



## Opening activities



### Odd-one-out

The room is divided into four corners – Matthew / Mark / Luke / John\*. The teacher turns his/her back. Children decide which corner they want to go to and go there. The teacher then calls out the name of one of the corners and all the children in that corner sit down. They are “in”. The game is repeated until only one person is left. (This game usually has the remaining child as the winner. On this occasion the remaining child is the loser. As children may be familiar with the game, explain this change of rule in advance, making sure they understand that the last one remaining is the loser.) At the end of the game, ask how it felt to be the loser – the person who was left out. Ask the other children why they didn’t want to be the last person standing. After the game has finished, give the losing child a small prize. In the story we are going to hear, the “outsider” receives a gift from Jesus.

(\*if there is limited space, this game could be played by having lots of coloured counters in four different colours and choosing a counter. If they have the colour that is called out then they are not the loser.)



### Scabby queen

Remove all queens from a deck of cards except for the Queen of Hearts. If you have a lot of people, use a second deck of cards and remove all queens. The dealer deals all of the cards to the players. Some players may have more cards than others; this is acceptable. Players look at their cards and discard any pairs they have (e.g., 2 kings, 2 sevens, etc.) face up. Players do not discard three of a kind.

After discarding any pairs, beginning with the dealer, each player takes turns offering his/her hand face-down to the person on his/her left. That person selects a card and adds it to his/her hand. This player then sees if the selected card makes a pair with their original cards. If so, the pair is discarded face up as well. The player who just took a card then offers his/her hand to the person to their left and so on. A player is allowed to shuffle his hand before offering it to the player on his left. The object of the game is to continue to take cards, discarding pairs, until all players except one have no cards. When playing with only one queen, it cannot be paired off and discarded. That one player will be left with the lone unmatched card; they are stuck with the ‘scabby queen’ and lose.

At the end of the game, ask how it felt to be the loser – the person who was left out. Ask the other children why they didn’t want to be the last person standing. After the game has finished, give the losing child a small prize. In the story we are going to hear, the “outsider” receives a gift from Jesus.

## 'Zacchaeus climbs a tree'



Adapted from Luke 19 vs 1-10 (Children's version)\*

### Zacchaeus climbs a tree

Zacchaeus was a very short man – the shortest among all the people he knew. He always had to stand on tiptoes to see over any crowds.

One day, Zacchaeus knew that Jesus was going to be walking through Jericho and Zacchaeus really wanted to see him. But there were just so many people! He couldn't see over their heads, even by standing on his tippiest tip-toes!

So he decided to climb a tree. He climbed up high into the branches and waited for Jesus to come by. To his surprise, Jesus stopped beside the tree and looked up into the branches. "Zacchaeus", he said "Come down from that tree! I would like to come with you to your house today!"

Zacchaeus couldn't believe it! Nobody usually wanted to be friends with him. He was a tax man and nobody liked tax men! They came and collected money from people and nobody liked to give money away. Nobody liked Zacchaeus. But here was Jesus inviting himself to Zacchaeus' house!

Everyone in the crowd was very grumpy. "What does Jesus think he is doing? How can he go home with Zacchaeus? Doesn't Jesus know that nobody likes him? Why isn't he choosing to go home with someone who is popular; someone who has lots of friends?"

Jesus heard what the people were saying. But he turned to Zacchaeus and said: "Zacchaeus, it is people like you that I have come to rescue and bring back to God".

And so Zacchaeus took Jesus home to his house and the crowds stood and watched them go.

\*Note to teachers.

These two versions of the story of Zacchaeus are adaptations. We have chosen to omit the references to Zacchaeus being dishonest. We offer this story to encourage children to think what it is like to be an outsider or to be stigmatised, rather than considering the themes of repentance and forgiveness. The reason for this is that, for those using references to HIV as part of these resources, we are concerned that there is no connection made between living with HIV and a sense of wrongdoing.



## Dramatised version of 'Zacchaeus climbs a tree'

### Luke 19 vs 1-10

Narrator 1: Once there was a man called Zacchaeus. He was short.

Zacchaeus: I beg your pardon?

Narrator 1: OK, OK! He was vertically challenged.

Zacchaeus: Thank you!

Narrator 1: Zacchaeus was a tax man. Nobody liked tax men very much so Zacchaeus didn't have many friends.

Narrator 2: One day, Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was going to be travelling through Jericho. He was desperate to see him but, because of his height, he couldn't see over the heads of the crowds.

Zacchaeus: There's nothing else for it! I'll have to climb the tree.

Narrator 2: And so he ran on ahead of the crowds and climbed up into a sycamore tree.

Zacchaeus: That's better, now I can see what's going on! I can see Jesus **and** I'm away from all of those people down there who can't stand me and sometimes call me names. They think I don't hear them, but I do! I hope these branches are thick enough to hold my weight. I don't want to come crashing down in front of Jesus and draw attention to myself!

Narrator 1: Jesus walked through Jericho, passing through the crowds. When Jesus got to the tree, he looked up and spoke to Zacchaeus.

Jesus: Hey! Zacchaeus! What on earth are you doing up that tree? Come down before you fall down! I'm coming to your house today. I'm going to be a guest in your home.

Narrator 2: Zacchaeus scrambled down the tree and stood in front of Jesus, looking a little embarrassed and shuffling his feet.

Narrator 1: Some of the people who heard what Jesus said were indignant and began to mutter to each other.

Onlooker 1: What on earth is Jesus doing, going to Zacchaeus' house?

Onlooker 2: Doesn't he know that nobody likes Zacchaeus?

Onlooker 1: We only ever see him when he's after our money!

Onlooker 2: And he's so short you sometimes don't even see him coming!

Onlooker 1: Why is Jesus getting friendly with a tax man?

Narrator 2: But he heard what the crowds were saying and he turned to Zacchaeus and said

Jesus: Zacchaeus, it is people like you that I have come to rescue and bring back to God.

Narrator 2: And so Zacchaeus took Jesus home to his house and the crowds stood and watched them go.



## Thinking Points



### Questions for younger children

- Why did Zacchaeus climb the tree?
- Why did nobody like Zacchaeus?
- What did Zacchaeus feel like when Jesus said he was coming to his house?
- Are there sometimes people that you don't like? Why don't you like them?
- Can you think of a time when you were left out of something? What did it feel like?



### Questions for older children

- Why did nobody like Zacchaeus?
- Why was Jesus' attitude to Zacchaeus different?
- What might have been going through Zacchaeus' mind when Jesus stopped and spoke to him?
- What do you think the crowd of people would have thought when Jesus said this?
- What would he have felt like when Jesus invited him to come down and he said he would come to his house?
- Who might the modern day equivalent of Zacchaeus be? Who else are outsiders in our society?
- What kind of people do you avoid?
- What kind of people do you judge?
- Is it difficult to be kind to someone who your friends are excluding?

### Making connections (for older children)

Read 'Emma's story' and consider the questions.



## Activities



### The People Paper Chain

Make a people paper chain. Each child draws a face with an emotion—are they smiley faces? Or sad? Happy? Lonely? Afraid? Teacher can add a few emotions to ensure all emotions are represented. Add the faces to the paper chain, to show we can have lots of different feelings.

Alternatively, older children could make their own people paper chain and draw several different emotions.

- If Jesus were going to pick these faces, would he only pick happy ones?
- Or would he pick all of them? (Jesus loves every part of us).
- What would make Jesus happy/sad about you?



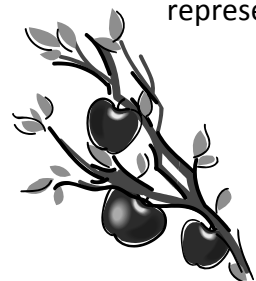
### Writing and Poster Making

- Ask the children to imagine that Emma is their best friend and they have received a letter from her telling them about her HIV status. Write a reply telling her what you felt when you heard her news and what you feel now.
- Make a poster with the words 'Stigma and Discrimination' in a box in the middle. Draw arrows from these words and think about other people who are victims of stigma and discrimination, either here in Scotland or elsewhere in the world. Divide these up amongst the group and ask them to write a prayer on a post-it to add to the poster.
- Ask the group how they challenge stigma and discrimination when they come across it.

### The People Tree

Make a tree without any fruit. Each child draws an apple with an emotion—are they smiley faces? Or sad? Happy? Lonely? Afraid? Teacher can add a few emotions to ensure all emotions are represented. Add the apple faces to the tree, to show we can have lots of different feelings.

- If Jesus were going to pick these apples, would he only pick happy ones?  
Or would he pick all of them? (Jesus loves every part of us).  
What would make Jesus happy/sad about you?



### Recipes

Which apples do we choose to make an apple pie? How do we make a good person?  
Write out a recipe for the person Jesus would want us to be.

If you would like tartan HIV awareness ribbons to distribute to the group, please contact Waverley Care fundraising on 0131 556 9710.

## EMMA'S STORY

"My name is Emma and I'm 15. I've had HIV since I was born but no-one told me about it until I was 10. I take medication daily for my condition but other than that I'm fit and well. I will have to take the tablets every day for the rest of my life.

None of my friends know I'm HIV positive and I don't want them to know. I'm scared they will not want to know me or will bully me.

I'm getting really depressed and anxious because of this secrecy. I have to take my tablets at particular times of the day and they sometimes make me feel sick so it would be hard to hide it if I was at a sleepover. My pals keep asking me why I won't stay over. It's hard to keep thinking up excuses.

It's my secret and I have to live with it on my own. I find it hard to be positive about the future when I feel so alone and so different from everyone else.

Last year my doctor referred me to Waverley Care as there was a new project being set up for young people with HIV. I met the worker on the project and at last I could talk about how I was feeling. She suggested I went on a residential weekend with a group of other HIV+ young people. I was nervous about it, not knowing anyone, and what if I was ill while we were away?

Well I did go and it was a lot of fun. I was able to talk to other young people who faced the same issues as me. We talked loads about how we cope with our treatment, our friends, challenges with relationships and we could all be really honest about what was going on in our lives.

I got their email addresses and am looking forward to another opportunity like this".



**I'm scared they will not want to know me.**

Why do you think Emma doesn't want to tell her friends about the fact that she is HIV positive? Do you think that Emma should tell any of her friends? What do you think you would do if you were in Emma's position?

How might you react if you found out your best friend was HIV positive? Would it affect the way that you behaved towards them?

Why might Emma have been suffering from anxiety and depression? What are some of the things she might have been worried about?

What are the practical things Emma might have to think about as an HIV+ young person?

Why do you think Emma was nervous about meeting other HIV+ young people?

What do you think Emma gained from a weekend away?

What might have happened to Emma if she hadn't been referred to Waverley Care by her doctor?