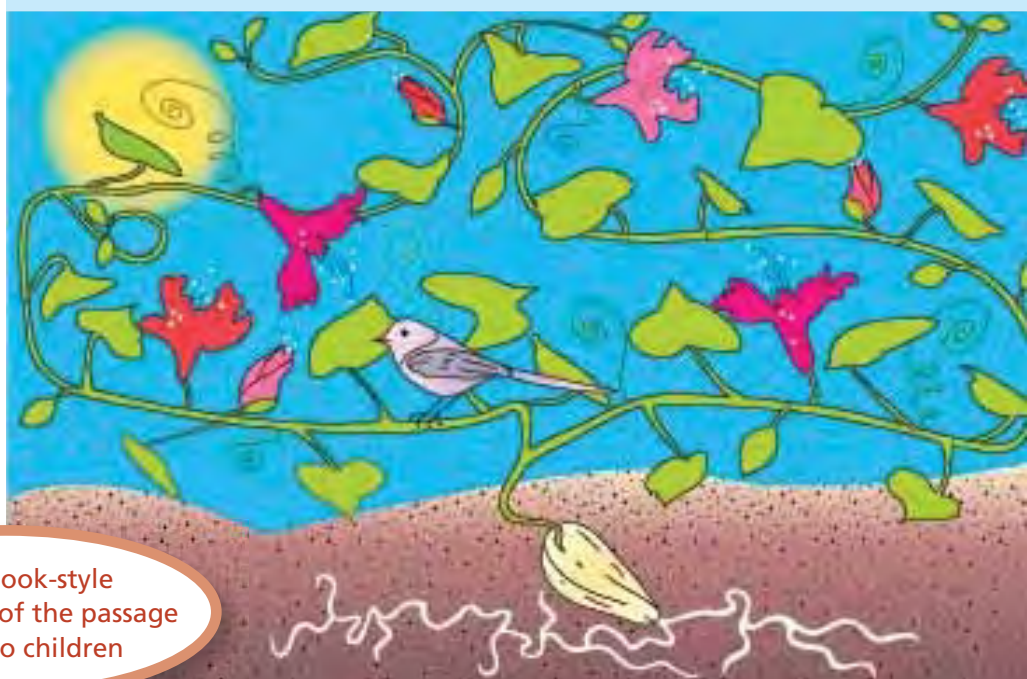
'When we plant seeds in the ground, it is as if they are dead to us. But then they begin to grow. They grow into food or flowers or trees and suddenly there is so much more than what was buried in the ground.'

It is the same for me. I must die and be buried so that more people can live. And it is the same for you. If you are prepared to let go of your life, your life will actually grow.

But I find all this so hard! Part of me wants to say "Father, get me out of this!" But no, I need to focus on what God wants me to do. This was what I came to do. Father God, make your name great!

And the people who were there heard a voice, which sounded like thunder, say,

'I have made my name great and I will make it great again!'



Leaders don't need expert knowledge; they journey alongside the young people

## 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 *Explore* and *Make connections* sections.
- **By exploring and responding to the passage, young people can uncover its relevance for them**
- 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?

Thought-provoking activities help young people grow in faith

Select from a range of activities by age range and time available

## Respond to the Word

Based on John 12.20-33  
See p.19 for ways of presenting the Bible reading.

### Tweet Ongoing activities

C + YP 10 MINS

Two activities that can be ongoing throughout Lent

- With children: Look back at *The Faces of Lent* activity from 26 February. Repeat this activity for this week's passage.
- Focus on how Jesus must have been feeling and the emotions of his friends and followers as they listened.
- With young people The Tweet could be about what Jesus said, but also about the underlying message.

### Mime Meaning

C + YP 20 MINS

Mime and movement to the lyrics of a song

You will need: the music and lyrics of 'Unless a Grain of Wheat' by Bernadette Farrell. It is available through a simple online search.

- Play the song to your group.
- Work out together a mime for the chorus of the song. Discuss symbolic and strong gestures to reflect the words (especially if you have older boys in the group – this is mime, not dance!)
- If you have a large group, divide into groups, and give each group a slip of paper with the verse lyrics on. If a smaller group, you may want to work on alternate verses.
- Use the process of working out appropriate movements to explore their meaning and tone.

### Make Popcorn

C 20 MINS

Activity to show how a lot can come from a little

You will need: a bag of microwaveable popcorn; a microwave; two bowls, one small, one large.

- Have a bag of popcorn kernels. Let the children feel the corn inside. Keep a small bowl aside for when the popcorn is ready.
- Let the group get involved in reading the instructions and following them, listening to it popping and the bag growing in the microwave.
- When the popcorn is ready, take the bag out slowly, so they can see how full it is. Open it carefully (mind the steam!) and pour it out. It will soon fill the small bowl, so bring out a larger bowl in which to transfer it all.
- Let the children eat as you talk about how something small can produce great things – a pot of bubble mix, rice, a drop of water and ripples, dough and, of course, seeds. From Jesus' life, death and resurrection, we are part of a massive global family of Christians over 2,000 years later.

### Play Seeds of growth

C 10 MINS

A matching game

You will need: some of the fruit and vegetables from the *Gathering activity* and their seeds.

- Set out a table with some of the fruit and vegetables down one side and a selection of their seeds down the other. You might place each piece of fruit or vegetable on a numbered sheet of paper, and each seed on a lettered sheet of paper.

Match the seeds with the fruit and vegetables. A larger group could work in teams. You might provide each person or team with a chart with the numbers down one side and they add the letter of the seed they think it matches.

### Pray Popcorn prayers

C + YP 10 MINS

A prayer and craft activity using the popcorn made earlier

You will need: popcorn; needles and cotton thread.

- Give each of the group a needle threaded with cotton and knotted at the other end.
- Explain that this is a reflective prayer. Ask them to thread a piece of popcorn on for each of the things they want to thank Jesus for – times when they have felt him close.
- Then invite them to add popcorn for the people that have helped them in their faith journey, thanking God for them as well as themselves.
- Ask them to thread a piece of popcorn for all those people they know, friends, who they would like to know they do that God would help them live out their faith with those people.
- They can take their popcorn chains home as a reminder of their prayers and people.

### Listen and watch One Solitary Life

C + YP 10 MINS

A poem and reflection

You will need: a copy of the reflection 'One Solitary Life' (There are many versions on the Internet, a good one being on [www.onesolitarylifemovie.com/](http://www.onesolitarylifemovie.com/)), and the means to show it; resources according to the range of response options your group might like to make.

- With your group, read or watch the poem 'One Solitary Life'.
- Invite the group to make their response to the poem using art, drama, music, poetry or movement.
- They might create something that could be shown to others during Holy Week.

## Send out

### Live in faith

Ask the group to think about all the people who are part of their lives. Ask them to commit to doing one thing this week that will help one person to grow and develop, e.g. help someone improve at sport, or in class.

### Pray

May God bless you with rain,  
may God bless you with sunshine.  
May God bless you with food,  
may God bless you with shelter.  
And until we meet again,  
may you grow in God's love  
and plant seeds of God's love,  
wherever you may be.  
Amen.

Enabling children and young people to grow as disciples

A short prayer brings the session to a close

# How to subscribe to ROOTS



Imagine having this wealth of resources every single week for a whole year – and seasonal material too! From little as 55p per week, a year's subscription to ROOTS is incredible value.

www www.rootsontheweb.com  
 0845 680 5317

rootssales@rootsontheweb.com  
 Return the form below

Want to see more before you decide? For a free magazine, simply phone or e-mail us to request a copy.

## YOUR ORDER

### 1 Which magazine(s)?

- Adult & All Age
- Children & Young People
- Combined subscription to both magazines

### 2 How many copies?

(of each magazine)

### 3 Start issue

- January/February
- March/April
- May/June
- July/August
- September/October
- November/December

### 4 Annual subscription for 6 issues of ROOTS – UK prices For international prices go to www.rootsontheweb.com

	1 to 4 copies in total per issue (any combination of magazines) <i>Price per copy incl. postage</i>	5 or more copies in total per issue (any combination of magazines) <i>Price per copy incl. postage</i>	YOUR ORDER Number of copies (or sets) × price per copy/set
Adult & All Age <i>per copy for a year</i>	£31.00	£29.00	£
Children & Young People <i>per copy for a year</i>	£42.00	£39.00	£
Combined subscription 1 copy of <i>each magazine for a year</i>	£68.00	£68.00	£
<b>TOTAL FOR YOUR ORDER</b>			£

### 5 Order address

Title: Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss / Rev Initial: ..... Surname: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: .....

Telephone number (day): ..... Email: .....

If you manage subscriptions for a number of users, please send details of delivery addresses on an accompanying sheet.

### 6 About you

Please help us to keep ROOTS relevant and up to date for you by giving us a little information. We will only use this to inform the development of the ROOTS resources. We do not share information with third parties.

Name of church or group: ..... Denomination: .....

Approx. no. of church congregation/membership: ..... Does your church use a data projector? Yes  No

Church activities include (please tick) Children's group  Youth group  Home/Bible study groups

Your role: ..... How did you find out about ROOTS? .....

Please tick the box if you would like to receive emails regarding your subscription, e.g. sending a renewal reminder.

Please tick the box if you would like to receive eBulletins about the ROOTS resources via email.

We will only contact you at a level that you have opted into, and you retain the right to opt out at any time.

### 7 Payment

I enclose a cheque made payable to ROOTS for Churches Ltd for £ .....

Card holder's name and initials (as shown on card) ..... Card holder's signature .....

I wish to pay by  Visa/Delta  Mastercard  Maestro Card number

Valid from   Expiry date   Maestro  Issue number  Security code

Post your completed order form to: ROOTS for Churches Ltd, The Media Centre, Garcia Estate, Canterbury Road, WORTHING, BN13 1BW.

Orders will be processed and dispatched (using 2nd class post) within seven working days.

For other enquiries about the ROOTS resources, email [rootsinfo@rootsontheweb.com](mailto:rootsinfo@rootsontheweb.com)

ROOTS for Churches Ltd is a charitable company. (charity no 0197466)