



Read Luke 9.51-62

*You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.*

How do you decide what is urgent or what is important in your life? If you have a list of jobs that you need to do, how do you decide where to start? We sometimes have to put our list into an order of importance – to decide on the priorities. For example, when you get home from school do you go out and play football or do your homework? When you have toothache do you make an appointment with the dentist or put it off until it is unbearable? Are you tempted to spend time on the things you enjoy most and put off things that are more tedious or difficult? What sort of things are important and urgent in your life? How easily are you distracted from what is important in your life?



How does this image of a soup kitchen/food bank show what is important and urgent?

In today's reading from St Luke's Gospel Jesus challenges people who want to follow him to make a big commitment. For many of them this is a difficult decision. They have other priorities and distractions. Jesus says that some things can wait; it is more important to follow him. The kingdom of God is more important than everyday tasks. Jesus gives a sense of urgency to his followers. How do you think these people felt when they heard what Jesus was saying?

What should we be doing if we want to follow Jesus? Do you get distracted from prayer or giving time to God by everyday tasks? I know that I do! It is sometimes hard to decide what is the most important or most urgent task for each day. This week, try to pause at the start of each day and ask God "What should I do today?"

### Activity

- Think about some of the issues which affect our world today.  
Here are some examples:  
Climate change - Poverty - The refugee crisis - Pollution - Racism and intolerance  
Decide which of those – or something else – is a priority for you. Is there some action you could take – e.g. write a letter, make a donation, join a focus group, display a badge or poster?

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you,  
and we are filled with joy in your presence.  
Help us to leave behind the things which are not important or urgent,  
and go with you today. Amen.