

**Sunday Challenge for Children's Groups**  
**Week 2 (28<sup>th</sup> February)**

challenge

## Lent 2

- Ask the children if they know any stories about foxes and chickens. Discuss how foxes want to kill chickens, how vulnerable little chicks are and how the mother hens want to protect them.
- Read/tell the Bible story to the children, maybe using wooden/peg doll figures

### Luke 13.31-35

Some Pharisees/religious leaders came to warn Jesus that Herod wanted to kill him.

Jesus said, "You go and tell that fox, Herod, that I am healing people. I will do it today and tomorrow, too. On the third day I will finish my work. But I also have to be on my way, because prophets are only killed in Jerusalem. Oh, Jerusalem, Jerusalem. You are the city that kills prophets and stones the people God sends. So many times I have wanted to gather up your children – just like a hen gathers her chicks under her wings – but you wouldn't let me. All that is left is your house. But you won't see me again until the day comes for you to say "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.""

- Wonder
  - Why Jesus might have called Herod a fox
  - If Jesus was afraid of Herod
  - Who Jesus is most concerned about
  - How Jesus is like a mother hen
  - How Jesus might be like a mother hen for you

- Prayer

Put a toy chicken or picture in the centre of your circle of children – maybe next to the prayer candle if you have one. Ask the children to think of people who need Jesus’ love – people who are sick, or frightened, perhaps – and name them out loud or in their heads. Invite them to think how Jesus cares for them just like a mother hen cares for her chicks and wants to protect them. After some time for reflection say:

Thank-you, Jesus, for caring so much about people,  
and for not being afraid to stand up to people like Herod.

Please care for those who are sick or afraid.

Help us to know how much you love us;

and teach us to find shelter with you

like chicks under their mother’s wings. Amen

- Activity

Pom-pom chicks to go under the wings of a toy hen for a church display (the children’s names can go on the chicks)

Or, tissue chicks and chicken on a wall display

*A fox could be included in these displays*

