

INTRODUCTION

Who is Prison Fellowship?

Prison Fellowship is a Christian organisation whose mission is to show Christ's love to people in prison by coming alongside them and supporting them. We do this through our network of over 2,500 volunteers working in almost every prison throughout England and Wales.

What is Prisons Week?

This week (13th-20th October 2024) is Prisons Week, which aims to raise awareness of, and generate prayer for, all those impacted by prisons. Today is Prison Sunday which marks the start of Prisons Week and is an opportunity for church communities throughout England and Wales to join together in prayer and support for everyone affected by prisons.

Prison Fellowship are one of the many partner organisations of Prisons Week, helping to create awareness and facilitate prayer for everybody impacted by our prisons.

These children's work resources have been created by Prison Fellowship for Prisons Week to help children engage with the theme of prisons and the work of Prison Fellowship in supporting people in prison.

What is Angel Tree?

Angel Tree is a Prison Fellowship programme that gives parents in prison the opportunity to send a personal Christmas present and handwritten note to their children. Prison Fellowship volunteers work with prison chaplains and local churches to buy, wrap and deliver the presents.

Christmas is difficult for people in prison and their children, but *Angel Tree* helps families connect and build relationships by providing children with much-needed joy.

This resource can be followed as written or, alternatively, each activity can be used individually to accompany other teaching and resources.

JESUS LOOKED AT HIM AND LOVED HIM

Mark 10:21

Suggested introduction game:

Musical Statues, Musical Chairs or any other party game where some children are 'out' (if you want a quiet version, or have limited space, we suggest Sleeping Lions!)

You will need: a music player and a clear floor area.

If you have children who may struggle with this game (i.e. who have SEN or are ND, it may help to ask if they want the option of helping with the music or spotting people who are out).

Talk about it:

In Mark 16:21 it says 'Jesus looked at him and loved him.' Even though the man he looked at was making some decisions that weren't very good, Jesus loved him and wanted to help him.

This week is Prison's Week. Today, all over the country, men, women and quite a few teenagers too are in prison for all sorts of reasons.

As Christians, we know that God loves us so much, whoever we are and whatever we've done. He wants to forgive us for the things we get wrong and he wants to help us grow to be more like Him.

This is true for everyone, including those in prison. Sometimes we think God's love is for some people and not others, a bit like the game where some people are 'in' and some people are 'out.'

Sometimes children who have parents in prison can also feel left out too, especially at Christmas time.

Let's use this morning to think about what it means for God to look at us and love us, and what that can mean for others too. Especially those who feel excluded.

Suggested songs

Our God is a Great Big God

Jesus Love is Very Wonderful

I'm special because God has loved me

Prayer

Father God, thank you that you see us and you love us. Help us to share your love with those in prison and their families. Amen.

Suggested Activities

We've included four activity sheets for you to choose from, or you could always have a look at the 'Take it further' session.

TAKE IT FURTHER

If you've got an older group, or a group that like to talk about things, you can try our 'Take it further' session. You could even use these as discussion questions while you do some colouring or a wordsearch.

Think about it

Have a look at these Bible passages:

Luke 23:39-43 Ephesians 6:19-20 Romans 3:23

What do they say about people in prison?

Do you think they change how we see people in prison?

Talk about it

Do you know what Christians around the country are doing to stand with people in prison?

On our website, you can look up what Prison Fellowship does in prisons. You can see what we are asking prayer for each week.

You could even sign up for the Prayer Diary if you wanted to!

Scan here to see what we are up to! →



Show it

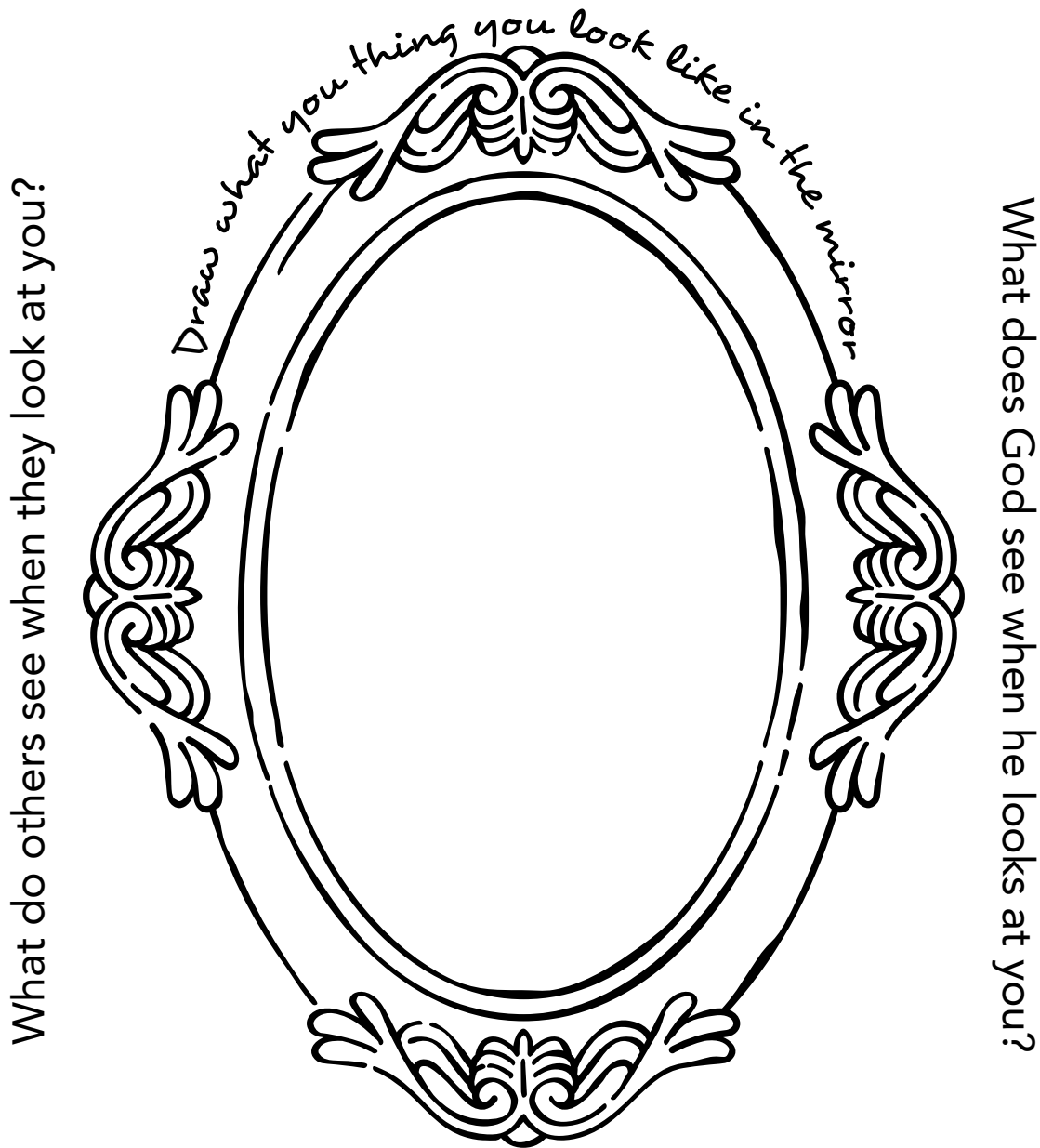
Do your church get involved in *Angel Tree*? *Angel Tree* is the name of the programme we run every year to help parents in prison get a Christmas gift for their child.

How do you feel when someone gets you a gift? We want children with parents in prison to feel the same way. We want them to feel loved, and close to their parent.

Did you know, if people have close relationships with their families, they are less likely to be homeless when they leave prison?

Why not have a think and a pray about how you could get involved in *Angel Tree*. You can even send your ideas in to us!

angeltree@prisonfellowship.org.uk



Whatever we see, and whatever other people see, when God looks at us, he looks at us with love. He looks at people in prison with love too.

Did you know?

There is nothing that we can do to make God love us less
There is nothing we can do to make God love us more

Jesus

LOOKed

at him

and

LOVED

him

Can you find all the presents for children with a parent in prison?



S	P	O	N	G	E	B	O	B	T	R	O	U	K
U	A	Z	R	B	T	R	K	U	B	A	T	B	E
F	P	B	A	O	R	O	P	I	R	E	P	G	B
O	Y	B	E	O	A	G	A	L	Y	B	B	O	O
O	I	O	Y	K	I	K	W	D	E	Y	B	M	A
T	B	M	T	K	N	W	P	I	A	D	B	O	R
B	I	O	H	L	A	R	A	N	R	D	G	A	D
A	O	P	G	Y	R	G	T	G	A	E	E	R	G
L	A	U	I	R	G	B	R	B	B	T	L	R	A
L	L	O	L	E	C	A	O	L	T	R	P	I	M
E	O	A	Z	E	G	R	L	O	T	M	I	A	E
G	R	B	Z	L	I	B	I	C	M	Y	B	O	N
O	B	B	U	O	M	I	P	K	B	O	F	T	R
R	B	B	B	I	L	E	E	S	E	O	O	L	B

LEGO
BOOK
BRIO
TRAIN

BARBIE
FOOTBALL
TEDDY BEAR
SPONGEBOB

PAW PATROL
BOARD GAME
BUZZ LIGHTYEAR
BUILDING BLOCKS

Wordsearch Answers

S	P	O	N	G	E	B	O	B	T	R	O	U	K
U	A	Z	R	B	T	R	K	U	B	A	T	B	E
F	P	B	A	O	R	O	P	I	R	E	P	G	B
O	Y	B	E	O	A	G	A	L	Y	B	B	O	O
O	I	O	Y	K	I	K	W	D	E	Y	B	M	A
T	B	M	T	K	N	W	P	I	A	D	B	O	R
B	I	O	H	L	A	R	A	N	R	D	G	A	D
A	O	P	G	Y	R	G	T	G	A	E	E	R	G
L	A	U	I	R	G	B	R	B	B	T	L	R	A
L	L	O	L	E	C	A	O	L	T	R	P	I	M
E	O	A	Z	E	G	R	L	O	T	M	I	A	E
G	R	B	Z	L	I	B	I	C	M	Y	B	O	N
O	B	B	U	O	M	I	P	K	B	O	F	T	R
R	B	B	B	I	L	E	E	S	E	O	O	L	B

Dear God,

Thank you for those who care for me. Thank you that they...



suggestions: love me, take me to the park, have fun with me, smile lots, tell me stories...

I pray for all the children who don't get to see their mum or dad because they are in prison. I pray that they would...



suggestions: get to see them soon, know they are loved, feel better

Thank you God that you are always with us.

Amen