

VICTORY IN JESUS



Victory in Jesus

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Victory in Jesus

LETTER TO THE LEADERS


When choosing the theme for this term's curriculum God gave us the word "VICTORY". How can you not but get excited about a word like that!

With all the temptations, worries and difficulties our children face today let's help them face each one knowing "With Jesus I have victory!"

Some of the lessons we will cover are difficult and use words like death, satan, temptation, punishment etc. Being truth we need to be teaching these things to our children but at the same time please take care to how you go about doing so. Consider their age and their backgrounds. Make sure to never scare a child but rather show them the hope and victory we have in Jesus.

To make it a little fun we have decided to use Olympics as the theme. Have fun decorating your venue and dressing up each week.

Have an area set out as the Olympics ground. Every week let a leaders dress up as a sports star and do the following activities during arrival.

1) Lesson 1: Adam and Eve	The leader says aloud what sport the sports star must act out. The sports star can choose to either do it correctly or do a completely different action. The children have to decide if the sports man obeyed the instruction or not. Conclude: We can choose to do what God says or not. Today we will learn what happens when 2 people choose not to obey God.
2) Lesson 2 Tell the good news	Have a leader dressed up as a sports news crew. They walk around from game to game asking the children what is the good news?
3) Lesson 3 Victory in Jesus	Sports star Jonny comes to visit and tries to follow the instructions. See Hands on Section for more details.
4) Lesson 4 Armour of God	Dress up the sports star with the funniest items you can find. E.g. shower cap, fluffy slippers, water wings, tutu etc. Decide on a sport you look the least dressed for and ask the kids if they think you are ready to compete. Conclude: We need to be wearing the right kit if we want to be victorious. Every day we need to be wearing armour God has given us.
5) Lesson 5 Temptation	Set out some obstacles (like milk bottles or paper cups) on the floor and blind fold the children. The aim is for them to find the obstacle and jump over it like a hurdle. Tell the children no matter how tempted they are they must not cheat. Let a sports coach arrive and tempt them to cheat by saying things like "just have sneak peak, look quick you're going to fall" etc.
6) Lesson 6 Victory through faith	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97FcRmIX4KQ This is great song you can be singing with the kids every week. For this lesson get all the leaders to dress up as cheerleaders (<i>make pompoms out of old shopping bags</i>) or a marching band. All of a sudden the music plays and the marching band and cheerleaders come through and interrupt the lesson. Let the kids join in. Ask the kids what the band was cheering about? Do you think victory in Jesus is worth singing about?
7) Lesson 7 God is with us 	Use whatever materials you have to make a few flaming torches like they have in the Olympics. Make one WITHOUT a flame. When the sports man arrives he says to one of the children "Mighty hero the Lord is with you" but before he gives him the torch he explains they must go and give it to someone else and tell them the same thing. Get a leader to go with the child and help them so that it keeps continuing. Conclude: What is the difference between these two torches? (<i>one is lit and one is not</i>) Today we are going to learn about a man that had to decide if he was going to do what God said and light his torch. What do you think he should do? Why? Because the Lord was with him.
8) Lesson 8 David – shot put	Have the course set up as explained in the hands on section. Let the sports star arrive and keep saying – it's impossible. You're too small, it's too far, it's impossible to do it right again. Conclude: Sometimes we listen to people around us telling us that things God wants us to do for Him are impossible. Instead of losing hope we should rather be listening to God. He tells us that with Him all things are possible!
9) Lesson 9 Keep close to Jesus	Have a few three legged races. The sports star tries to run in the opposite direction to their partner – and of course falls. Conclude If we want to do well in our race we have to keep close to Jesus and follow His lead.
10) Before and after	Our sports star arrives soaking wet, carrying a towel, wearing goggles and a swimming cap if you can find. Children have to decide if it is before or after he has gone for a swim. Conclude: Knowing Jesus brings a change in our lives that is easy for everyone around us to see.

Lesson One : God promises victory (Adam and Eve)

Main focus for the lesson:

- What is VICTORY? What does it mean to be Victorious?
- How are we Victorious in Jesus?
- How do we share in this GIFT to be VICTORIOUS in Jesus.

• Memory Verse

- 1 Corinthians 15:57 (NLT) – (I may want to use a different version??)

Thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Idea to teach the memory verse

Thank God! *(praying hands together)*
 He *(point to sky with one hand)*
 gives us victory *(both arms up with fists, facing the ceiling)*
 over sin and death *(cross arms and bow head behind arms)*
 through our Lord Jesus Christ. *(arms out straight with palms facing ceiling, slowly move arms up until your arms are above your head)*

• Hands on

Setup a race with a 3 leaders and the kids pretend to be the crowd watching the race. Both contestants are set up at the start line and ready to run their race.

Referee	Okay, contestants, are you ready!
Leader 1	<i>(Arrives wearing a heavy back pack labelled "sin")</i> Aaarh this is soo heavy but I am going to try.
Leader 2	Yes! Let's do this!
Referee	On your marks, Get set! GOOOOOO!!!
Leader 1	<i>(struggles to run because of the heavy load, keeps falling over etc.)</i>
Leader 2	<i>Runs without any issues to the finish line and WINS the race!</i>
Referee	Well done Leader 2!!! You WON!!! Here is your medal. You also win a trophy! Wow, what an amazing victory!
Leader 1	<i>(stumbles to leader 2)</i> Well done. Great win.
Leader 2	Uh Leader 1 what is that you are carrying? It looks so heavy!
Leader 1	It's my sin. It's everything I have ever done wrong.
Leader 2	But leader 1 don't you know about Jesus?
Leader 1	Who?
Leader 2	Jesus. He is God's son. He came to Earth and died on the cross for our sins. But He didn't stay dead! He is now alive in Heaven. And if we believe in Him He takes away our sins.
Leader 1	Wow that's amazing. I choose to believe in Jesus. <i>(referee comes and takes off backpack)</i> Now I'm ready to run the race!
Referee	On your marks. Get set. ... Wait wait <i>(walks over to over to both contestants and gives them both a medal with a painted/drawn cross on it).</i> Before you start, here is your medal.
Leader 1	<i>(Leader 1 looks confused)</i> Huh? What? But we haven't even run the race yet?
Leader 2	The best part about this race is that with Jesus you are already a winner. Jesus makes you VICTORIOUS! Now you just have to decide how you want to run the race.
Leader 1	Wow! Because of Jesus I am victorious? I am going to run this race the best I can!!
Referee	Go! <i>(leaders run out of the class so kids can't see who actually won.)</i>

Conclude:

Sin separates us from being with God. If winning is being with God then sin is what makes us lose the race. Our sins can only be forgiven by believing in Jesus and what He did on the cross. Believing in Jesus is the way we have VICTORY over sin.

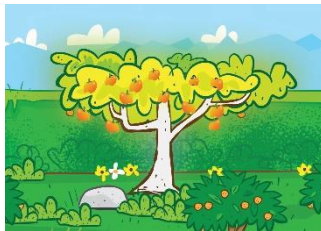
How does it feel to know that because of Jesus you are already a winner?

- **Bible Story + Lesson:**

(Prepare for the lesson by reading Genesis Chapter 1 - 3)



In the beginning, God made the most beautiful perfect garden of Eden with everything that anyone could ever wish for. Everything was PERFECT! Then, God made Adam in His own image and He gave him a helper called Eve.



God blessed Adam and Eve with this garden to live in and to take care of it and look after it. But there was just one rule, that they were forbidden to eat from the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. If they ate from this tree, God told them that the punishment would be that they would die. God knew that they had everything they needed in the Garden of Eden but He still gave them the freedom to choose to obey Him. He wanted them to choose to love Him and everything He had given them.

Life was good for Adam and Eve. Imagine not needing anything in the whole wide world? You have the perfect life, you're happy, everyone smiles all the time, you love everything around you. There was no sadness, no worry, no anger, no hurting, no fighting, NO SIN!



Now, Satan came to Eve as a serpent and lied to her to trick them. He told her that they wouldn't die if they ate of the fruit. Was that true? NO! God had said they would die and that the fruit from that tree was forbidden. Satan told them that God doesn't want them to eat from the tree because if they did, they will be just like GOD and it will give them the wisdom that God has and then they will know Good and Evil!

Will they trust God or will they choose to disobey Him?



The forbidden tree's fruit looked so delicious and Eve wanted the wisdom it would give her. She knew eating from the tree would mean death but still she picked the fruit, took a bite and gave some to Adam who was with her.



Both had broken the rule. Both disobeyed God. What was the punishment? (*death*)

When they heard God coming they immediately tried to hide from God because they knew they had SINNED against God.

This is the first time that Sin came into the world.



Once Adam and Eve had admitted what they had done God was really angry and cursed the earth forever.

God said

- the serpent would crawl on his belly
- woman would have pains when giving birth
- Men would have to work hard for everything they needed



And because of their sin, they could not live in the garden anymore so God punished both Adam and Eve by sending them out of the Garden forever. Living in the garden had meant life with God forever. But disobeying God meant they had to leave.

My favourite part of this scripture is the next bit. It looked like Satan had won because he had convinced them to disobey God and now people couldn't be with God, just like he wanted. BUT God is so much more powerful than that.

God makes a promise in Genesis 3:15 that the woman's seed (which is her children) would bruise the serpent's head and that the serpent would bruise her heel.

Immediately God tells Satan how He is going to make a way for people to be with Him again. This is the very first promise God makes that Jesus will come and save us from our sin and Satan will be beaten.

What was the punishment for sin? Death. But straight away God makes a way for us to not suffer death. God has a VICTORY plan and that plan is believing in His son Jesus.

And the good news is that God kept His promise. Jesus did come. And Jesus did beat Satan. And Jesus is still alive. That means because of Jesus we can be with God again.

And by believing in Jesus not only are we forgiven of our sins but we are filled with the Holy Spirit who helps us to make good choices and not sin.

AND THAT IS HOW WE HAVE VICTORY WITH JESUS!

• Review Questions

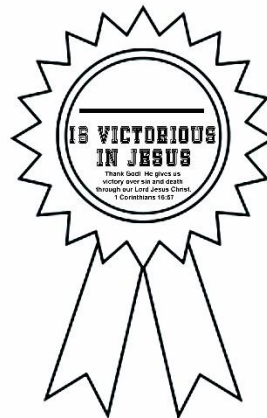
- 1) What had God given Adam and Eve? (*Everything they needed, choice, life*)
- 2) What has God given you? (*Forgiveness, everything we need, choice, life*)
- 3) What can we learn from Adam and Eve's choices. (*always obey God, be grateful for what you have, there are consequences to our choices*)
- 4) If we sin can we be with God? (*no, sin separates us from God BUT believing in Jesus means our sin is taken away and we can be with God*)

- **Craft**

Option 1: Victory in Jesus



Option 2: Decorate your own victory medal



Option 3: God's Team Trophy



Lesson Two : Easter - Tell the good news

Main focus for the lesson:

- Jesus died on the cross for our sins AND
- He rose from the dead, defeating death.
- God loves us so much.
- He wants us to tell everyone the good news.

1) Memory Verse

- Mark 16:15

Jesus said to them, "Go everywhere in the world. Tell the Good News to everyone."

2) Hands on

Today's lesson will be taught in station rotations. See the Bible story and lessons below.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

Introduction

Leader 1: Have you heard?! Do you know what it is? (*Come running in and say in an urgent, important tone*)

Leader 2: Heard what? What are you talking about?

Leader 1: The GOOD news!

Leader 2: What good news?

Leader 1: The Bible says that I must "*Go everywhere in the world. That I must tell the Good news to everyone.*" But I don't know what the good news is.

Leader 2: Mmmm. I think I can help you. Let's see. Can anyone remember what Friday was all about? (Good Friday - Jesus died on the cross for our sins)

Friday's story started in a garden. The garden of Gethsemane. Jesus was praying late into the evening. One of Jesus disciples, named Judas, came up, and kissed Jesus on the cheek. Immediately the chief priests and teachers of the law came and arrested Jesus. They were certain Jesus meant trouble. They believed Jesus was telling lies about being the Son of God and so they crucified Jesus. Jesus willingly died on a cross for you and me!

Leader 1: But that doesn't sound like very good news.

Leader 2: It's not the end of the story. It was all part of God's plan - and THAT IS GOOD NEWS! Today, we are going to learn all about this good news. Are you READY?

Station1: Tell the good news that Jesus is alive!

Read: Matthew 28:1 - 6

The day after the Sabbath day was the first day of the week. That day at dawn Mary Magdalene and the other woman named Mary went to look at the tomb.

² Suddenly an angel of the Lord came from the sky, and there was a huge earthquake. The angel went to the tomb and rolled the stone away from the entrance. Then he sat on top of the stone. ³ The angel was shining as bright as lightning. His clothes were as white as snow. ⁴ The

soldiers guarding the tomb were very afraid of the angel. They shook with fear and then became like dead men.

⁵ The angel said to the women, “Don’t be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, the one who was killed on the cross. ⁶ But he is not here. **He has risen from death**, as He said He would. Come and see the place where His body was.

Ask: What is the good news in the passage that I just read? (Jesus is alive)

That’s right. Jesus is alive. An angel rolled back the stone from the tomb and told the first people who came to visit Jesus tomb that He had risen, just like He said He would. Isn’t that great news?

And do you know what the two ladies did when they heard this news? They were filled with joy and hurried to tell all their friends.

Play the game: Roll the Stone Relay

Supplies needed: Hula hoops

To play this outdoor game, divide the group into teams and instruct the teams to stand in a line. On “go,” the first child in line will roll the stone (Hula hoop) to a specified point (While saying: Tell the good news, Jesus is alive!), then roll the stone back. The next child does the same, and so on. The first team to complete the exercise wins!

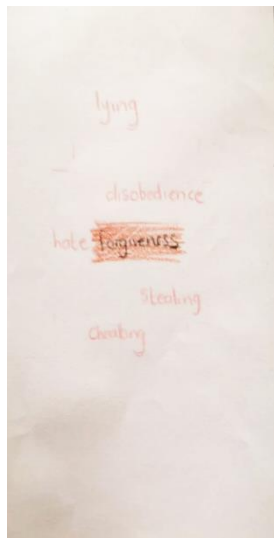
Tell the good news, Jesus is ALIVE!

Station 2: Tell the good news that we are forgiven!

Supplies needed: Red Cellophane, white paper, pink pencil/crayon, grey pencil.

Easter is a celebration of Jesus. He gave up His life by dying on the cross to forgive our sins. Jesus also rose from the grave, and now He is sitting at the right hand of God. When we say we are sorry for the things we do that are wrong, Jesus forgives us. Because Jesus forgives us for the things we do that are wrong, we can be with God someday in Heaven. And, Jesus is able to forgive the wrong doings of everyone in the world.

Ask the children to tell you some things they think are sins (Lying, cheating, stealing, disobeying, etc)



Write these things on a white piece of paper using a red twisty. write the word FORGIVENESS on the paper in black.

Explain to the children that when Jesus died on the cross it was in our place. We say that Jesus died to cover all of our sin. And in the place of sin, He gives us forgiveness. Place the red cellophane over the written sins

(It’s hard to see in the picture but the cellophane makes all the wording the same colour as it disappear)



Tell the good news: We are FORGIVEN

Station 3: Tell the good news that Jesus is our saviour!

Supplies needed: Marshmallow Easter eggs

Green, black, red, white, blue plastic eggs or paper printout if you don't have.

Who can tell me what today is? Yes that's right it's Easter.

Let the children find a hidden Easter egg each - they can eat it while you talk.

I have some Easter eggs here and I am sure that there is a message that we can learn from them. (pick up each egg as you explain the message of Easter)



Does anyone know why there is a yellow in an egg?

That's right it represents Heaven. Remember in the beginning of the Bible in Genesis 1:1 God says, "In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth."



Isn't it exciting to know God, who created everything, created us in His image AND He, the God of EVERYTHING created us to have a relationship with US!



But then what happened?

Man sinned.

Romans 2 :23 tells us that we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

Because God is Holy (that means perfect with no sin) sin cannot be in His presence. So our sin separates us from being with God.



But is that the end? NO!

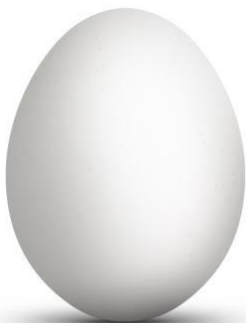
What does the red egg remind us?

It reminds us of what we are celebrating this weekend.

Jesus who is perfect, with no sin, God's own son, came down to Earth to die and to take on our sin.

(cover the black one with the red one)

John 3:16 God so loved us, that He sent His son Jesus.



Jesus's death and resurrection (**remember Jesus didn't stay dead in fact He is still alive today!**) means that if we ask Him into our hearts then we can have a relationship with Him. We are forgiven.

1 John 1:19 says that if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us from all unrighteousness. AMAZING!



Do you know what is also amazing. God sends someone to Earth to be our helper. The Holy Spirit. It's the Holy Spirit that fills us. He gives us boldness so that we can tell others about Him.

Isaiah 61 tells us how the Holy Spirit gives us power to see people being healed and set free.

Tell the good news: We are SAVED


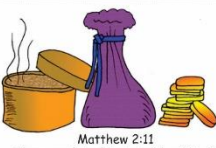



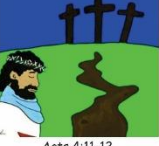
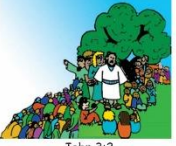
Station 4: Tell the good news that Jesus is a perfect match!



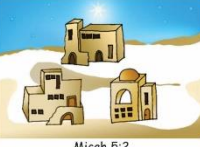

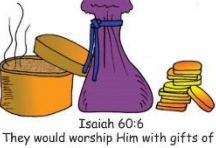

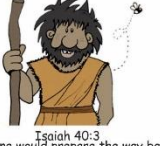

God told His people that He would send a saviour or Messiah that would come and save the world. To make sure there was no mistaking who this was, God also sent about 355 prophecies telling us exactly what the promised one would be like. These can all be found in the Old Testament of the Bible. A prophecy is a message from God to show us something important or to warn us about something.



Use the following pictures or bring a variation of socks for the children to compare and match. Point out that although some of the socks may be very similar such as they are the same colour, or both have stripes, some may even be used for the same thing like sport or bed socks, in order for them to be a perfect match they have to be exactly the same, in every way!

It is the same with the promised one, He needed to match every single one of the 355 prophecies perfectly. And only Jesus did. Jesus is the perfect match.

 <p>Matthew 2:1 Jesus was born in Bethlehem</p>	 <p>Matthew 2:11 They worshiped Jesus with gifts of frankincense and gold.</p>
 <p>Matthew 9:35 Jesus healed the sick.</p>	 <p>Matthew 3:2 John prepared the way before Jesus came.</p>
 <p>Matthew 1:20-23 Jesus was born of a virgin.</p>	 <p>Matthew 21:7-9 People would shout praises as He rode on a donkey.</p>
 <p>Acts 4:11-12 Jesus is the only one that can save us.</p>	 <p>John 3:2 Jesus was sent to teach us.</p>

 <p>Isaiah 7:14 He would be born of a virgin</p>	 <p>Isaiah 48:17 He will teach you.</p>
 <p>Micah 5:2 He would be born in Bethlehem</p>	 <p>Isaiah 35:5-6 He would heal the sick</p>
 <p>Isaiah 60:6 They would worship Him with gifts of frankincense and gold.</p>	 <p>Zechariah 9:9 People would shout praises as He rode on a donkey.</p>
 <p>Isaiah 40:3 Someone would prepare the way before the promised one would come.</p>	 <p>Isaiah 35:4 He would save you</p>

Tell the good news - Jesus is the perfect match!

Station 5: Tell the good news that God loves you!

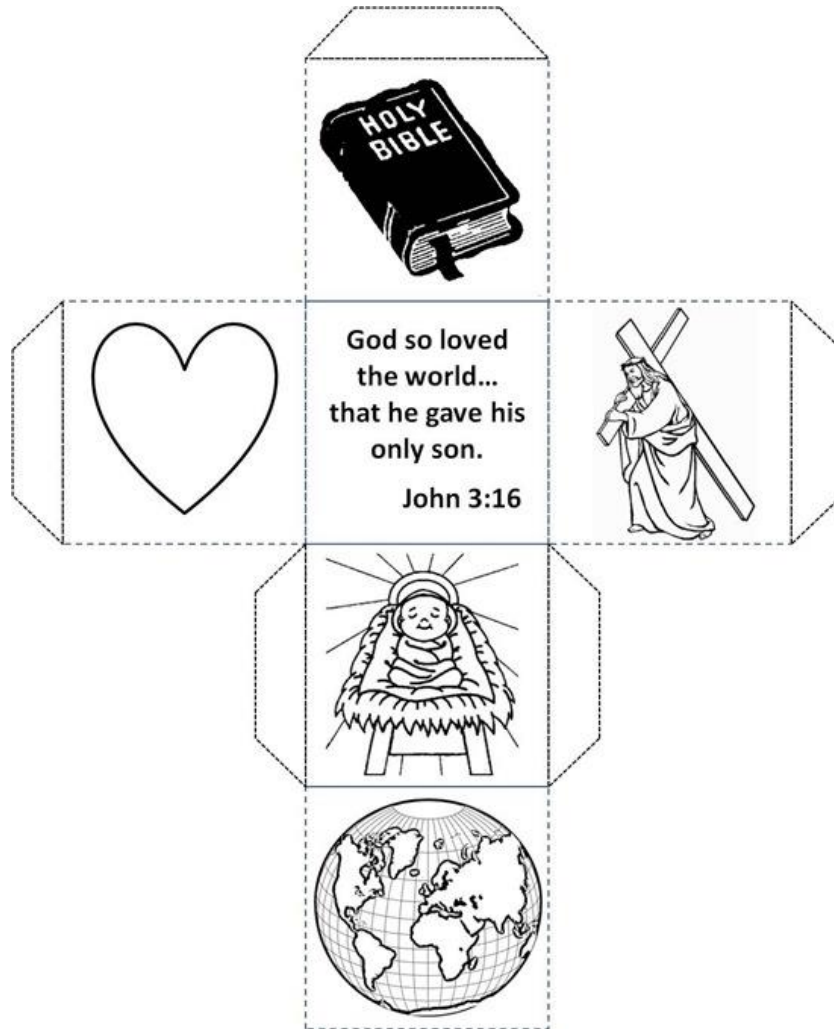
Do you know why Jesus died on the cross for us?

Read:

John 3:16 (ERV)

16 Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him would not be lost but have eternal life.

Jesus died on the cross because of LOVE! Make the cube and the children can tell each other the story of God's love.



[\(http://waynestocks.com/2010/11/09/a-john-316-craft-for-kids/\)](http://waynestocks.com/2010/11/09/a-john-316-craft-for-kids/)

Tell the good news - God loves you

Lesson Three : Jesus gives us victory over sin and death

Main focus for the lesson:

- God's immediate plan for victory over sin and death, is Jesus' death and resurrection
- Jesus was victorious over sin and death
- We have victory through Jesus when we make Him our Lord and Saviour

1) Memory Verse

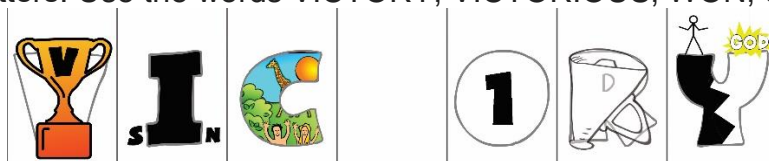
Recap the memory verse from last week.

- 1 Corinthians 15:57

Thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ

2) Hands on

2.1 Let the children play games, or participate in a treasure hunt in order to collect their own set of "V.I.C.T.O.R.Y" letters. Use the words VICTORY, VICTORIOUS, WON, etc.



2.2) Try help the children understand what the word VICTORY means.

Leader Jonny is given instructions and then acts out what he does next. Each time the Teacher then ask the children: "Did Jonny get it right?"

Practice beforehand that if he gets it wrong the children call out "**OH NO Jonny, try again**"

If he gets it right the children call out "**VICTORY**"

Have leader Jonny get quite a few wrong so they can see the difference between victory and not.

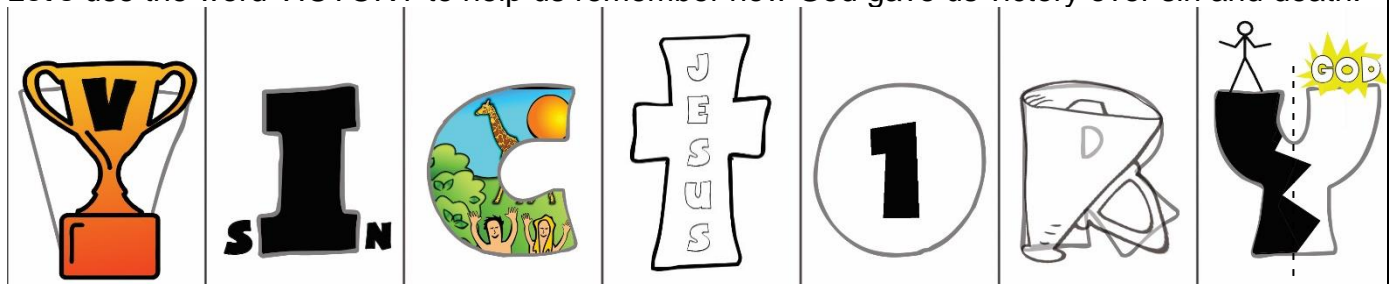
Here are some instructions:

- Jonny don't eat the chocolate.
- Jonny do your homework.
- Jonny run as fast as you can.
- Jonny tidy your room.
- Jonny be kind to the children.

3) Bible Story + Lesson:

This term we are learning about VICTORY. What does it mean to have victory? (*to win, beat some one or something, to defeat someone/thing, to have success*)

Let's use the word VICTORY to help us remember how God gave us victory over sin and death.





Last week we learned that right in the beginning, God created the world. He created humans to have a relationship with Him. God looked at all He had created and saw that it was GOOD. (Fill in the 'C' in VICTORY)



We also learned that Adam and Eve made some bad choices, and because of these choices, sin entered the world. Wouldn't it be nice if we could just blame Adam and Eve but the truth is that every one of us have made bad choices too. Every one of us have sinned. Can you see how big the "I" is in sin. That's to remind you to say "I" have sinned. (Fill in the 'I' of VICTORY)



You may say – so what, I sinned? Can you remember what happened to Adam and Eve when they sinned? (*the cost for eating from the tree was death and separation from God as they had to leave the garden.*) The problem with sin is that we **cannot** be with God when we are sinful. Sin separates us from God. Being with God is having life. And being separated from God is death. (Fill in the 'Y')

I'm sure that at this point you are thinking, 'but I thought we were talking about VICTORY? It seems like we are losing!!! How can there be victory if we are separated from GOD?'



The answer is - because our God is AWESOME! When Adam and Eve sinned, God immediately had a plan. This plan was He would have VICTORY over sin and that would give us eternal life with God again. (Fill in the 'V' of VICTORY)

Straight away God said instead of people dying for their sin, like they should, an animal could be killed in their place. God also set up a whole lot of rules for the people to follow so that they would not sin. God knew this would only give them victory until they sinned again and so that wasn't the end of His plan.



This letter looks like a megaphone to remind us of all the times in the Bible God told us how He would one day save us from death and sin once and for all. God was going to send a saviour, a perfect person, who would die for our sins. (Fill in the 'R' of VICTORY)

Why do you think God first made people kill animals and follow rules? Why didn't He just send the saviour straight away? (*No matter how people tried they could not keep all the rules that God had made, just like we can't too. They told lies, they felt jealous, they moaned and said things like "that's unfair". I think we have all done those things before too. So imagine killing an animal every time you sinned. That would definitely make you see how much you needed someone to help you and save you from your sin.*)

The first part of God's plan gave us life with God **but** it also showed us how much we needed the rest of God's plan – and that was to believe in the saviour that He was going to send.

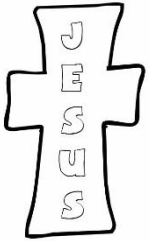


In the Old Testament, there are 355 prophecies telling us exact details about this saviour. A prophecy is a message that God gives a person to tell others so they will know God's specific plans. In the Old Testament God gave many different people messages about who the saviour would be and what He would do, like that He would be born in Bethlehem, He would be betrayed by a friend, people will gamble for His clothing etc. God told us that VICTORY could only come through one and only one person. The promised saviour. (Fill in the 'O' of VICTORY)

Before we can have VICTORY over sin there is one more thing we need. Without this we CANNOT have victory. (*note that the word does not spell "victory" without it.*) Listen carefully to this verse and see if you can work out who we still need.

Romans 5:17 (NLT)

¹⁷ For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and His gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in (VICTORY) triumph over sin and death through this one man, **Jesus Christ**.



God's plan for VICTORY was through His only Son, **Jesus**.
Believing in Jesus is the **ONLY** way we can beat sin.

Let's see how Jesus did this.

JESUS HAD NO SIN

- (Luke 1:35) An angel came to Mary and told her she was going to have a son and that God would be His Father. Because Jesus' father was God and not a regular man who had sinned, Jesus was perfect right from the start.
- While Jesus lived on Earth He did not sin, not even once!

JESUS DIED

- Do you think seeing Jesus being killed and buried would have made Jesus friends' and followers think that God had lost? (yes)
- Remember we said that the cost of sin is death. Even though Jesus did not deserve to die because He had no sin, He died in my place and He died in your place. Although it looked like Jesus was losing – He was winning for sure!

JESUS CAME ALIVE

- The biggest difference between Jesus and all the animals that had to die for people's sin is that **JESUS IS ALIVE**. That may make you think "ah that's nice, I didn't want Him to be dead" but what it actually means is that **we don't have to die for our sins**. We deserve to die but we don't have to. Instead all we have to do is believe in Jesus. When we hear that Jesus is alive we should be so happy that we jump up and down and shout thank you to God.

VICTORY!!! Sin and death has lost. Jesus won!!! Jesus had VICTORY over sin and death! He is the promise fulfilled. Through Jesus, we aren't separated from God anymore. Through Jesus we have VICTORY over sin.

4) Review Questions

- 1) How did sin enter the world? (*one man - Adam*)
- 2) What was God's plan for victory? (*one man - God's only son, Jesus!*)
- 3) How do we have victory over sin?

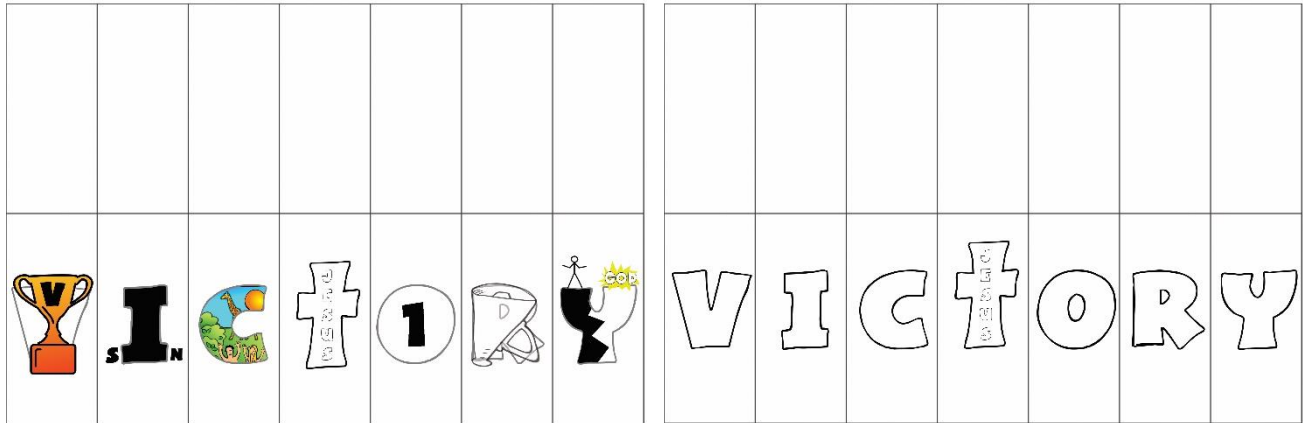
(Romans 10:9 -ERV *If you openly say, "Jesus is Lord" and believe in your heart that God raised him from death, you will be saved.*)

5) Craft

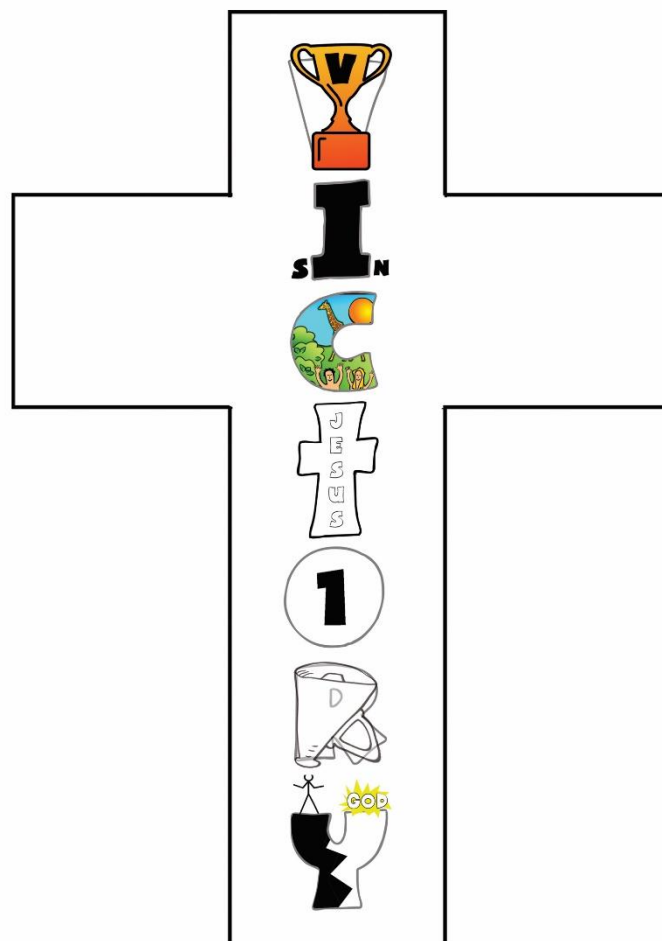
Option 1: Victory flap book

Encourage the children to use the flap book to teach others the lesson learnt today.

Print the pages back to back. Then fold the page in half so that the pictures flap over the letters. Cut slits along the lines so that each picture can flap separately.



Option 2: Victory Cross



Lesson Four: Victory Over Fear (the Armour Of God)

Main focus for the lesson:

- Put on your God's armour daily so that you can have victory over fear.

1) Memory Verse

- 2 Timothy 1:7

7 For God did not give us a spirit of fear. He gave us a spirit of power and of love and self-control.

Idea to teach the memory verse

Point up (for God)
Cross your hands and spread them apart while shaking your head (did not give us)
Cower as if in fear (a spirit of fear)
Point up (He gave us)
Make strong muscle arms (a spirit of power)
Make a heart with hands (of love)
Stand super straight and still (and self-control)

2) Hands on

Make as many sets as needed of objects that can represent each item of the Armour of God.

They can be funny items like slip-slops for the shoes, a floppy hat for the helmet, etc.

Set up a relay race in an open area.

Divide kids up into two or three groups of six. Have the bags of armour on the opposite side to where the kids are lined up.

Blow the whistle, the first child runs up to the bag and puts on one item he armour (little ones may need help) and then runs back to his team. He then takes off the item and the next person puts it on.

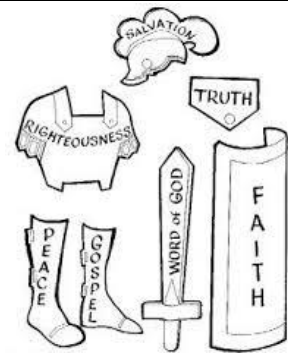
While the next child is putting on the item, the whole team must say the verse

For God did not give us a spirit of fear. He gave us a spirit of power and of love and self-control.

They must now run to the bag and put on another item. (So now he has on two items) He now has to run back to his team and hand the two items to the next child. The team must say the verse while he is putting on the items.

For God did not give us a spirit of fear. He gave us a spirit of power and of love and self-control.

The next child now runs to the bag and must put on another item of the armour and run back wearing three items. And so on until the sixth child is wearing all the items. He runs back to the team and sits down. That is the winning team.



3) Bible Story + Lesson:

Can anybody give me a testimony of a time you felt afraid and God protected you?

(Allow the children time to tell you but keep control of the conversation, little ones get quite carried away! Remember not to be dismissive of any child's fear.)

Do you know that the Bible tells us not to be afraid about 365 times? That is also the number of days there are in a year which means that God is telling us every single day not to be afraid!

But there are some situations that are very scary like *(and refer to one of your testimonies)*

Our memory verse today says that fear is not from God. What does the verse say that God does give us?

POWER

LOVE

SELF-CONTROL

Just knowing that fear is not from God can help you to not be fearful anymore. Knowing that instead God gives us POWER, LOVE and a SELF-CONTROL can help us even more to NOT be afraid.

Look up the following verse:

Isaiah 41:10 says *“Do not fear, for I am with you. Do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will give you strength, and for sure I will help you. Yes, I will hold you up with My right hand that is right and good.”*

Who is telling us not to be afraid? God!





He is promising us that He will be with us and give us strength and help us.



Now we also know that God promises to be with us and strengthen us. We are ready to face our fears! But we can't go into battle without wearing the correct armour, can we?

Soldiers have to wear the right clothes when they face a battle and so do we!

God gives us a spiritual armour that we can put on every day so that we can face our enemy! *(You can dress a child in the class with the items as you discuss briefly each one.)*

Explain that we put these things on “spiritually” and by praying for each one.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The helmet of salvation protects our heads and our minds from bad thoughts. It helps keep our thoughts on God all the time!
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The breastplate of righteousness is Jesus Himself guarding our hearts. When we put on this breastplate we are remembering that Jesus has made us righteous.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The belt of truth is placed around our waists where it stays firmly in place. If we know the truth about God, we cannot be tricked!
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The shoes of the Gospel of peace are put on our feet so that we are always ready to go and tell someone about Jesus.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The shield of faith is what protects us. We know what God has promised us and that we are protected from any attacks.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sword of the spirit is the Word of God. If we know what the Bible says, we cannot be tricked or tempted. <i>(Next week we will learn more about this)</i>

So now that you are dressed for battle and you have Jesus by your side, you can face any fears and be victorious!

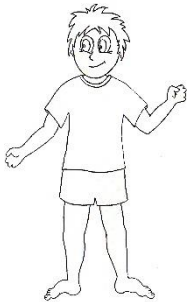
4) Review Questions

- God did not give us a spirit of fear, what did He give us? (A spirit of power, love and a good mind)
- What else did we learn today that can help us not be fearful? *(God is with us wherever we go; we have the armour that can help us against fear and sin)*
- How do we put on the armour of God every day? (By praying)

5) Craft

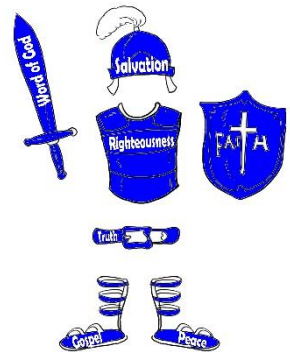
Craft option 1: Put on your armour

This could also be used as an adapted “pin the tail” game during arrival.



Let each child make their own set of armour for them to “put on” every day.

Pray with them “Lord Jesus, help me to wear the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness and the shoes of the Gospel of Peace. Place the helmet of salvation firmly on my head, Lord. Jesus help me carry my shield of faith and the sword of the spirit all day long! Amen”



Craft option 2: Armour of God Match Game



Children each get a set of cards. They must lay them on the table face-down. Pick up one card and see if you can pick up the matching word that goes with it. Play until you have matched each pair of cards.

Craft Option 3: Armour of God Crossword puzzle

Victory over fear
Armor of God

ACROSS

2) A flexible band or strap worn around the waist.
4) "...have your feet fitted with the preparation of the gospel of..." (Eph 6:15)
6) Complete trust or confidence in someone or something.
8) "...and on the breastplate of..." (Eph 6:14)
11) "Stand therefore, having the utility belt of..." buckled around your waist..." (Eph 6:14)

DOWN

1) A piece of armor that covers the breast and chest.
3) "Finally, be... in Yahweh, and in the strength of his might." (Eph 6)
5) "Put on the whole... of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day..." (Eph 6:13)
7) A hat that protects the head.
9) A piece of metal or another material to protect the body.
10) "...and the... of the Spirit, which is the word of God..." (Eph 6:17)

Lesson Five : Victory over temptation (Jesus)

Main focus for the lesson:

- Knowing the word of God is the best way for us to have victory over temptation so we don't sin.



1) Memory Verse

- Ephesians 6:17

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Idea to teach the memory verse

Kids can do actions of putting on a helmet, pulling out a sword and then making their hands into a Bible.

2) Hands on

https://youtu.be/QX_oy9614HQ The Marshmallow test

The video shows little kids being given a marshmallow. They are told that they can choose to either eat the marshmallow that is in front of them or they can wait and get two.

Look how tempted they are to eat the marshmallow that is in front of them.

After you have watched the video:

- Ask "How does it feel to be tempted by something?"
- Ask the kids what they would have done if it was them.
- Ask them what kinds of things they are tempted to do every day.
- Ask them how they resist temptation.

This is a funny video because nothing really bad happens to the kiddies who eat the marshmallow straight away but in real life, there are consequences to giving in to temptation.

Even if we do give in to temptation, God still loves us and if we are very sorry, He is faithful to forgive us.

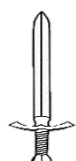
3) Bible Story + Lesson:

If you choose to make the sword craft first and use it in the lesson set rules so the children don't disrupt the lesson.

Jesus understands our weaknesses and all the things that tempt us to do wrong, because He also faced all these things, yet Jesus did not sin. (*Hebrews 4:15*)

Today we're going to learn about the time when Jesus Himself was tempted. You can read it for yourself in the book of Matthew 4 verses 1-11.

So get comfortable and put on your imagination hat (*Act like you are putting on a hat*)



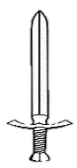
The Bible tells us in Ephesians 6 that the "Sword of the Spirit" is the Word of God (*the Bible*) so every time Jesus uses scripture to fight off temptation, I want you all to hold up your swords.

Jesus had just been baptised by John the Baptist. He was almost ready to start His ministry but first God led Him into the desert for forty days of prayer and fasting. (*Fasting is when you only drink water so that you focus on nothing else but spending time with God*)

So can you imagine how hungry and thirsty and hot Jesus must have been feeling? (*Groan and rub your tummy, wipe sweat from your face. Kids can copy the actions*)

And in this weak moment, satan came to Jesus. You see, satan will always come and tempt us when we are feeling weak. And satan knew that Jesus was hungry and thirsty and hot (*repeat the actions*) and so this is what he said: (*use a deep voice but not scary, we don't want to freak the kids out*)

"If you are the Son of God then why don't you just turn these stones into bread?"

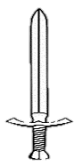


But Jesus knew the will of His Father and He also knew the word of God so well that He answered using the Sword of the Spirit: (*hold up your swords and say*) "*It is written: Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*"

Jesus faced temptation but did not sin.

But satan didn't stop trying to tempt Jesus. Next he took Jesus to the top of a very high temple and said: "If you are the Son of God, just jump and surely the angels will catch you. It even says in the scriptures that God will send His angels to protect you and you won't even strike your foot on a rock!"

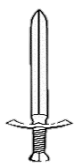
Woah!! Now satan is using verses from the Bible to tempt Jesus!



But once again, Jesus knew the will of His Father and He used the Sword of the Spirit. He said: *It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'*"

Jesus faced temptation but did not sin.

Now by this time you would think that satan would have given up, but no, satan tried to tempt Jesus again. This time by offering Him wealth and power and all Jesus had to do was bow and worship satan.



I think Jesus must have had enough of this nonsense by now and so he shouted "*Away from me, Satan! For it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'*"

Jesus faced temptation but did not sin.

Finally, satan left Jesus alone. Jesus walked out of the desert and began His ministry. **What a VICTORY! Jesus had faced temptation but did not sin.** (*Hold up your swords and say "Victory!!"*)

Unfortunately, unlike Jesus, there have been times when we have given in to temptation and we have sinned. Thankfully Jesus had victory over this too. Our sin is dealt with once and for all at the cross. When we believe in Jesus our sins are forgiven and Jesus wants us to live close to Him and follow His example so that we can say ... **I faced temptation but I did not sin!**

What can we learn from Jesus about resisting temptation?

- Satan will tempt us when we are weak so we must stay strong. How? By praying, trusting God, keeping close to Him and reading our Bibles regularly.
- Jesus knew the word of God. He could not be tricked. By reading our Bibles and coming to church, we are getting to know the Word so that we also cannot be tricked into sinning.
- Jesus had nothing to prove to Satan. If we know who we are, that we are God's children, we also will have victory over sin.

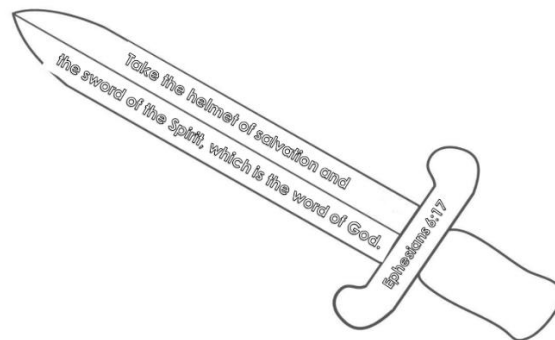
4) Review Questions

- 1) What kinds of things tempt you every day?
- 2) How do you deal with the temptation to sin?
- 3) What is the best way to deal with temptation? (*living a life close to God so we can see how to live, following the Bible, avoid being in those places*)

5) Craft

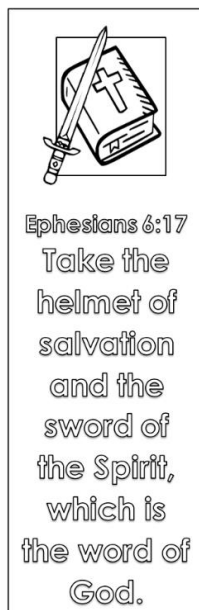
Option 1: Sword craft

Print the template onto cardboard and let the children colour in and cut out.
Can be used during the story.



Option 2: Sword Bible bookmark

Print on cardboard. Kids colour and cut out to keep.



Lesson Six: Victory through FAITH! (Joshua)

Main focus for the lesson:

- Have faith in God when He says He will give you the VICTORY!
- We already have the VICTORY through Jesus.

1) Memory Verse

- Deuteronomy 20:4

For the Lord your God is going with you! He will fight for you against your enemies, and He will give you victory!

Idea to teach the memory verse

ACTIONS TO TEACH MEMORY VERSE:

For the Lord your God - Point up towards heaven with both arms

Is going with you - Actions to walk/ swing both arms/ move feet

He will fight for you - Cross arms to form an "X"

He will give you victory - Point to yourself with one thumb and fist pump into the air with the free hand.

2) Hands on

Create a point A and point B with a few large objects as obstacles in between. Select 2 volunteers who will be blindfolded. The aim is for them to get from one point to the other.

- Volunteer 1 goes first: Everyone in the whole group must call out orders at the same time trying to guide them from point A to B.
- Volunteer 2 goes next but this time everyone is quiet and only one person gives them directions.

Ask the children, why was it easier for Volunteer 2 to make it to the end? (*Allow the children to answer.*)

Conclude:

Volunteer 1 had so many people telling him what to do it was hard for him to know exactly where to go and who to listen to. Even though some of the instructions were good ones, and some were terrible, do you think it would be better for him if he had only one person to listen to? (*yes, like volunteer 2 who got through a lot easier*)

It's the same when it comes to us. Many people in our lives will give us good advice, and some will give us terrible advice. But there is one person we should always listen to.

Who do you think that one person should be in our lives? (*God*)

When we are faithful to God and we listen to Him it is easier for us to make good choices. Often in life it is tough to see what God has in store for us but His word says that in Him we have the victory! As we've already seen and heard and learnt in the memory verse today.

3) Bible Story + Lesson:

Today's Bible story is about a man named Joshua and his great victory over Jericho!

It all started with God telling Joshua about a great plan He had. God wanted Joshua to go to battle against Jericho and win!

Jericho was an old city with strong warriors and with very high walls.



Do you think it would be easy to bring down these high walls? *(No)*

Let the children try and push the walls of the classroom to see how difficult it would be to bring the walls down.

Can you push down the walls? *(no)*

What do you think you would need to bring these walls down? *(Let the children give ideas and thoughts... a wrecking ball, a sledge hammer, maybe a bulldozer.)*

In those days there were none of these things to help Joshua

What do you think Joshua was thinking when God told him to fight against Jericho?

(impossible, I'm scared, have you seen the walls?, are you sure?...)

But God didn't just tell Joshua to fight against Jericho, let's read what else He said.

Joshua 6:2 ***"But the Lord said to Joshua, 'I have given you Jericho, its king, and all its strong warriors.'***

God told Joshua that before he even started to fight he was going to win. **God** was going to make him win! **God** was going to give him victory. Joshua loved God and he had faith that if God said they were going to win then they would.

Teacher says: Joshua had faith, children repeat: God will give us the victory!
(REPEAT FOR REINFORCEMENT OF THIS TRUTH!)

And do you know what Jericho did when they heard the Israelites were coming to fight? They were so afraid that they shut their gates! No one could go in and no one could leave. I just love that a city who had such a strong army and such a huge wall knew they didn't stand a chance against people who believed in God. The people of Jericho may not have loved God or obeyed Him but they definitely had faith that He was powerful and would give Joshua and his men victory.

Let's see what the Bible says about what Joshua had to do next... (Joshua 6: 1-6, 15-16)

¹Now the gates of Jericho were tightly shut because the people were afraid of the Israelites. No one was allowed to go out or in. ² But the LORD said to Joshua, "I have given you Jericho, its king, and all its strong warriors. ³ You and your fighting men should march around the town once a day for six days. ⁴

Seven priests will walk ahead of the Ark, each carrying a ram's horn. On the seventh day you are to march around the town seven times, with the priests blowing the horns. ⁵ When you hear the priests give one long blast on the rams' horns, have all the people shout as loud as they can. Then the walls of the town will collapse, and the people can charge straight into the town." ⁶ So Joshua called together the priests and said, "Take up the Ark of the LORD's Covenant, and assign seven priests to walk in front of it, each carrying a ram's horn."

¹⁵ On the seventh day the Israelites got up at dawn and marched around the town as they had done before. But this time they went around the town seven times. ¹⁶ The seventh time around, as the priests sounded the long blast on their horns, Joshua commanded the people, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the town!

God gave Joshua a plan, it was a rather unusual plan. God told them to march around the city for seven days and on the seventh day to shout and blow their horns, and He will make the walls of Jericho fall down flat.

Do you think Joshua's army commanders would have come up with the plan to march, shout and blow their trumpets to beat Jericho? (*No*)
You felt how strong walls are, do you think this was a good plan?

Joshua knew it was a good plan because **Joshua had faith - God will give us the victory!** Joshua knew that no matter how strange the battle tactic seemed, God had said they would win. **AND THEY DID!** The walls crumbled to the floor and the Israelites were able to take over the city.

God helped Joshua win many more battles. God confused the enemy, He trapped kings in a cave and He did so much more. Joshua had faith to do what God said because He knew God was with Him and it was God that would give him the victory.

Joshua's faith in God grew and grew. One time in the middle of the battle Joshua even prayed to God and asked Him to make the sun stand still and moon stay in place until they had won the battle – and God did just that. To have faith to whisper this to God is one thing but Joshua asked God in front of the whole of Israel. Joshua knew that God was always with Him and he knew God was the one that would give him victory. **Joshua had faith - God will give us the victory!**

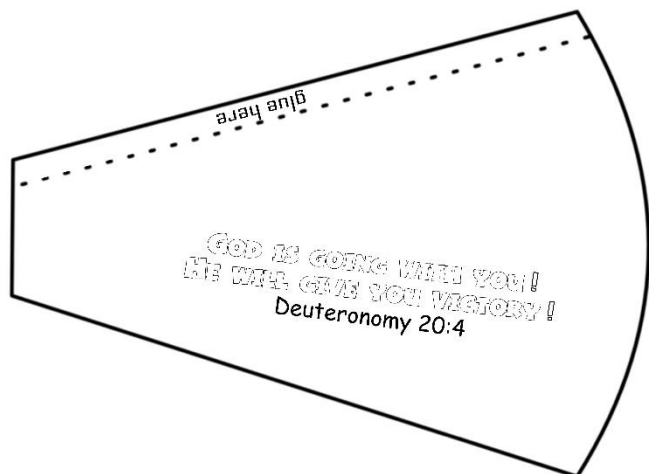
Just as Joshua had faith to do what God said, we also need to have faith to follow God's plans for us – no matter how different they are to how we would do things. We need to remember that **GOD IS THE ONE THAT GIVES US VICTORY.**

4) Review Questions

- 1) What are "battles" that you feel you are fighting? (*sin, fear, self-worth, etc*)
- 2) Who can you rely on to win these battles? (God!)
- 3) How can you build your faith in God? (*more you trust easier to have faith the next time, ask people to share their testimonies, reading what God did in the Bible*)

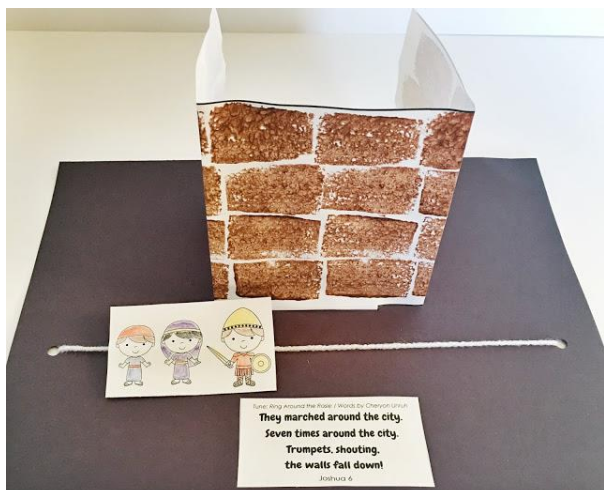
5) Craft

Option 1: Faith Trumpet



Cut, roll and paste to form a horn like Joshua would have used at the battle of Jericho. Get the children to trumpet and repeat the verse as they march around the classroom.

Option 2:



Cut around the wall, folding the flaps and sticking them to the card. Attach the Joshua picture to a trimmed piece of straw. Thread the wool through the straw then through the holes of the paper. Tie it securely in the back. Joshua and his men should be able to slide up and down as if marching.

Ask the children questions and let them answer using their craft:

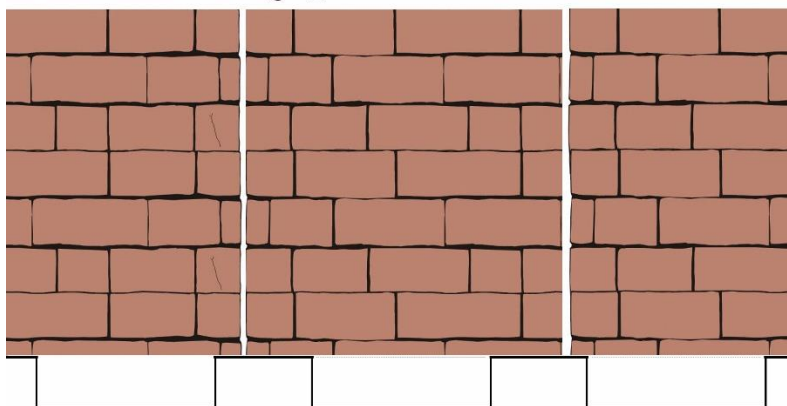
How many days did they march? (7 – count together)

What did they do on the 7th day? (*make trumpet sounds as the slide it along*) (*they shout*)

Why did they shout? (*slide along as they shout out "for the Lord has given us this town."*)



Joshua 6:2
"But the Lord said to Joshua,
'I have given you Jericho, its king,
and all its strong warriors."



Lesson Seven : God is always with us. (Gideon)

Main focus for the lesson:

- God is always with us. It is He who makes us victorious not us.
- You do not have to be afraid when God asks us to do something for Him as He promises to always be with you.

1) Memory Verse

- Judges 6:12

12 The angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon and said, "Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!"

Idea to teach the memory verse

Start by crouching down, making a "halo" with your fingers around the top of your head. As you slowly stand up say:

"The angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon and said:"

"MIGHTY HERO," (show strong muscle)

"The Lord is with you!" (Point upward)



2) Hands on

Play the following game on arrival:

Prepare 4 or 5 boxes. Wrap them or paint them and put "danger" or "caution" stickers all over the boxes. Have a small hole cut in the top of the box, only big enough to stick your hand into. Put something furry or sticky into each box. *(But not something that could hurt a child.)*

Teachers go around holding the boxes asking the children if they are brave enough to feel what is inside? Make it a little scary. Then say don't worry I will do it with you.

Conclude: Sometimes it's scary doing things on our own. Just having someone else do it with us can make us feel more brave. We can always be brave because we don't *just* have someone else with us - We have **God** with us ALL the time. Yes, God who is the most powerful and can do anything, is the one who is with us ALL the time. Of course we will be victorious if He is with us.

3) Bible Story + Lesson:

(In the media pack find pictures that can be folded so that the story notes can be on the other side. Do not simply read this as the children will lose interest)

Sometimes God asks us to do things for Him and we feel it is way too hard. Can you think of some things like that? What if He asks you to tell others about Him? Or He wants us to read the Bible so we can teach others what it says? Or He wants us to pray for miracles? We can think these things are easy but when we really have to do it we start to feel like it is way too hard.

Today we're going to read a story about a man named Gideon. This story is a true story that can be found in the book of Judges chapter 6 and 7.

It seems that our hero of this story keeps forgetting God's message to him so I am going to need your help to remind him. When I say "Remind Gideon" you will say "**Mighty Hero – The Lord is with you.**" (practice this with them a few times)



Israel had turned away from God AGAIN even though God had done many miracles for them. They were AGAIN worshipping false gods. God did not want them to live like that and so He allowed the Midianite army to steal all their food and cattle in hope that they would choose to listen to Him again. The Midianite's were a strong army of 135 000 soldiers and so they ended up forcing the Israelites to live in caves, which wasn't very nice at all.

After 7 years of this terrible suffering, the people of Israel begged God to help them. God is so forgiving. He had a plan to save them!



A man named Gideon was alone in a field when all of a sudden an angel appeared to him. The angel told Gideon that he would be the one to save Israel and that God would be with him. But Gideon was scared and did not believe it was possible. He started to argue with the angel, giving all the reasons why he could not!

Oh I think we are going to have to "Remind Gideon!" -- "**Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!**"



Gideon wanted to make sure that what the angel was saying was really from God! He knew he had no chance against the 135 000 Midianite soldiers. That night he left a sheep skin (a fleece) out on the ground and told God that if He really would help him lead the Israelites to victory, the skin would be wet and the ground would be dry. And guess what? It was exactly like that in the morning!

But Gideon was still afraid!

Come on let's "Remind Gideon!" -- "**Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!**"

The following night, Gideon told God that if he REALLY REALLY would help him lead the Israelites to victory then the fleece would be dry and the ground would be wet! And guess what, IT WAS! Gideon now knew for sure that God was going to beat the Midianites.



Gideon decided to make his army as big as he could and he managed to get 32 thousand soldiers to agree to fight. But God said to Gideon "Make your army smaller, if the Israelites win with this many men, they will think it was their victory and not Me." So Gideon told anyone who was feeling scared to go home at once! Only 10 thousand men remained.

Again God told Gideon that the army was too big. So Gideon took all his men down to the river to drink water. Some of the men drank water with their mouths (the way dogs do) and some used their hands like a cup. God told Gideon to tell the men who drank like dogs to go home.

Now only 300 men remained! Remember the Midianite army was 135 000!!

Gideon was not convinced that they would win this battle with only 300 men!

We're going to have to "Remind Gideon!" -- ***"Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!"***



God told Gideon to sneak down to the enemy camp. When Gideon got there he overheard two Midianite soldiers talking about a dream that one of them had had. He described a big loaf of bread rolling through the camp and squashing them all. The other soldier said that the dream meant that they were going to be defeated by Gideon's army. Gideon was super excited and ran back to his men praising God all the way!



Gideon knew he had to follow God's plan and not his own, even if it seemed crazy. He told the men to leave their swords and shields at home and take only a pottery jar with a torch inside it and a trumpet to the battle. He instructed his men to surround the Midianite's camp while they slept and when he gave the signal they were to crash their jars, blow their trumpets and shout "***FOR GOD AND FOR GIDEON!!***"

When they did this, the Midianite men got such a shock that they began running around like mad and fighting with each other! The ones who were not killed in the confusion, ran away only to be captured down the road. Gideon killed all three of the leaders and the battle was won! But the most important thing was that God got the glory because it was an impossible battle. The Israelites had peace in their land once again and worshipped God!

Was is Gideon's massive army that won the battle? (**NO!** They only had 300 men)
 Was is their amazing weapons that won the battle? (**NO!** They used jars and trumpets)
 Was it God who won the battle for them? **YES! God was with them.**
 When God asks you to do something you don't need to be afraid because God IS WITH YOU. "Remind your friend!" -- "**Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!**"

4) Review Questions

- How do we know that it was God and not Gideon's army that won the battle against the Midianites? (They only had a small army and the enemy had a huge army. They only had torches, jars and trumpets and the enemy had swords and shields)
- What was the message God told Gideon? ("Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!")
- Do you think this is true for us too? (YES!)

5) Craft

Option 1



Use empty toilet rolls and coloured cardboard to make torches. Paste a picture of a jar onto a paper bag. Children can put the torches into the bags like Gideon's army did. Have the verse written on the bag. "**Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!**"

Craft option 2: Gideon, the mighty hero word search

Name: _____

Gideon, the mighty hero!

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

Find the following words in the puzzle.
 Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

ANGEL	ISRAELITES	VICTORY
BATTLE	JARS	WARRIOR
DREAM	MIDIANITES	WEAPONS
FLEECE	OBEDIENT	
GIDEON	TORCHES	
GLORY	TRUMPETS	

Craft option 3: Colouring in page



Lesson Eight: Confidence in Victory (David)

Main focus for the lesson:

- We can be confident that God will always be there to guide us through impossible situations.

1) Memory Verse

- Luke 18:27

What is impossible with man is possible with God.

Idea to teach the memory verse

Luke	Put your hands over your eyes, like you're looking
18: 27	Show numbers 1,8,2 and 7 with your fingers
What is impossible	Shake your head and point 2 thumbs down
With man	Point to yourself
Is possible	Nod your head and point 2 thumbs up
With God	Point upwards

2) Hands on

Set up a course that the children could do as they arrive.

The course includes:

- Do 5 jumping jacks*
- Walk across the balance beam/ on a line on the floor*
- Throw a ball into a basket/bucket (place a line on the floor that may not be crossed)*

Use the same course for the object lesson.

Good morning everyone today's object lesson is going to use our course. How many of you tried it out? (***allow the children to respond***)

I'll need volunteer to help me so who thinks they can complete this course well? (***Call forward one child***)

Okay here's what I need you to do: Do 5 jumping jacks. Walk across the balance beam/ line and then without crossing this line throw the ball into the basket. (***Have the basket very close to the line***)

Do you think you can do it? Are you confident/sure that you'll be able to do it? (***Allow the child to answer.***)

Do you think you can do the course twice in a row? Yes? Are you confident/sure you'll get it in? Okay try and let's see? Wait, wait, wait I forgot something. We need to blindfold you. (***Blindfold the child.***)

Okay are you ready? You'll be fine you know what to do. Okay on your mark, get set, wait wait wait. I forgot something. We need to move the basket further away and change the position of the balancing beam. Do you think you can do it? Children, do you think your friend can do it? (***No***)

Okay what if I told you there would be a leader to help you. They would tell you when to stop. They would hold your hand and support you while you cross the beam. And if you missed the ball, they would get it for you. Do you think you'll be able to do it? **(Yes)**

(Have the blindfolded child try while the leader helps them) Well done you did it!

Often in our lives there are things that happen that we don't understand. Or maybe you can't see how things will work out and be okay. Maybe you think that whatever you're going through is so difficult that it's impossible to get through it. We can feel helpless and blindfolded.

BUT, God is always with us. He is that leader that walks next to us and helps us do what we need to do. No matter what we go through in life. Even if it doesn't make sense or we can't see the end. Even if we don't get things right. He is always there ready to help us. All we have to do is accept His help.

3) Bible Story + Lesson:

(The leader comes dressed up as one of David's brothers)

Try get together some of these props to help tell the story:

• Analogue clock	• Speech bubble
• Measuring tape / ruler	• Sword

Good morning children my name is Eliab. I'm the oldest of 8 brothers. How many of you have brothers or sisters? **(Allow a few children to share their answers).**

I'm here today to tell you story about a great victory.

A long long long time ago **(Take an analogue clock and turn it backwards a few times)** the army of Israel went to war against the Philistine army. The Israelites were God's chosen people and so we were known in all the towns and villages as the people that were serving the true living God.

We had been on the battlefield for 40 days, but nothing had happened. Why? Because the Philistines had a soldier they called "The champion". He wasn't like any other soldier I have ever seen, and I've been in the army for a long time. This guy was strong, and he was really really big. How big do you guys think he was? **(Allow the children to guess a few times).** He was 3 meters tall. Now to help you all get an idea of how big that is I brought a measuring tape **(pull out a measuring tape to 3m and lean it against a wall).**

Every morning this Philistine champion would walk to the battle line and he would shout at us. The ground would shake as he shouted "If he kills me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves!" **(use speech bubble).**

We were so afraid of this giant champion. We would hide away in our tents, because none of us wanted to fight him. One day my father sent my little brother to bring some food to my brothers and me.

My brother heard the Philistine champion shout and soon enough he was asking questions. He wanted to go out and fight this champion. I couldn't believe it. I got so angry with him. I told him that he should be at home taking care of the sheep not looking around the battlefield. He was only a child. He didn't understand the dangers of fighting in a war. He was being ridiculous.

Word spread around camp about my crazy little brother and the next moment the king of Israel wanted to see him. I was hoping that the king could talk my crazy little brother out of his stupid and dangerous idea to go and fight the Philistine champion. But my brother said to the

king, "The Lord who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!" **(use speech bubble).**

The King was surprised by my brother's confidence and agreed to let him go fight the Philistine champion. The king offered that my brother wears the king's armour. Do you think my little brother wore the armour? **(Allow the children to respond).**

No, he didn't because it was so big and he was confident he could win without. Instead he chose to go just as he was, without any protection! I couldn't believe it. But at least my brother would take the sword, right? Do you guys think he took the sword? **(Allow the children to respond).** No, he didn't take the sword, or the shield, or the spear. Do you think he should have taken one of the king's weapons? Would you have taken a weapon? **(Allow the children to respond).**

So there my crazy little brother went out onto the battlefield with no protective armour and no army weapon. He only took 5 smooth little stones and a sling. I was certain he was going to lose. There's no way my thin young little brother stood a chance against a trained Philistine champion.

But then my little brother looked the giant straight in the eyes and said something I'll never forget. He said, "You come at me with a sword, but I come to you in the name of the Lord almighty!" **(use speech bubble).**

Right then I realised that my brother wasn't crazy. He knew God was on His side. He knew God would help him fight the battle and protect him. He was confident about winning before the fight even happened. Not because he was so great and strong, but because he knew that God on his side is capable of doing the impossible.

My brother put a stone in his sling and threw it at the champion's head. The stone hit him right between the eyes and he crashed down to the ground. God had given my brother David victory over the giant Goliath.

Sometimes we need to go through some difficult things that feel like impossible giants, but we know that God is always with us, leading us no matter what.

4) Review Questions

- 1) Was David afraid of Goliath? *(No)* Are you sure, because Goliath was really big and David was really small?
- 2) Why was David not afraid to fight Goliath? *(Because he knew God was on his side and he was confident that God would give him victory)*
- 3) What are some things you are struggling with in your life? Do these things feel really big and impossible to deal with?
- 4) Do you think God will help you through these things?

(Take some time in your groups to pray for the challenges that children are facing. Remind them that no matter what we can be confident that God will lead us through)

5) Craft

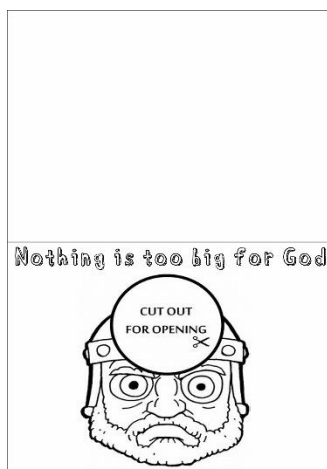
Option 1: Painted stones

Have the children find a stone that they can paint and decorate. If you can find big enough ones write the verse on them. Luke 18:27 "What is impossible with man is possible with God"
Otherwise place the stone on a card with the memory verse on it.



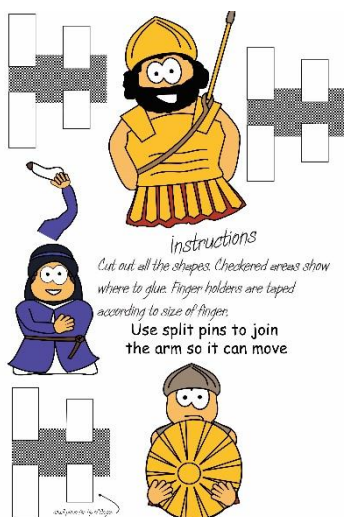
Option 2: Goliath Target

Discuss some of the difficult things that the children may be facing and let them write around the board. To make the Goliath target cut the oval out and then fold the page in half so it can stand as a target. Let them aim at their Goliath target and toss their cotton ball sling as they repeat the memory verse.



Option 3:

Children make finger puppets and retell the story.



Lesson Nine : Stay close to Jesus (Mary Magdalene)

Main focus for the lesson:

- It is important to stay close to Jesus, through the good times and bad times.
- Mary Magdalene stayed close to Jesus.

1) Memory Verse

- James 4:8

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

Idea to teach the memory verse

Set up a mini obstacle course with footprints showing the way for them to go. Every time the leader blows the whistle the children repeat the memory verse.

Conclude: In the story today Mary Magdalene stayed close to Jesus every step of the way. Jesus wants you to stay close to Him too.

2) Hands on

Take a lamp or anything else that needs power to work and plug it in.

What is making this lamp work? (*it is connected to the power source*)

Look what happens when I move too far away from the power source. (*have a leader unplug it if it doesn't easily disconnect by itself but take care when using electricity!*)

The purpose of this lamp is to shine but unless it stays close to the power source it cannot do what it is made for.

So often we try and have a relationship with Jesus like this. We know we are supposed to always stay close to Jesus. We know He is our source of power. And we know that He is the one we are created for.

So what are the things that get in the way of us staying close to Jesus?

- Too busy (make spending time with Jesus the most important part of everyday)
- Things are going well so I don't need Jesus (We always need Jesus)
- Things are going badly, Jesus can't help (YES HE CAN!)
- Other people (Jesus is more important than the opinion of others)

This light HAS to be close to the power source, otherwise it doesn't work.

We HAVE to be close to Jesus otherwise we will miss out on all the things He has for us.

3) Bible Story + Lesson:

(Teacher note: Although some consider her as the same sinner that washed Jesus' feet or the lady who was almost stoned there is no Biblical reference to this and so we will not make this assumption.)

Use the following pictures from the Media Pack to form a time line. Stick the 2 pictures of Mary and of Jesus back to back so that they can be placed on the story board either way. See the pictures below to how they are to be set out.



The Bible tells us about a woman named Mary Magdalene. Magdalene was not her surname. Mary was a very popular name in those times and so they named her after where she stayed – Magdala.



The first thing we learn about Mary Magdalene is that she had 7 evil spirits in her and Jesus made them come out and she was healed. (Luke 8:2). How do you think that would have made her feel? (*amazed, relief, shock, belief in Jesus*)

When Mary Magdalene had a problem where did she go for help? She went to Jesus. The best part about her story though is what she did next.



Jesus at that time was travelling from place to place teaching people about God and how they should live. And where was Mary? She was right there with Jesus! Mary Magdalene and some other ladies were helping Jesus. They were probably making them food, clothes, cleaning and things like that. But what is amazing is that they did all of this using their own money (Luke 8:3). Mary Magdalene didn't just come to Jesus to be healed, she came and she stayed! Following Him and helping Him wherever He went. When Jesus was arrested and was put on trial many of the people that were following were too scared to say that they believed that Jesus was the son of God. Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, even denied even knowing Jesus for fear that he would be arrested and killed too.



Do you think Mary Magdalene fled for her life? No, Mary Magdalene stayed by Jesus side the whole time. John 19:25 tells us the Jesus' mother and Mary Magdalene stood near the cross. They never left His side.

(Mark 16:1) Early the next morning Mary Magdalene made her way to the tomb to put sweet spices on the body to show Jesus honour. When she got there the tomb was empty and she began to cry as she did not know where they had put the body of Jesus. Do you think that showed that May loved Jesus?

Mary did not know that Jesus had come alive again. (Read John 20:14-18)

¹⁴ Mary turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize Him. ¹⁵ "Dear woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who are you looking for?"

She thought He was the gardener. "Sir," she said, "if you have taken Him away, tell me where you have put Him, and I will go and get Him."



16 "Mary!" Jesus said. She turned to Him and cried out, "Teacher!"

17 "Don't cling to me," Jesus said, "for I haven't yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, "I have seen the Lord!" Then she gave them His message.

So what did we learn from Mary Magdalene?

When Mary Magdalene had a problem ... Mary Magdalene went to Jesus.

When you have a problem, who can you go to? (Jesus)

When people needed to be taught about God ... Mary Magdalene was there serving Jesus.

When your friends and family need to be taught about God ... you can be there serving Jesus too.

When it got tough to be a Christian, even to the point of death ... Mary Magdalene never stopped showing those around her that she loved Him and believed He was God's son.

Even if people try and mock you or make you change your mind keep close to Jesus.

When Mary Magdalene couldn't find Jesus, she stayed and kept looking – and she found Him.

The Bible teaches us that if we look for God we **will** find Him. (Jeremiah 29:13)

Just like Mary Magdalene no matter the situation we need to stay close to Jesus!

4) Review Questions

- a) What are ways we can stay close to Jesus? (reading the Bible, praying, going to church, sitting and listening to what God is saying, trusting Jesus and serving Him, worshipping Him)

5) Craft

Option 1 Cut and stick Mary Magdalene and Jesus into the scenes.



Option 2: Keep Close to Jesus Mobile



Lesson Ten : Before and after (James and John)

Main focus for the lesson:

- Knowing that we have victory in Jesus should bring change in how we live.
- People should be able to see that you are living in victory.

1) Memory Verse

- 1 Corinthians 15:57

Thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ
Idea to teach the memory verse

Recap the main verse of the term - Play an upbeat children's church song in your group (no lyrics) and bounce a soft beach ball around in a circle with the children. The children have to keep the ball in the air and as they touch the ball they say the memory verse to each other.

2) Hands on

Make "BEFORE" and "AFTER" signs and tell the children to call out what they say when you hold them up. John and James then enter

John	Hey children my name is John and this is my brother James
James	James the great
John	James will do
James	<i>The great (wink wink; thumbs up)</i>
John	And we're known as the "sons of thunder" (<i>for fun add in a planned handshake with lightning bolts and sound effects</i>)
James	Well that was before we changed.
John	Yes spending time with Jesus really changed us! Do you want to see how much we have changed?
James	Ok let's start with how we were BEFORE Jesus changed our hearts.

Leader then holds up "BEFORE" sign and children call out "*before*". James and John then act all angry and show no love.

Leader then swops to "AFTER" sign and children call out "*after*". James and John immediately switch to be loving and kind.

Swop signs back and forth a few times, making sure that it is easy to see the change from anger to love.

Examples of things John/James can say

BEFORE	AFTER
Let's call down fire on the Samaritan village. Yes lots of FIRE!	Let me help you Mary. Stay with me.
Argue about who is going to sit at Jesus' right hand side	Jesus can heal you, we'll pray for you
Argue who is the greatest. Of course I am – it's in my name	Do you know about Jesus? Can I tell you about Him?
That person doesn't believe – let's make them believe! (<i>punch hand with fist</i>)	I want to write all the things down that Jesus taught me so others may know.

Ask: Was there a difference in James and John after they met Jesus? (Yes)

The same applies to our lives. We can know that because we have Jesus we have victory over.

3) Bible Story + Lesson:

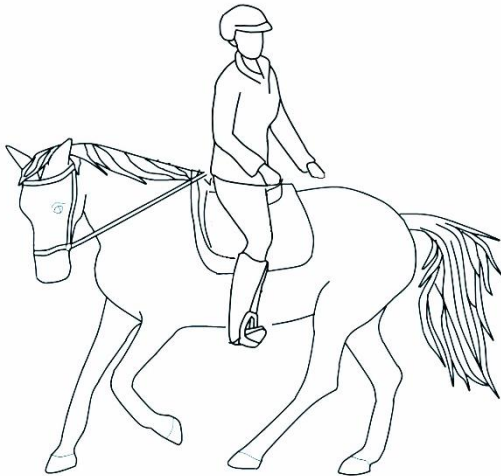
Being the last lesson of the term set up some stations for the kids to rotate around.

Station 1: (see the memory verse option)

Station 2: Before and after skit (see hands on)

Perform the skit as shown in the hands on section. Let the leaders dress up as before and after scenarios and the kids have to guess. E.g. rotten teeth (before you've brushed your teeth); Before or After you have brushed your hair; Before or after you tied your shoelaces etc

Station 3: Pin the rider on the horse



Did you know that God talks to all of us. One day when a few of us were praying for Cornerstone kids God gave us a picture of a beautiful horse. The rider was brushing the horse's mane and plating its tail and getting it ready to take part in the competition. The horse looked so beautiful and ready to win. Then the rider got on the horse and SAT BACKWARDS! There was no way they were going to win riding the horse backwards.

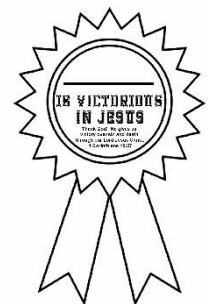
It was as if God was saying that we can't listen to all the things in the Bible and not know how to use them. This term we have had a lot of fun learning about the victory we have because of Jesus.

Knowing these things and letting them change the way I live are completely different. I may *know* that I don't need to be afraid because God is with me – but then I am actually afraid. That is like sitting on the horse backwards. It's ok if we don't get it right straight away but we do need to keep on trying to live in the victory God has given us.

Let the children take turns to be blindfolded and try place the rider on the horse. On their turn let them teach the person behind them something they learnt this term. They may need help.

Station 4: Baking Medals

Decorate Marie biscuits to look like medals. Use the picture from the first lesson to stick on the paper plate for them to decorate.



Station 5: Mini Olympics

Host a mini Olympics using all the games that have been played each week. Briefly recap each lesson before you play.