

# **BEING A GLOBAL DISCIPLE**

## **An all-age service plan**



# Introduction

*Blaze* the bee is a new way of helping children and families in congregations right across PCI explore how God is at work in the world and what it means for them to be a global disciple, doing what they can to play their part in God’s global mission. This includes learning about, and praying for, global mission workers, God’s church around the world and a Christian approach to big issues like creation care.

What is contained in this pack are some ideas of how you could use Blaze the bee and the theme of being a global disciple in an all-age service. This will allow you to introduce Blaze and begin to get the idea of global discipleship introduced in this way.

This pack does not contain a script for an all-age service but a plan and ideas that you can adapt for your context. We really hope though that what is included will help the whole congregation to understand more about being a global disciple in their every day.

### Aim:

### to help children and families to understand what it means to be a global disciple

Learning outcomes:

* to know what a global disciple is;
* to meet Blaze and see how the character can help with understanding what a global disciple is;
* to understand that there are people who live overseas as Global Mission Workers with PCI;
* to see that we all have a role to play in mission, at home and overseas, no matter what age we are.



# Welcome and call to worship 3 minutes

Welcome all the members of the congregation to the service and use an appropriate call to worship to draw everyone’s attention to the God that we worship.

One suggestion could be using Psalm 24:

**1**The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it,  
    the world, and all who live in it;  
**2**for he founded it on the seas  
    and established it on the waters.

**3**Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?  
    Who may stand in his holy place?  
**4**The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
    who does not trust in an idol  
    or swear by a false god.

**5**They will receive blessing from the Lord  
    and vindication from God their Saviour.  
**6**Such is the generation of those who seek him,  
    who seek your face, God of Jacob.

**7**Lift up your heads, you gates;  
    be lifted up, you ancient doors,  
    that the King of glory may come in.  
**8**Who is this King of glory?  
    The Lord strong and mighty,  
    the Lord mighty in battle.  
**9**Lift up your heads, you gates;  
    lift them up, you ancient doors,  
    that the King of glory may come in.  
**10**Who is he, this King of glory?  
    The Lord Almighty—  
    he is the King of glory.

# Song 3 minutes

Sing an opening piece of worship.

Song suggestions:

* All creatures of our God and King
* All things bright and beautiful
* Creation Sings (the Father’s song) (Keith and Kristen Getty)
* Creator God (Nick and Becky Drake)

# Prayer 2 minutes

Introduction to the theme 4 minutes

**Introduce the theme of the service which is about how we can be a global disciple.**

A global disciple is someone who takes an interest in the place where they live and wants to show people who God is and to live as a follower of Jesus in their community, their school, their workplace and their home. But it also describes someone who doesn’t stop there. A global disciple is also someone who understands that God wants us to care for his whole world and to take an interest in how people all over the world learn about the amazing story of who God is and what he has done – and you can be part of that!

*Play the promo video that introduces Blaze the bee.*

# Introductory activity 5 minutes

# Before the service, select a number of categories. These might include:

* someone who has been a missionary in a different country
* someone who has been on a short-term mission trip
* someone who has solar panels on their house
* someone who grow their own vegetables
* someone who regularly prays for a mission worker overseas
* someone who has been to a wind farm
* someone who has raised money for an overseas project

***Make up categories that will work in your congregation and choose the number of categories based on the length of time you want to take to play the game.***

Start by having Blaze at the front and explain that you are going to see how far Blaze can travel around the congregation while thinking about some of the things that are involved in being a global disciple.

Start by naming the first category and asking anyone to whom it applies to raise their hand. Pass Blaze to that person. Now read out the next category and have Blaze “fly” to that person, until you have exhausted all your categories.

Explain that there are lots of different ways that we can be a global disciple and make a difference in the world.

# Song 3 minutes

Choose another song to sing together as a church family. Try to choose a variety of songs and hymns during the service that reflect the full age range within the service. Some more song suggestions include:

* I have decided to follow Jesus
* I, the Lord of sea and sky
* 10,000 reasons
* Counting on God (Shout Praises Kids)

# Talk 1 10 minutes

Our Bible focus verse is:

ACTS 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

*This talk would benefit from Power Point slides of the main points with relevant pictures and words. You will also need the following props which sit on a table.*

* A toaster (with the flex and plug hanging down where it can’t be seen)
* A couple of slices of bread
* An electric lamp (with the flex and plug hanging down where it can’t be seen)

Under the table place an extension lead where the toaster, mobile phone charger and lamp can be plugged in.

Jesus promised his disciples the Holy Spirit and he kept that promise by sending the Holy Spirit to them after he went back to heaven.

But what does this mean? Why did Jesus send the gift of the Holy Spirit to the disciples?

1. **The disciples needed the power of God to be able to follow Jesus, and to carry on Jesus’ work of changing the world.**

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He had said this to His disciples:

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

Jesus knew when He gave the disciples this mission that they would need the power of God.

So, thinking about power, on my table here I have a toaster and a lamp.

* Who is hungry this morning and would like a piece of toast? (Receive responses) •

Let’s put some bread in my toaster and you will soon have some toast. (Put bread into the toaster) Talk about toast for a few seconds.

* Let’s check the toast and see how it is coming along. Hmmm, nothing is happening…..there must be something wrong with my toaster.
* Let’s put on my lamp so that I see what is wrong. (Try to switch on the lamp)
* Oh dear, that doesn’t seem to be working either.
* I seem to have a problem with my toaster and lamp.
* None of them are able to do what they were made to do.
* Can anyone tell me why? (Receive responses)
* The reason my toaster and lamp aren’t working is that they don’t have power…..so let’s plug them all in.

(plug everything in and switch on)

* Now my toaster has power it can toast bread, which is what it was made to do.
* Now my lamp has power it can give light, which is what it was made to do.

Like the toaster and lamp, the disciples needed power; not electrical power, but God-given power. The disciples couldn’t change the world in their own power. They needed God’s power living inside them, which is why Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem until He sent them what they needed. On the day of Pentecost Jesus sent the gift of the powerful Holy Spirit. The disciples were changed people. They now had the courage to be Jesus’ witnesses; to share the message that God loved people, wanted to forgive them their sins and give them new life.

All through the book of Acts you can read the stories of the incredible and powerful ways that God used the first disciples.

Over 2000 years later, we too, like the disciples, need the powerful Holy Spirit to fill us so that we can follow Jesus and carry on the work of the Kingdom of God, changing the world. We need the power of the Holy Spirit so that we can really love other people and love can really change lives…. We need the Holy Spirit to be global disciples.

* A bit like the toaster needs power to change bread into toast (Hold up toaster) We need the power of the Holy Spirit so that we can tell other people about Jesus and what He has done for us and for them; helping people reconnect with their Heavenly Father
* A bit like the lamp needs power to shine (Hold up lamp) The promise of the Holy Spirit was not simply given to Jesus’ first disciples. The promise of the Holy Spirit was given to us as well.

No matter what age you are, how long you have followed Jesus or how much you think you have, with the help of the Holy Spirit, all of us can help to share the good news about Jesus and to look after is world, as we live out our lives every day for Him.

# Song 3 minutes

Choose another song to sing together as a church family.

* Take My Life, and Let It Be
* My hope is built on nothing less
* My lighthouse (Rend Collective)
* Nothing’s too big (Doug Horley)

# Talk 2 10 minutes

*This talk would benefit from Power Point slides of the main points with relevant pictures and words.*

1. **As well as the power of God through the Holy Spirit, the disciples were also promised the presence of God. And so are we!**

When Jesus told His disciples that they were to go into the world to continue His lifechanging work He also made another promise to them:

“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)

* Jesus promised His disciples and He has promised us that He will always be with us.
* He will never leave us alone.
* When the Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost, in some amazing way, the spirit of God came to live inside the disciples, and today He comes to live inside followers of Jesus.
* When the Holy Spirit lives inside of us, not only does He give us the power we need to follow Jesus but He also:
  + Guides and helps us.
  + He reassures us that we are God’s children
  + Gives us the confidence we need to live as a global disciple

Bees like Blaze travel around, from flower to flower, collecting nectar and spreading nectar and pollen across many plants. Our Blaze is going to travel our world and share stories of what is happening within the Presbyterian Church in terms of telling others about Jesus and thinking about creation care.

What can you do to be a global disciple?

You may not be able to travel to other countries to tell people who know nothing about Jesus the good news of the gospel or to help some farmers get a fair price for the coffee or bananas that they grow, but there is lots that you can do from here to be a global disciple.

You can:

* + **Pray** for the global mission workers and their families as they live, work and go to school in different countries and cultures to our own.
  + **Write** letters to the global mission workers to encourage them in what they are doing.
  + **Give** money to support the work that PCI and other mission agencies are doing in sharing the gospel and creation care around the world.
  + **Tell** others about the mission workers and the work that they are doing.
  + Hold a **fundraiser** in your congregation to support part of the work or to be given to a specific appeal.
  + You or someone else in the congregation may get the opportunity to **visit** a mission worker and to learn more about what they are doing and meet the people involved in the local church and community there.

As important as the church we go to is, what God is doing goes way beyond the town where we live. God calls us to reach the people where we live but he does not intend us to stop there. God’s plan of rescue reaches into every city, town, village, jungle of the globe. In our world where there is fast communication, instant information and easy travel, we have the opportunity to be global disciples, no matter what age we are, as never before, playing a part in what God is doing both near and far.

# Prayer response 5 minutes

At the front of the church have a large map of the world displayed, maybe on an easel or propped up so that everyone can see it. Distribute pieces of A5 paper and pens/pencils around the congregation.

Encourage each person to draw around their hand (adults can help children who need it) and write their name on the palm. When ready, encourage people to come up and stick their hand to the map as their commitment to being a global disciple in the congregation.

Then pray to close the activity for the congregation’s commitment and the global mission workers and projects you will be supporting.

# Closing praise 3 minutes

Choose another song to sing together as a church family.

Suggestions for a closing song of worship include:

* Be Thou my vision
* As for me and my house
* By Faith (Keith and Kristen Getty)
* Big family of God (Nick and Becky Drake)

# Benediction



**www.presbyterianireland.org/blaze**