

NINJA ANGELS – WORSHIP

“For God did not give us a spirit of fear. He gave us a spirit of power and of love and of a good mind.”

2 Timothy 1:7 (NLV)

For most of our lives things were pretty boring and predictable: a monotonous routine of school or work where we knew what was coming and planned sensibly for the future. But now things feel different, we don't have the reliable solidity of our normal weekly routine, we are no longer sure who we can rely on to keep us safe. We are living lives away from many of those we love. We've missed out on parties, holidays, special events, seeing friends and family and so much more. We face an unpredictable future - we do not know what will happen next.

So through our holiday club this year we have been showing the children that there is a better way to live, even in the midst of a global crisis! We have shown them another way to walk through life: a way that empowers and encourages, a way that leads to hope and confidence, a way lived through the power of the Holy Spirit: the Way of the Ninja Angel

Below you can find a bible reading and a short thought for each of the daily themes we've used this week. You might like to read a passage each day this week and pray for the 50 children, and their families, who've been part of the Ninja Angels holiday club

NINJA JESUS

Road to Emmaus - Luke 24:13-35

One of the big things missing from life in lockdown is connection with other people. All of us, even the biggest introverts, need people in our lives. At the moment we can't spend time with our friends and online connection only partly fulfilled that need. It's important too stay connected with Jesus too as that will help us to live good lives.

After Jesus died his friends thought it was all over. But it was not - like a heroic Ninja Jesus defeated evil and death when he rose again! And the first thing he does is to find his friends, he seeks out connection with people. But because they think he is dead (or possibly because of his ninja stealth skills) they don't recognise him. However this doesn't deter Jesus; he walks with them and explains the purpose of his life, then sits down to eat and break bread with them - all part of building a good connection with his friends.

Pray that you will notice Jesus at work in your life and in the world this week.

A SPIRIT OF COURAGE

Pentecost - Acts 2: 1-41

It feels like there is a lot to be afraid of today - germs, loss, other people, what the future holds and more. Jesus understands what it is to be afraid and fear of itself is not a bad thing. Sometimes we need to be cautious and think things over to stay safe. But God does not want us to live our lives in fear so he sends us a powerful helper, his Holy Spirit. That spirit gives us strength and confidence and helps us to be brave. This doesn't mean never feeling afraid, it means having the courage to face your fear and overcome it!

In Acts 2 we see a group of frightened people, hiding away in fear of what could happen to them. They know the authorities executed Jesus and although they saw him risen from the dead, Jesus has now gone to heaven and the disciples have been left leaderless and hopeless. Until the coming of the Holy Spirit! They are suddenly filled with confidence and courage and instead of hiding away rush out into the streets to tell everyone about Jesus

Pray that Jesus will give you boldness and confidence.

A SPIRIT OF POWER

Peter heals a lame man - Acts 3: 1-9

When we look at the world around us things can start to feel a out of control. Our plans have been messed up, our normal schedule is gone, we don't know what the future holds. We can end up feeling insignificant and powerless to make a difference to anything. The Holy Spirit can help us in this too!

In Acts 3 we read the story of Peter healing a lame man. We see the Spirit of Power in Peter's amazing healing miracle - and that is incredible! But we also see the spirit working in the beggar, he uses what little power he has to make a change - he has no money or status or home, he owns practically nothing at all but he chooses to offer that tint amount to Peter for help. He has power of faith and thanks to the Holy Spirit he ends able to dance and sing and tell everyone about Jesus

Pray for those you know who need to see the transformative impact of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

A SPIRIT OF LOVE

The Early Church - Acts 4:32-37 & 5:12-25

When we feel worried or lonely or emotional it can be hard to shift our focus away from our own concerns. We end up thinking only about our own problems and forget to show love to those around us. The Holy Spirit enables us to move beyond ourselves and put other people first.

In Acts 4 & 5 we see the first church in action; a group of loving and caring for each other. They share all they have and nobody went without. And they didn't just keep it all for their own people - they shared what they had with others to meet their needs too. They gave very generously and God even did amazing miracles through them. In Acts 5 we how God freed Peter and the others from prison and instead of escaping or fighting they continued to show love people through their preaching in the temple. Even when it was dangerous they still showed people Jesus' love.

Give thanks for your church, a group of people faithfully loving others and serving God - whether together or apart!

A SPIRIT OF A GOOD MIND

Peter freed from Prison - Acts 12: 1-18

Our mental health is just as important as our physical health. We wan to encourage people to grow a healthy mind - through building resilience and being grateful. Having a good mind will help you to live better but will also help you build friendships and help others too.

In Acts 12 we what life is like with ruler who does not have a good mind. Herod is on the rampage arresting and killing Christians. He does this because he wants to impress people and is desperate to remain popular. He will stop at nothing to stay in power - even killing innocent Christians! Then we see Peter, a man with a Good Mind, he never stops praying and never loses hope. When he gets knocked down and thrown in jail he bounces back. He has a group of friends who look after him, pray for him and support him though all these tough times.

Pray for those struggling with mental health problems and that you will be able to focus your mind on the good things of God.