



Christ Centred Life

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Christ Centred Life

LETTER TO THE LEADERS

The following lessons this term are based on the Christ Centred Life booklet that can be found online on the Cornerstone website. You can download it at this web address:
<https://cornerstonechurch.co.za/the-christ-centred-life/>

The aim is to provide our children with an understanding of what it means to be a Christian. The most essential starting point is that they believe in Jesus, but this is just the starting point. Jesus has so much more for them, even though they are still young.

We have tried to make these lessons as simple as possible to understand but please adapt them as you need to.

For bit fun we have will be pretending we are sailors out to sea. So get your sails up - it's going to be a fun adventure!

Please remember to send through all your printing requests as soon as possible.

Lesson One: Knowing God

Main focus for the lesson:

- Everyone is to know God
- Knowing God helps us live a life that pleases Him.
- Jesus is the only way to God

1) Memory Verse

- Acts 17:28

In Him we live and move and have our being.

Idea to teach the memory verse

Do the following actions as you say the verse and they copy and repeat each line. Once they have done it a few times start saying it faster and faster.

*(start crouched down and jump up high with hands) In Him we live
(wiggle, dance and twist) and move
(cross arms as you bring them to your chest) and have
(put hands on head slide down to toes) our being*

2) Hands on

2.1) Set up a game of life saver ring toss in the garden
Use the lifesaver pictures provided.

Another option is to have the lifesaver pictures hidden all over the garden for each child to collect 4 and use during the class session. As you read the verse they have to guess which picture it is. Conclude: Knowing more about God and what He's done can be like a lifesaver to someone drowning.



2.2) Demonstrate that just like it is easier with more tins, it is easier to live like God wants us to if we know more about Him.

Collect beforehand large coffee tins and label them as follows:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Tin 1 - Jesus | Tin 4 - He answers our prayers | Tin 7 - God forgives |
| Tin 2- He is with us | Tin 5- God gives peace | |
| Tin 3 - Always keeps His promises | Tin 6 - God gives Comfort | |

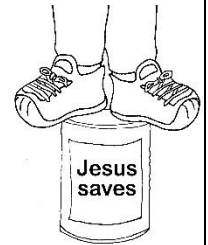
Say:

When you build a house you need something called a foundation. The foundation is strong and made out of concrete and steel. The house then stands on this strong foundation to make sure that it does not fall down. As a Christian we also need strong foundations but they are not made of concrete and steel. The things we stand and build our lives on is knowing God.

(Tin 1 - Believe in Jesus)

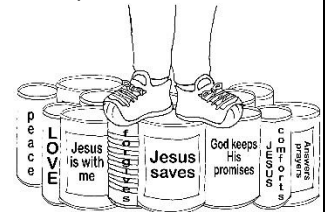


We know that Jesus is God's son. We know that Jesus died for our sins and is now alive in Heaven. We know Jesus is the only way for us to be with Father God in Heaven. But there is a difference between knowing who Jesus is (*stand next to tin*) and choosing to believe and follow Him. (*Climb onto to tin*) This is the starting point. Without believing in Jesus and choosing to follow Him we are not Christians.



But this is not the only thing we need to know about God. There is so much more about Him that helps us live like He wants us to live and the more we know the easier it will be. (*Add all the others tins around the one, reading what each of them say*)

Knowing these things about God helps us when we're feeling sad or worried, they help us get through hard times and they help us teach others. The more and more you know and believe about God the easier it is to live a life that pleases Him. In the beginning it was harder for me to stand on just one tin then it is now to stand on all these tins. I could easily fill this whole room with things about God and then how much easier it would be for me to not slip up and fail.



Remember it doesn't help pretending to know God we actually have to really know who God is. We can't make God fit what we want Him to be like we have to actually know God. Knowing God gives us a strong foundation to live from.

3) Bible Story + Lesson:

The Bible is filled with things that teach us about who God is. Look how much we can find out about God from just reading a few verses. Read Acts 17:22-31. Imagine how much more He will reveal about Himself if we make time to study the Bible more.

Looking at Acts 17:22-31 these are the things we learn about God.

God made everything

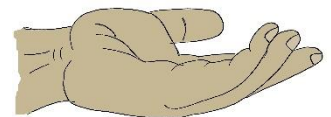
²⁴ "He is the God who made the world and everything in it.

Often we just say – God made the world – without thinking what that really means. Looking at how perfect things are created really reveals how great and powerful God is.



God is generous

²⁵ and human hands can't serve His needs—for He has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and He satisfies every need.



God doesn't need anything to live – He just is. More importantly God needs nothing from us. We do not worship Him, teach others about Him or obey Him because He needs us to. Instead we do these things because He deserves them. God is very generous, just think of all the things He has given you. He gives life, breath to everything and He satisfies every need.

God wants a relationship with you

²⁷ “God wanted people to look for Him, and perhaps in searching all around for Him, they would find Him. But He is not far from any of us.

It is so exciting that God, who created everything and needs NOTHING, wants a relationship with us. He wants us to know Him and be close to Him – NOT because it helps Him but because He loves us and knows it is best for us.



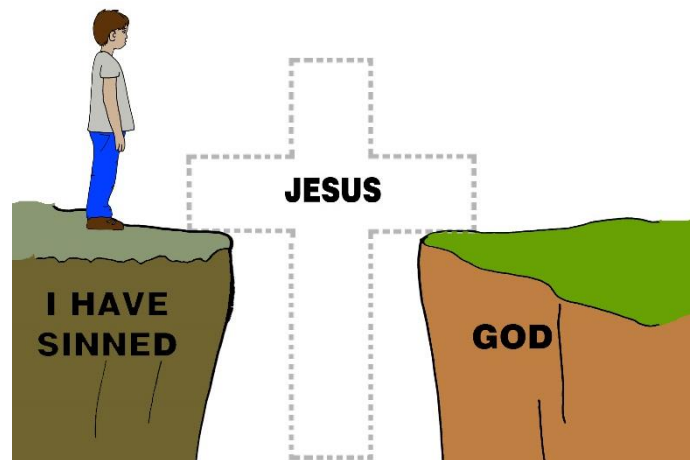
God is a fair judge.

^{30b} God commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to Him. ³¹ For He has set a day for judging the world with justice...”

*Ask: Can the person get to the other side?
No. What does the person need to get to the other side?*

- **God**

God is Holy and fair. That means He is perfect and has never ever done something wrong. Because God is Holy, we cannot be with God if we have sin. God wants us to repent (say and be sorry) and turn to Him. God has set a day to fairly judge our sins.



- **I have sinned**

Read Romans 3:23 Sin separates us from God’s Glory. A lie, anger, not obeying parents or disobeying God are all sins every one of us have done. The Bible reminds us that we have ALL sinned. The fair judgement for our sin is death or separation from God forever.

- **I am forgiven**

But God loves us. God made a way – and it is the ONLY way – for us to be with Him again. He gave us Jesus. Jesus died for **our sins** and came alive again so that we could be forgiven. By Jesus taking on our punishment it is as if we never sinned and by believing in Him we get to live with God forever. (John 14:6)

4) Review Questions

- a) How many things about God can you remember?
- b) How can you get to know God more? (*God reveals who He is when we read the Bible, pray to Him, worship Him, through creation, through others*)
- c) Tell someone what they need to do to be forgiven. (repent, believe in Jesus)

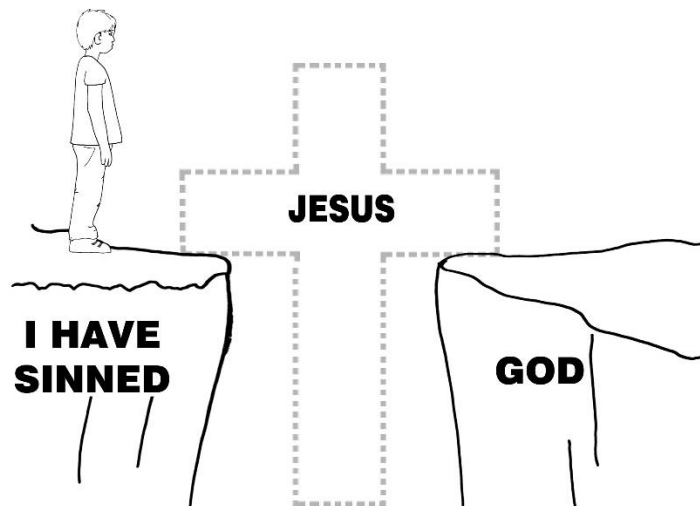
5) Craft

5.1) Use the activity page to apply things we know about God to helping us in different situations.

Here are some of the things the Bible tells us about God. Draw a line of which things will help you in each situation. Each one may be used more than once.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| TELLING OTHERS ABOUT JESUS | God answers Our prayers Matthew 7:7 | God is perfect Matthew 5:48 | God provides Matthew 6:26 |
| FEELING AFRAID | All good gifts come from God. James 1:17 | God gives you power 2 Tim 1:7 | God gives you peace. Philippians 4:7 |
| FEELING SAD | God puts the lonely in families Psalm 68:6 | God always loves you. Romans 8:38-39 | God has prepared good works for you Ephesians 2:10 |
| FEELING LONELY | God directs your paths Psalm 3:6 | God comforts Matthew 5:4 | God sent us a helper John 14:26 |
| GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT TIME | God is our Shield Psalm 18:30 | God is everlasting Isaiah 40:28 | God is with you, will strengthen you and will help you. Isaiah 41:10 |
| FEELING CONFUSED | God takes our burdens 1 Peter 5:6-7 | God is mighty 1 Peter 5:6-7 | |

5.2) Children colour and decorate the picture and use it to teach others.



5.3) Decorate tins and fill them with verses for them to read and learn about God.



| | | |
|--|--|--|
| God answers Our prayers Matthew 7:7 | God is perfect Matthew 5:48 | God provides Matthew 6:26 |
| God has prepared good works for you Ephesians 2:10 | God is our Shield Psalm 18:30 | God is with you, will strengthen you and will help you. Isaiah 41:10 |
| God puts the lonely in families Psalm 68:6 | God sent us a helper John 14:26 | God is everlasting Isaiah 40:28 |
| God takes our burdens 1 Peter 5:6-7 | God gives you peace. Philippians 4:7 | God directs your paths Psalm 3:6 |
| God always loves you. Romans 8:38-39 | All good gifts come from God. James 1:17 | God is mighty 1 Peter 5:6-7 |

Lesson Two: The extravagant love of the Father

Main focus for the lesson:

- God's love is that of a perfect father and we are His sons and daughters.
- God's love is not earned
- We cannot lose God's love
- God lavishes His love on us.

1) Memory Verse

- 1 John 3:1

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

Idea to teach the memory verse

You will need: A big material heart

First read the verse to the children and explain what it means using the cupcake object lesson from the "Hands on" section.

Next call up a child one by one and let them go under the big material heart.

The class says together "**See what great love the Father has lavished on (name of child)**"
And the child repeats "**that I should be called a child of God! And that is what I am**"

2) Hands on

You will need: a cupcake and a tin of whipped cream.

Do you know that God loves you? The Bible verse today says **See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!**

The word "lavish" means to GIVE GREATLY.

Let's pretend the cupcake is us and this cream is God's love.

We sometimes misunderstand God's love for us. We think if we do good things then God will love us. So if I tidy my room or listen to my mom (*spray a tiny bit*) or even better, if I invite someone to church (*spray a little bit*) then God will love me. Oo but be careful because if you do something wrong, maybe He will take that love away. (*scrape the cream off*)

NO! This is not how God loves us at all.



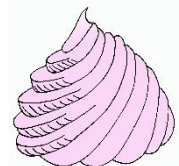
The Bible says He lavishes us with love. He gives His love greatly. No matter what!

Who thinks I can lavish this cup cake with cream?

(*Spray just a little.*) Is that lavishing it? (*no*)

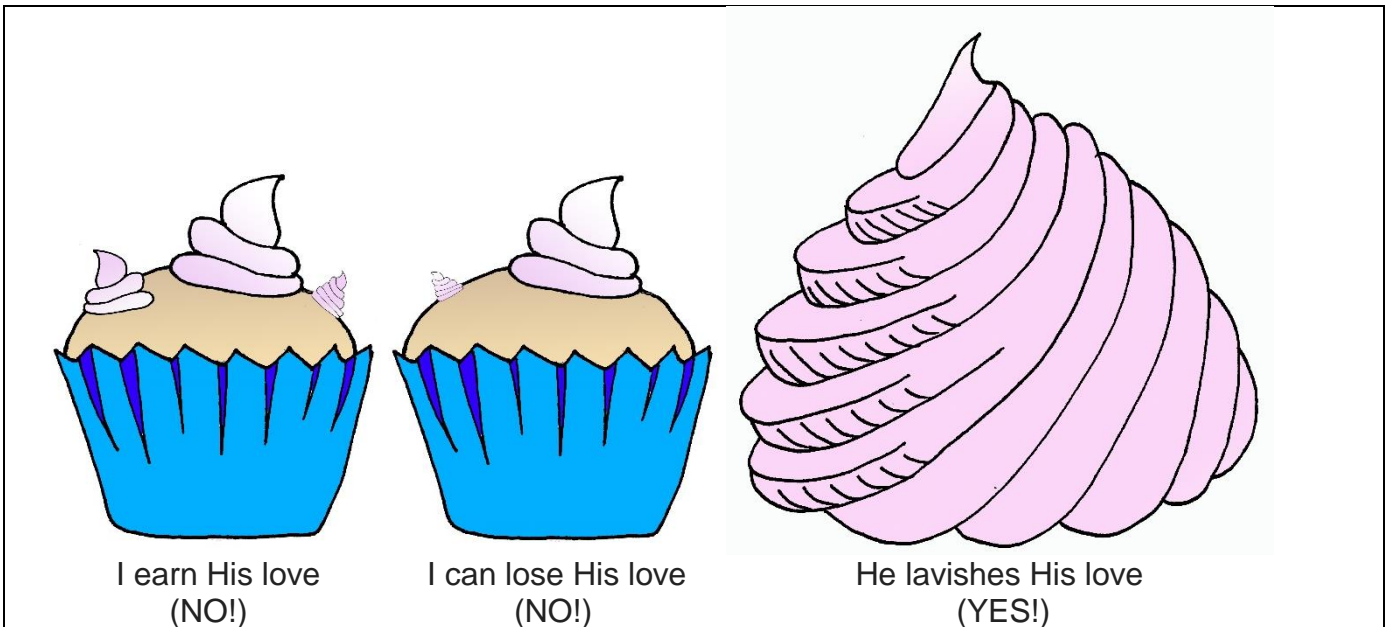
(*Spray a little more.*) Is that lavishing it? (*no*)

(*empty the tin of cream onto the cupcake*) Is that lavishing it? (**YES**)



When God lavishes His love on us that means He completely surrounds us with His love! We are covered in love! There is no one else that can love us more than God does.

He loves us so much He sent His son to live a perfect life on Earth and then die on the cross – just so we can live with Him in Heaven for ever and ever and ever. Because of God's great love we get to be called children of God. And that is what we are!



I earn His love
(NO!)

I can lose His love
(NO!)

He lavishes His love
(YES!)

3) Bible Story + Lesson:



Last week we learnt that God made everything – and that includes us. The Bible tells us that God is like the potter and we are the clay. (Jeremiah 18; John 9)

This means that God is making us into what He has planned for us. It also goes on to say that who does the clay think it is to tell the potter what to do?

Can you imagine taking some clay and making something which turned out perfectly like you planned... and then all of a sudden this thing you created starts telling you what it was made for, how you feel about it and how you need to change. That would be ridiculous!

In the same way it is ridiculous for us to try and explain God's love for us using what we know about love. God is far greater than we are. We don't think like Him and we don't act like Him. (Isaiah 55:8) but God has revealed His love to us through the Bible and through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

God's love is often compared to the love of a father. Some of us have good fathers, others terrible fathers, while some have never met our fathers. But remember God is perfect and so His explanation is the love of a perfect father (*not our imperfect fathers*). To explain this love Jesus tell His disciples a story to teach them a lesson. Read Luke 15:11-24 and show the pictures as you read. Once you have finished reading the story explain the love of the father. *In the media pack find pictures with the Bible verses on the front and the notes on the back.*



¹¹ "A man had two sons. ¹²The younger son told his father 'I want my share of your estate now before you die.' So his father agreed.

Note: A share of the estate is only given once the father dies so by him asking for it now it was like saying he wished he was dead. But the father showed him love by giving it to him. God shows us love by giving us everything we need. (Acts 17:25)



Then the son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land

Note: It was the son who chose to leave and NOT the father sending him away. God's love is always there. It is us who move away from Him and choose to not to accept and experience His love.



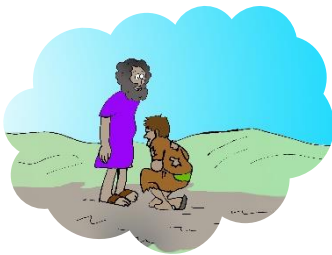
and there he wasted all his money in wild living.

Note: Wild living is not how the father would have wanted the son to live but he showed love by letting his son make his own choices. God shows us love by letting us make our own choices. (Joshua 24:15) Of course like the son in the parable there are consequences to our poor choices.



¹⁴ About the time his money ran out a great famine swept over the land and he began to starve. ¹⁵ He persuaded a local farmer to hire him and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ The young man became so hungry that even the pig food looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

Note: The son only realised the benefit and love of being with the father only once he was away. God's love for us never changes, no matter where we are or what we do. Be thankful for the blessing and protection you receive from, don't let disobedience make you realise what you had.



¹⁷ "When he finally came to his senses he said to himself 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare and here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will go home to my father and say "Father I have sinned against both heaven and you ¹⁹ and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.'"

Note: The son knew he had done something wrong. He knew he had to ask for forgiveness. His actions did deserve the father to not treat him as a son. Remember to ask God to forgive you. Asking forgiveness is not what makes us a son or daughter but it is definitely what God deserves since we have sinned against Him.



²⁰ "So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion he ran to his son embraced him and kissed him.

Note: The father waited for the sons return and hugged and kissed him and immediately forgave him when he did. God celebrates when we choose to believe in Him and ask for forgiveness and He is quick to forgive. Even our sin does not stop God from loving us.



²¹ His son said to him 'Father I have sinned against both heaven and you and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.'

²² "But his father said to the servants

'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. ²³ And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast

²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost but now he is found.' So the party began.

*Note: Nothing stopped the father from his love for his son. To him he could never be a slave. The father celebrated the **son's** return. The Bible tells us that God has adopted us as part of His family. We are not slaves! We are His sons and daughters. Because of Jesus this is who we are to Him. That means we have the love of the perfect father.*

Do we have to work for God's love? (NO)

God's love isn't based on a promise – if you are good I will love you. NO! John 4:8;16 says God is love. God's love is based on who He is and that is the father who loves us no matter what.



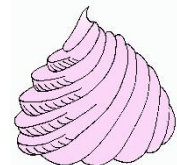
Can we lose God's love for us? (NO)

Write "God loves _____" (*leader's name*) on a page and pin it to the back of leader. Demonstrate that no matter where I go or what I do God still loves me. I can choose to take it off and not accept it but look (*show paper*) God still loves me. The best way to answer this question is by reading the message God gave to us Himself. Read Romans 8:35-39. **NOTHING** can separate us from God's love.



How does He love us? (He lavishes us with love)

The greatest way God showed us love is through allowing His son Jesus to be killed on the cross for our sins. Galatians 4:4b-5 tells us that because of what He did we have received full rights as sons and daughters. This means God has chosen you as part of His perfect family (Corinthians 6:18a). God doesn't love us like slaves but loves us as His children. God completely lavishes and surrounds us with His love.



4) Review Questions

- What do you have to do to earn God's love? (*nothing. God's love is who He is. It is not based on our actions. God doesn't say if you do this I will love you. He just loves you a LOT!*)
- Does God love you when you sin? (*God loves you no matter what, He does not want you to sin and wants you to ask for forgiveness and try your best to not make the same mistake again, but His love for you never ends.*)
- How has God lavished you with love? (*through saving us from our sins; through blessings e.g. food, protection etc.*)

5) Craft

Option 1: Mini Book

How to Make Your Mini-Book

- 1 Fold paper on all lines, then open.
- 2 Fold paper in half, then cut along the dotted line as shown above.
- 3 Open and fold lengthwise.
- 4 Push in on both ends.
- 5 Fold the book and close.

Use the templates provided to make a mini book. There are 3 options available.

- 1) Black and white version for children to colour.
- 2) Coloured version for children to take home.
- 3) Coloured version where children cut and stick the pictures onto the relevant part of the story.



Luke 15:13-27

The Father of God

The son packed all his money and moved to a distant land.

There he wasted all his money on wild living.

When there was no more left, he began to starve.

He went to work for a rich man.

The rich man gave him a job.

He was glad to have a man who would work for him.

At last he was sent home.

His father saw that he had become poor.

He felt sorry for him.

He called his servants and said, 'Bring that dead son of mine home. He is dead and we need him to live.'

So the son came home and his father gave him a party.

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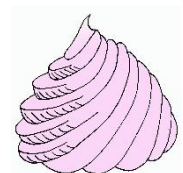
He felt sorry for him.

He called his servants and said, 'Bring that dead son of mine home. He is dead and we need him to live.'

So the son came home and his father gave him a party.

Option 2:

Children LAVISH their own cookie/marie biscuit with icing and sprinkles.



Lesson Three : Hope

Main focus for the lesson:

- The hope we have in the world is not guaranteed, but the hope we have in Jesus is a confident expectation for what He has promised.

1) Memory Verse

- Hebrews 6:19

“This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls.”

Idea to teach the memory verse

Use the pictures of the different types and sizes of anchors from the media pack.

Morning everyone. Does anyone know what a giant ship needs if it wants to be secure and not move, even when the waves hit against it? *(An anchor).*

I need you to help me today to decide which anchor will be the best to hold down this giant ship.



How about this anchor on a bracelet? Do you think this anchor is a strong enough to secure the giant ship? *(No).* Why not? *(Allow the children to answer).*

This anchor is too small it won't be able to hold anything down.



How about this paper anchor, it's much bigger surely this anchor is strong enough to secure the giant ship? *(No).* Why not? *(Allow the children to answer).*

This anchor is made from paper and it will break too easily.



What about this anchor it's made of metal I'm sure this will hold down and secure the giant ship? *(No).* Why not? *(Allow the children to answer).* Even though it's made from metal it's not big enough or heavy enough to secure the giant ship.



What about this giant anchor, do you think it will be able to secure the giant ship? *(YES).* This anchor is big enough, strong enough and heavy enough.

Our memory verse today says that hope we have in God is an anchor to our souls. The hope we have in Jesus is not like the first 3 anchors that weren't good enough to secure the ship. The hope we have in Jesus is strong and trustworthy and we know that it will secure us no matter what. Let's learn the verse now.

Actions to teach the memory verse:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| This Hope | Cross your arms to form a cross |
| Is a strong | Muscle arms |
| And Trustworthy | Put your fingers on your lips and mimic speaking |
| Anchor | Make a fist and hit it down onto your other hand |
| For our souls | Point to yourself with your thumbs |

2) Hands on

2.1) Worldly wish versus Confident Hope in Jesus object lesson.

Make the 2 spinners from the media pack.

Spinner 1:
Worldly hope



Spinner 2:
Hope in Jesus



Have you ever hoped or wished for something?

(Hold up spinner 1) *(Ask the children these questions and let them raise their hands to answer)* This spinner has:

- Money
How many of you hope or wish you'll have lots of money when you grow up?
- A smiley face
How many of you hope or wish you'll be happy in the new year?
- A house
How many of you hope or wish you can move into a big, fancy house?
- A play station
How many of you hope or wish you'll get that new toy or device for your birthday?
- A soccer jersey
How many of you hope or wish your favourite sport team wins their match?
- A hotdog
How many of you have said, "I hope or wish we eat soon"?

Okay I'm going to pick one of these things now and I hope or wish that the spinner lands on it.
(Spin the spinner a few times, each time picking a different image)

Oh, it didn't land where I hoped or wished it would. When we hope for things in the world it's often a bit like a spinner. We have no guarantee that it will happen or that the spinner will land where we hope or wish it will land. Sometimes it happens, but most times it doesn't.

(Hold up spinner 2) But the hope we see in the Bible is a sure and guaranteed confident hope. It's not a wish that might happen, or probably won't happen. It's a definite win. I can be confident that this spinner will land on the cross of Jesus.

(Spin the spinner) Do you see it landed on the cross. I hoped it would and could be confident that it would.

3) Bible Story + Lesson:

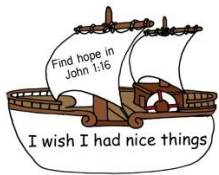
Last week we learnt about God's amazing love for us and how in His love He sent Jesus to die for us and take our punishment so that we could be forgiven and live in Heaven with Him forever. Now that we're saved, we have a hope/ a confident expectation that one day we will live in Heaven forever where there is no pain or suffering because we know that God will do everything He promises.

But did you know that we have that same hope right now? Regardless of what we're going through in life right now we can have a confident hope in Jesus. We have hope, because we know God and we focus on His promises and not the circumstances around us.

Often we use the phrase "I wish". These are things we hope for but know they won't really happen. Today we are going to look at some of these wishes and will compare them to the promises God gives us in the Bible.

(Use the images or craft page in the media pack of the boats and anchors. As you go through each Bible verse (anchor) let the children connect them with a piece of string to the wish (boat).

Ask them which one they think will be a secure and confident anchor for our souls? The answer is always “hope in God.”)



Worldly wish: I wish I had nice things.

Anchor: *John 1:16 – “From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another.”*

Matthew 6: 25-30 tells us not to worry about the physical things in our lives because if God provides for the birds and clothes the flowers, He will take care of us.



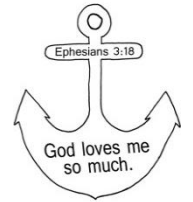
Confident hope: When we think of blessings from God we think of physical things, but God’s blessings are not only things they are also His grace and strength, the people He places in our lives, the opportunities He gives us. We celebrate every blessing He has given us and confidently hope for the blessings He promises will come.



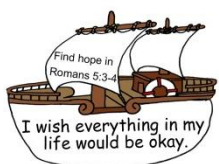
Worldly wish: I wish people would like me.

Anchor: *Ephesians 3: 18 “And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.”*

1 John 3:1 “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”



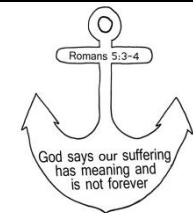
Confident Hope: Romans 8: 31-39 tells us that nothing can separate us from God’s great love for us. God doesn’t love the mistakes we make, but no matter what happens He never stops loving us. We will always be His children.



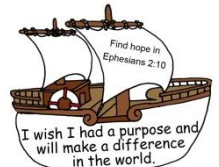
Worldly Wish: I wish everything in my life will be okay.

Anchor: *Romans 5: 3-4 “We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.”*

Romans 8:18 “Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.”



Confident Hope: We have a confident hope that our suffering has meaning. We may never know why we went through it, but we trust that God’s purposes are always good. We are also confident as 1 Peter 5:10 tells us that our suffering will not last forever.



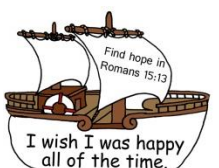
Worldly wish: I wish I had a purpose and I make a difference in the world.

Anchor: *Ephesians 2:10 – “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

Jeremiah 29:11 – “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”



Confident Hope: God has a plan for your life. He had a plan before you were even born. His plan for your life is that you would live to bring Him glory in everything you do. The best way for us to do that is to tell everyone around us about whom Jesus is and that He died to forgive our sins. Remember we are not alone, God is with us and He gives us the gifts we need.



Worldly wish: I wish I was happy all the time

Anchor: *Romans 15:13 “I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

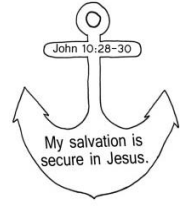


Confident Hope: No matter what our situations are like we can be confident that God will fill us with His joy. We need to daily keep our focus on Jesus and what He has done and allow His Spirit to lead us in His joy.



Worldly wish: I wish I could know for certain that I will go to Heaven.

Anchor: John 10: 28 - 30 "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."



Confident Hope: No one can snatch us from the hand of Jesus. We didn't do anything to earn our salvation and freedom and therefore we can't do anything to make us lose it.

4) Review Questions

- What are things you are hoping for?
- What are things you should put your hope in? (God, His blessings, His love, His Plans, joy from God, salvation through believing in Jesus, His promises.)

5) Craft

Option 1: Cryptogram

Colour in the letters "HOPE" to spell out Jesus.

Colour ONLY the letters "H" "O" "P" "E" to find out who we should put our hope in.

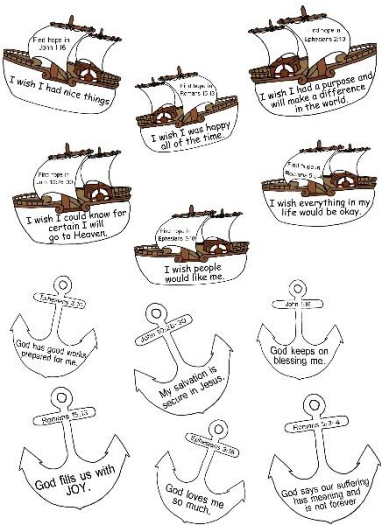
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| G | J | K | O | L | K | R | P | V | N | V | X | N | E | V | H | X | V | O | R | K | R | P | S | S | X |
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| R | D | D | R | D | R | D | C | C | N | R | G | D | Y | L | B | Y | D | Y | T | L | Y | L | V | D | S |

We should put our hope in _____

The solution:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| W | S | D | C | Y | C | V | A | V | B | N | Y | M | S | B | Y | J | S | S | J | B | S | L | J | N | S |
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| G | J | K | O | L | K | R | P | V | N | V | X | N | E | V | H | X | V | O | R | K | R | P | S | S | X |
| G | E | H | O | V | T | V | P | E | H | Z | O | P | E | H | O | P | E | V | H | O | P | V | S | V | |
| R | D | D | R | D | R | D | C | C | N | R | G | D | Y | L | B | Y | D | Y | T | L | Y | L | V | D | S |

Option 2: Connect the anchor to the boat

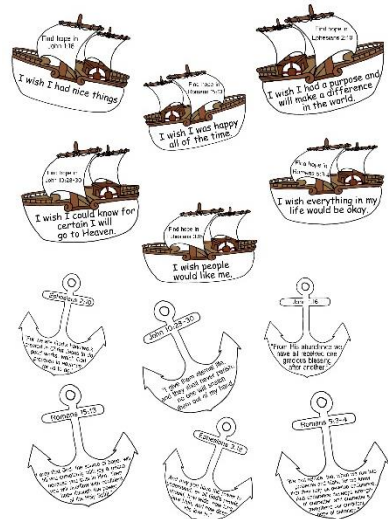


Please find two versions of the activity page in the media pack.

Both: Draw a chain to connect the correct boat to the anchor that holds it secure.

Older children: Look up the verse so that they are able to link it to the anchor.

Note: Leaders could use this activity as part of the lesson.

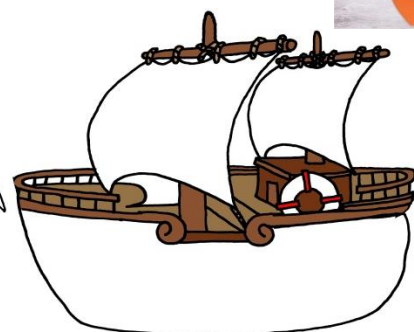
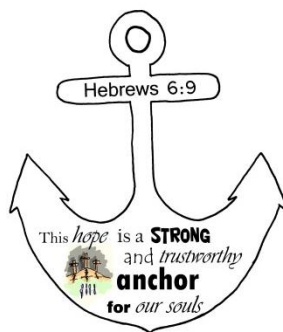


Option 3: Boat with hope paper chain and Bible verse anchor.

Cut the strips with the verses on and form a paper chain. Use the paper chain to join the anchor to the boat.



| |
|---|
| <p>God keeps on blessing me. From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. John 1:16</p> |
| <p>God has good plans for me. For we are God's handiwork, created in Jesus to do good works, which He prepared for us to do. Ephesians 2:10</p> |
| <p>My salvation is secure in Jesus. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. John 1:16</p> |
| <p>God loves me so much. May you understand how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is. Ephesians 3:8</p> |
| <p>My suffering has meaning. We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems & trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. Romans 5:3-4</p> |
| <p>God fills me with joy. I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy & peace because you trust in Him. Romans 15:13</p> |



Lesson Four : Holiness

Main focus for the lesson:

- God is holy and set apart.
- God makes us holy by forgiving us and filling us with the Holy Spirit.

1) Memory Verse

- **1 Peter 1:15**

Be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy.

Idea to teach the memory verse

Children sit in a circle. After one person says the verse they give the friend next to them a high five to pass it on. Try and go faster and faster each time you go around.

2) Hands on

2.1) Torch Object lesson:

Have torch with a screw on lid filled with rubbish instead of batteries.

Each step in this object lesson can help explain the main points of the lesson.

Last night our electricity went off and it was pitch dark but luckily, I had my torch close by. Isn't it pretty? Look at all the different colours on it and I put some stickers on it as well. Anyway, so I grabbed my torch to give me some light in the dark and bam (**switch on the torch**). But nothing happened and I was stuck with a useless torch in the dark. I thought well let me open it up and see what the problem is (**open up the torch**). Ah man look at this. There's so much rubbish in here. That can't be good. (**Take the rubbish out of the torch**). Okay now that it's all out let's try again. Bam (**switch on the torch**). I don't understand. Why is it not going on? (**Allow the children to answer**). Batteries? Why do I need batteries? (**Allow the children to answer**). What a great idea. Yes, I need something inside my torch to give it power. (**Put batteries into the torch and switch it on**). Wow it works now I'll have something useful for those moments when I'm stuck in the dark.

3) Bible Story + Lesson:

God is Holy

The word "holy" can be difficult for us to understand. When we say that God is Holy it means that He is perfect in everything, He has no sin. His holiness is what sets Him apart from everything else. Nothing else can compare or come even close to how perfect and great He is. God stands out from the rest.

So when God is asking us to live holy lives, He is asking us to stand out from the rest of the world not so people see how great we are but so people see how great He is. **But** it is impossible for us to do this without Him. Let's see what Jesus does to help us live holy lives.

Jesus takes away sin

To live a holy life for God you need to be forgiven of your sins. Sometimes we think we can earn God's forgiveness by being a good person but this is NOT true. We can **only** be forgiven and be able to be with God by believing in Jesus. Jesus takes away our sin, no one else. The best part is the Bible tells us when we believe in Jesus not only are we forgiven but now we are also no longer a slave to sin. A slave has to do everything his master tells him and so God is using this example to say if we choose the devil as our master – we will sin, but if we choose God as our master we will live holy lives without sin. Who do you choose as your master? In choosing Jesus it's like taking out all the rubbish from inside the torch.

God changes us to be more like Jesus.

One of the best promises God gives to us is that He changes us to be more like Jesus. From the moment we believe, the Holy Spirit not only completely surrounds us but even lives inside of us. We become one with the Holy Spirit. By listening, learning from and obeying the Holy Spirit we keep on changing. What we say, do, think and feel in our heart all changes to be more like how Jesus does these things. It's not God saying you have to be perfect. It's God's way of saying let me change you like I need to. A bit of correction here, a bit of growing there, all so that the rest of the world can come to know God too. The Holy Spirit is like these batteries. He gives us power to live the way God wants us to and He helps us show others how great God is.

God uses us

This torch is now ready to shine, but unless we turn it on it is useless.

Does anyone remember our memory verse? *(allow the children to answer)*

1 Peter 1:15 *Be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy.*

In this verse Peter is telling us to be Holy in **everything we do!** When we are holy in everything we do others around can see that we are different. They can see God's holiness.



Just like this light shines out of torch, people can see who God really is.

Because of who God is we get to shine not like a small torch but like this lighthouse. We don't shine out to everyone how we think they should live. We shine out God's perfect holiness through us.

We do this by telling everyone around us who Jesus is and what He has done for them. We

live as a good example. Our hearts truly love others and our actions show this through things like kindness and generosity.

And then just like the lighthouse warns the captain about danger and shows him which way to go our lives warn people and show them the way to Jesus.

4) Review Questions

- What is some of the "*rubbish*" that sometimes fills your heart that prevents us from being a good light? (*anger, lies, jealousy*) *(pray with the children for God to help them with these things)*
- Where and who can you shine your light to this week? (*At school to my friends, at home to my family, etc*)

5) Craft

Option 1: Toilet roll torch

Decorate the toilet roll with stickers, pens and pieces of paper. Stick a piece of yellow paper onto the top of the roll with the memory verse written on it.

NOTE: Please start collecting toilet rolls at the start of the term.



Option 2: Lighthouse mosaic

Create lighthouses using pieces of coloured paper.



Lesson Five: The Bible

Main focus for the lesson:

- The Bible is the word of God.
- The Bible helps us to know God but it also shows us how we should live like God wants us to live.
- We need to be reading the Bible and understanding the scriptures so that we can grow.

1) Memory Verse

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

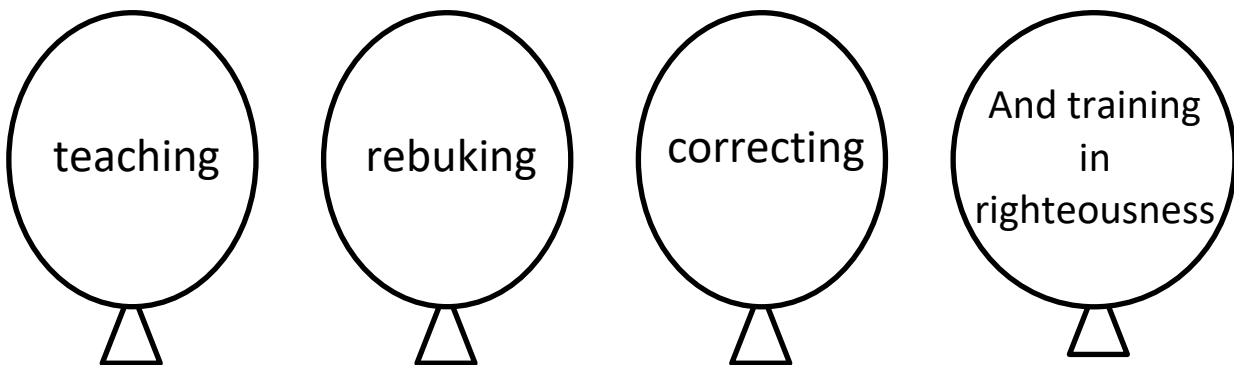
“All scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, reproof, correcting, and training us in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Idea to teach the memory verse

What you need: 4 Balloons; marker pen; Poster saying “TO EQUIP US FOR EVERY GOOD WORK”

Write the following words on to balloons as shown below, but don't blow the balloons up yet. Have them lying in order. Get the children to say “**All scripture is God breathed and is useful for...**” as you blow up the first one, tie it and then explain what it means. Have someone hold it as you continue with the next one.

Each time you pick up another balloon have the children say “**All scripture is God breathed and is useful for...**” naming each balloons already blown up. Keep making the point before you blow up the balloon that the scripture is God-breathed.



Brief Explanation of each part of the verse:

All scripture is God breathed and useful for...

Every word that is written in the Bible is chosen by God to be there for us to learn from. The Bible is not a book you have in your house collecting dust but instead God's message to us that He wants us to read and do what it says. The Bible is like a light on a path (Psalm 119:105) It shows us the right way to go.

Teaching

The Bible wants to teach us more about God and how to be more like Him. It's not to teach us so we are more clever but rather to know Him more and to allow Him to work on our hearts. Why does He want to teach us? ... to equip us for every good work. (*Point to poster*)

Reproof

The Bible is proof or evidence of what is wrong and what is right. What is a lie and what is true. The Bible warns us of the consequences when we are not doing the right thing or speaking truth. First we need to warn ourselves but we can also use the Bible to gently warn other Christians too. Why does the Bible warn us? ... to equip us for every good work.

Correcting

The Bible corrects what is wrong in our lives. It does this so that everything we do is pleasing to God. Why does He correct us? ... to equip us for every good work.

And training in righteousness

Our bodies need training and we do that by exercising, did you know that our hearts and minds also need training on how to think and how to act. The Bible teaches to be righteous, to be more like Jesus. Why does it train us to be righteous... for every good work.

So that the man of God

Every single one of us!

May be thoroughly equipped

So that we are ready

For every good work

For all the things that God has planned for us.

To equip us
for every
good work.

2) Hands on

Good morning Sailors. My name is Lieutenant Commander Maxwell and I have been sent here to do some training exercises with you.

Now every Sailor that enters into the navy needs to be alive and active. So today I have come to put you through some tests to see if you are ready to join the navy. Now I understand that we have a special person joining us.

(You need a big rock that they are going to play against. Have a face drawn on it and give it a name, let's call it "Peter").

Today I am going to give you and Peter an instruction and I want you all to follow the instruction. It is very very important that Sailors follow instructions. While you are following the instructions I am going to walk around and see who is ready to join the navy.

So can everyone please stand up! Peter I asked you to please stand up, this is very strange, it appears that Peter can't stand?

Now can you all please jump up and down 3 times? Well done every one. Peter, why didn't you jump up and down 3 times?

Can you all do a "Yes sir" salute. Peter why aren't you saying "Yes Sir"?

Sailors, you all did these actions so well, but why couldn't Peter do it?

Oh, because a rock isn't a living thing, let me test.

Everybody take a deep breath. (*watch Peter*) You are right sailors this rock *isn't* living.

And Sailors you all were active and busy jumping up and down, but Peter never moved. He isn't active.

So we have seen that we are living and active. Can I tell you about something else that is living and active!

Hebrews 4:12 "for the word of God (Bible) is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

That means that the Bible is alive, the Bible is truth. When we read the Bible it changes our hearts and minds. The Bible shows us who Jesus is and how to have a relationship with Jesus. The Bible shows us how to know Jesus better and how to live according to God's ways. The Bible also shows us that we need to love the world.

So if the Bible is God's word and it can change us, then we need to be reading every day. Just like a sailor goes to the navy to learn to be a Sailor. We need to go to the Bible to learn to be like Jesus.

Remember a while ago we learned that we need bread every day to live. We need Jesus every day to be able to grow.

3) Bible Story + Lesson:

This is Sipho and we are going to teach him, and ourselves, 7 reasons why we study the Bible.

(Use the pictures provided to stick on to the man as you explain each. You can have the pictures hidden inside the Bible to help them understand that it is the Bible that helps us with all these things.)



1. The Bible shows God to us.

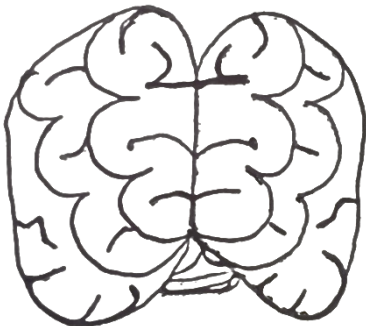
(Stick the picture of the glasses over his eyes)



We get to understand who God is and how much He loves us when we read the Bible.

2. The Bible makes my mind new.

(Stick the picture of the brain on his head)

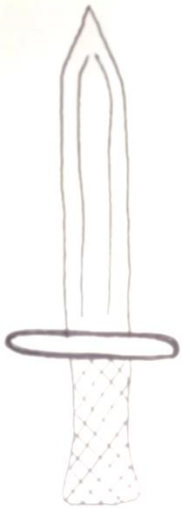


We live in a world where people whose hearts don't love Jesus are trying to change us to be like them. They might want us to fight or lie or get up to naughty things at school. We need to make sure that we fill our thoughts with God's thoughts. The way we do this is by reading the Bible.

Romans 12:2 says, "and do not be conformed (or made like) this world, but be transformed (change) by the renewing of your mind". God uses the Bible to make our thoughts more like His.

3. The Bible helps me stand against evil plans.

(put the picture of the sword in his one hand).



The Bible teaches us how to say no to sin and lies.

Ephesians 6:13-18 "finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. **Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of the evil in the heavenly places.

Therefore take up the whole armour of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which

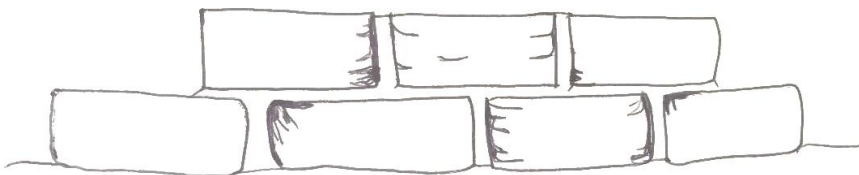
you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one and take the helmet of salvation **and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

Ephesians 6:13-18 speaks about the armour of God that He gives us to stand up against evil plans. It tells us that the sword of the Spirit is God's word. The word of God sets people free. Have you ever had the thought, I don't think God loves me. Well the Bible has an answer for every thought. Jeremiah 31:3 says, "I have loved you with an everlasting love"

God has filled the Bible with answers for every lie the devil wants you to believe.

4. The Bible is the foundation for our life.

(put the picture of the bricks under his feet)



Matthew 7:24-27 "everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who builds his house on the rock"

If we had to build a house on sand it would fall down when the rain came. If we build it on a rock it is strong and nothing can make it fall down. God uses this example to help us understand that if we are like the house then the Bible is the rock. What the Bible says about Him, what we should do, who we are to Him and so much more are the things we should trust in and build our lives on.

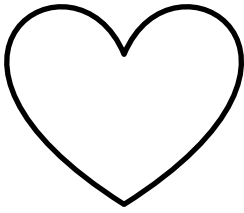
5. The Bible gets us ready for good works.

(put the picture of the first aid box in his other hand)

Ephesians 2:10 "for we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"

God has already chosen good things for you to do for Him, like loving others or telling others about Jesus. The Bible helps get us ready to do these things for Him.

6. The Bible changes our hearts
(stick the heart on his chest)



When we read the Bible God shows us the sin in our hearts and amazingly, He helps our hearts to change to be more like Him. He gives us a great love for others.

7. The Bible helps us not sin.
(put the stop sign next to his head)



Psalm 119:9 says "how can a man keep His way pure? (or himself to not sin) By living according to your word"

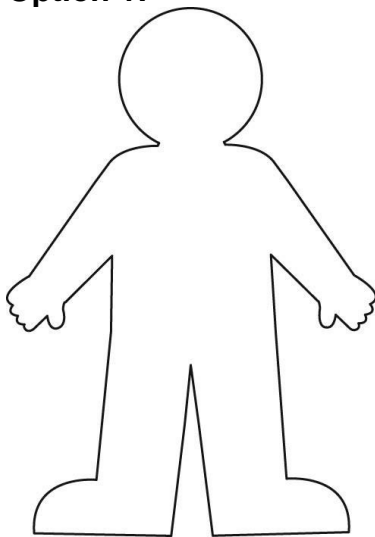
Not only is God so amazing that He shows us our sin, but He also forgives us of our sin and by using the Bible as a guide on what choices we make He helps us to stop sinning.

4) Review Questions

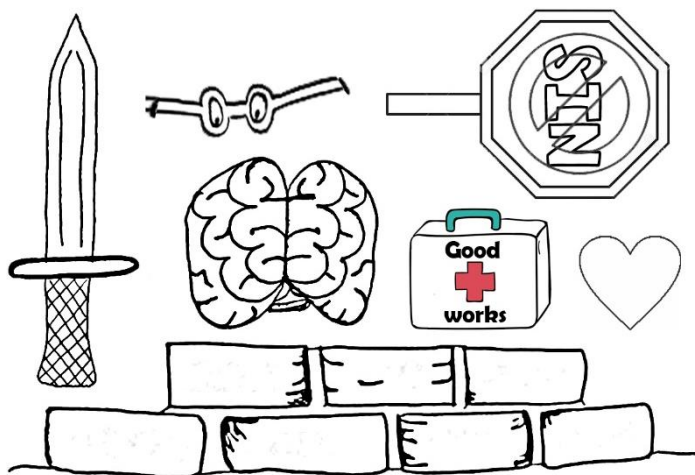
- Do you know how to use the Bible? (*show them*) If they don't have a Bible still show them how to use one.
- Discuss things like making time to read the Bible, where to start in the Bible.
- Ask them if they have any questions about the Bible. If you are unsure of the answer tell them that you will get back to them the next week once you find out the answer.

5) Craft

Option 1:



Children draw themselves and add the pictures from the lesson of reasons to study the Bible. (*young children may find using a template easier*)



Option 2: Learn about the Bible worksheet

Learn About The Bible

What is in the Bible?

The word Bible means "books", and the Bible is made up of many books.

Connect the dots to find out how many books are in the Bible.



Bible Writers Puzzle

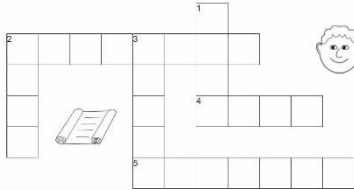
The books in the Bible were written by about 40 different people. Some wrote only one book. Each of the Bible writers in this puzzle wrote more than one book.

ACROSS

2. He wrote 2 books of prophecy
4. He wrote a gospel and a book of history
5. He wrote 3 books of poetry and wisdom

DOWN

1. He wrote 12 letters
2. He wrote 5 New Testament books
3. He wrote the first 5 books of the Bible



Name List: JEREMIAH, JOHN, LUKE, MOSES, PAUL, SOLOMON

The Bible is Inspired by God

"Inspired" means "God-breathed". God told the Bible writers what to write. Then they wrote it in their own words.

Learn About the Bible Worksheets from Shirley McKinstry at ministry-to-children.com

Other Names for the Bible

Use the code to learn two other names for the Bible.



Code:

C D E G I O P R S T U W

What Does the Bible Teach about Itself?

Look up and read each verse, and draw a line to what it says.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Psalm 119:11 | The Bible lasts forever. |
| Psalm 119:105 | The Bible is a light to show us where to go and what to do. |
| Isaiah 40:8 | If I remember what the Bible says, it keeps me from sinning against God. |
| 2 Timothy 3:15 | The Bible helps us understand salvation through faith in Jesus. |
| 2 Timothy 3:16 (first part) | The Bible teaches us what to do and corrects us when we are wrong. |
| 2 Timothy 3:16 (second part) | The Bible is inspired by God. |

The Bible and You

Put a checkmark next to each thing you should do.

- Read the Bible often.
- Memorize Bible verses.
- Look in the Bible only when you have a problem.
- Study the Bible.
- Believe the Bible.
- Obey the Bible.



Learn About the Bible Worksheets from Shirley McKinstry at ministry-to-children.com

Option 3:

Using the pictures about on the reasons God wants us to study the Bible create a memory game.

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>The Bible gets me ready for good works</p> | <p>The Bible changes my heart</p> |
| <p>The Bible helps me stand against evil plans.</p> | <p>The Bible shows God to me.</p> |
| <p>The Bible makes my mind new.</p> | <p>The Bible helps me not sin.</p> |
| <p>The Bible is my foundation</p> | <p>How to play: (make a set for each player) Place all the cards picture down. A player puts their hand on a card and guesses which picture it is by saying e.g. "The Bible reveals God to me". If they are correct they keep the card. If not they turn it over again. The first person with a full set wins.</p> |

Lesson Six: Jesus in us: Jesus is my best friend (Relationship)

Main focus for the lesson:

- Jesus wants us to be close to Him
- To get closer to God we spend time with Him worshipping Him, reading the Bible and speaking (praying) to Him.



1) Memory Verse

- James 4:8

Come close to God, and God will come close to you.

Idea to teach the memory verse

Divide the kids up into two big groups. Let them stand far away from each other but still facing each other.

Teacher says: "James 4 verse 8"

The first group says: "Come close to God," and they take a step forward.

The other group says: "And God will come close to you" and they take a step forward.

Repeat until the two groups are almost on top of each other.

2) Hands on

2.1) Perform the following skit: Are we good friends to God?

The leader first explains to the children that his best friend Sailor Sam has come to spend time with him today.

Have Sailor Sam follow the leader everywhere he goes trying to talk to him and spend time with him but the leader ignores him or pushes him aside.

The leader then stops and asks the children if they think he is being a good friend to Sailor Sam. (*no he is ignoring him, and being mean by not spending time with him*) Help them come up with ways that the leader could have been a better friend. (e.g. speak to him, stop what he was doing and spend time with him, say nice things to him etc)

Leader says: We learnt in the memory verse today that God wants us to come close to Him and He wants to come close to us. Did you know that God is with you wherever you go? So if He is always with us are we being a good friend to Him? Or are we ignoring Him and not spending time with Him like I was doing with Sailor Sam?

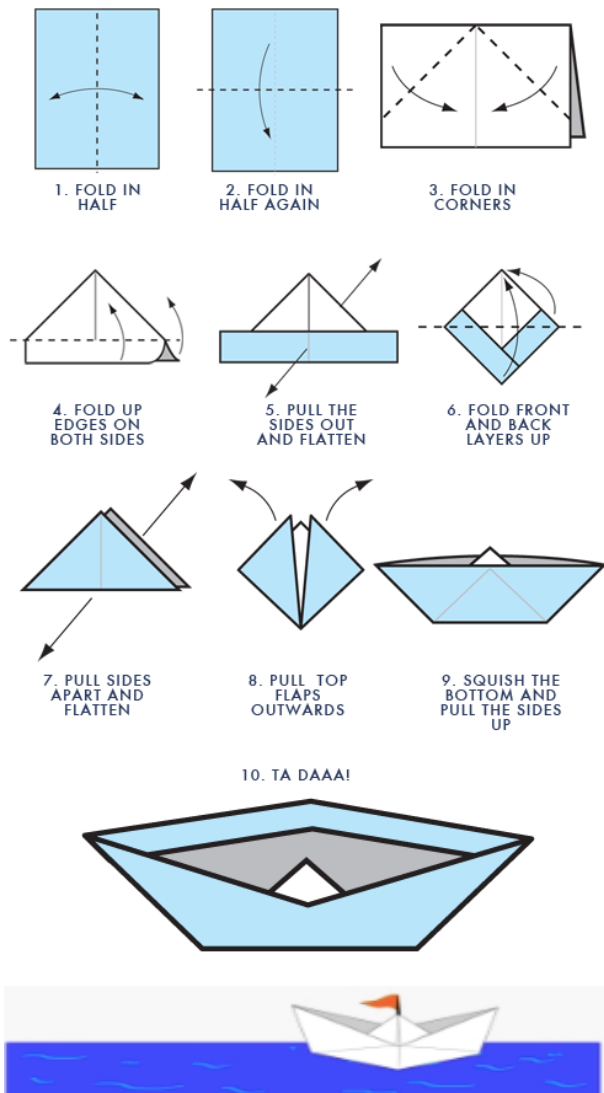
What are some of the things we can do to come close to God? (*pray, read the Bible, sing to Him, listen to what He says etc.*)

3) Bible Story + Lesson

In order to do this lesson, you must have six little paper boats ready made before-hand. Easy instructions on how to make the paper boats:

Each of the boats must have the following written on them so that the kids can read it.

Build some friend-"ships"



- **Jesus listens to you**

Jeremiah 29:12 In those days when you pray, I will listen.

- **Jesus keeps His promise.**

Numbers 23:19 God is not man, so He does not lie. He is not human, so He does not change His mind.

- **Jesus gave His life for us**

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

- **Jesus will always be by your side**

Hebrews 13:5 For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."

- **Jesus loves us no matter what**

Romans 8:38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love.

- **Jesus wants the best for you**

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

As Christians we always think of Jesus as our Lord, Savior, King and Heavenly Father. It might sound strange to you but Jesus also wants us to think of Him as our closest friend! Yes, Jesus is our King, but Jesus also wants us to talk to Him, come to Him during our times of trouble, and build a loving, long-lasting friendship with Him.

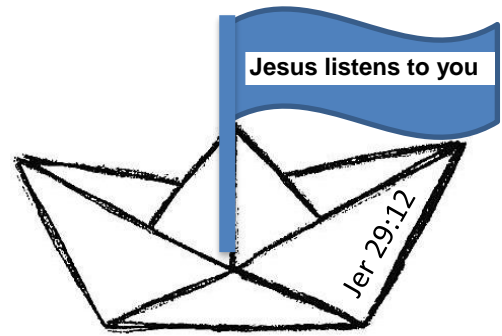
The Bible helps us see that Jesus is the example of what a perfect friend should be.

Have all your little boats "floating" on some blue cellophane on a table in front of the kids. Choose someone in the class to come forward and choose a friend-"ship". Then let the child choose someone else to read the verse to the rest of the class out of the Bible so they can see this is God's truth not the leaders opinion. (It doesn't matter what order you read out the boats in.)

- **Jesus listens to you**

Jeremiah 29:12 In those days when you pray, I will listen.

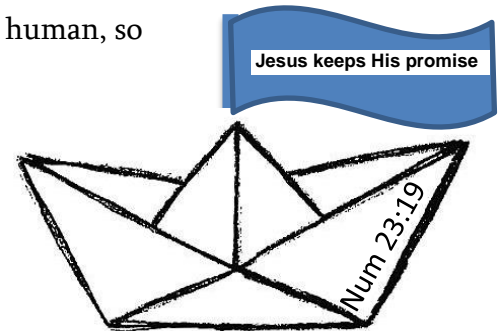
When you take time out of your day to speak with Jesus, He will listen to you. He's never too busy and He won't interrupt you while you are talking. Jesus will simply listen, because He wants to hear exactly what you have to say. Whether you are simply sharing the events of your day or something more deep, He will be there with an open ear.



- **Jesus keeps His promise**

Numbers 23:19 God is not man, so He does not lie. He is not human, so He does not change His mind.

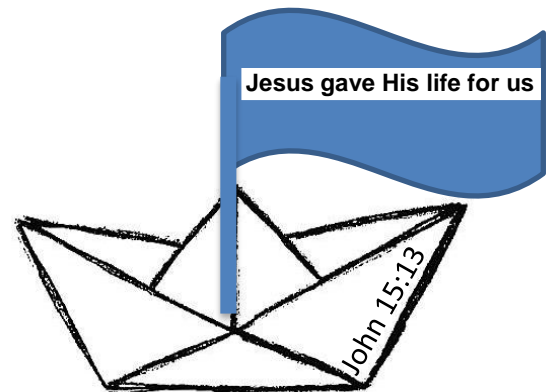
This verse clearly states that God, who is completely and wonderfully perfect, does not lie. Jesus will continuously be honest with you. He will never change His mind. Everything that Jesus ever said was truth. It hurts us when we have a friend who lies to us, so we can find comfort in knowing that our best friend, Jesus, will always be honest.



- **Jesus gave his life for us**

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

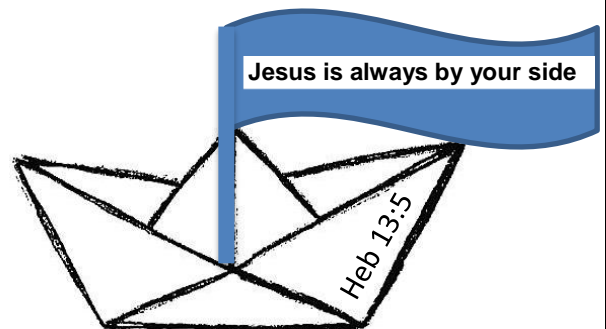
Jesus knew that a true friend is someone who is willing to make sacrifices. And what a friend Jesus really is! He loved us so much that He sacrificed Himself so that we could be saved from our sin and have a way into Heaven. That took an incredible amount of faith and courage for Jesus to do something so amazing for all of us. He is the ultimate best friend because of the beautiful, loving gift of eternal life He so thoughtfully gave to each of us.



- **Jesus will always be by your side**

Hebrews 13:5 For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."¹³

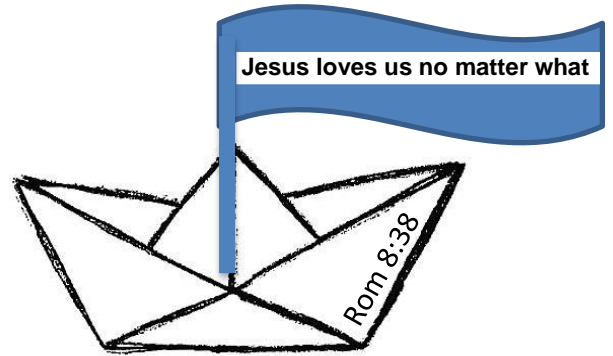
Jesus really means this. He says it many times in scripture. No matter what you face in life you can always count on Him to be by your side, guiding you along the way. He will never abandon you, leave you feeling lonely, or let you fight your battles on your own. Jesus instead is a real friend that will encourage you, lift you up, and help you through both the good and difficult times in our lives. When you build a relationship with Jesus, you will feel a sense of comfort in your day to day life because you will know He is walking alongside you.



• **Jesus loves us no matter what**

Romans 8:38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love.

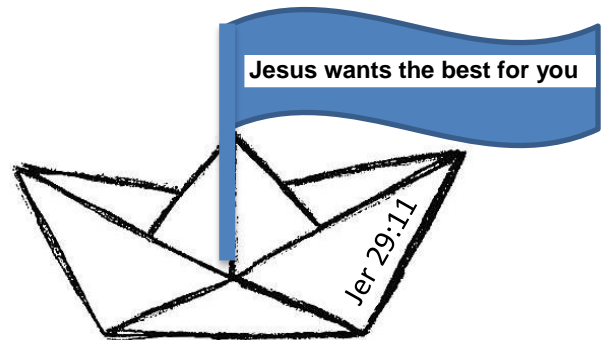
Jesus will love you through your whole life. No matter what you do or where you go, He will always be there to give you the love you deserve. He even loved you before you gave your life to Him. Jesus will never turn His back on us because His love is perfect and overflowing.



• **Jesus wants the best for you**

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

We all know someone who really only cares about themselves. Jesus is the complete opposite because Jesus wants the best for you. He will guide you in making good decisions and will help you if you ask Him. Jesus wants to see you flourish and grow to become the best version of you that you can be. He wants you to be a living testimony of His love! He will never steer you in the wrong direction because He knows the potential you have to fulfil the purpose He has made you for.



How can we build our friendship with Jesus? Discuss with the children ways they build their relationship with Jesus. Use the craft page or workshop to do so.

4) Review questions

How does this apply to me?

- Do I know Jesus as my friend?
- How can I build my friendship with Jesus? (*spend time, prayer, worship, read Bible*)

5) Craft

Option 1: Match the pictures craft.

Match the pictures by drawing lines to find out how to spend time with Jesus

| | |
|---|---|
| Reading the... | praise & worship |
|  |  |
| Talking to Him... | Bible |
|  |  |
| Singing songs of... | church |
|  |  |
| Going to... | through prayer |
|  |  |

Option 2: Origami friend-“ships”

Fold paper boats (*instructions above*) and decorate with sequence stickers. Write all the ways you want to spend time with Jesus on your little ships.

Option 3: Activity worksheets for older kids

Jesus is my Best Friend

Tick the boxes next to the things you and your friends like doing together:

- Meeting up to have a milkshake
- Chatting at break
- Being on the same soccer, netball or hockey team
- Playing cards or a board game
- Chatting on the phone



- Sending funny text messages
- Going on an outing or school camp
- Sitting next to each other on the bus
- Sharing and swapping lunch



God is our loving Father and He loves it when we spend time with Him just like we spend time with our friends!

Read John 15:13-15 to reveal a:  *Truth Anchor*

¹³No one can have greater love than to give his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are My friends if you do what I tell you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants that I own anymore. A servant does not know what his owner is doing. I call you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from My Father.

Unscramble the rope letters and fill in the answer below. The scripture shows us that Jesus wants us to be His:

f i n e r d s

Jesus is our friend. And just like with our friends, we can spend time chatting to Jesus and getting to know Him.

separate *God's* *nothing*
love *can* *us* *from*

So now we know that even though Jesus is our King, He wants us to talk to Him like He is our friend. And if we chat to our friends and tell our friends everything then we should also chat to Jesus about everything too!



Prayer is the conversation we have with Jesus and the bible says we can pray *anytime & anywhere!*

Fill in the word PRAY or PRAYER in the spaces below:

Therefore, when you sin: _____. When you don't sin: _____.
When you are feeling down: _____. When you are happy: _____.
When you are thankful: _____. When you need something: _____.

_____ about everything and anything. The Lord knows what you want before you ask for it, He just wants to know that you are relying on Him to provide it. You don't need fancy words to _____ just talk to Him!
Spend time with God in worship and in _____, ALWAYS, no matter what is happening and how you are feeling! _____ changes things!

Imagine someone walks around with you the whole day and you just ignore them. Jesus is always with us so be a good friend and just TALK to Him!

Join the columns to complete each way that we can spend time with Jesus.


| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Reading the | praise & worship |
| Talking to Him | bible |
| Singing songs of | in a journal |
| Writing our thoughts & prayers | quiet time |
| Setting aside some | through prayer |

Before Jesus came, there was a separation between man and God. Read the following:

Romans 8:38-39

³⁸For I know that nothing can keep us from the love of God. Death cannot! Life cannot! Angels cannot! Leaders cannot! Any other power cannot! Hard things now or in the future cannot! ³⁹The world above or the world below cannot! Any other living thing cannot keep us away from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Now, unscramble the words to discover another

 *Truth Anchor*

Another way to be close to Jesus is through *worship*. However, worship is NOT just singing songs about God.

Worship is our lives in action for Jesus!

Loving others and serving God's people helps us feel closer to Jesus.

1 John 4:19 "We love Him because He loved us first."



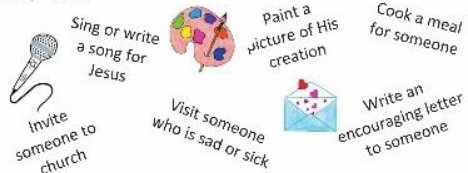
Worship is our *response* to God's love and mercy for us!

And worship is God's *purpose* for us!



God loves us being creative in our worship. So everyone's worship is different!

Here are some examples of how we could choose to worship God:



Write down something that you can do this week to glorify God and worship Jesus.

Lesson Seven: All Hands on Deck – The Church

Main focus for the lesson:

- We are the Church
- Jesus is the Head of the Church and we are the body – we are connected through Him
- We all have a part to play in the purpose of the Church

1) Memory Verse

- 1 Corinthians 12:27

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is part of it.”

Idea to teach the memory verse

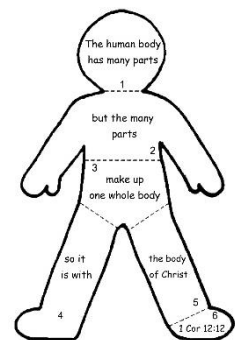
All hands on Deck game

See *puzzle of a body in the media pack*. 1 person starts building the puzzle, and the others are only allowed to help when the leader calls out all hands on Deck. When the leader calls out “all hands on deck”, the children call out the memory verse and then the whole group is allowed to help. (Requires body puzzles for each group)

Play stuck in the mud – 1 person is on and can ‘unstuck’ people. When the leader calls out “all hands on deck”, the children call out the memory verse and the whole team can ‘unstuck’ their friends.

You will need: 2 same sized buckets/containers & 6 equal scoops per group.

Move water from one bucket or container to another using a small scoop. When the leader calls out “all hands on deck”, the team says the memory verse and then can help their team mate.



2) Hands on

The church has a purpose and we all have a part to play in it.

Skit needs two people. 1 ‘sailor’ to act out, 1 to tell the ‘sailor’ what he/she needs to do on the ship.

Narrator: Sailor 1 has been called to board the SS Cornerstone to take the gospel to all the nations of the world. To show them God’s love and to help them grow in their knowledge of Jesus. (Sailor 1 is in the boat)

Narrator: Att -en -tion! (Sailor 1 salutes)

Narrator says the next instructions quickly one after the other as sailor runs around madly trying to do everything.

Narrator: Set the navigation to Midrand.

Narrator: Set the speed,

Start breakfast below deck

Watch out, there is another ship

Your ship is taking fire, man the cannons

Your ship is taking on water, man the cannons, plug the hole, pump water.

Is it possible to man a ship by yourself? (no)

Do you think this ship would have reached where it was supposed to be going? (No)

What do you think would have happened to this ship? (Sink etc.)

The Church is a bit like a large ship. It has a mission and a purpose. Just like one person on a ship cannot do all the jobs on a ship, so one person cannot do everything that God's asked the Church to do. We each have to play our part. We each need to use the gift that God has given us to do the job that He has for us. Then, together, as the Church, we will get to our 'destination'.

3) Bible Story + Lesson:

What is the Church?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INsNTdaBIG8>

From this video, we see that the WE ARE THE CHURCH. The Church is a group of people that believe in Jesus and gather together to worship Him.

Is this the church?



Or
this?



The Bible says that the church is not actually a building. The church is people. It's all the people who believe that Jesus Christ is their saviour and get together to worship Him.

God's people gather in local churches.



The Church

The Bible uses many pictures to describe what the Church is. Paul describes the Church as a body.

Read Romans 12:4 – 6.

⁴ Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, ⁵ so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

⁶ In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well.

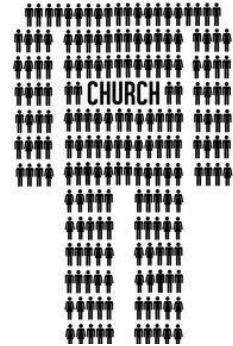
So if we are the body. Who is the head?

Read Ephesians 1:22-23 (ERV)

²² God put everything under Christ's power and made Him head over everything for the church. ²³ The church is Christ's body. It is filled with Him. He makes everything complete in every way.

So the Church is Christ's body and He is the head. We each have a role or purpose to play in God's Church.

ONE HEAD. ONE BODY.



The church has a purpose

Ephesians 2:10

¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

What are some of the purposes of the church?

To know Jesus and make Him known.

John 13:34 – 35 (love one another)

Matthew 28:19 (make disciples)

God calls His Church to be 'All hands on Deck' to tell the world the good news that Jesus loves them and He died on the cross for their sins so that they can be close to God.

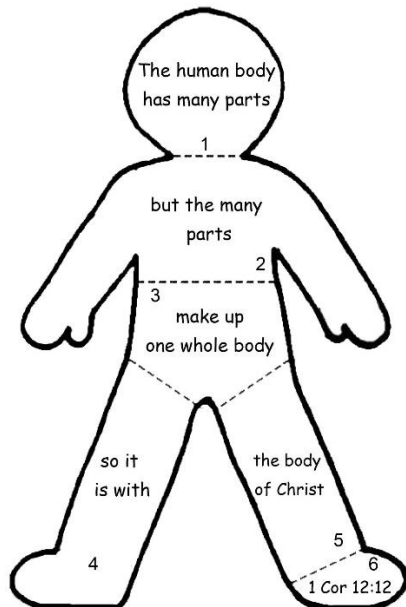


4) Review Questions

1. Who is the church? (*believers like us*) Who is the head of the church? (*Jesus*)
2. Can we be the church by ourselves?
3. What are some of your favourite things about going to Church
4. What do you learn about at church
5. Why do you think that it's important to go to church?

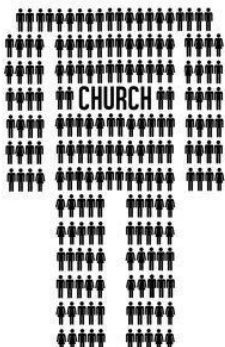
5) Craft

Option 1

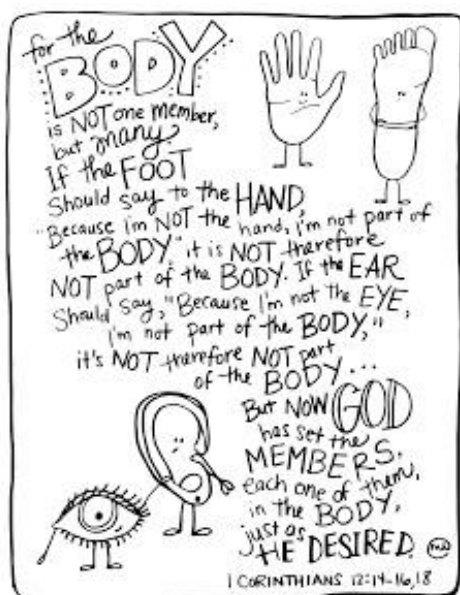


Option 2: Work together where everyone puts their person to build one big body.

ONE HEAD. ONE BODY.

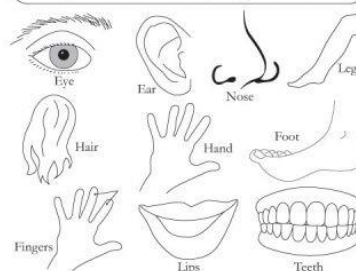


Option 3: Colour Page



Word Search Puzzle Body Parts

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | I | N | G | O | O | D | A | Q | A |
| B | U | T | E | E | T | H | Z | N | D |
| L | A | C | T | U | R | A | E | C | H |
| S | W | O | K | A | S | I | O | R | A |
| D | F | I | N | G | E | R | S | N | N |
| S | O | C | O | R | Y | A | M | B | D |
| A | O | A | S | A | E | A | R | E | L |
| H | T | L | E | G | T | N | I | O | J |
| E | D | T | L | P | I | N | A | S | O |
| T | U | R | E | I | S | L | I | P | S |



Lesson Eight: Generosity

Main focus for the lesson:

- God is generous
- Everything that we have comes from God.
- God wants us to be generous and give with a cheerful heart. He wants us to be generous with everything that we have (e.g. our money, our time etc.)

1) Memory Verse

- Psalm 2:41

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it”.

Idea to teach the memory verse

Hide the pictures in the venue for them to find. For each one they find they must then run back to the leader and say the memory verse.

Encourage them to identify with the picture e.g. I get money for tuck for school. That is provision from God or God has given me friends to play with etc.

Conclude: Think of all the things that God has given you. Doesn't that make you realise how much He loves and cares for you. Remember God owns everything we have and He isn't concerned with how much we have, He is concerned with what we do with it. Let the children think about what God would want them to do with each of the things He has given them. E.g. Given me friends to teach about Jesus, food to share with those that are hungry, taxi money so I am not too tired to help others etc.



2) Hands on

2.1) Generosity allows for God to bless us where we don't expect a blessing.



Choose two volunteers. Give each of them a R5 coin to represent the things that God has given us. Tell the children that we can either be a person who holds on tight to what God has given us (*get this volunteer to clench their fist*) or we can be generous with what we have (*get this volunteer to open both hands*).

Ask: "What do you think God wants us to do?"

Yes, God wants us to be intentional about giving. He wants us to be generous.

The Bible says in Proverbs 22:9 A generous man himself will be blessed for he shares his food with the poor".

This verse is saying that God blesses us when we bless others. When we are generous God is generous too.

Bring out a jar of coins labelled "blessings" and slowly pour it into the hands of the volunteers. The one whose hands are clenched (not generous) will get no "blessings" but the one who is generous will be able to catch lots of the "blessings".

When we are our generous we receive unexpected blessing from God. If we are not generous we are not open to receive the many blessings that God has for us.

(Use this wonderful opportunity to share practical examples of where you have been generous and God has blessed you. Remind them it is not the reason we bless others)

3) Bible Story + Lesson:

God has given us so much to be grateful for and there are so many ways we can be generous towards God. Let's look at 4 of them.

Being generous with our money, paying our tithe, being generous with our time and with everything else that we have.

Act out these little scenarios and discuss them as a group. Older children can divide into groups and act them out. At the end of each see if the class can work out what the person in the story was generous with – use the pictures to put next to each person.

1. Money



Mark 12:41

"[Jesus] sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums.

And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny, and he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contribute out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.



What did the widow give? She gave money, but she gave all that she had. Do you think it would be easy to give all you have? So why do you think she did it? Because she loved God and she wanted to be obedient to Him. She understood that what she had was from God and she knew God cares deeply for the poor.

Hebrews 13:5 ⁵ Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."

2. Tithing.



Malachi 3:10

¹⁰ Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!"



The old testament says a tenth of your money. So if you have R10 you give God R1. If you have R100 you give God R10. Tithing is a Bible instruction that God wants us to put in to place. Tithing is being obedient to God and He says He will bless you. If God has given us this instruction do you think we need to do that? Do you think God is only talking to adults?

3. Your time.



Luke 10:38-42

³⁸ As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. ³⁹ Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what He taught. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was



preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord said to her, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! ⁴² There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her."

It was good for Martha to work hard but it was even better for her to stop what she was doing and just spend time with Jesus like Mary was.

Spending time with God should be the most important time of your day. Of course we include God in everything we do during the day but God wants us to put time aside when we do nothing else but focus on Him. God also wants us to be generous with our time to do the things He has asked us to.

A personal story: A few weeks ago a friend of mine asked me to go and pray with her sick dad. I really didn't want to go because it was the only time in a while that I had had to rest. But God said to me "I want you to do this because this is very important for you friend and her dad." I had to change my heart and go.

I had the wonderful chance of praying with her dad and making sure that he knew Jesus. The next day her dad went to be with Jesus. Imagine if I hadn't been obedient to God and given my friend some time. Her dad might not have gotten the opportunity to know Jesus.

How do you spend your time? Do you make time to spend with Jesus, reading and praying?

4. With everything that we have.

Matthew 14:13-21



¹³ As soon as Jesus heard the news, he left in a boat to a remote area to be alone. But the crowds heard where he was headed and followed on foot from many towns. ¹⁴ Jesus saw the huge crowd as he stepped from the boat, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

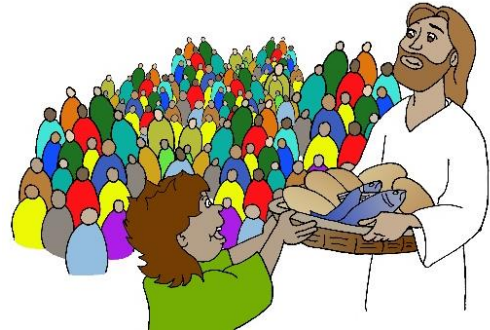
¹⁵ That evening the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves."

¹⁶ But Jesus said, "That isn't necessary—you feed them."

¹⁷ "But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish!" they answered.

¹⁸ "Bring them here," he said. ¹⁹ Then he told the people to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves into pieces, he gave the bread to the disciples, who distributed it to the people. ²⁰ They all ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers.

²¹ About 5,000 men were fed that day, in addition to all the women and children!



This young boy left home for a day out. He had 2 fish and 5 loaves. There is no way possible that that little amount of food could have feed 5000 people and yet it did, and there was left overs. If we are generous with everything that we have, God can use it.

Conclude:

The Holy Spirit leads us to be generous. He can prompt our heart who to give to and what we should give. When we give, no matter who we give to, we are actually giving to Jesus. Giving is a way of showing our love to God and others. And when we give we need to do it with a cheerful heart. (2 Corinthians 9:6-15)

4) **Review Questions**

- Do you have anything that you could be generous with?
- How can you be generous with your money, tithes, time or everything you have got?
- Who can you be generous to?

5) Craft

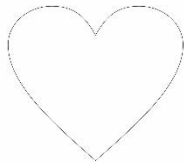
5.1) Time to be generous Cards

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| I am going to give  | I am going to give  | I am going to give  |
| I am going to give  | I am going to give  | I am going to give  |
| I am going to give  | I am going to give  | I am going to give  |



5.2) Decorate the colour page with coin rubbings.

God loves a cheerful giver.

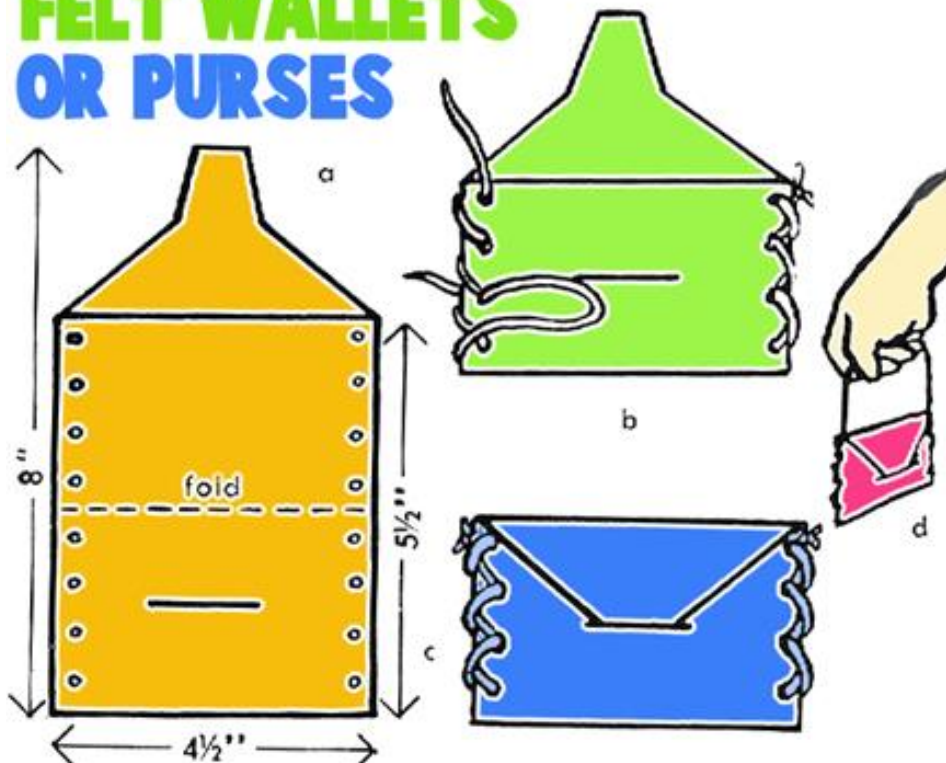


2 Corinthians 9:7



5.3) Let the class come up with something they are going to collect money for to give to someone else. (E.g. buy someone a Bible). Make wallets from felt or paper if none available.

FELT WALLETS OR PURSES



Lesson Nine: Calling all Sailors

Main focus for the lesson:

- Now we know about living in Christ, Christ in us and Christ through us, what is our response? **WE ARE ALL CALLED**

This week we are rounding up everything we have learnt this term. So it is suggested that you do the skit altogether and then split up to do the stations

Perform the following skit: Leader dresses as Sailor Sam:

Wow girls and boys! I feel like we've learnt so much this term! I feel ready to set sail and tell people about Jesus and build God's kingdom! Who's with me? (*Shouts*) If you're with me say "HOOYAH!" (*This is the actual saying of the US Navy Seals*) Can I get a HOOYAH? Kids shout HOOYAH! (*Repeat a few times*)

Right let's start our official training session! Stand up tall! We are going to play "Sailor Sam Says" Remember you can only do the actions Sailor Sam says. This is our official Command Training! In the game we only do what Sailor Sam says but remember in real life we are to follow Jesus' commands!

Sailor Sam says stand on one leg!

Sailor Sam says salute!

Sailor Sam says put your hands on your shoulders!

(Play the game for a few rounds)

Now that everyone has had their command training, let's split up into groups to do the rest of the training stations. Each station needs a leader to play the game, explain the purpose or help with the activity there.

(Split up into three groups and rotate around the stations.)

1) Station 1: We are called to LOVE God's people

Good and bad sort

Have two boxes/ bowls/ buckets. Mix two colours of balls/ milk bottle tops/ blocks together. Pour half into each bucket/ box. Kids must sort the two colours into separate bowls/boxes as fast as they can.

Leader explains: As Christians, we are called to love God's people. Love, joy peace, forgiveness, unity and encouragement are all ways we can experience and share God's love. The white balls are these good things.

Anger, unforgiveness, ugly and hurtful words, fighting and jealousy are not good and do not make people feel loved. Let's pretend the orange balls are all these bad things. Now let's separate the good things from the bad things as quickly as we can so we can LOVE GOD'S PEOPLE. Who's with me? Can I get a HOOYAH!! (Hooyah!)

2) Station 2: We are called to BUILD God's Kingdom

Tower challenge

Have some jenga blocks or paper cups on a table. If your group is big you may need to have a few sets and break into smaller groups. Children say the memory verse: *1 Peter 2:5 "and now you are living stones that God is building into His spiritual temple"* and then add a block/cup to the tower.

See how high the tower gets before it falls down. Then start again.

Leader explains: Each one of these blocks/cups is an unsaved person in this world. They could be someone at your school, someone at your aftercare, someone at the shop but all of them don't know who Jesus is or what He's done for them. We are called to tell people about Jesus so that they can also be added to God's Kingdom. How many can you get? Can I get a HOOYAH!! (Hooyah!)

3) Station 3: We are called PREACH God's Word.

This station is divided into two. A edible craft station for the little guys and a game for the older guys.

For the little guys: Popcorn Sailboats

Have tables set up that the kids have to move between. After each table say: What has God called you for? And the kids say; I am called to go and tell!

Here's what you will need:

Ice cream sticks

Triangles of coloured paper

Sticky tape

Baking cups

Ready-made popcorn



Table 1:

Tape your sail to your mast. "What are you called for?" "I am called to go and tell!"

Table 2:

Tape your sail and mast to the inside of your boat. "What are you called for?" "I am called to go and tell!"

Table 3:

Fill up your boat with popcorn. "What are you called for?" "I am called to go and tell!"

Now our boats are ready so we can go and tell everyone about Jesus and all the wonderful things He's done!

The older kids: Captain's Call

Explain all the instructions to the kids and play one round.

What is the purpose of this game? To have "Joy" and "Peace" no matter what! So that when we are telling others about Jesus, we do it with joy and peace no matter what we are going through.

Write the words "Joy" and "Peace" on the kids' hands.

After a few rounds, ask "Do you still have your joy and peace with you? (Answer will always be yes, because it's written on with koki.)"

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Captain's coming | Stand with your feet together at attention. (Jesus is our captain and we need to listen for His commands. He gives us our joy and peace.) |
| Seasick | Run to the back and pretend to throw up, then run back to the front. (We can have joy and peace even in the tough times) |
| To the ships | Run to the right and march on the spot. (Jesus will sometimes ask us to go and tell others about him. In our schools, shops, sports, anywhere.) |
| To the bunks | Run to the left, crouch down, read your bible and pretend to sleep. (we need to take time out to rest and spend time with Jesus so that we are continuously filled with His peace and joy) |
| To the lifeboats | Stand in groups of three, one behind the other and pretend to row a boat. (we can encourage and lift each other up in prayer and fellowship) |
| One-eyed Jack | Cover up one eye with your hand, stand on one leg and say "Aaargh". One-eyed Jack is a tough guy so act tough and macho. |
| Polly the parrot | Flap your wings, shake your tail feathers and say "Polly wants a cracker!" Remember Polly is a girl so act girly. |

Now I think you are ready to go out into the world and tell others about Jesus. Just remember to do it with His joy and peace!

4) Review questions

How does this apply to me?

- Am I living to show others Christ in me and through me?
- Am I doing what God has called me to do? Love, tell and build His kingdom