

For Sunday 27th September 2026

Passage: 1 Corinthians 14



St Peter's

COLCHESTER

St Peter's Kids Resources

Welcome to the resources for St Peter's Kids.

Each Sunday, Seekers and Diggers will normally explore the same Bible passage or theme as the rest of the church, in ways that are right for their different ages.

Our hope is to help the children:

- engage seriously with the Bible;
- grasp one clear central truth;
- understand why it matters;
- respond appropriately to God;
- enjoy being together and build good relationships.

How to use these resources

These are resources, not a script. Please use your knowledge of the children and your own strengths as a leader, and feel free to adapt what is here. You certainly do not need to use everything suggested.

A simple, engaging conversation about the Bible can be far more valuable than an elaborate activity. The aim is always to help the children understand, remember and respond to God's word.

Seekers and Diggers

- Seekers – Reception to Year 2: keep things short, concrete and interactive, using repetition, movement, visual material and questions they can genuinely answer.
- Diggers – Years 3 to 6: give children real opportunities to read the Bible, notice things in the text, think, question, discuss and respond. Aim for material that stretches them without feeling childish.

What about craft?

Craft can be a great way to reinforce the Bible teaching or help children respond, but it is entirely optional. If you enjoy using craft and it genuinely helps the session, please do. If it does not, there is absolutely no need to include it.

Summary

- Paul wants everything Christians do together to help other people grow.
- Key verse: "Let all things be done for building up." (14.26)
- Aim: To help the children see that Jesus has loved and saved us, and that because we belong to him we can use what God gives us to help others understand the truth, trust Jesus and grow as Christians.
- Keep returning to: "Will this help somebody else know and follow Jesus?"

Things to notice in the passage

- Chapter 14 begins: "Pursue love..." It follows straight on from chapter 13.
- Paul prefers gifts that other people can understand and benefit from.
- Verse 3 speaks of "upbuilding and encouragement and consolation."
- Verse 12 says: "Strive to excel in building up the church."
- Verse 17 is important: "You may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up."
- Verses 13-25 stress helping others understand.
- Verse 26 sums up the chapter: "Let all things be done for building up."
- Verses 26-40 show that Christians should contribute, but in a way that is orderly and helps everyone.

Possible approach for Seekers

Keep the main truth simple: **Jesus has loved us, and he helps us love and help other people.**

You could begin by building something with bricks - and ask:

- Are we building it up or knocking it down?
- What makes it stronger?

Explain that Paul says Christians should **build one another up**. That means helping people grow stronger in knowing and following Jesus.

Give simple examples and ask: "Would this help someone?"

For example:

- helping somebody find the Bible passage;
- laughing when somebody gets an answer wrong;
- showing a new child where to go;
- encouraging somebody;
- listening when another person is speaking;
- including someone who is on their own.

Then remind them why Christians do this! Jesus did not stay far away from us. He came to us. He taught people. He welcomed people. He served them. And he gave himself on the cross so that we could be forgiven and belong to God.

We do not help other people so that Jesus will love us. Jesus has loved us first. Now we can help other people too.

A closing question: Who could you help to know Jesus better this week?

Possible approach for Diggers

Ask the children to look at verses 3, 5, 12, 17, 19, 26, 31 and 40.

Then ask: What keeps appearing again and again?

Help them notice:

- building up;
- encouragement;
- understanding;
- instruction;
- learning;
- helping others.

Then use three short headings.

1. Build others up – verses 1-12

- What does Paul want to happen to other Christians?
- Why does he prefer gifts that others can understand?
- Is Paul against people using gifts, or against using them selfishly?

Key point: God gives us things so that other people can grow.

Connect this with Jesus: Jesus did not seek his own good, but gave everything he had for the good of others – ultimately giving himself for us.

2. Help others understand – verses 13-25

Look at verses 16-19.

- Why can somebody not say “Amen” if they do not understand?
- Why are five understandable words better than ten thousand confusing ones?
- What is the difference between “I said it” and “I helped them understand it”?

Then look at verses 23-25.

- What might a visitor think if nothing makes sense?
- What can happen when understandable truth reaches them?

The goal is not simply that visitors feel comfortable. It is that they can hear the truth about God and come to worship him.

3. Let everything be done in order – verses 26-40

Look at verse 26.

- Does Paul expect people to contribute?
- What must everything be for?

Then notice people taking turns.

- What happens if everyone speaks at once?
- How can order actually help more people learn and take part?

The point is not: “Sit still and behave.”

It is: “Use what God gives you in a way that helps others.”

Connecting it with St Peter's

Children are not just people church is organised for. They are part of Christ's church. They can already help others know and follow Jesus.

For example:

- welcoming a new child;
- including someone;
- listening;
- praying;
- encouraging;
- helping someone find a Bible passage;
- explaining what is happening;
- being kind to somebody younger.

Ask: **"Who might be helped to know or follow Jesus better because you were here today?"**

That keeps the application focused not simply on being useful, but on helping others grow as Christians.

Possible activities

- Build up / knock down: use bricks and sort actions into those that help someone grow and those that make things harder.
- Nonsense instructions: give an impossible-to-understand instruction, then explain it clearly. Talk about why God's truth matters enough to make clear.
- Newcomer challenge: imagine a child coming to St Peter's for the first time. What might they not understand? How could we help them hear about Jesus?
- Everyone at once: ask everyone to answer simultaneously, then repeat taking turns. Which makes it easier to hear and learn?
- Memory verse: "Let all things be done for building up."

A note for leaders

The aim is not: "Be more useful."

Nor: "Behave better in church."

The gospel comes first.

- Jesus came for us, served us, taught us, died for our sins and rose again.
- We do not earn his love by serving.
- We belong to him by grace.

And because Jesus has loved us, he gives us opportunities to love others.

So the pattern is:

1. Jesus gives himself for us.
2. God gives us gifts and opportunities.
3. Love uses them to help others know and follow Jesus.

That is what "building up" is for.

Prayer

- Thank God that Jesus came, served us and gave himself for us.
- Thank him for people who help us understand his Word.
- Ask God to help us notice other people rather than thinking only about ourselves.
- Ask him to use us to help others know and follow Jesus.
- Pray for people who are new to church or do not yet know Jesus.