

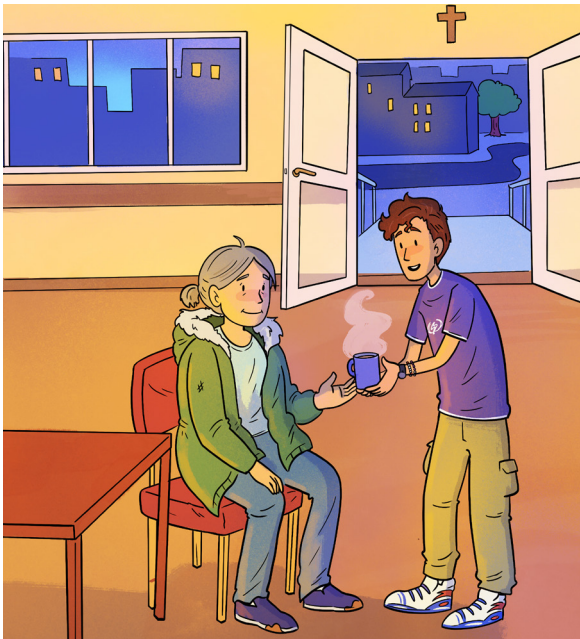
Recognised

Matthew 10:40-42

Jesus concludes his teaching on mission by stressing the close identification between Father God, Jesus himself, those who go in his name, and those who receive his followers in the right spirit. He sends his disciples out to preach in his name, and they are to assume that God will provide for them.



Read this week's passage:



Living Scripture

'Jesus said: "Whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple – truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."' Matthew 10:42

Jesus was sending his disciples out to preach that the kingdom of heaven was near. One way we can bring God's kingdom to those around us is by recognising that we are all made in the image of God, and all have equal worth in his eyes. 'Giving a cup of cold water' means fulfilling a basic need. Could this be by smiling at them in the bus queue, or playing with them in the playground? Or it could be learning someone's name and using it to give them worth.

Of course, we can go further and find other ways to serve... listening, giving time, buying clothes from a charity shop, or donating to the food bank.

Jesus doesn't suggest to the disciples that recognising God in others is optional. He expects it of us. But, when we do it, we will be rewarded by knowing that he recognises and loves us too.

First impressions

- What do you notice in this painting by Mike Moyers?
- How do we recognise Christ in others?
- What small things can you do to show people that they matter – to you, and to God?



LISTEN



Listen to 'Vagabonds', Stuart Townend, and reflect on the welcome that God gives all who call upon him. As we welcome others, so God will welcome us. How can you make church a more welcoming place for all? Talk to others about this on Sunday.

Pray



Our welcoming God has brought us in, and sends us out to recognise his presence in our world and in all the tiny details of our lives. We thank you, Lord, for all the signs of you that we can expect to see in the coming week. Our eyes are open. Amen.

ACT

Consider which places you will be in this week where you could 'recognise' others. If you are using this sheet as a family, is there something you can commit to do together to support somebody's basic needs?



Design a 'Welcome Jesus' banner or bunting for your house and, if you eat around the table, consider setting a place for Jesus occasionally too (you do not need to prepare extra food).



Give Write a letter/bake a cake/draw or make something for someone that shows you value them.

