Celebrating 150 years of Spurgeons Children's Charity

spurgeons
children's charity

BAPTISTS TOGETHER

Resources for children

Junior Church **Resources**

We want to inspire the children and young people of your church, encouraging them that no matter what gifts they have, God can use them. The following resources can be adapted and used within your main service or in Sunday school.

Shape the story below by adding games, discussion topics or illustrations suitable for your setting. We've given some suggestions of tried and tested activities that your children may enjoy.

Prepare your space:

Prepare an area that the children can use to colour or write. You will need colouring sheets, pencils, pens and paper.

What's your aim?

To encourage the children to dream big and be generous as we celebrate the birthday of Charles Spurgeon and the anniversary of his life changing work.

Introduction:

Today is a very special day, it is someone's birthday. Does anyone know whose birthday it might be?

Today is the birthday of a man named Charles Haddon Spurgeon and if he was alive today he would be 183 years old! Imagine putting that many candles on a birthday cake.

Suggested Activities:
One-minute discussion topic: What do you like to do on your birthday?
Game: Pass the parcel

The story

The reason Charles Haddon Spurgeon is so special is because 150 years ago he began an amazing project with his church that is still running today.

Let me tell you a story that started a time long before mobile phones, the internet and games consoles! It's a story that started when a lady shared a gift.

Back in 1867, Charles Haddon Spurgeon was the leader of a church in London. One day a lady called Anne Hillyard gave him a gift of £20,000.

Suggested Activities:
One-minute discussion topic: Who likes getting presents?
Drawing Activity: Imagine you had £20,000

Anne asked Charles to take the money and begin a project for children.

Anne wanted to create a home for children who had no parents. A place where they could go to school, where they had people to love and care for them, and where they could learn about Jesus.

With a team of great helpers, that's what Spurgeon did. With Anne's money, he bought building materials and began to build an orphanage in London. When it was finished, the building became home to 500 boys and girls.

Anne's gift and Charles Spurgeon's hard work brought joy and relief to thousands of children and the work that was started is still going on today.

The story of Charles and Anne reminds me of a Bible story in John 6:

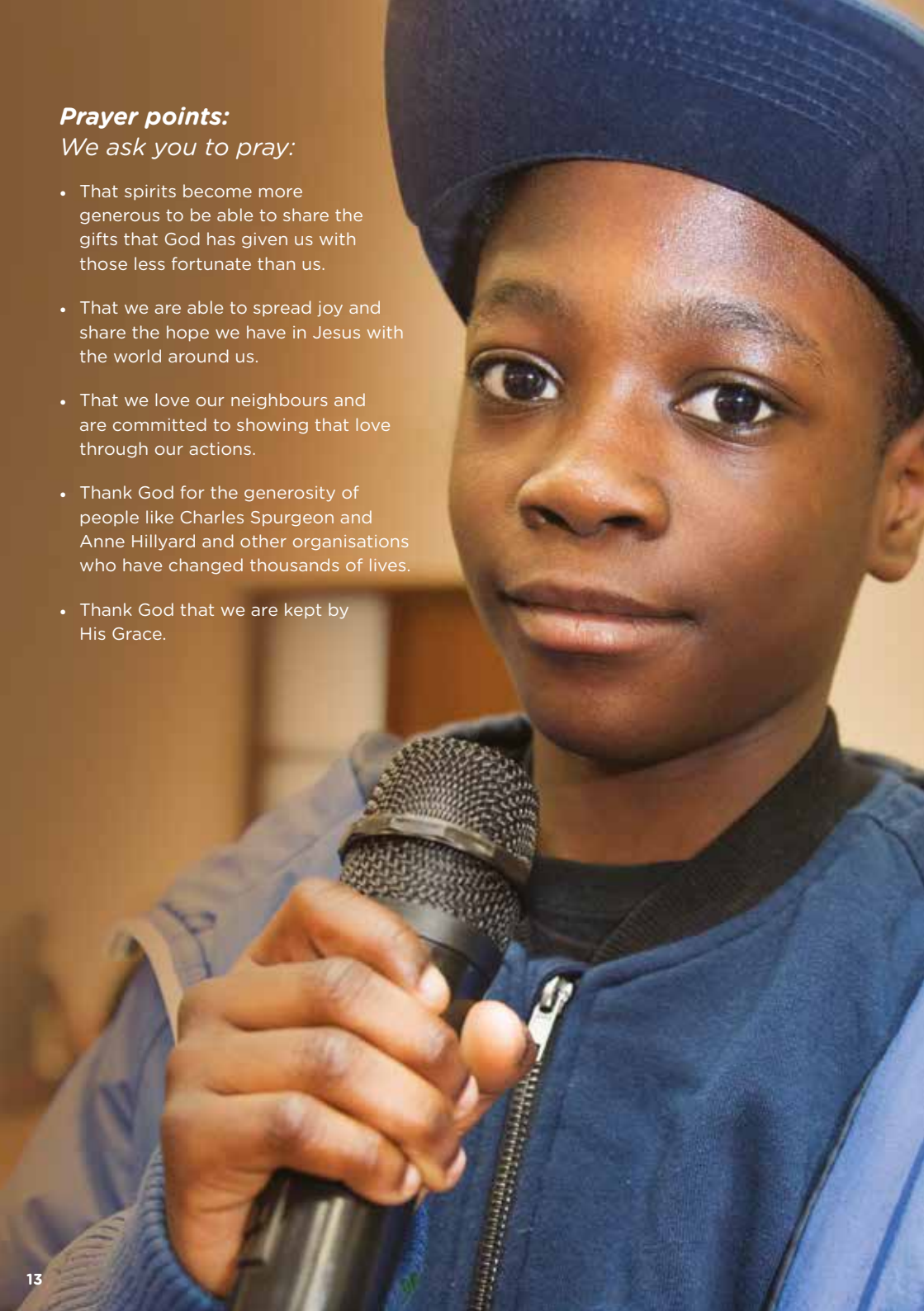
It's the story of a small boy who followed a crowd to hear Jesus speak. After a while the crowd became hungry and Jesus' disciples worried about how they would feed everyone.

The little boy had a packed lunch of bread and fish. He took his lunch to Jesus and Jesus used that lunch to feed thousands of people. Even at the end of the meal there were still leftovers!

Did you know? Today Spurgeons Children's Charity works with over 37,000 children all around the UK – that's enough children to fill 518 red London buses!

Anne and Charles brought what they had to God and followed his plans for their lives. Jesus used their love and generosity to bless thousands of children and to start Spurgeons who are still helping people today. Just like them, Jesus can use us too to make a difference in the world.

Suggested Activities:
Write a note: What could I share?
Draw and Colour: What am I thankful for?



Prayer points:
We ask you to pray:

- That spirits become more generous to be able to share the gifts that God has given us with those less fortunate than us.
- That we are able to spread joy and share the hope we have in Jesus with the world around us.
- That we love our neighbours and are committed to showing that love through our actions.
- Thank God for the generosity of people like Charles Spurgeon and Anne Hillyard and other organisations who have changed thousands of lives.
- Thank God that we are kept by His Grace.

Suggested Resources:

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Activity List:

1 minute discussion time: What do you like to do on your birthday?
You will need: your children/young people.
Ask the children what they like to do on their birthday, encourage them to think about the food they might eat, the games they might play and the friends they might invite to their parties.

1 minute discussion: Who likes getting presents?
You will need: your children/young people
Ask the children, who likes getting presents? Ask for a volunteer and give them a small gift and ask them to go and give it to someone else in the congregation. Explain that by giving what we receive we can spread joy to someone else.

Write a note: What could I share?
You will need: Sticky notes, pens and a wall
Charles Spurgeon took the gift he was given and used it to bring joy and hope to the lives of children - some of them would have been your age. Imagine what you could do in your world to bring joy to other people. What could you share?

Encourage the children to write on sticky notes something they could share to make someone else happy and stick it to the pulpit/wall for everyone to see.

Drawing Activity: Imagine you had £20,000
You will need: Paper, pencils, colouring pencils or felt tips.
Imagine you had £20,000 – draw or list what you do/buy with it? Get the children to share their ideas or pictures. End the activity asking what they thought Anne asked Charles to do with the money.

Game: Pass the parcel
You will need: A small present wrapped with multiple layers of paper, an mp3 player and speakers or another music device.
Play a game of pass the parcel with the children. When the music stops encourage them to give their turn at opening the paper to someone else in the group. Explain that when we share what we are given we can bless someone else and spread joy in their lives.

Draw and Colour: What am I thankful for?
You will need: Paper, colouring pens and pencils, colouring in sheets.
Encourage the children to stay and colour in or draw what they are thankful for. These can be displayed in the Sunday School classroom, taken home or shared at the end of the service with the congregation.

150 years of hope for every child

Could you get more involved in raising funds for our life changing work?

You could also support us by praying for us or raising awareness of our work in your church. Your support will make a huge difference to children here in the UK who continue to need our support today as much as they did 150 years ago.

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Spurgeons Children's Charity is a registered charity. Number: 1081182

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