

Adventure Club

A weekly lesson for children, young people, parents and grandparents, from the GCI Watford Church.
Number 19, 31st July 2020



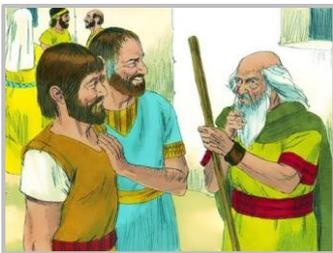
SEP

Part 2

also called YEP (Youth Education Programme) in some other parts of the world. The following are all connected in one way or another to the Summer Education Programmes that have taken place in Scotland and in Wales.

Looking Beyond Appearances

Performed by the boys of B5



Drama: Choose someone to play Samuel and someone to play Jesse. Choose eight volunteer boys to play Jesse's sons making sure the eighth son, David, is smaller than the others. Keep David out of sight. Give the following attributes to the seven boys who come onto the stage in turn: Strength: muscular boy appears and shows off his strength. Smart: boy with neat hairstyle comes onto the stage wearing a suit



and tie. Celebrity: boy comes on being chased by several admiring girls. Popular: boy comes on with three mobile phones all ringing and him answering. Sporty: boy runs on wearing a football kit bouncing a football. Fashionable: Boy comes on wearing sunglasses, the latest flashy clothes and showing off his stylish trainers. Rich: boy talks about his mansion, Ferrari, helicopter and yacht. Samuel then comes to Jesse's home. Samuel looks at each of the seven boys in turn. Each boy demonstrates their particular attribute to him. Samuel indicates in turn that they are all unsuitable. Samuel asks Jesse has he any more sons? Jesse reluctantly goes and finds David and brings him to Samuel. Seeing David Samuel says he is the one that God has chosen.

Lesson: The person playing Samuel then explains that Jesse thought one of his seven eldest sons would be suitable to become king because of their visible attributes, however, God was more interested in what they were like inside. Like Jesse we can make judgements about people simply by the way they look without taking the time to find out what people are really like. We need to value people for who they are rather than what they look like. We need to look beyond appearances. Christians believe that what we look like on the outside is not important to God. God is much more interested in what we are like on the inside.

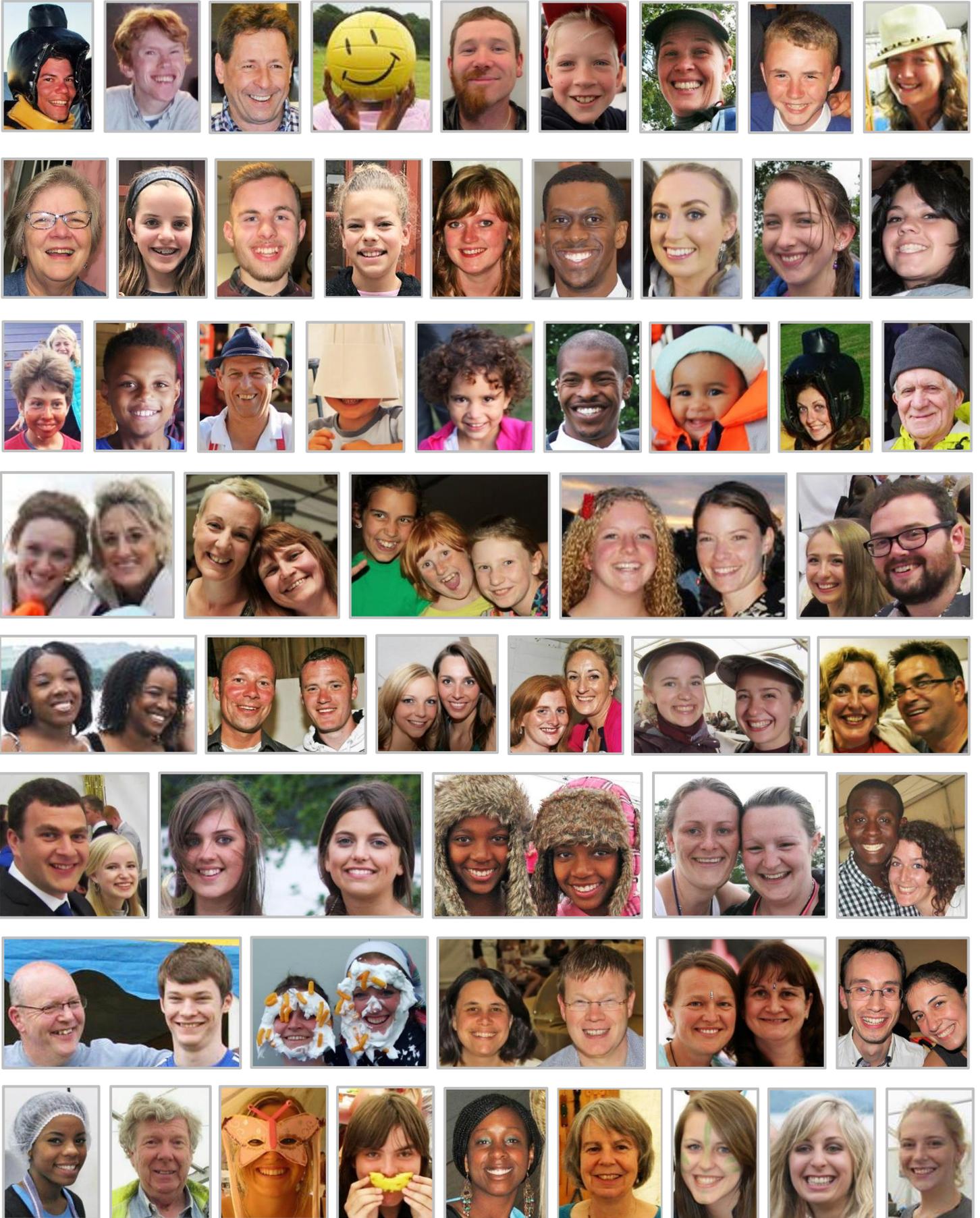
This story is based on 1 Samuel 16. One verse in this chapter says: 'The LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." ' verse 7, Amp.

Don't Quit

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will, when the road you're trudging seems all uphill, when the funds are low and the debts are high, and you want to smile, but you have to sigh, when care is pressing you down a bit, rest if you must, but don't quit. Life is queer with its twist and turns, as everyone of us sometimes learns, and many a failure turns about, when he might have won had he stuck it out; Don't give up though the pace seems slow, you may succeed with another blow. Success is failure turned inside out, the silver tint of the clouds of doubt, and you never can tell how close you are, it may be near when it seems so far, so stick to the fight when you're hardest hit, it's when things seem worst that you must not quit. Author unknown

😊 Smiling Is Infectious 😊

Smiling is infectious; you catch it like the flu, when someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too. I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin, when he smiled, I realized I'd passed it on to him. I thought about that smile, then I realized its worth, a single smile, just like mine, could travel round the earth! So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected, let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected:-)



Three Memorable Lessons

A surgeon gave a medical slide presentation to all the campers and staff. For many years he had specialised in abdominal problems and had performed many operations. He explained that many of the conditions he operated on were caused by eating too much junk food. He showed slide after slide of the insides of people to illustrate conditions that bad diet can produce. Seeing the grisly slides helped everyone to definitely get the point.

Lesson: Don't eat junk food.

Some staff members dressed up as cave-men and cave-women. They lit a fire (safely) on the marquee stage, grunted at each other a few times and then breathed in some of the smoke from the wood fire. One of the cave-men pretended to like the smell of the smoke, then pretended to be addicted to it and then pretended to keel over. Two of the staff, who were both professional NHS workers, then explained passionately about the dangers of smoking.

Lesson: Don't smoke or take drugs.

A member of staff talked to all the campers about marriage and Genesis 2:24. He held up a tiny wrapped chocolate. He then showed a big cardboard box full of chocolates. Would they rather have the one chocolate now, or wait to have the big box of chocolates later? He then gave many sound reasons why to wait is a far better decision.

Lesson: Wait until marriage.

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See if you can memorize some, or all, of these words:

'Repent, and let every one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.' Acts 2:38, NKJV

BAPTISM

The following is a summary of a baptism presentation given at SEP, Loch Lomond on the 5th of August 2000. The presentation was made by 10 young people who each read one of the paragraphs below and gave testimonies. (One of the young people was baptised the same day.)



'Today we would like to talk to you about the very important subject of baptism. We know that Jesus Christ was baptised. Christians obviously want to follow Christ's example so there is every reason why we should want to be baptised as well. Christ's baptism is mentioned in Matthew 3:13-17. "At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River and wanted John to baptise him. But John tried to stop him, saying, 'Why do you come to me to be baptised? I need to be baptised by you!' Jesus answered, 'Let it be this way for now. We should do all things that are God's will.'" So John agreed to baptise Jesus. As soon as Jesus was baptised, he came up out of the water. Then heaven opened, and he saw God's Spirit coming down on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love, and I am very pleased with him.'" ' NCV.

'The Bible mentions several people who were baptised. Consider the story of an Ethiopian officer who was sitting in his chariot one day reading the book of Isaiah. He could not understand a certain portion of the book so Philip, who was nearby, was invited by the officer to sit in his chariot with him. Acts chapter 8 verse 35 continues the story: "Philip began to speak, and starting with this same Scripture, he told the man the Good News about Jesus. While they were travelling down the road, they came to some water. The officer said, 'Look, here is water. What is stopping me from being baptised?' Philip answered, 'If you believe with all your heart, you can.' The officer said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' Then the officer commanded the chariot to stop. Both Philip and the officer went down into the water, and Philip baptised him.'" ' NCV.



'Why do we as a fellowship baptise? The answer is that not only are there several biblical examples of baptisms, such as the Ethiopian officer, it's also because of what the apostle Peter clearly proclaimed: "Repent [change your old way of thinking, turn from your sinful ways, accept and follow Jesus as the Messiah] and be baptised, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ because of the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. . . . Be saved from this crooked and unjust generation! So then, those who accepted his message were baptised.'" ' Acts 2:38, 40-41, Amp.

'Baptism involves the complete immersion of the person being baptised in water. People are baptised in the sea, in lakes, in rivers, in swimming pools, in bath tubs and yes in lochs like Loch Lomond; we have had several baptisms in this loch over the years. John the Baptist was baptising in Aenon near Salim, because there was "much water" there (John 3:23). Baptism includes coming "up out of the water" (Matthew 3:16, Acts 8:39) which confirms complete immersion.'



'What is baptism? Baptism is basically a ritual recognising that the person being baptised has repented of sin, has already accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour, has already begun to grow spiritually and through faith is in fact already a Christian. Baptism is an outward expression of an innermost purpose and commitment.'



'What does baptism symbolise? Going down in the water and being under the water symbolises the death of the old self. Symbolically the old self is crucified with Christ and buried with Him. The person being baptised accepts Christ's death to take away their sins. Paul tells us: "Don't you know that all who share in Christ Jesus by being baptised also share in his death? When we were baptised, we died and were buried with Christ. We were baptised, so that we would live a new life, as Christ was raised to life by the

glory of God the Father." Romans 6:3-4, CEV. Rising up out of the water symbolises a new life in Jesus. Baptism reminds us that we only obtain salvation by sharing in the death and in the glorious life of Jesus Christ.'

'What does baptism signify? Water baptism signifies a believer's repentance and acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. A believer is someone who believes wholeheartedly in Jesus Christ. Repentance means being sorry for sin and turning your heart and life around so as to align to God's ways. Acceptance means becoming a disciple of Jesus, following His loving example and His inspired Bible. Baptism also signifies the indwelling gift of the Holy Spirit.'



'Baptism is the most important decision in our lives. Baptism is not a decision you come to in a superficial way. It is not based on emotion. It is based on strong belief and faith. Because baptism is such an important decision it is arrived at after much time, thought, study and prayer. The decision is vitally important because you are being baptised into the body of Christ, in other words into His one Church. "God's Spirit baptised each of us and made us part of the body of Christ." 1 Corinthians 12:13, CEV

'When is the right time to be baptised? The answer to this question is after a person has come to faith in Christ, then he or she is eligible for baptism. This can be when a person is quite young or quite old. So if a young person has come to genuine sorrow over sin, come to genuine faith that Christ has completely removed their sins and come to genuine commitment to Christ they should be baptised.'



'If you are considering baptism now or in the future, how do you go about it? The answer is to talk to a minister. Also, you may wish to talk to one or more people you feel comfortable with in your congregation. The minister will counsel with you and help and guide you in every way he or she can. In conclusion, Christians have a responsibility: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the

name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19, NIV. Baptism is a profound and joyful ceremony because it signifies a glorious new life in Jesus Christ. I encourage you to be baptised.'

Baptism articles are available from the Church if you are interested.

Lord, I Come to You

Our daughter Jennifer was baptised in Loch Lomond. After she came out of the water she chose this hymn: 'Lord, I come to You, let my heart be changed, renewed, flowing from the grace that I found in You. And Lord, I've come to know the weaknesses I see in me will be stripped away by the power of Your love. Hold me close, let Your love surround me, bring me near, draw me to Your side. And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle, and I will soar with You, Your Spirit leads me on in the power of Your love. Lord, unveil my eyes, let me see You face to face, the knowledge of your love as You live in me. Lord, renew my mind as Your will unfolds in my life, in living every day by the power of Your love.'



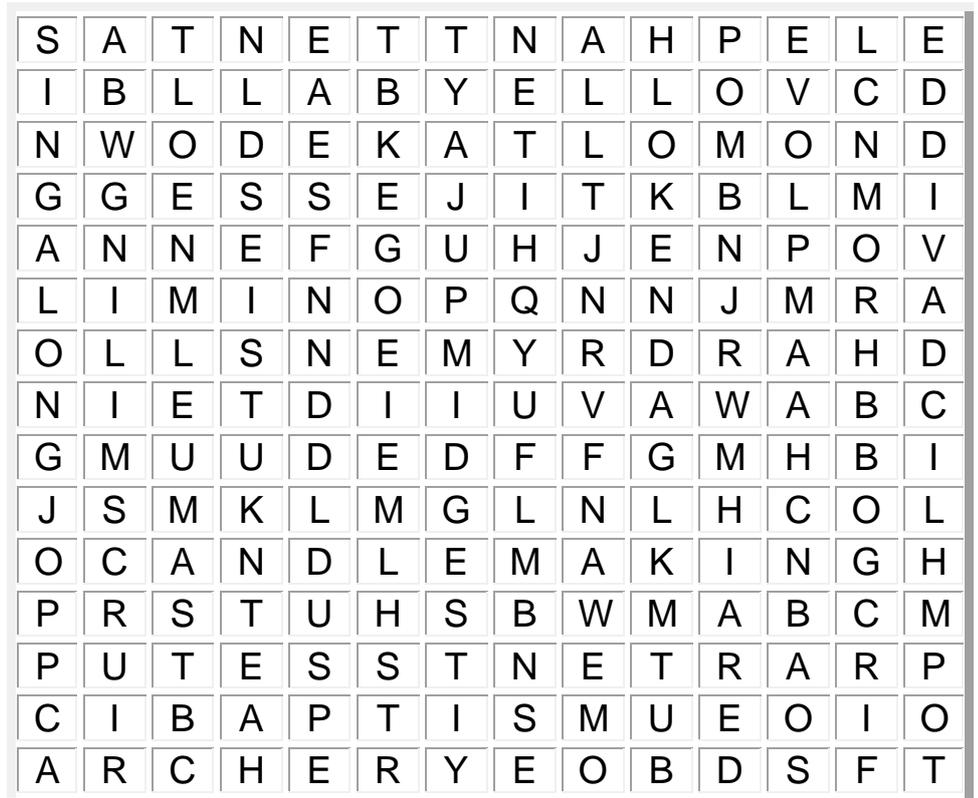
Unbaptised Arms

Ivan IV Vasilyevich was one of the great Czars of 16th-century Russia. He was so busy conquering new territory that he had no time to find a wife. His advisors became concerned that he would not produce an heir to the throne. So Ivan commanded his men to find him a suitable wife who was beautiful, intelligent and the daughter of a nobleman. They found her in Greece. Her name was Sophia, the daughter of the king of Greece. Ivan asked the king for his daughter's hand in marriage and the king agreed on the condition that Ivan be baptised. Ivan agreed and set out for Greece to be married accompanied by five hundred of his best soldiers. When they discovered that Ivan was to be baptised, the soldiers said they wanted to be baptised as well. At this time, a requirement of baptism was to affirm the articles of the Orthodox church which the soldiers agreed to do, except for one. The article they couldn't affirm was one which prohibited them from being professional soldiers. They asked if they could have some time to think over the problem of how to join the church and at the same time remain soldiers in Ivan's army. They devised a plan among themselves and announced that they were ready to be baptised. They marched out into the water, all five hundred of them with five hundred priests. As the priests put the soldiers under the water, each soldier grasped his sword and lifted it high in the air. The soldiers were baptised completely, except for the swords and their fighting arms. Those that witnessed the mass baptism said it was an amazing spectacle to see five hundred dry arms and five hundred swords sticking up out of the water!

Lesson: Some of us today are no different from those soldiers. We want the blessing of God on our lives. But we want it on our terms. So we come to Christ with one arm out of the water and in our dry hand we hold those things we are unwilling to let go of, our possessions, our time, our money, our friends, our bad habits. We must surrender to God our whole selves, not just part of us. Paul writes: 'Beloved friends, what should be our proper response to God's marvellous mercies? I encourage you to surrender yourselves to God to be his sacred, living sacrifices. And live in holiness. . . . Stop imitating the ideals and opinions of the culture around you, but be inwardly transformed by the Holy Spirit through a total reformation of how you think.' Romans 12:1-2, TPT

Word Search

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|--------------|---------|
| MARQUEE | BEN |
| TAKEDOWN | LOCH |
| ELEPHANTTENT | BARN |
| BALMAHA | MIDGES |
| CASHELFARM | MUD |
| LOMOND | JESSE |
| DRYMEN | DAVID |
| CANDLEMAKING | SMILING |
| VOLLEYBALL | SEP |
| ARCHERY | JETTY |
| SINGALONG | BEACH |
| FORMALDINING | DORM |
| BAPTISM | SETUP |
| SAMUEL | TENTS |



Abbreviations for Bible translations used are explained thus: *Amp*: Amplified Bible. *CEV*: Contemporary English Version. *NCV*: New Century Version. *NIV*: New International Version. *NKJV*: New King James Bible. *TPT*: The Passion Translation.

Pictures are courtesy of: Three baptism pictures: Sweet Publishing, Free Bible Images. Two pictures of Samuel and Jesse, Sweet Publishing, Free Bible Images.

'Unbaptised Arms' is based on a story found in *More Hot Illustrations for Youth Talks* by Wayne Rice. (Because the story is written for affect some of the details are not factual.)

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