

## Chat with the Children: Who can deliver?

- Series of pictures of situations of danger or risk
  - ask who can deliver us from them...
  - put up picture of suitable deliverer
- 1. Fire
- 2. Car crash
- 3. Virus/disease
- 4. Stolen car
- 5. Water/drowning
- 6. Not understanding
- We go to someone who is able to help
  - God alone is one who is able to deliver us from evil and the evil one

## Introduction

- If we are to pray "deliver us from evil" or "deliver us from the evil one" then we'd better have some idea of what we mean by **evil** and **the evil one!**
  - slide of fluffy devil
  - slide of cute baby in devil costume
  - sometimes we have an incredibly stunted, cute, unreal picture of satan (Hebrew word) or the devil (Greek word **diabolos**)
  - slide of devil mask
  - even when our image is less cutesy, there is still a sense that this satan figure is a figment of our imagination, a projection of something within us, and something for dressing up in rather than taking seriously
- On the other hand our newspapers seem very happy to bandy the term **evil** around:
  - did anyone see what the Sun's headline was on Friday? "Pure Evil", alongside a picture of Karen Matthews
  - slide of "evil" killers/kidnappers
  - (I'm not at all comfortable with someone being branded in this way, even if what these people have done is, in different ways, despicable)
- But what does Scripture have to say about evil and the evil one?
  - and how do we respond to his work?

## A Roaring Lion

- One biblical picture is that he is like a lion, prowling around and looking for prey
  - who is prey? **us!**
  - how would it devour/attack? Round the edges of society, picking off the unwary (Nepal today, babies, TLM)
  - opposed to all God's work, deceiving, opposing, throwing up barriers and difficulties

## A Mighty Hand

- Context in which that image of the devil occurs is of God's great power and care (vs.6-7)
  - his power, his ability (6), slide of world in God's hand
  - his care, and therefore our call to cast care on him (7), slide of caring hands
- Deliver us from the Evil One
  - victory at the Cross - Colossians 2:15; slide