

ROOTS YOUNG PEOPLE

Go to www.rootsontheweb.com for all templates, links and images. Find Bible notes and more prayers on p.22. Use the BIBLE section below first, then choose activities from the other sections. Extra ideas can be found in *Explore & respond* opposite.

BIBLE Matthew 14.13-21

Warm up 10 mins E S

Invite the young people to eat together, around a table, before starting the other activities. Serve drinks and simple food or offer something more ambitious if you can. Spend time catching up with your young people. Discuss who else could or perhaps should have been with you today. Reflect on the importance of sharing together.

Share it out 10 mins W E

Share out the reading of the Bible passage and encourage everyone to read out a verse each. (Anyone who really doesn't want to can pass.) You can do this while sitting round the meal table (see *Warm up*). Discuss what brought these thousands of people together – why did they gather in the desert, without bringing food?

Questions to discuss

- What do you think brought all these people together?
- How do you think the disciples felt about what Jesus asked them to do?
- Jesus mentions that 'the hour is late'. What do you think that means?

EXPLORE

Turn out your pockets 5 mins W E A

Invite the young people to turn out their pockets or bags. What do they have with them that they could share with someone else? Use this as a starting point for a discussion: what other (less tangible) things could we share? Time? Energy? Expertise?

The big bounce 10 mins E

Divide the young people into small teams. Set up a bucket for each team at one end of the room. Ask one member of each team to stand about three metres away from the buckets. On 'go', each player must bounce a table tennis ball into their team's bucket. Succeed or fail, they then tag the next player in their team. The first team to score five times wins. Talk about how it feels to be trying your best and knowing that what you're doing is urgent.

Picture pointers WEB

- Questions for reflection WEB
- ▶ Why is there a need to share?
 - ▶ What are the best things about joining together with your church community?
 - ▶ How can you plan to share something with them?



CONNECT WEB

Climate urgency 10 mins W E A

Find out what the young people know about the climate crisis. Ask them to find simple, clear information on the climate situation. Look at some websites (links on WEB) as examples. Bring the group together to feed back on what they have learnt. Discuss what makes this issue urgent. What can and should we do? How long do we have to make changes?

In the box 5 mins W E

Provide a large cardboard box or a rug. Challenge the group to get as many people as possible in the box or on the rug (one foot inside is enough, as long as no body parts are touching the floor). You could split the young people into groups and compete. Afterwards, discuss what brings people together and unites them. How does Jesus do it? How can we do it?

WEB PostScript: Linking this week's reading to the news WEB

PRAY

Time is short 10 mins E S

Set up a large lit candle and a sand timer in the middle of the room. Turn the timer over and ask the young people to sit round it. Remind the group that 'the hour is late' – doing God's work is urgent. Encourage everyone to pray quietly, asking God how he wants them to serve other people, and reflecting on what he might be saying.

Bread and wine 10 mins E S

Bring out some fresh bread (or a gluten-free alternative). Encourage everyone to take a chunk of bread, give it to another person in the room and pray for them briefly. You can share some grape juice too, but do this in line with your church's views about communion. Talk to your church leader if you're not sure.

Listen

WEB See *Young People* page or *Hymns, songs & music* for links to these tracks.

Power, We are messengers on *Power*

Make us one (live), Jesus culture feat. Chris Quilala on *Love has a name*

Hold us together, Matt Maher on *Alive again*

Live your faith WEB

Share something with at least one other person, every day this week. This could be food, time, energy or knowledge, for example. **E A**