

## Today, tomorrow and the next day

### Luke 13.31-35

In reply to some Pharisees, Jesus says that he is going to Jerusalem, the destiny of a prophet. On his way he will do his work, which is to gather those who need tender care, compassion and healing.

Now read **Luke 13.31-35** see p.2 for text.

### A note on the passage

Are the Pharisees threatening or challenging Jesus? He does not waste time on this but puts his energy into what needs to be done. What drives us? What do we really need to do?

## Pray



Use something like a plain tea towel folded into a square, and some little balls made of crumpled up kitchen paper or tissue paper. You could colour the little balls with yellow food colouring if you have some. Let them dry before use.

Prop up the folded tea towel over a small bowl to represent a hen, and pretend that the little balls are the chicks. Talk together about people who need love, protection and to feel safe. Let each little ball represent one of these people or groups. Place them under the edges of the tea towel, naming them, then say this prayer:

As the mother hen gathers her chicks  
safely under her wings,  
gather those who need safety and protection, Lord,  
so that they know your love. **Amen.**

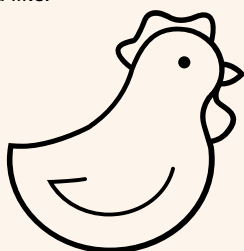


## BAKE

Make some hen biscuits as a reminder of Jesus' words.

**You will need:** a packet of plain biscuits (e.g. rich tea); white fondant icing; icing pens; icing sugar for rolling; rolling pin; sharp knife; palette knife

Make a hen template (copy and enlarge the image below or design your own) – it should be no bigger than your biscuits. Roll out the icing to a thickness of about 3mm. Cut the icing round the hen shape with a sharp knife. Use a palette knife to lift it onto a biscuit. Decorate with the icing pens. You could cut an oval wing out of some icing and stick that on the hen, with little chick heads peeking out from underneath. Be as creative as you like.



What words would be written on a wall of your values?

## Hands-on Lent



Have you added anything to your Hands-on Lent bowl yet? Here is a suggestion that ties in with this week's Gospel theme of values and behaviour. Think of something you could do for someone in your household, or a friend or family member on, or soon after, Easter Day. Write that on a slip of paper as a promise. Will you keep your promise? One thing we can be sure of: God does!

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We use the word 'core' in lots of ways. Look at an apple; cut it open through the stem and look at the middle. What are the important bits of the core, the middle? Try some sit-up exercises that strengthen the 'core' of your body. Lie flat on your back on the floor, then try to sit up without using your arms to push. What hurts or pulls? Those are some of your core muscles! What are your 'core values'? What is important to you? What keeps you strong? What inspires you to do things?



We often mean to do things but don't get round to it. Or we may have done some really kind things but not realised it! Make a household plan for three days. Create a four-column grid, with a row for each person, their name and column for each day. Plan to do a caring thing on each of the three days: write or draw plans in the spaces. You could care for each other, for some other people, a pet, the earth, the garden, the street, the park – anything. Help each other stick to your plans.

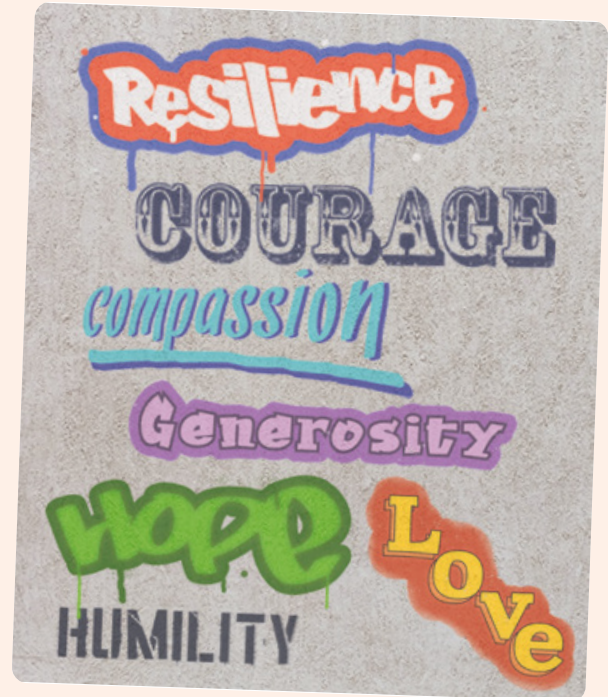
## Luke 13.31-35

Choose a version of the passage to read. The first is the ROOTS version for children, the second is the NRSV text which may be suitable for older children, young people and adults.

**A** group of Pharisees came to Jesus saying, 'You must go! You must get away from here immediately! Herod is looking for you. He is going to kill you.' But Jesus responded, 'Go and tell him – tell that fox, that I will not stop what I am doing. I will carry on driving out demons and healing people, today and tomorrow. On the third day I will finish my work. But I must carry on my way today, tomorrow and the next day, for a prophet can only die in Jerusalem.'

Jesus was sad as he continued to talk about Jerusalem. 'Jerusalem, Jerusalem,' he said, 'you are the city that kills the prophets and God's messengers. So many times I have wanted to gather your people together – gather and protect them, like a mother hen keeps her chicks safe under her wings. But you wouldn't let me. You turned away from me. And now it is too late. You won't see me again until the day you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."'

Luke 13:31-35



### Did you know?

- The Pharisees were a group of people who tried to keep every part of the Jewish law very strictly. Most of them felt that Jesus was not strict enough.
- This Herod was not a king, but he was the ruler of the area of Galilee.

- It was thought that people who were very disturbed or distressed had a demon inside them, changing their behaviour. We understand the causes of mental illness very much better now.

## Luke 13.31-35 (NRSV)

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city

that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."'