



LEADER MATERIAL
TERM 4 | 2024

*How do we learn
from our past and
look forward to
our future?*



SESSION 1

*What do I
love to do?*

Introduction



As we move through high school, it's natural to start thinking about the jobs we will do in the future. Some young people find this exciting, but for many young people, it is scary.

What if we end up in a job we hate? What if our future work feels meaningless? What if it doesn't suit us?

We'll spend so much time working, so it would be great if our job involved things we enjoy doing. As we plan for the future, it's helpful to ask ourselves: 'What do I love to do?'

As a way to begin thinking about this, let's play the Job Taboo game.

PLAY THE 'JOB TABOO' GAME



How did you go with the game?

Do you know anybody who does one of these jobs?

Do you think people are more likely to get jobs when they know someone else who has done that job?





What are three jobs that you would love to do?

1. _____

2. _____

1. _____

When we were with you, as apostles of Christ we could have used our authority to make you help us. But we were very gentle with you. We were like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you very much, so we were happy to share God’s Good News with you. But not only that—we were also happy to share even our own lives with you. Brothers and sisters, I know that you remember how hard we worked. We worked night and day to support ourselves, so that we would not be a burden to anyone while we did the work of telling you God’s Good News.

1 Thessalonians 2:7-9

Discuss these topic questions



What do you think about what we just read? How do you think it might relate to what we love to do?

These words come from a letter that a leader named Paul wrote to the church in Thessalonica. He says that he worked extremely hard when he was with them, sharing God’s Good News, but he didn’t mind, because it brought him joy. Can you think of a time when something was a lot of work, but it brought you joy?

Paul was passionate about his message. What does it feel like when we are passionate about something?

Paul had a side job (making tents) and used the money from that job to fund what he was passionate about. What do you think of this approach to work? Could this work for people today?



CONCLUSION



As we move through high school, it's natural to start thinking about the jobs we will do in the future. Sometimes, this can cause us to worry. We want to do something that suits us. Something we will enjoy.

Working out what we enjoy doing today can give us clues about what we will enjoy doing in the future.

The Good News is that we can be passionate about our work. When we find a job we like doing, we can find joy in it, even if it is tiring or difficult at times.



SESSION 2



What am I good at?

INTRODUCTION



No one wants to get stuck in a job they are bad at.

When we have to do things that don't match our abilities, we can feel frustrated or even embarrassed. If we spend too long in that kind of space, we can start to have negative feelings about ourselves.

It's a different story when we do things we are good at. We can feel confident, proud and valuable.

We all have strengths that can be used in a future job, but sometimes it takes a while to work out what ours are.

As we think about our future, it's helpful to ask ourselves: 'What am I good at?'

As a way to begin thinking about this, let's play the 'First Person to...' game.

PLAY THE 'FIRST PERSON TO...' GAME



How did you go with the game? Which activities were you best at?

How did you feel when you were doing them?

Write down three other things you are good at:

1. _____

2. _____

1. _____



READ THE SCRIPTURE

⁶ We all have different gifts. Each gift came because of the grace God gave us. Whoever has the gift of prophecy should use that gift in a way that fits the kind of faith they have. ⁷ Whoever has the gift of serving should serve. Whoever has the gift of teaching should teach. ⁸ Whoever has the gift of comforting others should do that. Whoever has the gift of giving to help others should give generously. Whoever has the gift of leading should work hard at it. Whoever has the gift of showing kindness to others should do it gladly.

Romans 12:6-8.

Questions



What do you think about what we just read? How do you think it might relate to what we are good at?

Verse 6 says, 'We all have different gifts.' Does this surprise you? Do you think some people have gifts that they haven't discovered yet? How do we find out what our God-given gifts are?

Paul names some specific gifts here (teaching, being generous, comforting people, leading, serving and prophecy). Which one of these comes most naturally to you? What do you see as some of your other strengths?

What difference would it make if our future job lined up with our gifts and skills?



CONCLUSION



Something special happens when we get to do things we are good at. We can feel proud, confident, and like we have found our 'sweet spot.'

Our future jobs will be more enjoyable if they line up with our gifts.

So, when we think about our future work, it's helpful to ask ourselves, 'What am I good at?'

The Good News is that God has given us all gifts that we can use to make a difference today and in our future work.

SESSION 3



What do I think the world needs?

INTRODUCTION



Our world is full of needs: things that are not right, things that are causing people pain.

Some of these needs fire us up more than others. When we hear about them, something inside us screams, “That is not ok!”

These needs can grab us by the heart, and we find ourselves wanting to help.

Our background can give us a soft spot for particular needs.

Our future jobs can be filled with meaning when connected to a need we care about.

So, as we think about the future, it’s helpful to ask ourselves:
‘What do I think the world needs?’

As a way to begin thinking about this, let’s play the ‘Meet the Needs’ game.

PLAY THE 'MEET THE NEEDS' GAME



How did you go with the game?

How easy was it to respond to the needs quickly?

What jobs do you think of when you think about responding to need?



Write down the needs you chose and something you can do to help.

NEEDS I CHOSE:

SOMETHING I CAN DO TO HELP:

READ THE SCRIPTURE

³⁵ Jesus travelled through all the towns and villages. He taught in their synagogues and told people the Good News about God's kingdom. He healed all kinds of diseases and sicknesses. ³⁶ Jesus saw the many people and felt sorry for them because they were worried and helpless—like sheep without a shepherd to lead them. ³⁷ Jesus said to his followers, "There is such a big harvest of people to bring in. But there are only a few workers to help harvest them. ³⁸ God owns the harvest. Ask him to send more workers to help gather his harvest."

Matthew 9:35-38

You must help poor people and those with no family to receive justice. Help those who have pain and trouble to receive the help they need. Rescue weak and helpless people, so that evil people cannot hurt them.

Psalm 82:3-4

Questions



What do you think about what we just read? How do you think it might relate to what we think the world needs?

In the first scripture, Jesus is confronted by people's needs, and it says that Jesus "felt sorry for them". When have you felt sorry for strangers who are hurting? Where do you think these feelings come from?

Jesus prays that God would send more workers to help meet people's needs. Does it surprise you that God wants to partner with ordinary people in this way? Why/why not?

What difference would it make to have a job that involves setting things right in the world?



CONCLUSION



Our world is full of need: things that are not right and things that are causing pain. Some of these needs fire us up. They grab us by the heart, and we find ourselves wanting to help.

Our future work can feel meaningful when connected to a need we care about.

The Good News is that God wants to use us to set things right in our world.

We can make a difference today – and in our future work.

SESSION 4

How can I find purpose?

READ THE INTRODUCTION AND PLAY THE GAME



As we get older, it's common to crave a sense of purpose. We want to do things that feel meaningful and worthwhile.

We don't want to drift through life aimlessly. And we don't want to end up in a job that seems pointless.

But how do we find a sense of purpose?

How can we steer ourselves towards a job that feels meaningful?

When we think about our future work, it's helpful to ask ourselves, 'How can I find purpose?'

As a way to begin thinking about this, let's play the 'Purpose Match' game.

PLAY THE 'PURPOSE MATCH' GAME



How did it feel when you came across items that had more than one purpose?

Do you think people are created with one purpose, or can we find purpose in many different things?



While we all might love to have a dream job, we usually don't start there. We'll probably have a few jobs in our lives. Think through some options below:

A job I can start off with: _____

A job that will give me the experience to grow: _____

A job I wouldn't mind if my dream job isn't available: _____

DO THE 'CAREERS QUIZ' ACTIVITY

Scan the QR Code below and complete the Career quiz

Nb. Do not enter your personal details. Please enter generic details, e.g., test@test.com and 0400 000 000.



[Career Quiz](#)

Discuss the Activity



How did you go with the activity? Have you ever done something like this before?

What did you think when you received your result? Do you think the suggested jobs would be a good fit for you?

Do you know anyone who has a similar job to the one that came up on your quiz?

What steps could you take today to help prepare for your ideal future job?

Often, our first job is not our dream job. What stepping stones might be needed along the way before you get your ideal job?



READ THE SCRIPTURE

WHICH COMMAND IS THE MOST IMPORTANT?

²⁸ One of the teachers of the law came to Jesus. He heard Jesus arguing with the Sadducees and the Pharisees. He saw that Jesus gave good answers to their questions. So he asked him, “Which of the commands is the most important?”

²⁹ Jesus answered, “The most important command is this: ‘People of Israel, listen! The Lord our God is the only Lord. ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’[d] ³¹ The second most important command is this: ‘Love your neighbor[e] the same as you love yourself.’[f] These two commands are the most important.”

³² The man answered, “That was a good answer, Teacher. You are right in saying that God is the only Lord and that there is no other God. ³³ And you must love God with all your heart, all your mind, and all your strength. And you must love others the same as you love yourself. These commands are more important than all the animals and sacrifices we offer to God.”

³⁴ Jesus saw that the man answered him wisely. So he said to him, “You are close to God’s kingdom.” And after that time, no one was brave enough to ask Jesus any more questions.

Mark 12:28-34

Questions



What do you think about what we just read? How do you think it might relate to finding purpose?

In this scripture, Jesus says that loving God with everything we have and loving others as much as we love ourselves is the most important thing we can do. What do you think of this teaching? What difference could it make if we approached our lives with this aim?

Can you think of any adults you know who love God and others through their jobs? (Try to think of some who don't work for the church.) What does this look like?

Do you think every job can feel meaningful if we try to love God and others through it?

CONCLUSION



As we get older, it's common to crave a sense of purpose. We want to do things that feel meaningful and worthwhile.

But how do we find a sense of purpose?

How can we steer ourselves towards a job that feels meaningful?

Thinking about what we like doing, what we are good at and what the world needs can help point us in the right direction.

The Good News is that when we focus on loving God and loving others, we can find deep purpose and meaning today and in our future work.



SESSION 5

Who did I connect with this year?

INTRODUCTION



We all need connection – people who know us and people to share our lives with. Over time, these connections can change. We meet new people, and existing connections can grow or fade.

As we reflect on the year we've had, it's good to think about how we were shaped by our connections.

It's good to ask ourselves: 'Who did I connect with this year?'

As a way to begin thinking about this, let's play the Link Chasey game.



PLAY THE 'LINK CHASEY' GAME

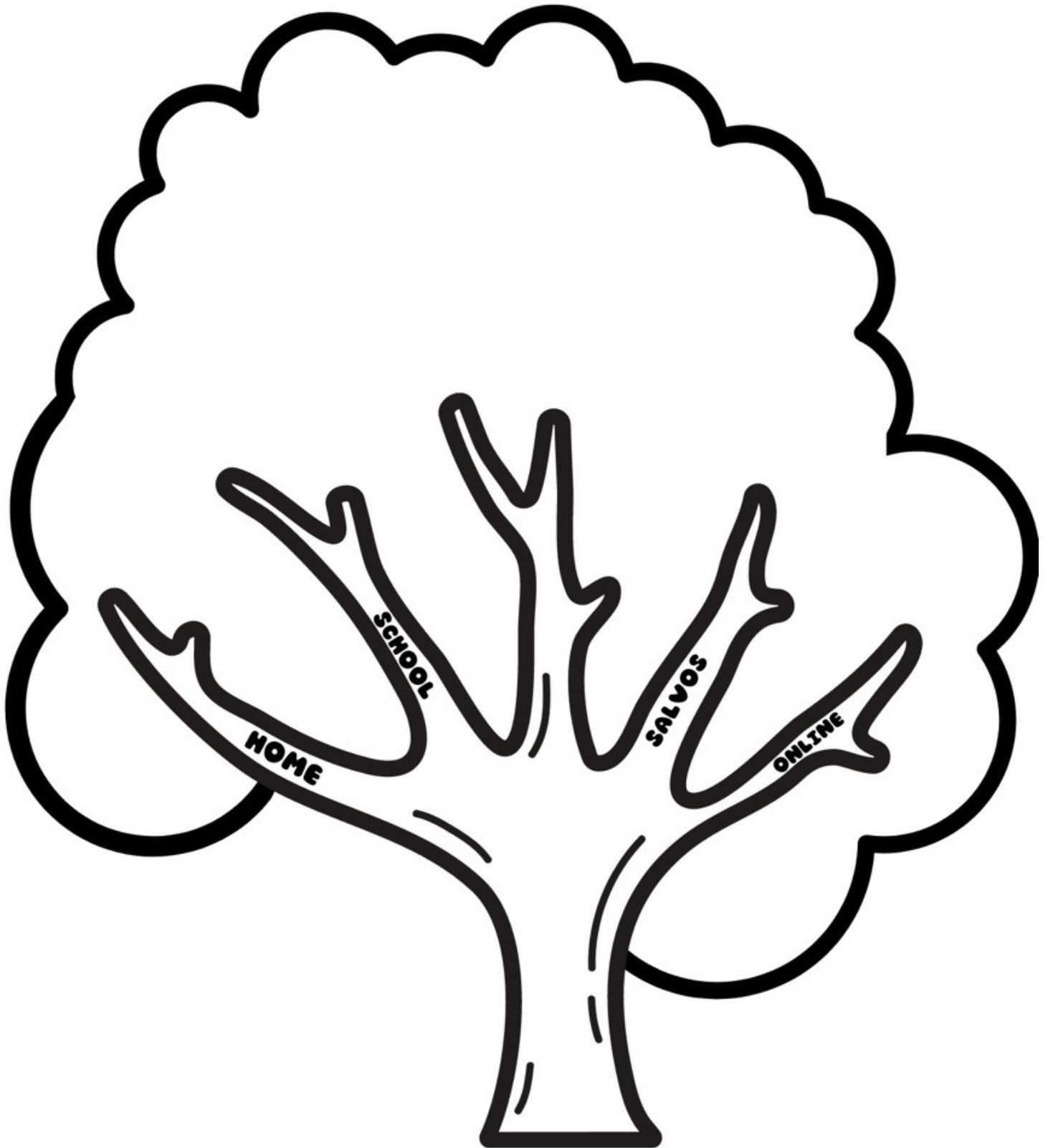


How did you go with the game? What does it feel like when we are connected to others?

In the game, our connections kept changing. How does it feel when our connections and relationships change?



DO THE 'TREE OF CONNECTIONS' ACTIVITY



READ THE SCRIPTURE



THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will do what I command. ¹⁶ I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever. ¹⁷ The Helper is the Spirit of truth. The people of the world cannot accept him, because they don’t see him or know him. But you know him. He lives with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸ “I will not leave you all alone like orphans. I will come back to you.

John 14:15-18 ERV

Questions



What do you think about what we just read? How do you think it might relate to the question: ‘Who did I connect with this year?’

In this scripture, Jesus says he doesn’t want the disciples to be left all alone. Why do you think people have such a high need for connection?

Jesus says he will give us the Holy Spirit to always be with and help us. When do you feel connected to Jesus?

How could being connected to the Holy Spirit help you?

CONCLUSION



We all need connection - people to share our lives with.

Over time, these connections can change. We meet new people, and existing connections can grow or fade.

As we reflect on the year we've had, it's helpful to ask ourselves: 'Who did I connect with this year?'

The Good News is that even though connections can change, Jesus doesn't. He is always there to help us.



SESSION 6



*What did we learn
from this year?*

INTRODUCTION



We all experience challenges in life. When we look back on our year, we can usually think of some challenging times that we faced. Maybe you fought with a friend, failed a test, got sick or had issues at home.

No matter what we've been through this year, we can celebrate that we made it! We are still standing.

Challenges can show us how strong we are and give us confidence for the future. Challenges can also help us grow and learn.

Sometimes, we don't realise how much we have grown and learned until we look back. So, it's helpful to ask ourselves, 'What did we learn this year?'

As a way to begin thinking about this, let's play the This Year... game..

PLAY THE 'THIS YEAR...' GAME.



How did you go with the game?

How did it feel to look back on what happened this year?

How would you rate this year out of 10? Why?



READ THE SCRIPTURE

² My brothers and sisters, you will have many kinds of trouble. But this gives you a reason to be very happy. ³ You know that when your faith is tested, you learn to be patient in suffering. ⁴ If you let that patience work in you, the end result will be good. You will be mature and complete. You will be all that God wants you to be.

James 1:2-4

Questions



What do you think about what we just read? How do you think it might relate to the question: 'What have I learnt this year?'

The writer, James, says troubles 'give us a reason to be very happy'. What do you think about this? What do you think he means?

James says challenging times can actually help us grow. Where have you seen this in your life or in the lives of other people?

James says this process can help us become 'mature and complete'. What do you think 'mature and complete' means? What would it look like in your life?

CONCLUSION



We all experience challenges in life. When we look back on our year, we can usually think of some hard times we faced. Maybe you fought with a friend, failed a test, got sick or had issues at home.

No matter what we've been through this year, we can celebrate that we made it! We are still standing.

The Good News is God can use challenges to help us learn and become more mature.



SESSION 7

What are we grateful for this year?

INTRODUCTION



This year has had its ups and downs, just like any other. Sometimes it's easier to focus on the bad stuff, especially if it was painful. But even when things are tough, there are things we can give thanks for. Gratitude can boost our mood, reset our thinking and keep us moving forward. It also helps us see the things in our lives that are meaningful. In everything we go through, we can practice gratitude.

What are you feeling thankful for this year?

As a way to begin thinking about this, let's play the Pick-Up Sticks game.

PLAY THE 'PICK-UP STICKS' GAME

How did you go with the game? Did you find it easy or difficult to find things to be grateful for?

How does our perspective change when we name things we are thankful for?

READ THE SCRIPTURE

¹⁷ Never stop praying. ¹⁸ Whatever happens, always be thankful. This is how God wants you to live in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

Questions



What do you think about what we just read? How do you think it might relate to what we are thankful for?

In this scripture, Paul tells his readers to be thankful or to give thanks no matter what happens. How easy is it to apply this advice?

Paul says, "This is how God wants you to live in Christ Jesus." Why do you think God wants us to live with gratitude?

It's not easy to be thankful when we are going through difficult times. How can we practice gratitude in those times without pretending?



CONCLUSION



This year has had its ups and downs, just like any other. Sometimes it's easier to focus on the bad stuff, especially if it was painful. But even when things are tough, there are things we can give thanks for. Gratitude can boost our mood, reset our thinking and keep us moving forward. It also helps us see the meaningful things in our lives.

The Good News is that when we have Jesus in our lives, it's possible for us to live with gratitude every day.



SESSION 8



What will you remember about Life Labs this year?

INTRODUCTION



We've finished another year of Life Labs! It's been a year of fun, connection and growing together – and that's worth celebrating! We can celebrate and feel proud of all we have learnt and of the friendships we have built with each other.

In this session, we will celebrate and ask ourselves, 'What will I remember about Life Labs this year?'

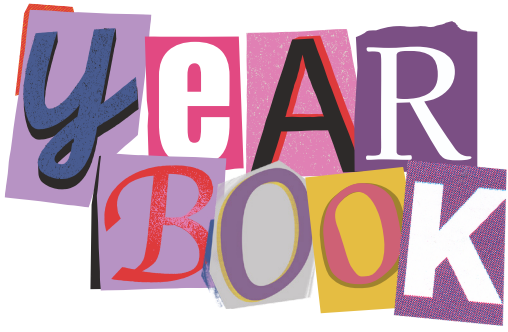
As a way to begin thinking about this, let's play the 'Life Labs Quiz' game.

PLAY THE 'LIFE LABS QUIZ' GAME



How did you go with the game? How does it feel to look back and remember?

What will you remember most about Life Labs this year?



Class Of
2024

this is the yearbook of

nickname

a memory I have with you...

my end of year message to you...

READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DISCUSS THE QUESTIONS

¹⁸ As Jesus was walking by Lake Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (called Peter) and Simon's brother Andrew. These brothers were fishermen, and they were fishing in the lake with a net. ¹⁹ Jesus said to them, "Come, follow me, and I will make you a different kind of fishermen. You will bring in people, not fish." ²⁰ Simon and Andrew immediately left their nets and followed him.

²¹ Jesus continued walking by Lake Galilee. He saw two other brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee. They were preparing their nets to catch fish. Jesus told the brothers to come with him. ²² So they immediately left the boat and their father, and they followed Jesus.

Matthew 4:18-22

After this, the Lord chose ⁷²[a] more followers. He sent them out in groups of two. He sent them ahead of him into every town and place where he planned to go.

Luke 10:1

Questions



What do you think about what we just read? How do you think it might relate to the question, 'What will I remember about Life Labs this year?'

In the first scripture, Jesus calls pairs of brothers to follow him. In the second scripture, Jesus sends people out to serve him in twos. Do you think this is important? Why do you think Jesus called and sent them in groups rather than individually?

Following Jesus into the unknown was probably pretty scary. How do you think they might have supported each other on the journey?

When have you found it helpful to have others alongside you as you follow Jesus?



CONCLUSION



We've finished another year of Life Labs! It's been a year of fun, connection and growing together – and that's worth celebrating! We can celebrate and feel proud of all we have learnt and of the friendships we have built with each other.

The Good News is that we don't need to follow Jesus alone. We can enjoy the support and friendship of other people as we learn about Jesus and try to follow him.



NOTES

*Give us
feedback*





Contact Us

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