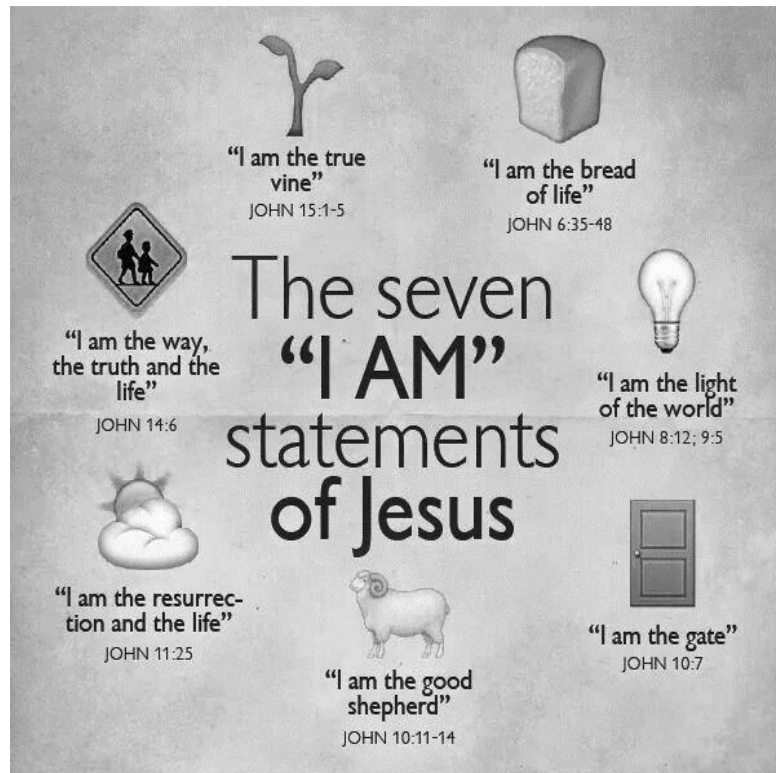


Contents:

		Page
<u>Teacher's letter</u>		
<u>Theme intro</u>	Weekly Theme introduction	
<u>Lesson 1</u>	I am I am	
<u>Lesson 2</u>	I am the bread of life	
<u>Lesson 3</u>	I am the light of the world	
<u>Lesson 4</u>	I am the good shepherd	
<u>Lesson 5</u>	I am the door	
<u>Lesson 6</u>	I am the resurrection and the life	
<u>Lesson 7</u>	I am the way the truth and the life	
<u>Lesson 8</u>	I am the true vine	
<u>Lesson 9</u>	I am His	



Jesus is I AM and I am HIS

LETTER TO THE TEACHERS

This term we will be looking at the “I am” statements made by Jesus. By stating “I am”, Jesus is telling of His deity: He is God, part of the Triune God. These statements were one of the main reasons that the religious leaders wanted to see Jesus killed. We therefore need to meditate on these statements, pray about them, ask God for greater revelation. Remember, it is near impossible to give what you do not have. Seek the revelation of these statements first, and then you will find a passion and anticipation to teach it to others.

What Jesus is teaching is such life, security, hope, identity and salvation in Him. Seek each truth earnestly, and teach it diligently.

Our focus each week needs to be on Jesus. This term gives us great opportunity to exalt Him, keep our eyes on Him, learn more about Him and grow a deeper relationship with Him. If you point to Jesus constantly this term, you have done well.

Be creative with the theme and the ideas. Have fun as a team. We have this incredible privilege to teach Jesus to others. Embrace it.

A separate media pack is provided to try and help you in using media in your lessons. We hope it proves a great help.

Weekly theme introduction:

For a bit of fun each week, set up a table that the children can explore and have some fun trying to work out what the name is for this week. Each week you can have the letters cut out that they can arrange to check if they are right.

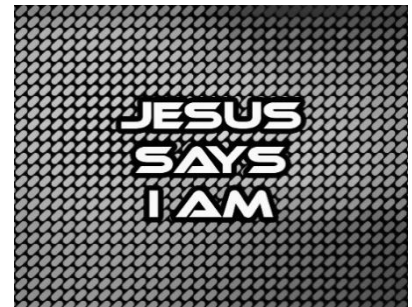
Here are some ideas of clues you can have on the table. (See 'hands on' section for each section to see how these ideas could link to the object lesson or game.)

I AM	Have a scavenger hunt. Place a sample of the "I am" wheel with all the pictures on the table. Give each child a piece paper with all the item pictures on it. They can then search the venue and tick them off as they find them. You can use real items or simply pictures of them. Some of the pictures could be attached to the back of a leaders shirt – creates a lovely opportunity to laugh with the kids.
Bread	Guess what object is missing? Have a variety of items that relate to bread set out on the table. E.g. Bread tin, Bread bin, empty bread packet, bread tag, butter knife, sandwich bag, toaster etc.
Light	What do these all have in common? Set out a variety of different sources of light. E.g. Torches, picture of the sun, solar light, candle, birthday candle, sparkler, lamp, lantern etc.
Good shepherd	Shepherd dress up Teachers can come dressed as shepherds. Have some pieces of material on the table that the children can use to dress up as shepherds. Some sheep masks could also be fun for them to use to play the game for that week.
Door	Knock knock Make little cut outs of doors with knock knock jokes on them. Have some blank ones available so the children can make their own too.
Resurrection and life	Life Have items that represent life such as birth certificates, and seedlings. You could also place a cross and a picture of Calvary on the table too.
Way, truth & life	Which way You could set out the following items: mazes, maps, a compass, sign posts. This would also be a good place to start your game at for them to search for their object.
True vine	Match that branch Set out the various cut off branches that you will use for the object lesson.
His	I belong too... Have items, e.g. stationery on a table with stickers that say "I belong to..." and different boys (leaders) names on them. The kids have a few minutes to remember which item belongs to whom. Cover them and ask "which item it His?" – pointing to the boy or their name. They must answer. "The ruler is His." Have stickers ready that say on them "I belong to Jesus" to stick onto the children once they have played.

Lesson One:

Main focus for the lesson:

- God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are so complete that there are over **700** names in the Bible that are used to describe them.
- God is I AM –
This means He has always existed, even before any ocean or star or person. He still exists now. And He will always exist and be there, forever and ever and ever.
- God is the beginning and ending of everything. Rev 21:6 describes him as the alpha and the omega.
- Isaiah 44:6 I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.



1) Memory Verse

- **Exodus 3:14-15**

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you. God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers – the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob- has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation. "

First read and give a basic explanation about the verse.

Teach the children an abbreviated version:

- **"I AM WHO I AM...This is my name forever**, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation."

Idea to teach the memory verse

Write each word on a piece of paper and put it into a name tag. Have the children wear the name tag and stand in the front. Get the class help you put the memory verse in the right order.





2) Hands on

Perform the following game/s:

2.1) Game: Everything has a name.

(Note: A power point presentation of the following is available and A4 sized pictures can also be found in the media file)

1. Give the children the following clues and get them to guess the following jobs.
2. Children answer by saying ... "I am a _____ (doctor)"
3. Give them a few more facts about each job

<p>Job 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I usually wear a white coat and hat. • I have to get up very early in the morning. • It is very warm where I work. • I have to mix different ingredients together in my job. • What am I? <p>I AM A ... BAKER</p> <p>So if I am a baker what are some of the things that I do? Make bread, rolls, cakes...by following the recipes and measuring out ingredients correctly</p>	
<p>Job 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I wear a white coat and sometimes an apron. • It's cold where I work. • I need to be very careful because I work with sharp knives • If you need meat for a braai I am the person to visit • What am I? <p>I AM A ... BUTCHER</p> <p>If I am a butcher then I cut up pieces of meat and recommend to customers which are the best pieces of meat to use for different recipes.</p>	
<p>Job 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I wear an apron to keep my clothes clean. • I am very busy on special occasions. • Some of the things I work with smell nice. • I have to place things in water to keep them fresh. • The things I sell are grown in the garden • What am I? <p>I AM A ... FLORIST</p> <p>So I grow or buy flowers. I cut them correctly and arrange them to make beautiful bouquets.</p>	
<p>Job 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't wear a uniform • I have a lot of holidays • I work with children • I will help make you clever • What am I? <p>I AM A ... TEACHER</p> <p>So I teach children how to read and write and teach them all sorts of information that they need for life.</p>	
<p>Option: Older children may want to try and make up their own examples and have the rest of the class guess.</p>	

Conclude the game by saying: Our game showed that every job has a name and that you get an idea straight away what the person does by hearing the name of that job. In the same way Jesus has names that describe Him. There are over **700 names that describe God**. How amazing must He be that it takes so many names to describe Him. Over the next few weeks we will learn more about what some of those names are and what they mean. Some of the names that describe Him seem crazy, funny, and strange but every single one of them helps us understand how amazing, great and awesome He is. You are going to be amazed at what Jesus calls Himself! Let's get started!

3) Bible Story + Lesson



What if someone asked you your name and you said, "I Am." They would say, "You are what?" "I am," you say. "You are what?" "I Am." They would probably be very confused, right? This is what happened to poor Moses in Exodus 3. Moses is minding his own business, keeping watch over sheep, when all of a sudden he is staring at a bush that is on fire.

But this bush is different. This one doesn't burn up. So he goes closer. And God calls Moses' name. (Yes! The bush is talking!)

God asks Moses to not only take off his shoes (that was the easy part), but he asks him to save His people, the Israelites, who are slaves in Egypt. Moses is scared and doesn't think he can handle such a big job (remember, he is just taking care of sheep!) So he says in Exodus 3:13, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'the God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"



Do you know what God says? Let's look up Exodus 3:14 together and read it aloud. (Help the children find this verse in their Bibles.) **"God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.'"** Poor, poor Moses. Can you imagine what the Israelites may have thought of him? (This guy takes care of sheep and he is supposed to save us? He hears God talking from a burning bush? And God's name is 'I AM?' I AM what?)

But God had a very good reason for this name. I AM means that God was and is and is to come. He has always existed, even before any ocean or star or person. He still exists now. And He will always exist and be there, forever and ever and ever. In Hebrews 13:8, it says that God is the same, **"yesterday and today and forever."** That's what I AM means. Maybe Moses wasn't so crazy after all. Turns out, the leaders of Israel did trust him, because they knew the I AM God. Unfortunately, the leaders of Egypt did not trust him, because this God wasn't their own.

God says that, "I AM" is His name forever, "by which [He is] to be remembered from generation to generation. In the Old Testament, God called Himself, "I AM." In the New Testament, over a thousand years later, He still calls Himself, "I AM" through His Son Jesus.

This term we are going to explore these wonderful names. Remember when we hear a name of Jesus it also describes a function that Jesus does. These "I am" names of Jesus are all found in the gospel of John.

4) Learning outcomes

How does this apply to me?

- God has so many names which describe Him and His character.
- He wants us to know his names

God is amazing. If the Israelites knew the I AM GOD then we can also know God better

5) Craft

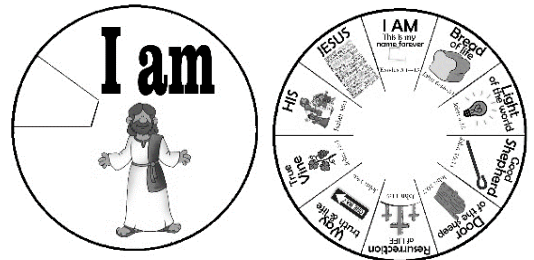
Option 1: "I AM Bracelets"

Materials: letter beads and beading string pre-cut

1. Distribute supplies. Demonstrate.
2. Have the children tie a knot at one end of the bracelet.
3. Have them figure out what they want to say and lay out the beads. Here are some suggestions: I AM His. He is I AM. Way, truth, life.
4. String the beads in order to say the phrase they pick.
5. Tie the other end of the string into a knot.
6. Tie the bracelet onto each child's wrist.

Option 2:

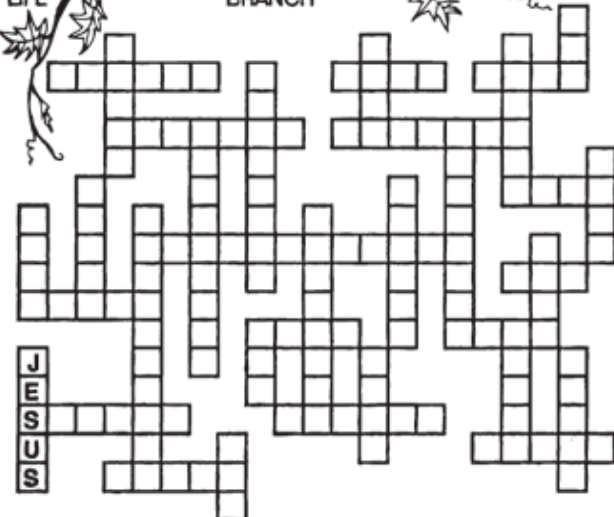
Make a circular template and get the children to draw their own pictures for the seven "I am" statements.



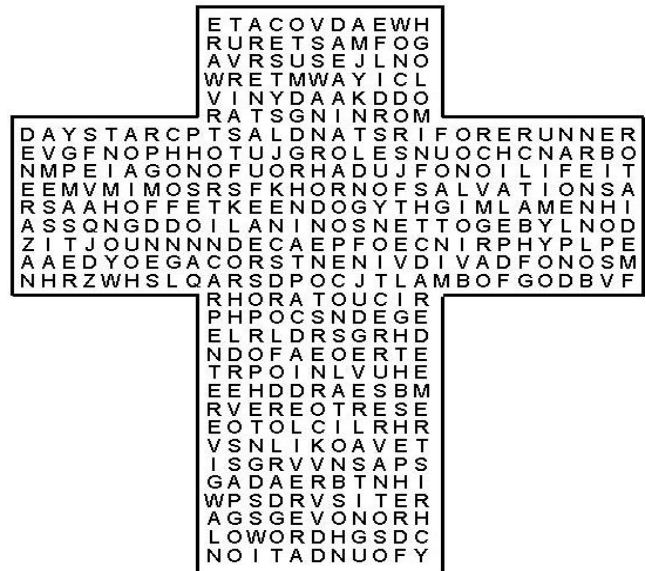
Option 3: (Encourage children to take the activity to do at home) And His Name Shall Be Called . . .

Jesus had many names. All the words below were used to refer to Jesus in the Bible. Fit the names into the puzzle. (Hint: Start with the longest names.)

- | | | |
|------|--------|--------------|
| GOD | SEED | CHRIST |
| SUN | STAR | SAVIOR |
| WAY | RABBI | MESSIAH |
| ONE | BREAD | TEACHER |
| ROOT | LIGHT | REDEEMER |
| WORD | TRUTH | IMMANUEL |
| LAMB | ALPHA | SHEPHERD |
| GATE | OMEGA | COUNSELOR |
| LORD | STONE | BRIDEGROOM |
| KING | FATHER | RESURRECTION |
| VINE | PRINCE | |
| LIFE | BRANCH | |



But Whom Do You Say That I AM?

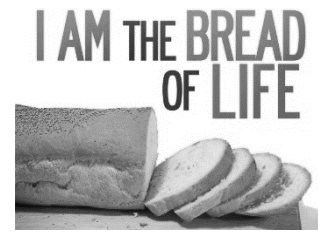


- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Advocate | Door | Lawgiver | Redeemer |
| Almighty | Emmanuel | Life | Resurrection |
| Alpha and Omega | Everlasting | Light | Rock |
| Amen | Faithful and True | Lion of Judah | Savior |
| Apostle | First and Last | Lord | Servant |
| Beloved Son | Forerunner | Lord of Lords | Shepherd |
| Bishop | Foundation | Master | Son of David |
| Branch | Governor | Master | Son of God |
| Bread | Head | Mediator | Son of Man |
| Captain | High Priest | Messiah | Vine |
| Carpenter | Holy and Just One | Mighty God | Way |
| Chosen | Horn of Salvation | Morning Star | Wonderful |
| Christ | I AM | Nazarene | Word |
| Consolation | Jesus | Only Begotten Son | |
| Cornerstone | Judge | Passover | |
| Counselor | King | Priest | |
| Day Star | King of Kings | Prince of Peace | |
| Deliverer | Lamb of God | Prophet | |

Lesson Two:

Main focus for the lesson:

- **I AM the Bread of Life (John 6:48-51)**
- Our bodies need food to live (like bread and cereal and fruit), but food won't get us to heaven.
- Our hearts need Jesus, Jesus gives us life. When we accept Jesus into our hearts, we will live forever.
- Just like we need food every day we need to spend time with Jesus every day, reading the Bible and praying. He then fills us so that we are satisfied.



Please do the object lesson first and then the memory verse. As the children have to guess today's theme.

1) Memory Verse

- *John 6:35*

"Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; whoever come to me shall not hunger and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.""

Idea to teach the memory verse

Option 1:

Ask: Do you know how many times Jesus said "I am the bread of life"
In John 6 he says it 3 times.

- Let's say it 3 times together ***"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger"***
- Find a girl and say it 3 times to her. (*it doesn't matter if more than one are saying it to the same person*)
- Find a boy and say it 3 times to him
- Find a teacher and say it 3 times to them
- Think of someone who is not here and shout it out 3 times so maybe they can hear you
- When you go home tell someone 3 times the verse we have learnt today

Conclude: I think Jesus said it 3 times so that we didn't forget it! I sure know I won't forget it now having said it so many times. I can't wait to find out more about what He was trying to teach us.

Options 2: *For the older children have this worksheet ready for them as they arrive*

Jesus the Bread of Life

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." John 6:51 (NIV)

Enter the missing vowels to complete the words from the Bible verse shown above.

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. F _ R _ V _ R _____ | 4. W _ RLD _____ |
| 2. L _ V _ NG _____ | 5. FL _ SH _____ |
| 3. BR _ _ D _____ | 6. H _ _ V _ N _____ |



2) Hands on

Perform the following game/s:

2.1) Skit:

Have a "Baker" arrive and say the following to the children:

Good morning children.

How are you all doing this morning?

Can any of you remember what we learnt about last week?

That's right. We learnt that Jesus has many names and in the book of John he refers to himself in different ways. These names of God help us understand and know Jesus better.

We have a very exciting lesson today. I just can't wait to **sink my teeth** into this lesson.

I am going to give you some clues and I want you guys to try and guess what name it is that Jesus uses today to teach us about himself. (*Hide a loaf of bread under a cloth and give them the clues for them to guess*)

- As a baker I work with it every day.
- It's important for us to eat it because it gives us energy
- It smells, tastes and looks amazing
- It was created by the ancient Egyptians
- It's an item of food eaten every day, by every race, religion and in every country around the world.
- My mom loves to use it for my sandwiches

Does anyone know what it is?

CRUMBS YOU GUYS ARE AMAZING!
YES IT IS **BREAD**.

Jesus says 3 times in John 6 "I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE"

Just as much as we need food every day and food sustains us and gives our bodies energy, we need Jesus for life. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. When we ask Him to forgive us of our sins He forgives us. When we are sad, He comforts us. When we are sick, He heals us. When we are afraid, He gives us peace.

Jesus fills our hearts and gives us everything we need to live. He even gives us eternal life.

Just like Matthew 6:11 the Lord's prayer says "give us this day our daily bread." Daily we need to spend time with Jesus praying, reading his word, spending time with him and remembering Him when we break bread because HE gives us life and he sustains us.

3) Bible Story + Lesson:

At this stage it is suggested that you do the bread roll making activity with the children if possible. (Craft Option One) Bread does take a little while to cook. The idea with doing it now is that the children have a chance to touch and feel the dough and while they are listening to the story the smell of fresh bread should fill the room, hopefully awakening their senses as to how important Jesus is to us.

Jesus feeds the crowd (John 6:1-15; 22-59)

Briefly tell the story of Jesus feeding of the 5000 using the following pictures as story aids.

Then go on to sharing the story from verse 22 onwards about how Jesus refers to himself as the bread of life. *(the following pictures are available in the media file)*



Some important points to emphasise.

1. The emphasis of this story is not that the boy gave, but that Jesus used this as a parallel between physical needs and spiritual needs to teach a spiritual truth
2. Jesus had been going around and performing miracles and so thousands of people were beginning to follow him.
3. There were about 5000 people who had followed Jesus into the country and they became hungry.
4. The disciples said that they did not have enough money to buy food for all the people
5. A small boy came forward with some bread and fish and 12 baskets of leftover food were collected.
6. The people saw that Jesus had done a miracle.
7. In John 6:22 the next day they came looking for Jesus again, they wanted Jesus to be their King.
8. Jesus said to them that they were only interested in ordinary bread and that they would have to keep working for that.
9. Jesus told the people in John 6:35 "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will not hunger and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.
10. Jesus said that they could feed on Him by believing in Him and trusting Him and if they did that they would live forever.
11. Just like physical bread is good for our bodies, when we ask Jesus to forgive us of our sins and when we live for him every day, then we are full and we are satisfied in our spirits.
12. But like we mentioned earlier in the Lord's prayer Jesus says "give us this day our daily bread" each day we can spend time with Jesus, talking to him, praying, reading the Bible and he will fill us and satisfy us for that day.
Sometimes it can be difficult to know where to start in such an important book as the Bible. To help you we are going to send you home with a reading plan of John (see craft option 3). Encourage little ones to read along with mom and dad each night.
13. Like physical bread is delicious in Psalms 34:8 the Bible says "taste and see that the Lord is good". We can taste and see him when we spend time with him.

Encourage some prayer and ministry:

- Find out from the children if there is anyone who doesn't know Jesus yet and would like to come to know Him.
- Also pray with those children who know Jesus but who feel hungry. Isaiah 55:1 is an invitation to the hungry. It says, "Come all you who thirst, come to the waters and he

who has no money, come, buy and eat!” God knows that our spirits will get hungry and he wants to fill us. Pray with the children and encourage them to spend time with Jesus, reading His word, breaking bread and in prayer.

Trust God for a move of His Holy Spirit and time of ministry with our children like we have never experienced before, whether it be they are choosing God for the first time or want a deeper relationship with Him.

4) Learning outcomes

How does this apply to me?

- Just like we need food each day for our bodies, so our spirit needs food from Jesus.
- Jesus is my bread of my life
- It is Jesus who gives me salvation
- If Jesus is the bread, I am
Fed daily by Jesus by spending time with Him, reading my Bible, breaking bread with my family and praying to Him every day.
- I am SATISFIED FULLY by Jesus.

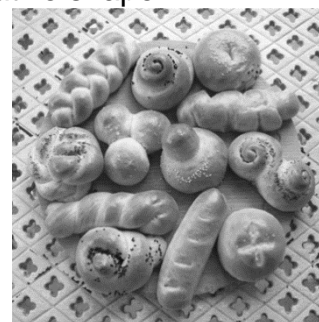
5) Craft

Option 1: For those sites where there is an oven

Buy some ready made bread dough for the children to kneed and make their own bread roll. Get creative and add sesame, poppy seeds or cheese or make a creative shape.

Things to consider:

- i. Rolls are baked in time
- ii. Bucket of warm soapy water and towel on hand to wash their hands before and after making their bread roll.
- iii. Children with allergies can make it for a family member or have an alternative available
- iv. Extra flour in case it sticks to fingers and the table
- v. Clean up strategy
- vi. A way to name each child’s roll – e.g. write it on the baking paper below their roll.



Let them decorate a paper plate and take it home that says “Jesus is the bread of life”

Option 2: Without Jesus I am toast

For those sites who perhaps don’t have an oven, leave the craft right till the end. Bring along a toaster or two from home and a few loaves of bread as well as some butter and spread.

Let the kids make themselves a piece of toast.



Let them decorate a paper plate and take it home that says “Jesus is the bread of life, without Him I am toast!”

Option 3: Take home activity page

Just like we don’t only eat food on Sunday we shouldn’t only be learning about Jesus and spending time with Him only once a week. Encourage the children to take this activity page home with them and complete them during their time with God. For an extra challenge see if you can learn the verse off by heart!

Jesus the Bread of Life



"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."
John 6:51 (NIV)

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

Jesus, the Bread of Life

Week 5

Find the story in John 6 v 25-59

When did you last eat bread?

When will you eat it again?

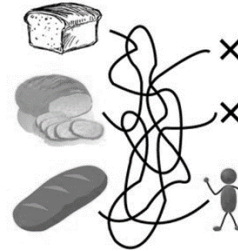
Why do you eat?

Draw your favourite sandwich in the box below



Then Jesus declared I am the bread of life. John 6 v 35

Follow the paths below to find out which bread the man eats!



WORD SEARCH

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

BROWN HOVIS PIZZA ROLLS WHITE FRENCH NAAN PIZZA STICKS WHOLEGRAIN

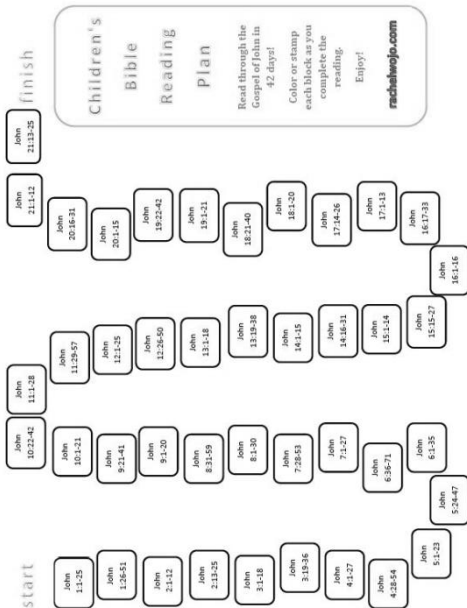
Option 4:

We spoke about Jesus giving us daily bread to feed our spirits.

It is important that we are spending time with Jesus every day. Often our moms and dads call this a quiet time, but you can also spend time with Him while you are playing soccer or getting ready for school. It's not about the time more about your heart giving to Jesus and receiving from Him.

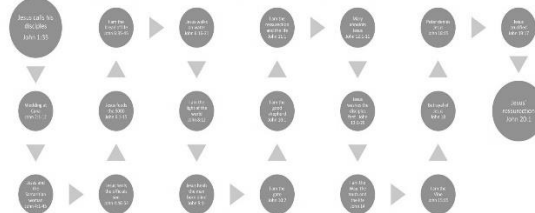
1. Do you spend time with Jesus each day?
2. Do you have a special name for that time that you spend with Jesus?
3. Do you spend time reading your Bible? Or do you sometimes feel lost and are not quite sure where to start?

Here is a Bible reading program for children on the book of John. Please encourage the children to start reading their Bible on a daily basis. Perhaps put some competitive element together to kick start their passion and desire to be reading their Bible.



LITTLE ONES: BIBLE READING PLAN

THE BOOK OF JOHN



Lesson Three:

Main focus for the lesson:

- **I AM the Light of the World (whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life (John 8:12)):** This world is dark with sin, but Jesus gives us light. He takes our sin away and shows us (like a torch) how to walk in the dark and where to go next.

1) Memory Verse

- **John 8:12**

I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

Idea to teach the memory verse

- 1.1) Use the following Youtube video. The actions go with the verse. All teachers should arrive knowing the actions so that they can lead the children during the song. Remember the emphasis is on the words and not necessarily the actions! <https://youtu.be/Y2GzPuCxI2Y>
- 1.2) Repeat the verse each time you turn on the torch in the game (see hands on)

2) Hands on

Perform the following game/s: Hidden items inside dark boxes.

As the children arrive:

- Make boxes where the children are able to get their hands inside to feel the objects but cannot see them.
- The aim is for them to guess exactly what the object looks like e.g. colour, brand etc.
- Objects you could use: a bath sponge, some feathers, some wool, a piece of fruit like an apple, a Bible, a necklace, a toy.

During large group session:

- The children tell you their guess of what was in the box
- Ask them if they know the specific details of the object – the colour, brand etc.
- Get a volunteer to stand by each box and use a torch to look at the objects inside the boxes WITHOUT pulling them out and tell everyone what they see.
- As they turn on their torch everyone can say the memory verse together.
- Conclude: The light took away the darkness and when it did we were able to see everything we wanted to see. The light is essential if we want to know the truth rather than just guessing and making mistakes.
- Ask the volunteers to look again in their box and see if there is something else they can see. At the back of the box have the verses provided below stuck in the box. Try make it so that they cannot be felt.
- Get the volunteers to read out the Bible verse. Conclude by saying: Gee wiz we almost missed out on these verses. Without the light we didn't even know they were in there. Without Jesus as our light it is so easy for us to miss out on so much more that God has for us.

At the end of the morning, or even next week, have the boxes and torches available for the children to explore for themselves.

Print and cut out verses from the media file.

Matthew 5:14

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden

John 1:15

And the light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot understand it.

Psalms 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.

Genesis 1:8

And God said: "Let there be light" and there was light.

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we share each other, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleans us all of our sins.

Matthew 5:16

Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

The Solar Jar Light

For this lesson you will need a solar jar light. Try to do this lesson in a darkish environment. The brighter the room, the more difficult it will be to actually see the light shining out of the jar.

Does anyone know what this is? That's right! It's a solar jar light! Can anyone explain to us how it works because I can't seem to find the on/off button? (You can take explanations from the kids at this point)

So the way to get this light to work is by leaving it in the sun to charge and only then will it work! Well, let me tell you that each one of us is exactly like this little solar jar light!

When we accept Jesus into our hearts and spend time with Jesus; praying and reading His word, we become filled with His light! Just like when the little jar spends time in the sun it becomes charged with energy. And just like this little jar can light up and show us the way at night, we can "light up" the way for others to come to Jesus too!! How wonderful is that?

But boys and girls, what happens if I begin to cover up this little jar? It won't work so well as a light anymore, hey? In all our lives we have sins. So for each sin I have, I'm going to stick a piece of paper on my jar with prestik. (*Make it personal so that the kids hear how you are also not perfect, that even leaders need Jesus' forgiveness.*)

"I walked away from the cashier at Pick n Pay when she gave me too much change and I didn't say anything." (*Stick a paper onto the jar for "dishonesty".*)

"I have never forgiven the teacher for shouting at me when I wasn't talking" (*Stick a piece of paper onto the jar for "unforgiveness".*)



"I was so cross with the girl who was chosen as centre for netball that I started a rumour about her" (*Stick a piece of paper onto the jar for "lying or unkind words".*)

Carry on like this until very little of the glass is showing. Remember to keep your "sins" age appropriate otherwise you may find yourself explaining some difficult concepts!

So can you see this jar now? Do you know that the light in the jar is still on, it hasn't gone off? But we can't see the light coming out of it and we definitely can't use it to see where we are going in the dark.

The sins in our lives are the same. When we sin, Jesus doesn't leave us! But His light also can't shine out of us because we are too covered in ugly sins! We also can't introduce other people to Jesus when we are doing the wrong things. Our light is just not useful!

But the bible tells us that because Jesus died for our sins, all we have to do is confess our sins to Jesus, ask Him to forgive us and HE WILL! How wonderful is that? And He removes our ugly sins from us just like I am removing these pieces of paper from this little jar. Now the little jar is useful again as a light!

Sin is the thing in our lives that stops Jesus' light from shining out of us and bringing other people to Him.

Now you can get the kids to sing and dance to the following song: *Let Your Light Shine* <https://youtu.be/oXkxRNEy8XA>. There are lots of songs available to have playing as you do the craft.

4) Learning outcomes

How does this apply to me? What is my response?

- Jesus fills me with His light when I spend time with Him but His light and glory won't shine out of me when I have sin in my life.
- When I ask Jesus to forgive me of my sins He can shine His light out of me again and I can be useful to Him!
- If Jesus is the Light then I must shine for Him?

5) Craft

Option 1: Glittery Jars to hang up

You will need the template provided photocopied onto card, scissors, glue, glitter, a punch and string.



Option 2: Stained glass candle jar

You will need a jar or glass for every child, selection of cellophane pieces, glue and this verse card to stick on the side. You can provide each child with a little tea-light candle to put inside each jar but make sure with parents that they know and are aware.



**I AM the Light of the World
whoever follows me will
never walk in darkness but
will have the light of life**

John 8:12

Option 3: Glow in the dark painted jars

You will need a jar (lid isn't needed) for every child and different coloured glow-in-the-dark paint (available at the China mall or Evermore)
Kids paint dots or patterns of their choice onto the side of their jars and wait for it to dry. Hint: the thicker the paint, the longer it will take to dry BUT the better the effect afterwards. You may want to keep them and hand them back to the kids next week.



Lesson Four:

Main focus for the lesson:

- **I AM the Good Shepherd (John 10:14-16):** Just like a shepherd takes care of sheep, Jesus takes care of us. He will do anything to save His sheep, even die for them. And that's what He had to do so that we might have life.
- The shepherd knows His sheep and we must know Jesus too.

1) Memory Verse

- **John 10:14**

I am the good shepherd, I know my own sheep and they know me.

Idea to teach the memory verse

The leader explains that every time he says "*I am the good shepherd, I know my sheep*" they must reply "*and they know me*". (repeat this a few times quietly, loudly, high, low voice etc.)

Then the leader asks: Do you know who the good shepherd is? **Jesus**
Ok let's check if you really know.

First leader comes out with a shepherd crook and says "**I am the good shepherd, I know my sheep...**" and children reply "and they know me"

Leader asks – Is this the good shepherd **No, Jesus is the good shepherd**

Next leader comes out and does the same. Eventually conclude that Jesus and no one else is our good shepherd.

Conclude: Some people may look like they are doing things for Jesus. They say all the right words BUT we need to be able to recognise Jesus. We must know who our good Shepherd is!

2) Hands on




Perform the following game while the children are arriving:




- A leader (shepherd) with some older children form a circle with a rope. The aim is for them to try and stop the wolf from getting into the circle.
- Kids gather inside the circle as sheep, grazing and making sheep noises. They can "baa" an alert if they see a wolf trying to get in.
- Another leader can be the "wolf" outside the circle. They can growl and howl and walk on all fours. The wolf continually tries to get into the circle. He can pretend to be their shepherd and promise them all sorts of things to try and get them to let him in or even for them to come out and follow him.
- The shepherd from the circle keeps asking the sheep. "Should we let him in?" "Do you think you should follow him?"

Near the end let the "wolf" get into the circle and have the sheep pray for him to change his heart. The wolf can change his mask and can become a sheep. This is an opportunity to explain to children that even if someone is living life not according to God's ways, it is still possible for them to change their heart and accept prayer and become a follower of Christ.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

This lesson requires a bit of role play. One leader dresses up like a shepherd with a big stick and the other leader can be in normal clothes. Note: Simplify words for the little ones.

Teacher	Today I've invited my special friend to come and talk to us. He is a shepherd from Bible times. Please can you welcome my friend Sheldon the Shepherd!	
Sheldon	Hello everyone! I've left my sheep outside in the park, I hope they'll be okay. I love them so much I don't want any harm to come to them.	
Teacher	Hello Sheldon! Yes I'm sure they will be fine, why are you so worried about them?	
Sheldon	Oh dear, don't be too sure. Sheep are the most helpless of animals. They need me around to protect them all the time!	
Teacher	Really, Sheldon, I didn't know that. Can you tell us all a bit more about sheep?	
Sheldon	Yes, I would love to. I brought along some pictures of my precious sheep. In this first picture you can see that sheep are indeed the most helpless of animals. This little lamb here has no way of defending itself against predators (animals that want to eat him up). But he doesn't have to worry, even though he is weak I am strong and I can protect him.	 <p style="text-align: center;">Picture 1</p>
Teacher	Oh shame! Look how helpless he looks.	
Sheldon	Also, sheep have no "homing instinct" which means they get lost easily. I have to keep making sure that none of my sheep wander off and if they do, I need to go and find them quickly. Many of my sheep have been lost and I don't stop until I find them. You can only imagine the celebration when I find my lost sheep.	 <p style="text-align: center;">Picture 2</p>
Teacher	It doesn't make sense that the sheep would wander off from such an amazing shepherd like you. I am sure they must be so pleased when they are found again. We are learning so much about sheep. Please tell us more, Sheldon.	
Sheldon	Sheep are followers. That means that if one sheep walks off and falls into a ditch, they will all fall into the ditch. I have to remind them every day to follow me and no one else.	 <p style="text-align: center;">Picture 3</p>
Teacher	Oh my gosh! That is so dangerous! They really do rely on you to keep them safe!	

<p>Sheldon</p>	<p>Yes they do. If there is any danger like a wolf or a jackal, my sheep won't run away, they just huddle together and hope that the danger will go away by itself. But I will do anything for my sheep, even die for them.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Picture 4</p>
<p>Sheldon</p>	<p>Sheep also get injured easily and I have to gently tend to their wounds. Just look at this picture of my lamb from last week. She's much better now though.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Picture 5</p>
<p>Teacher</p>	<p>Your sheep seems so weak and always making such silly mistakes yet you seem to still love them no matter what!</p>	
<p>Sheldon</p>	<p>I love my sheep VERY much! I know every one of them by name and they are mine and I am there's. No matter how many times they do the wrong thing or go the wrong way I will always love them and be there to guide them back.</p>	
<p>Teacher</p>	<p>WOW it looks like your sheep are totally dependent on you for everything!</p>	
<p>Sheldon</p>	<p>Yes they sure are dependent on me! They rely on me for everything! And I would do anything for them.</p> <p>You know, I have a lot of time out in the fields to think about Jesus and everything He wants for us.</p> <p>The Bible tells us we are His sheep.</p> <p>This means we have to rely on Jesus the way my sheep rely on me. We have no way of protecting ourselves from the enemy, we have to rely on Jesus. We will get lost if we do not follow Jesus and His word. When we are injured or sick, we have to rely on Jesus to heal us.</p> <p>He loves us, guides us and protects us, just like I do my sheep. I try my best to be a good shepherd but Jesus is the greatest shepherd ever! He never lets us down.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Picture 6</p>
<p>Teacher</p>	<p>Wow Sheldon, I didn't realise just how much we are like sheep! It is so wonderful to have Jesus as our Good shepherd!</p> <p>Children, isn't it exciting that Jesus knows us each by name and that we are HIS and He is ours. I just love being a sheep with Jesus as my good shepherd.</p>	
<p>Sheldon</p>	<p>I really must go now, my sheep need me and I must take them to some nice green grass to graze on. Bye! Or shall I rather say "BAAAAA!"</p>	

4) Learning outcomes

How does this apply to me?

- Jesus is my good shepherd
- I can fully rely on Jesus for everything
- Jesus celebrates me being found and me choosing Him as my good shepherd
- Jesus chose to die for me because He loves me

5) Craft

Option 1:

PLEASE PRACTICE FOLDING IT BEFOREHAND

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=21qi9ZcQVto>

Folding Instructions

Note: All folds should be to the lines printed on the paper, and not to the actual edges of the page.

F	1
B	2
G	3
S	4

1. Start with front page at top left

2. Fold in halves

3. Cut at dotted line in center

4. Fold to opposite ends.

5. Fold in half vertically

6. Fold in half horizontally

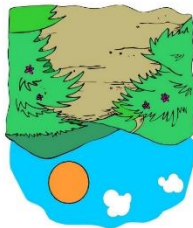
done, enjoy!

PocketMod.com
© 2005-2006

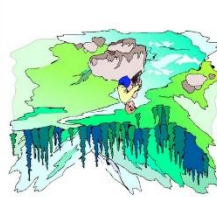
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.



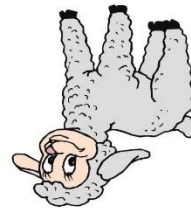
...he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.



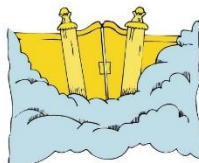
He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,



The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want

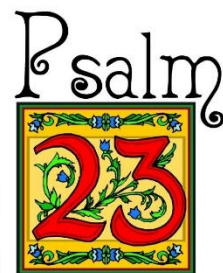


You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.



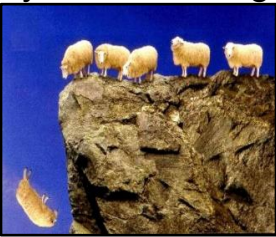





Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Psalm 23

Free Bible Story Printables from www.BibleStoryPrintables.com



Option 2: Cut & paste or write in the matching answer (word box below)

<p>I am weak</p> 	<p>Jesus my shepherd</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>I get lost ...</p> 	<p>Jesus my shepherd</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>I don't always know the right way</p> 	<p>Jesus my shepherd</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>I am fearful ...</p> 	<p>Jesus my shepherd</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>When I am hurt ...</p> 	<p>Jesus my shepherd</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>I am Jesus' sheep ...</p> 	<p>Jesus my shepherd</p> <p>_____</p>

Protects me	Finds me	Is mine
Guides me	Heals & comforts me	Is strong

Lesson Five:

Main focus for the lesson:

- **I AM the Door for the Sheep (John 10:7-9):** In the sheep pen, the shepherd was like a gate or a door, letting sheep in and protecting them. Jesus is the gate to God – the only one. We have to go through the gate (or door) to see God and be saved from our sins.
- We need to be hearing, listening to and following Jesus' voice.

1) Memory Verse

- *John 10:9*

"I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved."

Idea to teach the memory verse

Where the children are sitting divide them quickly into smaller sections. Allocate a shepherd (leader) to each section and let them stand in front.

Children crouch and only when **their** shepherd says: **"I am the door. If anyone enters by me..."** the rest of the group stands up and says **"he will be saved."**

Repeat a few times.

Have some fun with it:

- 1) Have leaders turn their backs on their group so they can't see them but have to listen and recognise their voice
- 2) Next mix up the leaders so they are not in front of their group
- 3) Have the leaders change their voices and see if the groups can still recognise them.

2) Hands on

2.1) Perform the following skit:

Have Sheldon the Shepherd come and visit again. He can briefly recap the last lesson before saying:

Do you know what I do with my sheep to keep them safe? You can see in this picture that I put my sheep into a small enclosure with walls around them and I myself will sleep in the doorway. Any animal that wants to get at my sheep has to come through me and my big stick!

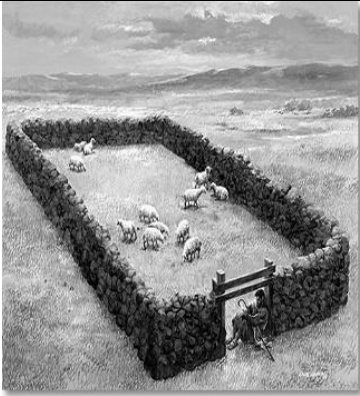
Also I am the one who lets the sheep out when its morning and everything is safe. If the sheep want to be saved, they have to go through me!

Do you know Jesus does the exactly the same thing with His sheep?

Can you remember who His sheep are?

John 10:9 says that Jesus is our door. If anyone enters by Him, he will be saved.

Jesus is the only way in to God's Kingdom. If we want to live forever in Heaven we have to go through Jesus. We have to follow Jesus and listen to His voice just like my sheep listen to me.



In John 10:4 says the shepherd goes ahead of them and His sheep follow Him because they know His voice. Watch these clips to see that not only do the sheep know what the shepherd's voice sounds like but how they **follow** it as soon as they hear it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e45dVgWgV64> *Do sheep only obey their master's voice.*

This is an excellent clip that shows how we should recognise the shepherd's voice and then obey

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Coq_grSFINs The Good

shepherd and His sheep

This also shows that even through the mist the sheep trust in the shepherd and follow His voice.

When Jesus speaks to us we need to listen! We need to listen and we need to follow all His instructions perfectly. Things end up going ridiculously wrong when we don't listen!

Jesus speaks very clearly but we don't always seem to listen so well.

Jesus says ... do not fear ... we hear do not fear unless it is very scary.

Jesus says ... love one another ... we hear love one another if they do nice things.

Jesus says ... pray without ceasing ... we hear pray when you need it

Jesus says ... love me with all of your heart ... love me when it suits you

The most important thing we can do as sheep is choose Jesus as our shepherd, to listen to Him and then follow. No one else can lead us to Heaven! When we do this we are accepting that Jesus is the only door. He is talking to you and He will always lead us the right way so get ready to listen and follow!

3) Bible Story + Lesson

This morning we learnt that we, His sheep, need to know Jesus' voice and we need to follow Him.

Today we are going to look at some stories in the Bible of when Jesus speaks. Let's see if anyone listens.



The first one is in Mark 4:35-41

Jesus and His disciples got into a boat and were crossing to the other side of a lake.

Soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water. Jesus was sleeping at

the back of the boat with His head on a cushion. The disciples woke Him up, shouting, "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?"

When Jesus woke up, He commanded the wind and said to the waves, "Silence! Be still!" Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. Then He asked them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"



The disciples were absolutely terrified. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. **Even the wind and waves obey him!**

**If even the wind and waves recognize, listen and follow Jesus' voice,
how much more should His sheep.**

Mark 5: 1-20 then tells us about a man who was filled with evil which made him crazy and do many bad things. As soon as the man saw Jesus get out of the boat he came running to Him and knelt before Him. Jesus told the evil to come out of the man and into some pigs that were nearby. Immediately the evil left the man and went into the pigs. The herd of pigs then ran down the hill and into a lake and all drowned.

**If even evil recognizes, listens and obeys Jesus' voice,
how much more should His sheep.**

Next in Mark 5:35-43 Jesus goes back to the other side of the lake in the boat. There, a large crowd of people gathered around him on the shore and a leader of the synagogue came. His name was Jarius. He saw Jesus and bowed down before him. He begged Jesus again and again, saying, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and lay your hands on her. Then she will be healed and will live."

Some men then come and tell Jarius not to bother Jesus any more as it is too late his daughter has died. But Jesus did not care what the men said. He said to Jarius, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

When they get to Jarius' house, everyone is crying. Jesus entered the house and said, "Why are you people crying and making so much noise? This child is not dead. She is only sleeping." But everyone laughed at Him.

Jesus told the people to leave the house. Then He went into the room where the child was. He brought the child's father and mother and His three followers into the room with Him. Then Jesus held the girl's hand and said to her, "*Talitha, kum!*" (This means "Little girl, I tell you to stand up!") The girl immediately stood up and began walking.

**If even death recognizes, listens and obeys Jesus' voice,
how much more should His sheep.**

The shepherd knows what is best for the sheep. The sheep know who their shepherd is and when they hear his voice they follow. Jesus knows who you are. He wants you to be His sheep. He wants you to know His voice and when He speaks to follow.

Are you a sheep? Do you recognize Jesus' voice? Will you follow Jesus? Have you entered the door?

4) Learning outcomes

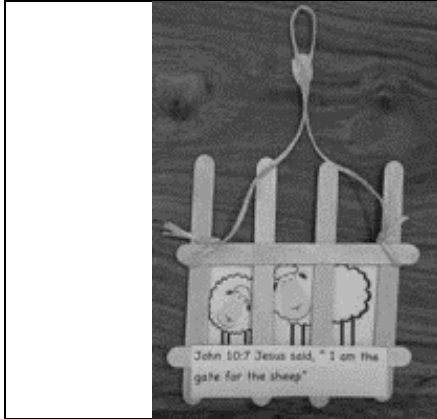
How does this apply to me?

- Do you know Jesus is the only door to Heaven?
- Do you recognize, listen and obey Jesus' voice?
- Know your shepherd, learn to recognize His voice and follow Him.
- I know that all others who claim to be "a" way are thieves and predators.

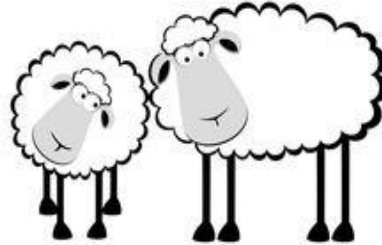
5) Craft

Option 1: Ice cream stick gate craft (see template provided)

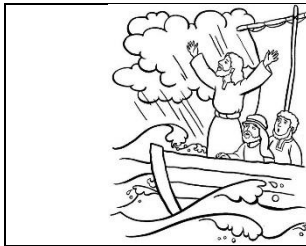
1. Cut out sheep
2. Lay ice cream stick on top and paste
3. Paste verse on top
4. Tie string for kids to hang



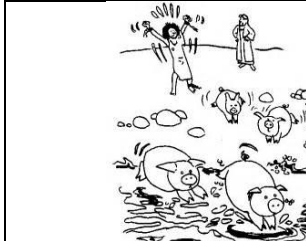
John 10:7 Jesus said, " I am the gate for the sheep"



Option 2: Unscramble the letters in brackets to fill in the correct word.



If even the _____ (diwn) recognizes, listens and obeys Jesus' voice, how much more should His sheep.



If even _____ (vile) recognizes, listens and obeys Jesus' voice, how much more should His sheep



If even _____ (tedah) recognizes, listens and obeys Jesus' voice, how much more should His sheep.

Option 3: Stick the shepherd at the gate of the sheep pen so he can protect his sheep.

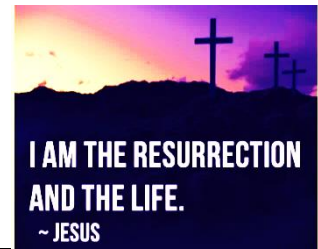


John 10:7 Jesus said "I am the door for the sheep"

Lesson Six:

Main focus for the lesson:

- **I AM the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25-26)**
When Jesus rose again, He defeated death. Death doesn't have to make us afraid anymore, if we have Jesus in our hearts. Not only that, but Jesus is life! Those who follow Him have, "Life to the full!"



1) Memory Verse

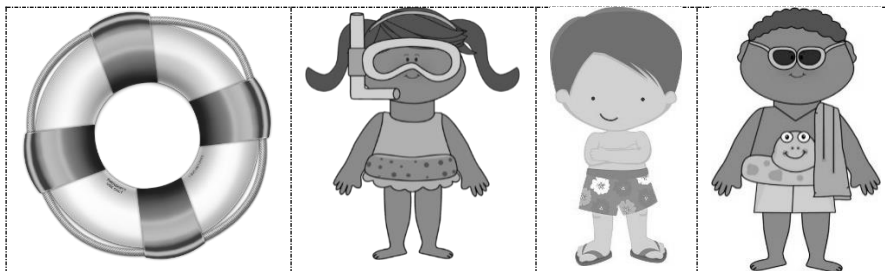
- **John 11:25**

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, he shall live".

Idea to teach the memory verse


Print the following pictures on cardboard.




- Try make the lifesavers on A3, big enough to be a loop to throw over the cups
- Stick the people on paper cups and place them upside down on the floor.
- Each child gets three turns to say the memory verse and then try and throw the lifesaver at the cup to "save" the people.
- Note: The word resurrection can be difficult to understand and will be made clearer during the lesson.

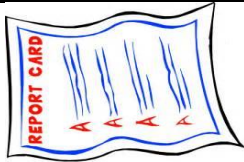



2) Hands on

2.1) Puppet script: Who is the greatest lifesaver?

Leader	Can anyone tell me the verse that we learnt outside today? Let's all say it together. Put your hand up if you managed to save any people with the lifesaver? Well today I want to tell you about the greatest lifesaver ever!	
Bobo	<i>(Bobo pops up all excited)</i> Lifesaver? Did someone say lifesaver?	
Leader	Oh Hello Bobo. You gave us a fright! Yes I was just about to tell the children about the greatest lifesaver ever!	
Bobo	Well if you need a lifesaver all you need is my bag over there. The things in there have saved my life many a time!	

Leader	<i>(leader opens the bag and looks inside and takes out the money)</i>	
Bobo	It's MONEY!!! Whooohoo I love money. Now money can really save you. If you are cold you can go and buy something nice and warm to wear. If you are hungry you could get yourself something to eat, like a nice Spur burger - hmmm yum yum. If you had nowhere to sleep you could pay for a safe place and a nice warm bed. Is money the greatest lifesaver you were going to tell the children about?	
Leader	Well money can help you sometimes but let me ask you this... can you eat money? <i>(put it in Bobo's mouth)</i>	
Bobo	Phew that's disgusting	
Leader	There are two problems with trusting in money as a lifesaver. Firstly money can run out and then how will it save you?	
Bobo	Oh I didn't think about that – I often run out of money	
Leader	And secondly you actually can't always buy what you need. For example if there is no food to buy and you are starving hungry, eating your money isn't going to fill you up. Gross. Do you think you can buy life with money?	
Bobo	Oh no you can't buy life with the money!	
Leader	Children do you think money is the greatest lifesaver? <i>(no)</i> The greatest lifesaver can give you everything you need – even life!	
Bobo	Ah what about our family <i>(leader takes out the family photo from the bag)</i> Our moms and dads gave us life! Our family must be the greatest lifesavers because they love us and they look after us and we love them. I know my family would risk their lives to save me and to rescue me.	
Leader	Families are wonderful and often they give us a reason to live. But they can't save us from everything!	
Bobo	Can the greatest lifesaver save us from everything?	
Leader	For sure!	
Bobo	So what else is in my bag? <i>(leader pulls out a medal)</i> Oh yes – maybe I'm my greatest lifesaver. I have lots of talents. Just listen how well I sing ... la la la laaaaa <i>(awful)</i> And I'm also really good at school – show them my report card! Maybe I can save myself!	

		
Leader	<p>Children – do you think Bobo is the greatest lifesaver? (no) Do you think you are the greatest lifesaver?</p> <p>Maybe some of you are really good at playing soccer and you think that when you get older and you turn pro, like Ronaldo or Messi, that your life will be different and that your talent will be your lifesaver. But can your talents save you from everything?</p> <p>What about your good marks at school. While I know all your moms and dads want you to do your best at school, so that you can go on to study or get a good job. Our marks at school and our job one day can't save us from everything.</p>	
Bobo	<p>Dig in that bag again. The greatest lifesaver has to be in there!</p> <p>Ah yes my medicine bottle and all the doctors, hospitals, operations and fancy x-ray machines. They can all save you when you are feeling sick or when there is something wrong with you..</p>	
Leader	These things might help you to stay alive longer but can they make you live forever and ever?	
Bobo	No ways! WOW can the greatest lifesaver you're talking about make you live forever?	
Leader	Absolutely!	
Bobo	Well then it isn't medicine. Keep searching, we have to find it! (<i>desperate</i>)	
Leader	(<i>Turns bag upside down</i>) It's empty!	
Bobo	(<i>desperate</i>) Empty! It can't be empty! I have to have this greatest lifesaver. Where can I get it!	
Leader	The greatest lifesaver lives in your heart.	
Bobo	What! I can't see it. I can't feel it?	
Leader	<p>Children can you tell Bobo who the greatest lifesaver is? (<i>Jesus</i>)</p> <p>JESUS loved us so much that He died to save us, me and you, from our sins. And do you know what is so amazing, He was even resurrected which means that he was made alive again after He died. Do you know what is even more AMAZING. If we love Jesus and we have asked Him to forgive us from our sins then Jesus raises us from the dead!</p>	
Bobo	He does? WOW	
Leader	In fact the Bible teaches us that it happens TWICE!	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When we give our hearts to Jesus. We die to our sin and to all the naughty things that we have done and Jesus gives us life. 2. One day when we die physically, we will be given a new life in heaven with Jesus. Isn't that just so cool. 	
Bobo	<p>Super cool! I'm sure glad to have Jesus as my lifesaver! I'm so excited I have to go and tell all my friends! (<i>exits down</i>)</p> <p>(<i>pops up</i>) oh oops BYE CHILDREN (<i>goes down again</i>)</p>	

2.2) Choose your lifesaver object lesson.

The same lesson as above can be presented as an object lesson, where the children have to decide how each of the items can save them and what shortfalls they have. They have to choose which one they would have as their lifesaver and why. Use points mentioned in the above script to stimulate discussion either way.

On a tray have the following items or pictures:

- An R100 note
- A picture of a family
- A+ School Report card
- Medicine bottle
- Our talents e.g Medal (sportsman/dancer)
- Cross

Conclude: Each one of these can help us and may even save our life at one time or another but none of them can stop us from dying. Jesus, represented by the cross, however is able to raise us from the dead! Once while we are here on Earth when we die and are raised from our sins and again when we physically die and are raised again in Heaven to live with Him forever and ever and ever. Ask the children – Have you chosen Jesus as your lifesaver?

Please consider that some children may be very sensitive to the idea of death – even older children! The puppet show is recommended for younger children.

3) Bible Story + Lesson: John 11:1-27

Choose some volunteers for the following roles:

(Use towels/ sheets etc. to dress them up to look as their characters.)

- Mary
- Jesus
- Lazarus
- Martha
- A messenger with a letter
- And a few children to act as disciples.
- Have two people standing up and holding a black sheet which will be the tomb

Jesus had 3 friends who lived in Bethany.

(Jesus introduces Mary, Martha and Lazarus).

Lazarus became sick

(get him to cough and splutter)

Mary and Martha sent Jesus a message to say that their brother was sick.

(send the messenger to give Jesus the letter)

(get Jesus to open the letter and read it "Lazarus is sick")

Jesus then said to the disciples "Let us go to Judea in two days' time." The disciples thought he was crazy because by then Lazarus would have been really sick.

(get the disciples all jester "crazy")

Jesus knew that Lazarus was dead even though no one told him.

(Have Mary and Martha wrap Lazarus up with toilet paper and lie him down behind the curtain of the tomb.)

Jesus and the disciples made their way to Bethany.

(have them walk on the spot. If they are still busy wrapping Lazarus have fun with them walking fast, up and down the hill etc. Someone could hold up a sign and keep changing the direction)

Finally Jesus arrived at Bethany, Lazarus had been dead and in the tomb for four days!

(get all the kids to count up to 4)

Martha came running out to meet Jesus and told Him that if He had come sooner, then Lazarus wouldn't have died.

Jesus said to her "Trust me" and then "Believe in me"

(have Jesus repeat these after you)

Jesus told Martha "I am the resurrection and the life, even though you die, you shall live and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." *(repeat it again slower with emphasis)*

Then Jesus walked towards the tomb, and He cried.

(have the 2 volunteers move the curtain away as Jesus walks towards it).

Jesus then prayed to God, His Father.

Next Jesus shouted to Lazarus, "Lazarus come out"

Lazarus came back to life!

Lazarus came out of the tomb with his grave bandages wrapped around him.

The people who were watching were amazed.

(have all the children shout out WOW and show you their amazed faces)

IT WAS AMAZING and **many believed in Jesus**

(you could prepare them at the beginning of the lesson when they hear you say "many believed in Jesus" that they too stand up and shout "I believe in Jesus" if they do)

Let your actors take a bow and encourage all the kids to clap for them.

Link this story with the fact that when we give our hearts to Jesus we die to our sin and are made alive in Jesus. He makes us come alive again from our dead sinful body. But also one day when we die, He will make us come alive again in heaven with Him. And that new body will give us life.

Romans 10:9 “if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead then you will be saved”

Jesus really is the resurrection and the life. He is our lifesaver!

Give the children an opportunity to invite Jesus into their hearts if they haven't done so. If there is a response, please make the parents aware to follow up.

4) Learning outcomes

How does this apply to me?

- Jesus died and came alive again to save me from my sins
- When I give my heart to Jesus, I also die to my old sinful self and am made new again in Jesus and He gives me life
- One day when I die, I will also be raised again, given life and live with Jesus forever.

5) Craft

Option 1:

Use the pictures below to make this craft



Option 2:

Find some life saver sweets to help remind the children about today's lesson.



If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and Believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead then you will be saved.
Romans 10:9

JESUS
is my



Option 3:

Have a competition to see which team fill it in the fastest or use it as a take home activity they can do with the family.



How many words can you make out of the word- **Resurrection**

1.	_____	19.	_____
2.	_____	20.	_____
3.	_____	21.	_____
4.	_____	22.	_____
5.	_____	23.	_____
6.	_____	24.	_____
7.	_____	25.	_____
8.	_____	26.	_____
9.	_____	27.	_____
10.	_____	28.	_____
11.	_____	29.	_____
12.	_____	30.	_____
13.	_____	31.	_____
14.	_____	32.	_____
15.	_____	33.	_____
16.	_____	34.	_____
17.	_____	35.	_____
18.	_____	36.	_____

Option 4: review questions

Sit down with the children and get them to answer the following questions. Are they true or false?

1. One day we will all be resurrected

Answer: True but it depends if you have invited Jesus into your heart as to whether or not you will be with in heaven

2. Jesus performed miracles in order to impress people. F

He used miracles to show that He was God and to teach the people more about himself

3. Jesus really didn't care about Lazarus. F

Jesus loved Lazarus dearly, he and his sisters were Jesus's good friends. He took so long to heal Lazarus because he wanted the people to see the miracle in Lazarus's resurrection.

4. Mary and Martha believed in Jesus' ability to raise people from the dead. T

Mary and Martha knew Jesus, they had seen him perform miracles and they put their faith and trust in Him. They knew Lazarus would rise from dead, if not now then one day.

5. The disciples always understood why Jesus did things. F

The disciples often questioned why Jesus did things even though they had seen Him do miracles

6. We will always understand how God is working in our lives. F

No, we won't but we can be assured that He is in control and He wants us to trust Him.

Lesson Seven:

Main focus for the lesson:

- **I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6):** Jesus is the only way to God. He is everything true. He is life for those who follow Him!

1) Memory Verse

- *John 14:6*

“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. (No one comes to the Father except through me.)”

Explain: Jesus is explaining to His disciples (and us) that there is only one way to God and that is through believing the truth that Jesus died and was resurrected so that we could have eternal life with God in heaven when we die.

JESUS IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT, MOST CLEAR, MOST COMPLETE COMMUNICATION OF GOD’S TRUTH.

Idea to teach the memory verse

Teach the kids the ASL (American Sign Language) actions for each part of the verse:

I: point at yourself with one hand and up with the other (explain that this is Jesus speaking so it is actually Him saying “I”)

Am the way: use both hands to gesture the way moving your open hands away from your body in a pathway

The truth: slide the sides of your hands past each other

And the life: make upside down L shapes and turn them inwards and then outwards until they are pointing away from you

Watch this tutorial if you need to: https://youtu.be/-f-7_INmeg

2) Hands on

Perform the following game in the garden as the children are arriving:

Teacher tells the children that he/she has hidden an object of value in the garden somewhere and that you are going to give the kids instructions on how to find it. Start giving the kids directions all around the area that take them on a long journey but never finding the object.

Really dramatise your instructions saying things like: “I’m *sure* it’s up on the bridge of the jungle-gym...” “it *must* be under the pile of shoes...” Eventually the kids won’t trust what you are saying.

Now change your voice and tell them one simple instruction eg: “under the hat on the chair.” And there they will find the object.

Now ask them these questions:

- “Which instructions were true and which were lies?”
- “Was it easier to find the object when I was telling you lies or when I was telling you the truth?”

We listen to Jesus because HE IS THE TRUTH and He shows us THE WAY to God and He gives us ETERNAL LIFE

3) Bible Story + Lesson

Obstacle course and blindfolded volunteer

Set up an obstacle course on the floor. Use bean bags, cones, boxes, whatever you have. One side of the room must be the start and the other side must be the finish line. You could have sign up saying "Eternal Life" at the finish.

For younger learners use a leader but for the older ones you could choose a volunteer. Blindfold your volunteer. Explain to the children that they must direct the blindfolded volunteer through the course without letting them touch any of the objects on the ground.

As the volunteer begins the course, all the children should start shouting out directions. Hopefully the volunteer will bump into one of the obstacles quite quickly. Keep taking the volunteer to the beginning of the course and starting again.

After a few attempts get all the children to be quiet and discuss what just happened. Did the volunteer make it through the course? Why? (*too many obstacles, didn't know the way, too many people shouting instructions*)

Tell the children: When Jesus was on Earth He asked the disciples to follow Him. What did the disciples do? They left their jobs, their homes and their families. They left everything they had to follow Jesus. There were so many other things they could have done but they chose to follow Jesus. Sometimes the disciples would make mistakes and Jesus would be there to show them the right way again. Can you think of any examples?

(*Peter walking on water and sinking (Matt 14:22-33; disciple cut off the soldiers ear (John 18:12); having no faith in the storm (Mark 4:40) etc.*)

The disciples had to make sure that they were always listening to Jesus and not doing what other people were telling them. Just like in this obstacle course if we listen to all the voices in the world, we will have trouble getting to God in the end BUT if we follow only Jesus we will we will get to God easily.

Having Jesus there to follow made it easy for them to know the way they should go so you can imagine how worried they felt when Jesus told them that He was no longer going to be with them and He was going to Heaven to be with His Father. I am sure the disciples wanted to go with Him.

Ask the children: Do you know how to get to Heaven? (*if they get it right say that sounds amazing. Let's check and see if you're right.*) Thomas and the disciples didn't know the way. Let's read what Jesus taught them.

Let's read from your Bible the chapter in John where Jesus is comforting His disciples just before His arrest and ultimately His death.

Jesus Comforts His Disciples

14 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God. Believe in me also. **2** There are many rooms in my Father's house. If this were not true, would I have told you that I am going there? Would I have told you that I would prepare a place for you there? **3** If I go and do that, I will come back. And I will take you to be with me. Then you will also be where I am. **4** You know the way to the place where I am going."

Jesus Is the Way to the Father

5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going. So how can we know the way?"

6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

This obstacle course helps us understand what these verses are trying to tell us:

- *(go to end of the course)* Jesus has gone ahead to prepare a place for you. The Bible explains Heaven as a great place but I think it is much nicer than any of our minds can imagine. Isn't it wonderful to know that we have a special room waiting for us in Heaven.
- *(go to obstacles)* There is only one way to this place and if we go any other way we will not get there. Sin is like these obstacles and get in our way. We cannot go to Heaven with sin and there is only one way to get rid of our sin- Jesus is the only way. Everyone else might give you instructions that are not the true way to go but Jesus is the truth.
- *(there is only one way to this place)* Jesus tells us to believe in God and to believe in Him also. Isn't it wonderful that we are not on our own getting to this place.

Bring out a long rope and place it through the obstacle course so that it forms a perfect "WAY" through it. Jesus tells us not only will He prepare this place for us but that He will come back and take us to this place.

Now tell the volunteer to use the rope to find his way through the course. You can have squares of material with the letters "J" "E" "S" "U" "S" joined to the rope for the rest of the class to see.

The volunteer will have no trouble getting through the course without stumbling. The rope represents "The Way" which is Jesus.

When Thomas is still confused Jesus says something very important. He tells them His name! Let's say today's memory verse again: "I AM the way, the truth and the life NO ONE comes to the Father except through me."

Jesus' name tells us He is the only way to Heaven, He is truth and He is life. Without Jesus we would not have life here on earth, nor would we have eternal life in heaven when we die. It is only because He had victory over death and sin that we have hope of being saved. Jesus' life, death and resurrection proves that He is the giver of life

Let each of the children have a turn to go through the obstacle course and to say the verse as they go.

4) Learning outcomes

How does this apply to me?

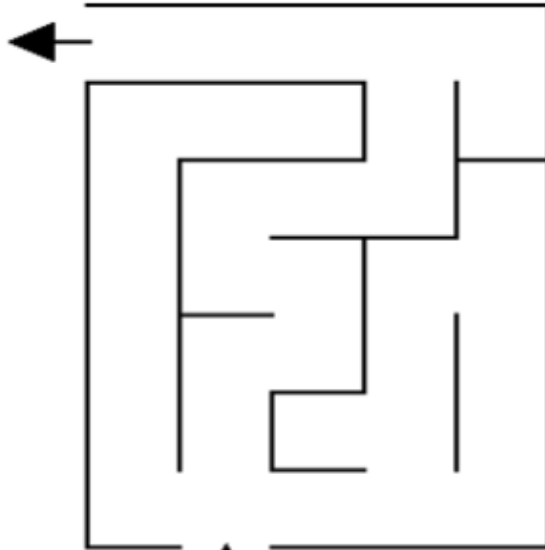
- Jesus is the way - I must listen to Jesus and not everyone else then I will get to be with God. Jesus is the only one that can forgive my sins.
- Jesus is truth - Jesus' instructions to me are the truth; not A truth but THE truth. (Little ones may not grasp this concept but you can try and explain it to them saying that absolute truth is one that NEVER EVER changes.)
- Jesus is life - I have life on Earth and eternal life in Heaven because Jesus has defeated death.

5) Craft

Option 1: Maze and String Craft

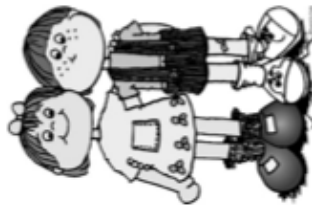
Stick coloured string on the "WAY" through the maze. You can write the letters JESUS along the correct route for the little ones to follow.

Eternal Life



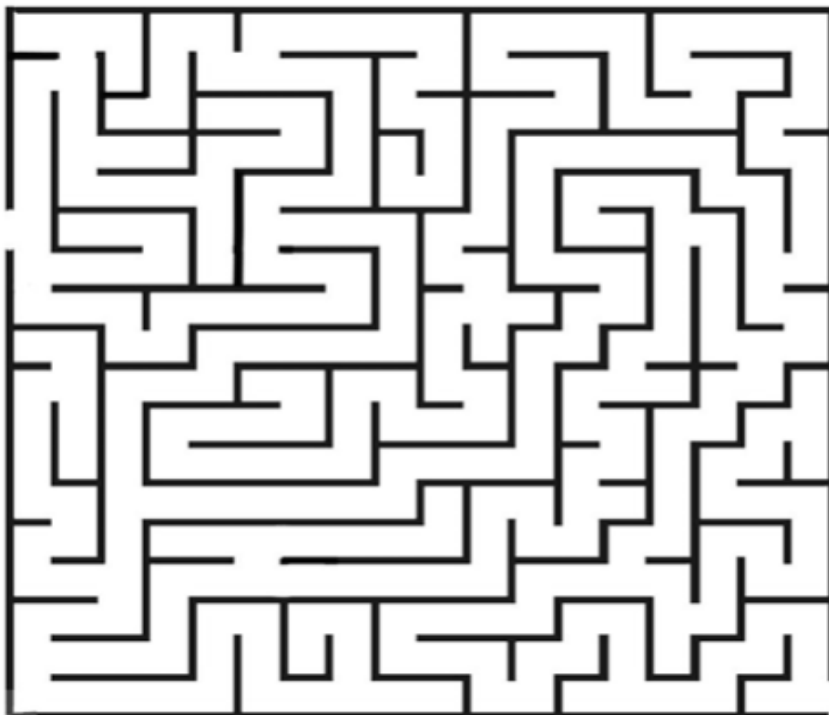
**Jesus is the Way,
the Truth
& the Life**

John 14:6



Option 2

Help these children find their WAY through the maze and to the tree on the other side.



John 14:6

*" I am the Way, the
Truth, and the Life.
No one gets to the
Father except
through me.*



Option 2:

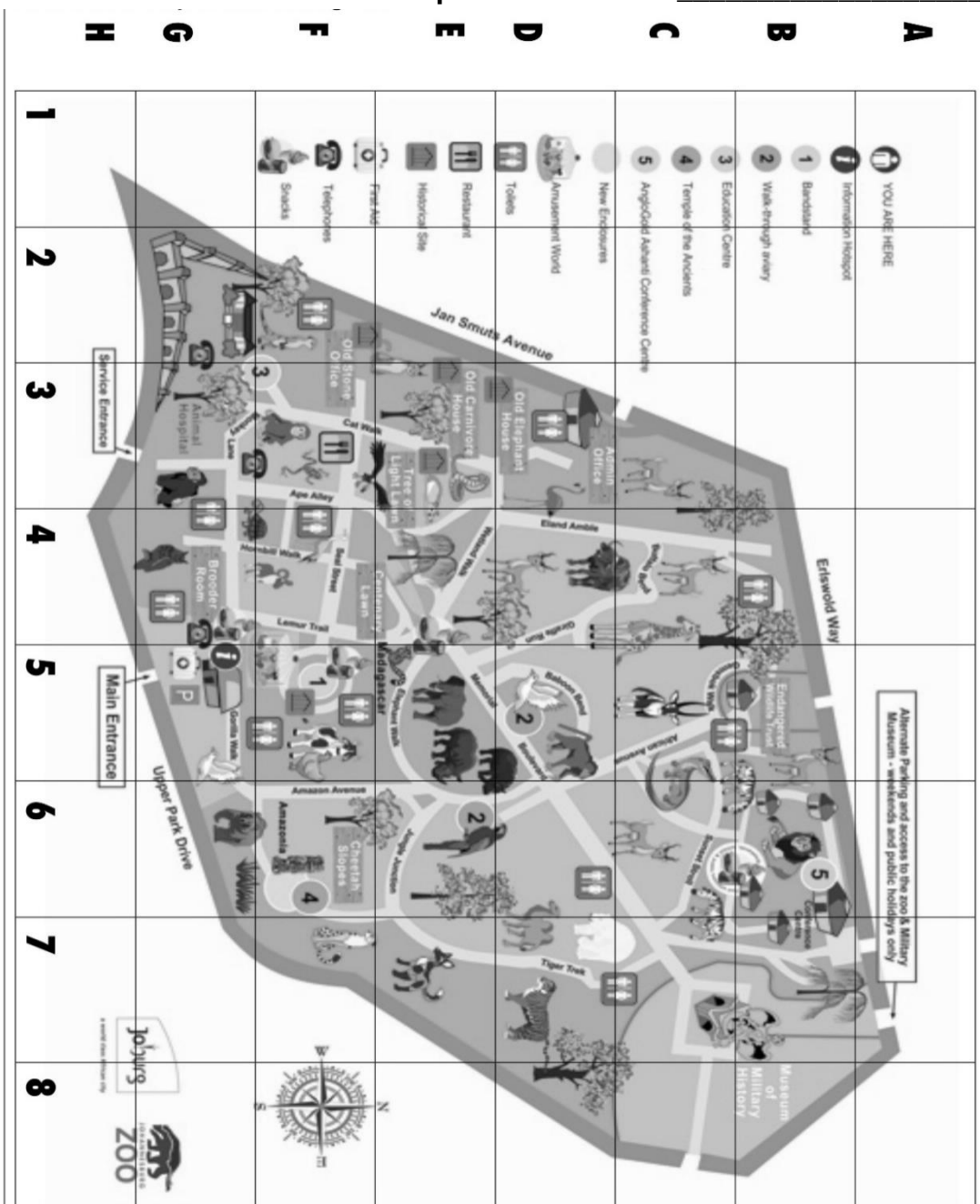
Option 3: Map Activity Using the Joburg Zoo Map, name the animal found at each coordinate or fill in the coordinate for the animal.

1. B6 is the _____
2. D7 is the _____, the _____ and the _____
3. The parrot is at _____
4. The monkey is at _____
5. E5 is the _____ and the _____
6. The owls are found at _____
7. The farmyard is found at _____
8. E7 is the _____

Now answer these important questions: Who is the way to the Father? _____

Whose words are absolute truth? _____

Whose death and resurrection is our hope of eternal life? _____



Lesson Eight:

Main focus for the lesson:

- **I AM the True Vine (John 15:5):** Jesus is the vine, His followers are the branches. The branches need to have the vine to grow. If they don't, they're going to fall off and be of no good. We all need to stay connected to Jesus (through His word, church, prayer) in order to grow.

1) Memory Verse

- *I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who remain in me and I in them, will produce much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing.*

Idea to teach the memory verse

This can be done as a class activity after the main lesson. You can write the verse onto the balloons for the children to take home.

Give each child a purple/green balloon (i.e grape). All blow up your balloons together – saying the next part of the verse between each breath.

I am the vine ... (blow) ...you are the branches (blow)...etc

Once you say ...***apart from Me you can do nothing...*** leave go of the balloon and let it fly.

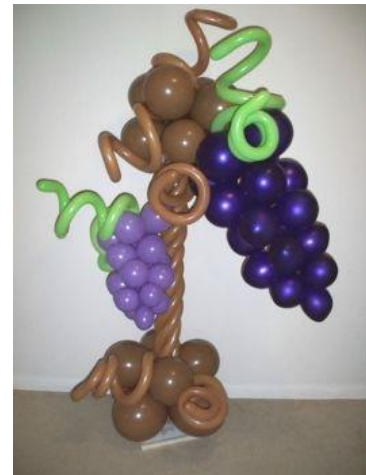
Remind them that there is no fruit if we are not close to Jesus.

Repeat this time adding actions.

-Start crouching down and stand up straight like a vine

-put your arms out like branches

-finally have the blown balloon at the end of the branch and then get them to try and separate the "fruit" from the "branch" without it going down. Say: even if you just slightly release the balloon it will start to go down. In the same way if we just slightly stop following Jesus we will not have fruit in our lives.



2) Hands on

2.1) Object lesson:

A few weeks before this lesson cut a branch from few different bushes at your venue so that they can become withered or even dead. As the children arrive let them try and find the bush that the branch matches to, making reference to how different it now looks.

For the object lesson, if you are unable to sit by one of these bushes, bring in a pot plant with a withered cut off branch. Preferably a "viney" one.

Say: Which of these branches look healthy and strong? The one that is connected or the one that has been cut off and separated?

Why is this branch so withered and dead? ***It is not connected to the vine***

Can this dead withered branch make itself grow? ***NO, the vine is its source of life.***

Which of these branches do you think will be able to bear (give us) fruit? **Only the branch that is connected to the vine will be able to grow and eventually bear fruit.**

The vine is strong. The vine holds up the branches. The vine gives the branches life. If you were a branch which one would you rather be? The one connected or the one separated? (**Connected**)

Do you know that Jesus said we are branches. Every single one of you. *(point to each of the children and say you are a branch, and you are a branch and you are a branch etc.)*

If we are the branches who do you think is the vine? **JESUS!!! Jesus is the vine and we are the branches.**

We only have eternal life if we are joined with Jesus. Being close to Jesus is the only way we will grow and become fruitful. It is what Jesus wants us to do.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

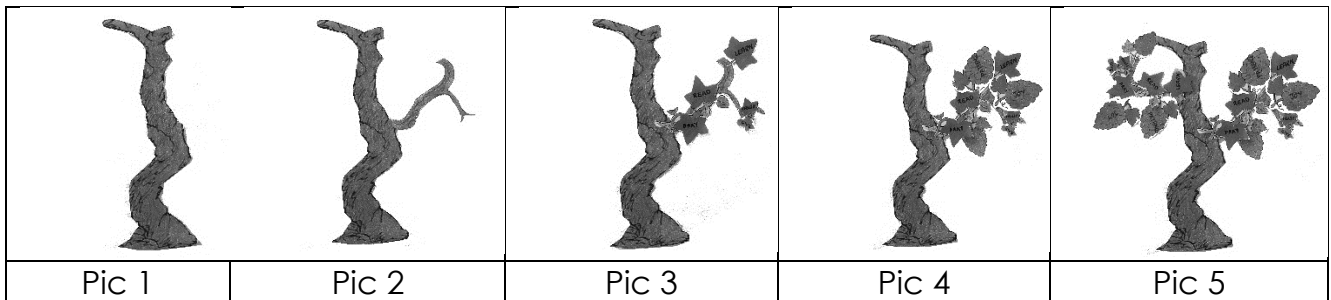
When Jesus was on Earth he often taught people important lessons using objects from around them. He did this so that it would be easier for us to understand.

Today in our object lesson we learnt that we are all branches and Jesus is the vine. When we saw what the branch looked like when it was not connected to the vine it was easy for us to understand how important it is for us to be close to Jesus.

Read **John 15:1-8**

So how do we remain close to Him? And how do we bear fruit?

BUILD a vine together with the children and explain the different parts as you go along. (template provided under crafts) As you progress your vine will look as follows:



The vine (stalk) (Stick the vine on the display board)

Why is the vine important to a plant? What does it do? (let the children answer)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is strong and holds the plant up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It makes the branches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is needed for the life of the plant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It holds all the branches together



Who do you think the vine is? **Yes, Jesus is the vine.**

The Vine	Jesus
Is strong and holds up the rest of the plant	Isaiah 41:10 I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous hand.
It gives the plant life	Acts 17:28 For in Him we live and move and have our being
It makes the branches	Psalms 100 Know that the Lord is God, it is He who made us and we are His.
It holds all the branches together	1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each of you is a member of it.

In order to grow closer to Jesus and bear fruit we have to allow Jesus to be our vine – NOT US!

- Let Jesus hold you up NOT our own strength.
Often tough times come and we try and do it on our own, only to fail.
E.g. Maybe your parents often fight and you think something like if I was just a better child they would get along better. NO! That is trying to fix things in your own strength. Of course it is great to be a good child but Jesus is the vine. He holds us up. Pray and trust in Jesus. He can do what you need to help your parents love each other again.
- Let Jesus nourish you no one else
A vine will give the branches everything they need to grow. Jesus will give you everything you need to be the branch He made you and need to grow into.
You don't need the approval of people nor a pile of things to be a fruitful branch. You only need JESUS.
- Let Jesus hold us all together
Jesus wants you to be His. He wants you as part of His church NOW, not when you get older. He wants you to love Him, listen to Him, serve Him and teach others about Him.

The branches

What are these? Yes, they are the branches. Where do you think we should stick them? Way over here...or right close and connected to the vine?

Who are the branches? Yes, *we are the branches.*

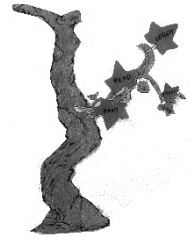
We have been made by Jesus and He wants us to be joined to Him.

Jesus taught this lesson to His disciples not long before He was going to be crucified and so He gave them this lovely explanation to encourage them. He wanted them to know that not only did He want them to follow Him and be close to Him while He was on Earth but that when He went to Heaven He would not be deserting them. He would give them His spirit to live inside of them and nourish them just like a vine.



Jesus wants us to remain close to Him even now that He has risen and returned to Heaven. That is why He gave us the Holy Spirit to live inside us and be with us wherever we go. Jesus wants us to be close to Him now! How can we grow closer to Jesus?

Add some leaves that have vines and wrap them around the branches. Each one of them can have written on them the things that help us stay close to Jesus. (E.g. Pray; worship; church; read the Bible; Learn about Jesus; Teach others about Jesus; listening to the Holy Spirit etc)



Do you want to be a branch like this? Close to Jesus. Abiding in Him.
Do you think our vine is looking good? What is still missing?

Compare these two photos of a vineyard. What is different? **The fruit**



The fruit

The whole purpose of a vine and the branches is to bear fruit. Would you like to own a whole farm of fruit trees that don't give you any fruit? **No**

So how does the plant make fruit? The fruit comes from taking what the vine has given it and using it to produce something.

The vine gives the branches everything they need to bear fruit. It is up to the branches to use what the vine gives it to make fruit. Jesus gives us everything we need to bear fruit. We then need to decide whether we do or not. The vine does not give the branches all these things only so they may grow stronger, the purpose is for it to bear fruit.

Jesus does not give us all these things to make us strong, powerful and proud branches. He wants us to use what He has given us to make fruit which shows everyone how great HE is not us!

Add "fruit" to the vine as you compare the things Jesus has given us and how they cause us to bear fruit.



Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit and the fruit of the Holy Spirit as named in Galatians 5 is...

- Joy when everyone else thinks we should be sad
- Peace when everyone else thinks we should be worried
- Love when everyone else hates
- Patience when everyone else is feeling irritable and angry.

Jesus gives us talents and when we use them for His plans, He will be glorified and more people will come to know and love Jesus.

Jesus gives us opportunities and we use them to make His name more known.

Jesus gives us the Bible and when we read it, and share it more people can know about Him.

Now give the children each a “fruit” to join to the branches. They can either write or draw a picture on it to show something Jesus has given them that has produced fruit in their lives. Help them see that even though they are young, Jesus already gives them everything they need to produce fruit now!

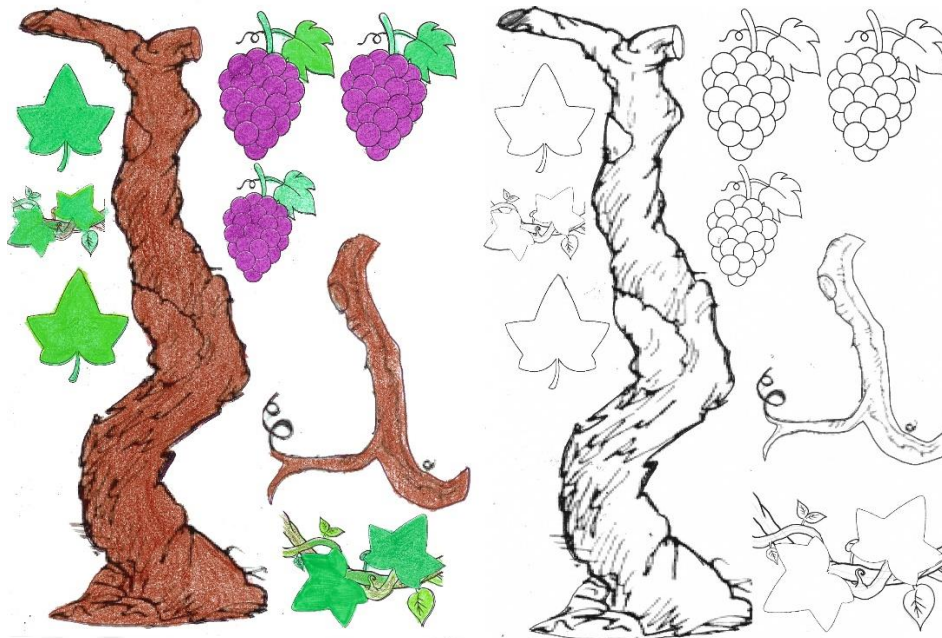
4) Learning outcomes

How does this apply to me?

- Jesus wants me to be joined close to Him just like a branch is connected to a vine. He wants to provide me with everything I need to live and to be fruitful.
- I can depend on Jesus for EVERYTHING
- I can use what Jesus gives me to show others how wonderful and great Jesus is. I can be fruitful.

5) Craft

Use the template from the media file for building a vine with the children as you explain the meaning.



Option 1: Children colour, cut out and make their own vine and branches. For smaller groups where you will be able to keep control you could let children build their own while you teach the lesson. Remember to ask questions as you teach – who is the vine, branch. Why is it important for the branch to be attached etc.

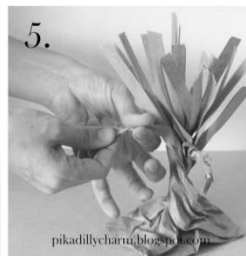


Each child can cut and assemble their branch and as a class you form one big vine to show the importance of God's church.

Option 2:



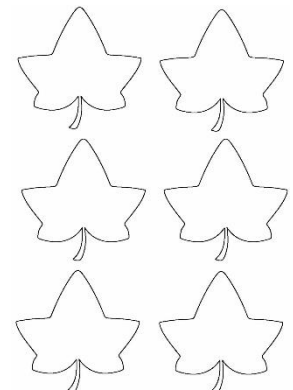
1. Open the paper bag so that it can stand by itself. Carefully hold the bottom of the bag and twist just above the seam/fold several times.
2. Use scissors to cut strips from the top of the bag down to the twisted section.
3. Gather three strips at a time and twist together to form the branches. Continue twisting three strips until you run out of strips to twist. If you end up with an uneven amount, twist four together or two together at the end.
4. Glue on the fruit. These can be named with fruit that they have/want in their lives.



Option 3: I am a branch balloon vine



- Give each child a purple/green balloon on a stick
- Use pipe cleaners, ribbon and cutout leaves to decorate the stick as the branch of a vine.
- Some options to write on the leaves or fruit (balloon)
 - Leaves: things they can do to grow closer to Jesus and which will help them bear more fruit.
 - Fruit: things they have or can still do for Jesus
 - The memory verse



Other options:

Sweet shaped vines
or

Use playdough to make the fruit on a drawing of a vine



Lesson Nine: I am His

Main focus for the lesson:

- Jesus has called us by name
- We belong to Jesus
- Jesus is ours – He is our I AM

1) Memory Verse

- *Isaiah 43:1*

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name, you are mine.

Idea to teach the memory verse

First teach the verse as a group doing the following actions.

Do not fear --- shake your head and pretend to bite nails with a scared face

For I have – point upwards

Redeemed you --- make a circle with arms like you are taking and hugging something

I have called you by name --- cup mouth like calling

You are mine --- point forward and then to yourself

Next get children with certain names to stand up and say the verse with the actions

1. Starting with a certain letter (you can do more than one letter at a time)
2. You have a certain letter in your name
3. If you have a boy's name
4. If you have a girl's name
5. If you know someone else with your name
6. Finally... If God knows your name

2) Hands on

2.1) Picnic fun:

For a bit of fun go on a pretend "picnic". The children sit in a circle and each think of a food that begins with the same letter as their name.

- The first child says "I'm Dylan and I will bring doughnuts."
- The second child points to the person and says "This is Dylan and he will bring doughnuts and I am Bontle and I will bring blueberries."
- The third person can either only say the person before **OR** for an extra challenge say everyone that has come before him.

Conclude: Every one of us have been given a name. Some people know our names and others do not. Some of us love our name and they have beautiful meaning but others may want to change their name. But it does not change the fact that it is our name. In the Bible we see God call people by their name e.g. Moses and the burning bush, Samuel when he was sleeping. God would never call you "hey you" because He knows your name and He will never forget it.

2.2) TRUTH vs LIES Mine field

First set:

- Have two cups one labelled "TRUTH ...I am" and the other labelled "LIES ... I am NOT"
- Have the words from the "truth and lies" worksheet found under crafts cut out and placed in bag for children to choose from
- Children decide whether it is a truth or a lie and put it in the corresponding cup
- Print out the Bible verse for the children to refer to

Second Set: Mine field

- Have a second set of these cards laid out face down on the table
- Children take turns to choose and turn over any card
- Choosing a lie is destructive like a bomb and so if chosen the player is out
- Choosing a truth gives life and so if the player turns it over they stay in the game
- Play continues until there is only one more person in the game. They are the winner.

2.3) Game: If you are...

- Set up a starting line and a finish line.
- The children stand next to each other along the starting line
- The leader stands behind the finishing line with their back to the children
- The leader calls out an instruction for example "If you are ... chosen by God take one step forward" If it is a truth the children take a step forward. If it is a lie they stay where they are.
- Once one of the children has made it to the finish line they can all run back to the start line. The teacher must try and catch them before they cross the start line again.
- Examples of instructions can be taken from the lesson and should be age appropriate. "forgiven, loved by God, alone, forgotten, wearing blue, a boy, three etc."

3) Bible Story + Lesson

Bring a large mirror, preferably one that looks like a picture frame, and on the back write all the words God uses to describe us as well as the scriptures mentioned below.

Say: Today I would like to introduce you to someone very important. I have their picture here with me (hold up the large mirror backwards so they can only see the things written about this "person")

But before I show you who this person is I want to tell you a little about them. Once you hear things about this person you might even be able to tell me who they are.

Let's read some of the things that it says here about this person. (read the words from the back of the mirror making sure that the children understand what each of them mean)

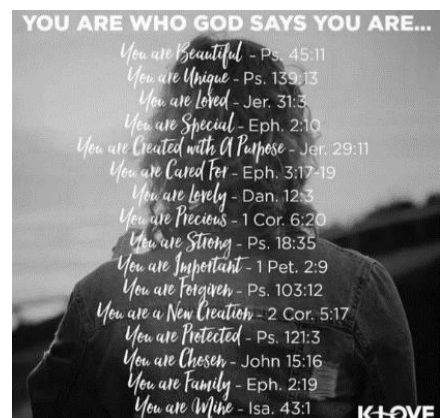
unique, beautiful, strong, special, lovely, precious, important, forgiven etc...

Wow doesn't that sound like an important person!?

Now this person is **VERY** special to God. In fact God talks about this person over and over again in the Bible.

In Ephesians 2:10 God talks about this person as being His masterpiece. He says that He created them just the way they are to do good things for Him.

A masterpiece is something the artist regards as outstanding, a triumph, something wonderful, their greatest piece of work. So God is saying all these things about this person here that He created. Wow, they really must be important to God.



Are you ready to see who this person is? Can you guess?

Have each child come up one by one to see who this amazing person is that is so loved by God.

YOU are that precious person to God. You are loved by Him. You are created by Him. You are His masterpiece. You are chosen by Him. You are unique, beautiful, strong, forgiven. YOU ARE HIS!

Isaiah 43:1 says I have called you by name, you are mine.

Isn't it exciting to know **I am His** - I am God's masterpiece, I am loved by Him and called by Him. And because I am His, He is mine.

Jesus is all these things we have learnt about Him this term, my shepherd, my vine, my way, my door, my resurrection and life. He is all these things to me because I am HIS.

Because I am loved by Him and I am His , He is my shepherd to guide me, He is my vine to give me everything I need to bear fruit, He is the bread of my life, He is the way to my Father. I am all these things He says I am because He is I AM.

I am ...	Because ...
Protected, guided and safe	Jesus is ... the good shepherd
Accepted into God's kingdom	Jesus is ... the door
Strong, growing and fruitful	Jesus is ... the vine
Forgiven and blameless	Jesus is ... the resurrection and life
Satisfied and have everything I need	Jesus is ... the bread of life
Found and headed on the right path	Jesus is ... the way the truth and the life
Used, purposefully made to shine	Jesus is ... the light
HIS	Jesus is ... MINE

Because we are His and because He is all these things He says He is we can do many things for Him. Don't let anyone tell you anything different!

Ephesians 2:10

¹⁰ God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us new people so that we would spend our lives doing the good things he had already planned for us to do.

4) Learning outcomes

How does this apply to me?

- The names of Jesus tell me how great Jesus is and at the same time tell me that I am His. How valuable I must be if the GREAT I AM loves me and chose me to be His
- I need to look at the Bible to see who I really am and not to listen to the lies others might tell me.

I am a
CHILD
of God.
I know it. I live it. I love it.

5) Craft and activities

Option 1: TRUTH or LIES (worksheet or Game – see hands on 2.1)

So often people will say lies about us or there are lies we believe about ourselves. We need to know who we are by reading what God says about us.

Complete the worksheet by using the Bible verse to colour in the “truths” about who God says you are:

I am ...

chosen	forgotten
useless	forgiven
without fault	unforgiven
His	adopted
free	loved
accepted	alone
unloved	blessed

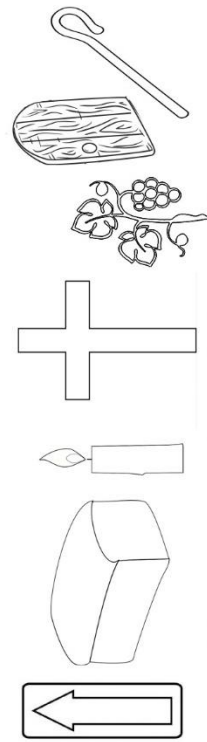
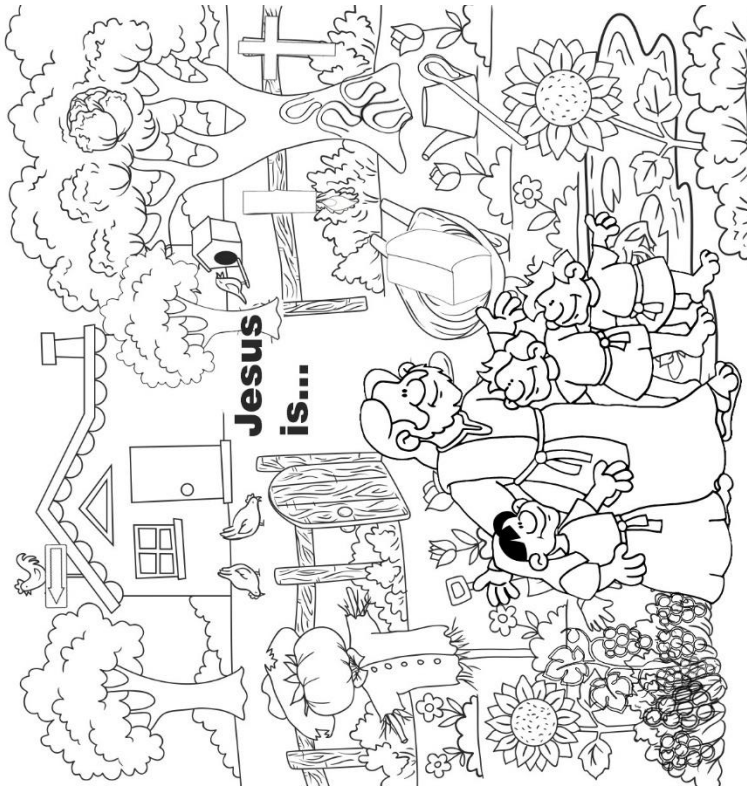
Ephesians 1:3-7

Praise be to the God who has **blessed** us. ⁴ In Christ, He **chose** us before the world was made. He chose us in **love** to be His holy people—people who could stand before Him **without any fault**. ⁵ And before the world was made, God decided to **adopt** us and make us His own children through Jesus Christ. This was what God wanted, and it pleased Him to do it. ⁶ And this brings praise to God because of His wonderful grace. God gave that grace to us freely. He gave us that grace in Christ, the one He loves.

⁷ In Christ we are made **free** by his blood sacrifice. We have **forgiveness** of sins because of God’s rich grace.

Option 2: Find the hidden objects

Look for the objects in the picture and see how many names of Jesus you can remember and what they mean.



find the names of Jesus hidden in the picture

Option 3: Photo frame I am His

Print on cardboard. Cut out the centre to make a photo frame where the children can insert their photos or draw themselves. The centre pictures can be used to decorate the frame.

