



More than many sparrows

Matthew 10:24-39

Welcome to 'Together, Apart', free intergenerational resources to help us be church together while we cannot meet.

All the sections explore the same Bible passage in a range of creative ways. Choose whichever parts work best for you, and remember that 'All Age' does not mean 'only for the kiddies'!

You can find lots more free resources like this at www.reflectionary.org

Here is what you will find in each resource pack:



A Word in Your Ear

A Bible passage that we can all learn from together, whatever our age.



Food for Thought

Aimed at adults and teens, some thoughts and questions on the passage.



Inner Space

A blank space for you to record your thoughts, whether that is worries, dreams or a shopping list.



Looking Closer

A creative and interactive look at the Bible passage. Great for older children and anyone who likes a creative approach.



I Wonder...

An imaginative style of Bible study, perfect for younger children and those who like to immerse themselves in the Bible world.



Take a Break

A chill-out zone, with meditative colouring for adults and children, and links to audio recordings of the passage so that you can listen while resting your eyes.



Creation Station

A craft for children (or young-at-heart adults!)



All Together Now

Suggestions for activities throughout the week that link with the Bible passage.



High 5

Suggestions for spending time with God.



A Word in Your Ear

Take your time reading this extract from our Bible passage. Ask God to help you hear. You can decorate the space around the words if you like.

from **Matt 10:24–39**

'The student is not above the teacher,
nor a servant above his master. It is
enough for students to be like their
teachers, and servants like their
masters.

Are not two sparrows sold for a
penny? Yet not one of them will fall
to the ground outside your Father's
care. And even the very hairs of your
head are all numbered.

So don't be afraid; you are worth
more than many sparrows.

(NIV)



Food for Thought

There are a lot of juicy bits in this passage, a few pretty sound-bites and a couple of hard sayings. It is important that we don't just pick out the bits we like and ignore the rest, but we can get a better grip on trickier passages when we take them in context. This is particularly important if a superficial reading seems to put it at odds with the rest of the Bible.

For example, take verses 34-36: *Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law – a man's enemies will be the members of his own household."* Yeesh!

Q: If you only had that part of the Bible, what sort of person would you think Jesus was? What parts of the Bible support that, and what parts contradict?

On their own, these verses paint a terrible picture. Jesus came to bring the sword and destroy families? Surely that can't be right. No, certainly not. When we take this verse in the context of the passage, the gospel, and the whole message of the Bible, it makes much more sense. Jesus is describing the effect that his message will have – some will accept joyfully, others will angrily refuse – and different family members might have very different responses. Even Jesus's own family were divided at first (see Mark 3:20-21).

The Christian message of salvation is good news for those who realise they need saving, but a stench in the noses of those who think they have no need, and folks react accordingly.

Q: How have you experienced opposition to the gospel? How can we make sure that we are not making the message harder to receive?

This passage comes as part of Jesus' pep-talk to the disciples before he sends them out to spread his message. (I have to say, it's not the most encouraging team boost I've ever heard, but perhaps it is as well to be prepared.) The whole talk can be summarised by verse 24: *The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master.*

"I get this kind of treatment all the time", Jesus is saying, "so don't expect anything different yourselves. Sometimes it will be rough, I'm not going to lie to you. Following me is not some little hobby for when you have nothing better to do. This takes commitment. You up for it?"

Q: How do we sometimes treat our faith as if it were a hobby? What can we do about that?

This outing for the disciples was short-term and limited to just the "lost sheep of Israel". Later, Jesus expanded the mission to Jerusalem, Samaria, Judea and the ends of the earth. He also expanded the mission team, from the twelve disciples to include all of us.

And what's the mission? To do Jesus-stuff. To be Jesus in our communities. Our calling is to be like him. Our confession is that we belong to him. Our destiny is to follow him.

Q: How will you fulfil this calling in your situation?



Inner Space

What's going round your head? Here is a space for you to put your thoughts on paper. You can write, draw ... whatever you like. What will you put here?



Looking Closer

Jesus is sending his disciples out on their own to tell people about him. The disciples are worried that people might not want to listen, and Jesus tells them that it might be tough, but it will be OK.

Imagine you are one of the disciples. What are you worried about? How do Jesus' words that "the student is like the teacher" help you feel better?

Jesus said some things that might sound strange to us. *"Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me."*

Does this mean we should not love our family? No, it doesn't. Don't worry. You can still love your mum, dad, brother, sister or goldfish.

Sometimes we use 'bigger' words than we really mean to make a point, like "I have a *million* things to do" (lots, but not really a million) or "It was raining *buckets*" (not actual buckets, fortunately). Jesus is doing the same here. He is making the point that following him is a big deal. It's not a hobby, it's a LIFE!

How would Jesus say this if he were talking today?

The big lesson that Jesus is telling his disciples, is *Do Not Worry*. Some of the word pictures he uses might sound odd to us, (we don't generally sell two sparrows for a penny) but Jesus' disciples get the message just fine.

They go out and tell people of God's love, and they return full of joy. I like to think that every time they saw sparrows afterwards, the disciples remembered Jesus words: *"Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."*

How much do you think you are worth to God?



I Wonder...

Read or listen to the passage a few times and let it sit in your mind.

Which words, phrases or ideas do you notice? Does anything stand out for you? Hold that in your heart and listen to what God might be saying.

I wonder what I can hear today.

I wonder how I will grow because of this.

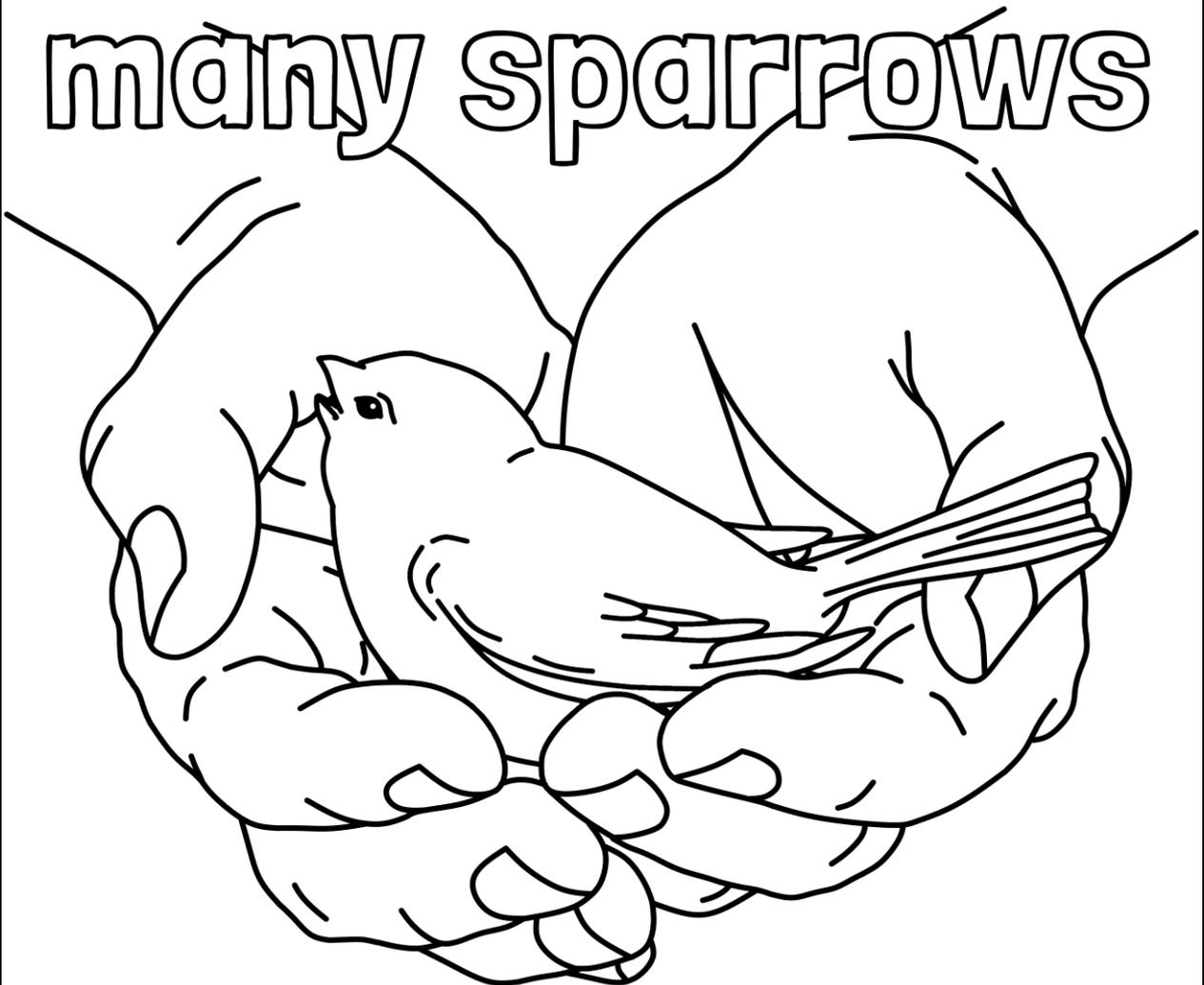


Take a Break

Put on some music, or listen to the passage being read out while you simply sit and be. You can colour the picture below, or fill it with zentangles, or you can just spend the time breathing.

Matthew 10 on Bible Gateway audio [ESV](#) – [Message](#) – [NIV \(Dramatised\)](#) – [NIV \(Suchet\)](#)

You are worth
more than
many sparrows





Creation Station – Hairs on your Head!

Make a crazy rag wig and count all the hairs, just like God does with you.
(But don't worry, there won't be millions.)

You will need:

- Strips of card and sticky tape
- OR cling film, balloon, paper and PVA glue
- OR old beanie hat or woolly tights
- Old t-shirt or spare fabric (light coloured)
- Scissors
- Marker pen

What to do:

1. Stick two strips of card end to end and wrap them around your head like a crown. Stick them so that you have a snug-fitting head band.
2. Add more strips upwards from the band so that they meet in the middle or over at the other side. Add more strips to fill in the gaps until your head is mostly covered.
3. Alternatively, cover the rounded end of a balloon with cling film, and paste on several layers of paper with half-PVA-half-water to make a papier maché head shape.
4. Easier still, use an old beanie hat, or cut most of the legs off an old pair of woolly tights, then tuck the legs inside for an instant skull cap.
5. Cut your fabric into strips about 15cm x 3cm. You can have different colours if you like.
6. Use a pencil or scissors (carefully!) to poke small holes in your skull cap and push an end of the fabric strips through. Alternatively, you can stick them on with tape or glue. Keep going until you have covered all of the skull cap.
7. Use a marker pen to put a number at the end of each strip, starting from 1. How high will your numbers go?
8. Pop the wig on your head and now all your hairs are numbered! (Check with God to see if he has the same number.)





All Together Now

You are worth more than many sparrows.

Here are some ideas for activities you could try during the week.

- Take a £20 note (they work better than the plastic £10 and £5 notes). How much is it worth? Drop it on the ground and stomp on it. How much is it worth? Scrumple it into a ball and throw it in the bin. How much is it worth? It does not matter how scrunpled, grubby or grotty it is. It's still worth £20 because the bank says so. It does not matter how rubbish you feel, you are precious in God's sight because he says so.
- Make sparrow nests! Melt some chocolate in a bowl, 10 seconds at a time in a microwave, and stir in crumbled up Shredded Wheat. (It really looks like twigs and tastes great!) Spoon the mixture into cake cases and make a dip in the middle for a nest. Make a sparrow by gluing two Maltesers together with a little left-over chocolate and add a couple of cornflake pieces for a beak. Admire, then scoff it.
- Take a walk outside and see how many sparrows you can spot. Remember that God cares about each one of them, and he cares for you even more.
- Make a feathery bird picture. Draw round the outside of a sticky tape roll for the bird's body, and around the inside for the head. Then clip up some brown yarn into tiny pieces and stick the fluff in the circles for fuzzy feathers. Add googly eyes and a snip of yellow paper for a beak – brilliant!
- Care for the birds near your home with a home-made feeder. Spread some peanut butter over an empty loo roll tube then roll it in bird seed, breadcrumbs or unsweetened breakfast cereal. You can thread some string through the tube to hang it up, or simply slip the tube over a branch. Who will come for a snack?

My ideas:

Which will you do this week?



High 5

Spend five minutes talking and listening with God. Here is one way:

Let us think about how we can be more like our teacher and master, Jesus. Make a model of yourself out of playdough or pipe cleaners, then use your model to pray. One person can say the prayer, and everyone joins in with the **response**.

**It is enough for students to be like their teachers,
and servants like their masters.**

Start by twisting the feet of your model so that they point the wrong way. Twist the hands and squish the head. What a mess it looks! But do not worry, we will fix it as we pray.

Feet

Jesus, my feet are not like your feet. I do not always follow you very well. Sometimes I go my own way even though I know it is wrong. Thank you that you always find me when I am lost and bring me back onto the right path. Please forgive me and make me new.

Please forgive me and make me new. (*Fix the feet on your model as you say this.*)

Hands

Jesus, my hands are not like your hands. I am sorry for all the times when my actions have hurt other people or hurt your world. I am sorry for when I written unkind things, or used my money unwisely, or when I have done things that hurt, not heal. Please forgive me and make me new.

Please forgive me and make me new. (*Fix the hands as you say this.*)

Head

Jesus, my mind is not like your mind. My head gets cluttered with the busyness of life, I focus too much on the here and now, and I forget that I am a creature of eternity as well as of time. I want to be like you, but I so often fail. I forget to pray. Some of my thoughts are impatient or unkind, selfish or angry without cause. Please forgive me and make me new.

Please forgive me and make me new. (*Fix the head as you say this.*)

Lord Jesus, you have made me new! Thank you that you see me through the eyes of salvation. Thank you that you love me because you are love, not because I have done anything to earn it. Thank you that you know me and you care for me, and one day I will be with you for ever.

Amen.