

# The importance of standing up for what you believe in

WE STOOD on the riverbank watching the swell of the river rush by. Our instructor spoke to us in a confident tone, telling us that if we all worked together and listened to him, we would reach the finishing line. Importantly, he also reminded us that if someone fell into the river, we would not leave them behind – we would be turning around and going back for them. Finally, he told us that teamwork would see us through and that we would have fun doing it.

At that point we got into the raft, holding on to our paddles, and we braced ourselves for what lay ahead. It was hard work fighting the current but white water rafting was so much fun that

I think I must have laughed all the way to the end! At one point we had to turn our raft around and paddle back upstream, which was really hard work, but we made it. It was exactly like the instructor said: listen to his instructions and we will get to the finishing line. He was right about something else, too: we did have a lot of fun doing it.

Teamwork is so important and working on a ship is all about teamwork. If everybody pulls together, helps one another and everyone does their job, then being on a ship far from home is not always so bad. It is all about being able to support each other through the good and bad times.

Jesus in his ministry also had a team around him. They were called disciples and they believed in him and listened to his teaching. Like most people, they did have questions and doubts, and we only have to read in the gospels about Peter when Jesus was arrested to be reminded of this. However, despite this, Jesus' message was spread by those very first followers. At times they went against public opinion, they were persecuted and treated badly, but in the end when it mattered the most, they stood up for what they believed in. They believed as Christians do that Jesus Christ lived, died and rose again for all of us. He is the saviour of our world.

Standing up for what we believe in and supporting one another are so important. In today's world, it is easy to go with the tide of public opinion but standing firm and holding on to your principles can be very rewarding, despite the difficulties we sometimes face. I am reminded of a wonderful hymn I sang at school called *Trust and Obey*.

The first verse in particular reminds me that we have nothing to fear by standing firm in our belief and faith: "When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word, What a glory He sheds on our way! While we do His good will, He abides with us still, And with all who will trust and obey."