

# ROOTS YOUNG PEOPLE

Go to [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com) for all templates, links and images. Find Bible notes and more prayers on p.30. Use the BIBLE section below first, then choose activities from the other sections. Extra ideas can be found in *Explore & respond* opposite.

## BIBLE Matthew 15.(10-20),21-28

### Warm up 5 mins E

Serve snacks and drinks but also challenge the young people to build a house of cards. Is anyone distracted from the food by this pointless task?

### I know that voice 15 mins WE

Invite a guest – someone everyone will know – to read the passage from Matthew's Gospel. Ask the young people to close their eyes while the visitor enters the room and reads. Can they recognise the guest, simply from hearing their voice?

### Questions to discuss

- What makes the Pharisees 'blind'?
- Jesus seems to treat the woman quite harshly to start with (vv.23-26). Why do you think he does that?
- Why do you think Jesus comments on the faith of the woman?


## CONNECT

### Offended? 10 mins WE

Ask for a volunteer, preferably a confident actor. Ask someone else in the room to make a simple and agreeable statement – something like, 'Lovely weather we're having'. The volunteer must respond with, 'I find that really offensive!' and come up with a reason why that statement is, in fact, offensive. (See [WEB](#) for a clip from the BBC gameshow *If I ruled the world* – which this activity is based on – for inspiration.)

### Unlikely advice 10 mins WE

Show the group a range of quotes from famous people giving life advice (see [WEB](#)) – you might like to do this without showing who said them first. Discuss which of these pieces of advice might actually be wise. Ask the young people: have you ever had wise advice from an unlikely person? Does God ever speak to us through unlikely people?

[WEB](#) PostScript: Linking this week's reading to the news 

## Listen

[WEB](#) See *Young People* page or *Hymns, songs & music* for links to these tracks.

Tremble, Mosaic MSC on *Glory & wonder*

Look up child, Lauren Daigle on *Look up child*

Whatever you're doing (something heavenly), Sanctus real on *We need each other*

## EXPLORE


### Barnyard bonanza 10 mins E

Give each young person a slip of paper with the name of a farm animal on it (template on [WEB](#)). They should keep which animal they have been given a secret. Ensure that there are several of each animal, but only one donkey. Challenge everyone to find the other members of their species, by making the appropriate noise. Give the donkey a consolation prize afterwards!

### The art of misdirection 15 mins WE

Show the young people the clip 'The art of misdirection' (see [WEB](#)). Apollo Robbins demonstrates what misdirection means and how it can be used to 'steal your attention'. Ask the group: do you ever find that your attention is 'stolen' by things that don't really matter? Can anyone think of any examples?

### Picture pointers [WEB](#)

Questions for reflection 

- ▶ When have you ever experienced life from the viewpoint of an outsider?
- ▶ How can we be better at listening to those who are 'outsiders'?
- ▶ What new understandings might we gain from listening to them?



## PRAY

### Eye wash 5 mins ES

Draw some simple eye shapes onto acetate using a permanent marker pen and give one eye to each young person. Then ask everyone to write on the acetate in washable ink some things that distract them or limit their vision. Provide some water and invite the young people to wash away the things they have written, praying that God will help them to see things differently.

### Listen... 10 mins ESA

Gather the group together and spend a few minutes simply listening. After a while, ask the young people: does God have anything to say? Continue in an attitude of listening as you all leave. Remind the young people to be open to God speaking through unexpected people.

## Live your faith

Go out of your way to speak to an outsider this week. Listen carefully: they might have something important to say. **ESA**