



**MISSION : IMPOSSIBLE**

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## MISSION HIMPOSSIBLE

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## Letter to Leaders

In our last series, “God of the Impossible” we learnt all about the miracles of Jesus. We learnt that there were more miracles than could be documented and we learnt that each one was done “so that we would believe.” We have learnt that God’s power has no limits and His provision is abundant and merciful.

What then is our response to this knowledge? What is our heart’s response to believing in and loving such a powerful God? WE ACCEPT HIS MISSION!

In this series “Mission Himpossible” children will learn about the “Great Commission” and how Jesus chose ordinary people just like us to continue the work He started!

Children will learn that God sends a helper, the Holy Spirit, to assist us in our “Mission” so that we are never alone in telling the people God puts in our lives about Jesus and all the wonderful things He has done for us, so that they may believe too!

May your children feel equipped and empowered by the Holy Spirit to boldly tell those in their lives about Jesus and share their testimonies thereafter!

However, we cannot teach about something we do not know ourselves. We encourage you to ask the Holy Spirit to fill and equip you, as leaders, so that you may know and teach these truths by His gentle guidance and wisdom.

Use the “agent” and “mission” theme as a way to excite your children into becoming “Agents for Jesus” and accepting His “Mission”. This is such a cool theme and we encourage you as leaders to join in the fun by dressing up each week too! Caps, sunglasses, overcoats, anything “spy-like”.

Try to find a “Mission” for your children every week. These could practical ways of serving, giving, telling and learning. You could start a collection for a charity organisation, learn a memory verse for next week, choose three people/places to tell about something Jesus has done for you, bring a sandwich next Sunday to give to the homeless, teach someone else a memory verse or whatever ideas you might have.

***Remember that you too are “agents of Jesus” and your mission should you choose to accept it is to Make More Agents!***

# ***Lesson 1: Accepting the Mission***

## **Main focus for the lesson:**

- Jesus came to seek and save the lost and He wants us to be doing that too.
- No matter whether it is time to stay or go, we need to always be obedient to God.

## **1) Memory Verse**

- Luke 19:10

***Jesus said, "For the Son of man has come to seek and save the lost."***

## **Idea to teach the memory verse.**

Collect a variety of pictures of people from old newspapers and magazines. Hide them all over the venue. The children find one each time returning to a leader to say the memory verse.

## **2) Hands on**

*Two leaders form a mini man, named Zacchaeus. To do this*

- *The first leader puts on a large T-shirt. They then put shoes on their hands and instead of putting their arms through the sleeves they put them out the bottom to make the feet of the mini man.*
- *The second leader then comes behind the first leader and slips their arms through the sleeve holes of the first leader's T-shirt.*
- *Hang a piece of material behind a table with a tablecloth. The leaders use the material and the table to hide themselves.*

*Make sure to add lots of actions and over exaggerate everything as it will keep your children focused, laughing and learning.*

## **Story:**

Hi children. My name is Zacchaeus. I believe your theme this term is Mission Himpossible! And well I want to tell you about the day I found out about Jesus' mission when He came to earth!

One morning I got up and did all the usual things. I brushed my hair, washed my face and of course brushed my teeth.

When all of a sudden I saw a huge crowd of people. People were saying it was Jesus, the one who taught God's word, and I wanted to see who Jesus was.

I ran over to the crowd but being as short as I am I couldn't see a thing. So I decided to run further down the road and climb a tree. That way when Jesus came I could see who He was.

Next thing I knew Jesus stopped teaching and looked up at me. Jesus told me to come down because He was going to come to my house and have a meal with me. With me? No ways!

I couldn't believe it. I quickly climbed down the tree and agreed.

The crowd all moaned. You see back then I wasn't a nice guy. I am a tax collector but what made it even worse is that I used to take more money from the people than I should have. Yup, I used to steal people's money. So you can see why everyone was moaning that a great man like Jesus would be with a sinner like me.

The love Jesus showed me by coming to my house even though I was a sinner changed my heart. I immediately gave Jesus half of everything I owned to give to the poor and promised that I would pay back everyone that I had cheated four times the amount.

Jesus told me that because I believed in Him, I was saved! Then He said it! He told me His mission. Let me read what He said straight from the Bible. "For the son of man has come to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19:10

Before I met Jesus I was what the Bible explains as being lost. I kept doing things that were against God and I didn't know or love God. And while I was like that I couldn't be with God in Heaven. BUT Jesus found me! He showed me love and He forgave me and because of Jesus I did my best to stop sinning. And because of Jesus I one day get to be with God in Heaven forever.

And you know what the best part is??? Jesus has called us to all be part of His mission. We get to seek and save the lost too! So agents do you accept this mission? Yippee!!!

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

#### (Acts 9: 10-19) Ananias sent to tell Paul.

*Have a person dressed up as Ananias and do the actions (WALK or SIT). Every time you mention him going, Ananias will WALK to other side of the room and if you mention that he read the Bible or prayed then Ananias will SIT on the chair and act out this action. The children love watching Ananias getting up and down so near the end start to say the different things quicker.*

I'm going to tell you about a man from the Bible called Ananias.

*(Dress up a leader and say) Meet Ananias. (hello)*

(SIT) Ananias loved God. Sometimes he would spend time reading the Bible so he could find out more about God.

(WALK) And other times Ananias would go and tell others about what the Bible said.

(SIT) Ananias often spent time sitting, praying to God.

(WALK) But other times he would go to people's houses and pray for them.

(SIT) Ananias knew how important it was to spend time with God so he would sometimes just be still and listen to God.

(WALK) but he also followed and obeyed the things Jesus told him to do.

(SIT) Ananias knew it pleased God to sometimes be still and listen to God.

(WALK) And other times to rise up and do what God asked him to do.

(SIT) One day when Ananias was being still and listening to what God said, Jesus spoke to him in a vision. Ananias answered him by saying "Here I am Lord."

Jesus told Ananias to **go** to a man named Saul and to pray for him and tell him about Jesus.  
*(Leader keeps sitting)*

Jesus told Ananias to **go** to the man Saul....

Uhm JESUS TOLD ANANIAS TO **GO to the man Saul.**

Uh? Ananias why are you still sitting?

Ananias then says "I have heard about that man Saul. He has been killing anyone that loves Jesus and if I go there, he is going to arrest me and maybe even have me killed!"

And that's exactly what Ananias said to Jesus and Jesus answered him saying ... Go. I have chosen Saul for important work. I want Saul to tell people, rulers and lots of different nations about me.

And so Ananias went. And just like Jesus said, Saul didn't arrest Ananias or have him killed. Instead Saul chose to love and follow Jesus and do the important work that Jesus had chosen for him to do. In fact, Saul is the very same man, Paul, who taught us so much about Jesus and who started so many churches all over the world.

We can learn a lot from Ananias.

We can learn that sometimes it is good for us to be still and spend time with Jesus, praying to Him, listening to Him and waiting for us hear what to do next.

And other times we need to GO and do what Jesus has asked us to do. We need to tell others.

Whether it be go or stay – they most important part of any mission is to be obedient!

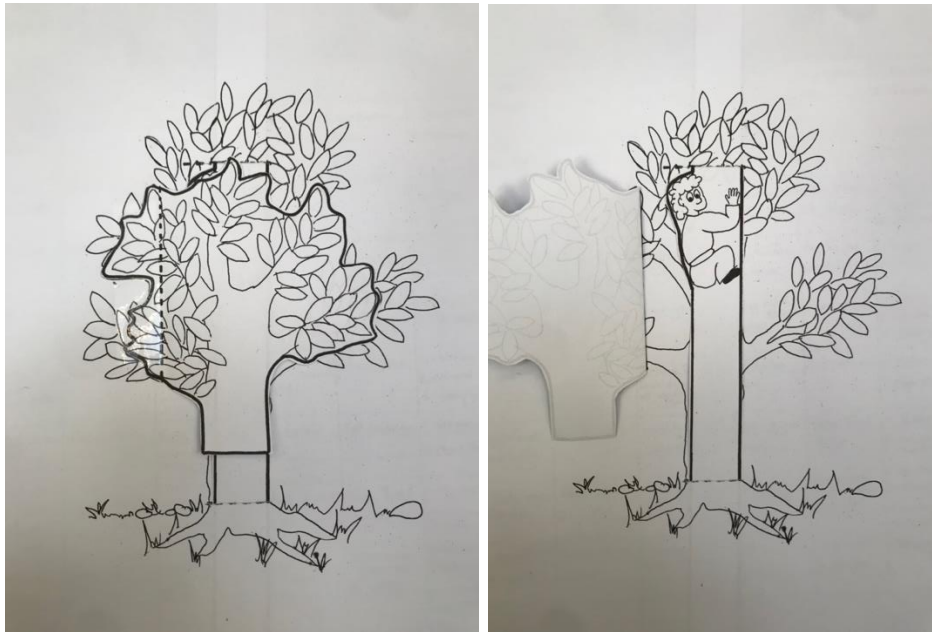
#### 4) Your Mission should you choose to accept it:

At home complete the cryptogram to work out where today's verse came from. Look it up in the Bible and read it with your parents. Teach the verse to someone else.

#### 5) Craft

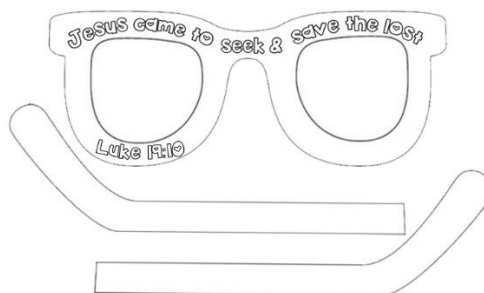
##### Option 1:

Zacchaeus in the tree



##### Option 2:

Glasses Jesus came to seek and save the lost.



## ***Lesson 2: Target Located: Jesus Recommissions Peter***

### **Main focus for the lesson:**

- God uses ordinary, flawed people to be a part of His extraordinary plans.
- Jesus recommissions Peter even though he messed up

### **1) Memory Verse**

- Matthew 28:19

***“Go and make disciples of all the nations” (NIV)***

### **Idea to teach the memory verse.**

Children start by standing in a circle. Use a bean bag for little ones and a ball for older kids.

First child says the verse and shouts out a country or city and throws the ball/bean bag to another child and sits down in the circle.

E.g.: “Matthew 28:19 Go and make disciples of all the nations: **INDIA!**”

The next child who catches the ball/bean bag does the same thing. Each child should say a different place otherwise they cannot throw the ball to the next child. Do this until all the children are sitting down.



For older children, you could play a memory option. Each child needs to remember the places that the previous children have named before adding their own country to the list, then throwing the ball to the next child.

### **2) Hands on**

Have 4 leaders dressed up as agents. They could be wearing caps, sunglasses and jackets so that they stand out.

As the children arrive tell them that they need to choose one of those agents to go on God’s mission. In order to make the best choice, they need to ask each “agent” to tell them about themselves. The agents will answer:

Agent 1: I fell asleep when Jesus asked me to pray but I love God and His children. (Matthew 8:23-27)

Agent 2: I ran away when Jesus got arrested but I love God and His children. (Matthew 26:56)

Agent 3: I didn’t trust Jesus when there was a big storm, but I love God and His children. (Matthew 26:40)

Agent 4: I argued with my brother about which one of us would sit next to Jesus in Heaven one day, but I love God and His children. (John 13:1-17)



After they ask the questions, the children will receive a puzzle piece from the agent. They must collect four different puzzle pieces to find out what the "Mission" is.

Then call all the children into a group. Have all the agents stand in a row. Ask them what each of the agents had in common. *They all love Jesus, and they love God's children!*

Next ask them which agent would be best to do God's mission. *(let them choose but then mention what that person did wrong and ask if they think they could still do God's mission)*

Well the right answer is they have all been chosen to do God's mission. In fact, these are all things that the disciples did wrong. Yes, the very men that followed Jesus every day, made lots of mistakes. And yet Jesus still chose them to do His mission. And even though we have also made lots of mistakes, Jesus has chosen **YOU** to do His mission. Not because we are perfect or can do it on our own but because it is His mission and **only** with Him does our impossible mission become... Mission HIMpossible.

But what is the mission? Can you use your puzzle pieces to work it out?

"FEED AND CARE FOR MY SHEEP"

What do you think that means?? What a confusing mission! Maybe it's a farming mission?

Hmmm this is confusing! I think today's Bible story is going to help us understand this mission more.

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson (Matthew 26:69-75; Mark 14:66-72; John 21)

Prepare by reading Matthew 26:69-75; Mark 14:66-72 and John 21

Today, I am going to tell you the story of one of the disciples named Peter. There are lots of **threes** in this story so every time you hear "three" I want you to clap three times. Ok?

Peter was a fisherman who was called by Jesus. Peter travelled with Jesus for the **three years** that Jesus was here on earth and he saw the many miracles Jesus performed and heard His teachings.



When the time came for Jesus to die to take away the sins of the



world, Jesus had one last meal with His friends the disciples and told them what would happen. Peter didn't like what Jesus was telling them and he said that he was ready to die for Jesus right then. Jesus then told him that before the rooster crowed tomorrow at dawn that Peter would deny knowing Jesus not once, not even

twice but **three times!** Peter could not believe that he would ever do that.



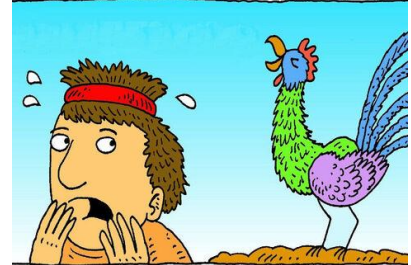
That same night Jesus took all the disciples to pray with Him. He told them that they would all leave Him. Peter said that even if everyone else left Jesus, that Peter never would. Jesus said again that before the rooster crowed that Peter would deny even knowing Jesus. Peter couldn't believe that he would do that. On that same night, all the disciples fell asleep when Jesus had asked them to stay awake and pray.



Later that night, the guards came to arrest Jesus and take Him away. Peter went to fight for Jesus and even cut off the ear of one of the soldiers. Jesus healed the soldier's ear and went calmly with them. All the disciples ran away just as Jesus said they would.



While Jesus was being accused and beaten, Peter was asked **three** times by **three** different people if he knew Jesus and just like Jesus said, **three** times Peter denied knowing Jesus. And then the rooster crowed, and Peter realized what he had done! He wept because he knew he had done what he promised not to do!

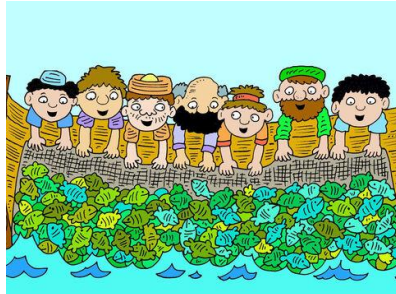


After that night Jesus died and was placed in the tomb. And we know what happened next, don't we! **Three** days after that Jesus came alive again.

One day after Jesus' resurrection, Peter and some of the other disciples decided to go fishing.



They fished and fished for a long time and caught absolutely nothing. Then a man standing on the beach shouted to them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat!



They did as the man said and they caught so many fish that they could hardly pull the nets back into the boat. When Peter realised it was Jesus, he didn't even wait for the boat to get to the shore! He jumped straight over the side of the boat and swam to Jesus!!



When they all got to the shore, they found that Jesus had made them all breakfast and He invited them all to sit and enjoy the meal with Him.

Then Jesus took some time to talk to Peter. He asked Peter **three** different times "Peter, do you love me?" and Peter answered the same thing **three** times "Yes Lord. You know I love you". Remember that Peter had denied Jesus **three** times, but Jesus gave Peter a chance to tell Him that he loved Jesus **three** times too. Jesus had mercy on Peter and did not take away the plans He had for him even though Peter had messed up.

All **three** times Jesus answered him by telling Peter to "Feed and care for My sheep."

But wait! That was the mission we learnt about. The thing God wants all of us to do. So what does it mean?

The Bible often talks about Jesus being our good shepherd and us being His sheep. So the mission He is asking Peter, is to look after His people just like Peter has seen Jesus doing. He wants both Peter, **and us**, to love people, to teach people about Jesus and do what the Bible says and help lead them to make choices that please God. And just like the shepherd that went to look for the one lost sheep, Jesus wants us to look for the people who do not know Him and tell them about all He has done because then they can choose to love Him too.

Even though we are not perfect and sometimes we mess up, Jesus still wants us to be part of His plans!" Jesus wants us to tell as many people about Him as possible so that they can believe in Jesus and have eternity in Heaven too! He wants us to do just what our Bible verse said today: Matthew 28:19 "**Go and make disciples of all the nations**". And what are disciples? People who will feed and care for His sheep.

We have all been chosen by Jesus to be His disciples. If you accept this mission jump up and shout: "**I will feed and care for His sheep**".

#### 4) Your Mission should you choose to accept it:

Make a sandwich and give it to someone who may not have anything to eat.

#### 5) Craft

Option 1: Feed my sheep puzzle (for the little ones)



#### Option 2: Agent Declaration

Children fill in the Mission Agent Declaration and leaders can put a stamp or sticker on it when they're done.

AGENT DECLARATION														
<i>I am agent:</i>														
<i>Your code name</i>														
<b>Agents need to stay alert, strong and ready for any new mission.</b>														
<b>To be the best agent I can be, I need to:</b>														
A	B	C	D	E	H	I	L	M	O	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>				
▶	○	⦿	⬆	⌚	🗒	⚙	👤	🔪	👤					
P	R	T	U	Y						<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>				
⊙	🌐	⬅	⬇	🕒						<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>					<i>I love Jesus and His people!</i>					<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>					<i>I accept His mission to:</i>					<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>				
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>					<i>Fill in Matthew 28:19</i>					<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>				

*Signed*

*HO Stamp*

## ***Lesson 3: Headquarters Established: The early Church***

### **Main focus for the lesson:**

- The church is not a building, it is the believers.
- The early church – where they met and what they did.
- The church today – what we are called to do

### **1) Memory Verse**

- Acts 4:32a

***“All the believers were united in heart and mind.”***

### **Idea to teach the memory verse.**

#### **Option 1:**

Have all the children stand in a big circle holding hands, as they say the verse they run into the middle of the circle with hands going up. They then say the verse again and run backwards to make the big circle again.

#### **Option 2:**

Start the children marching in time with each other and then get them to repeat after you:

All the believers – ALL THE BELIEVERS

Were united in – WERE UNITED IN

Heart and mind – HEART AND MIND

Acts 4 verse 32 – ACTS 4 VERSE 32

### **2) Hands on**

#### **What is the Church?**

For this hands on, you will need 4 leaders and 4 chairs (the chairs need to be the same size)

Watch the video to see how it is done: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQJtV\\_YLuNE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQJtV_YLuNE)

- Ask the children: What is the church? Take a few answers – “it’s the building where we meet to worship God,” “Cornerstone” etc. You may have a few children who say, “we are the church.” Then tell the children that you are going to set up a small church in the room using some chairs, the chairs represent the building.

*Set up four chairs in a square. (The chairs need to be close enough that a person can lie backwards and have their shoulders rest on another chair.)*

- Now invite your 4 leaders “come to the church”.  
*Have the four leaders sit in the chairs. They need to have their feet on the ground. Then each leader needs to lie backwards, resting their shoulders on the legs of the person behind them.*
- One by one, remove the chairs from under the leaders. Much to their amazement, the leaders remain in their reclined position, despite lacking the support of the chairs.
- Explain that while we do attend meetings in a building, we, the people, are actually the church. It is the people who God has called together and commissioned to spread the Gospel. We are called to be a community of believers that are united in heart and mind.



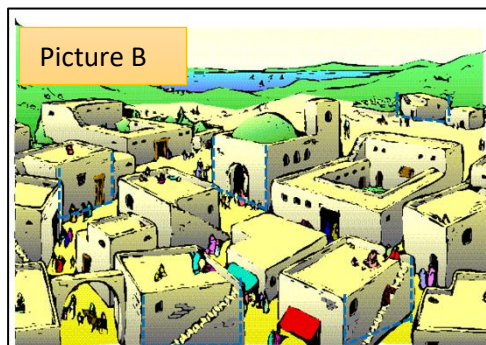
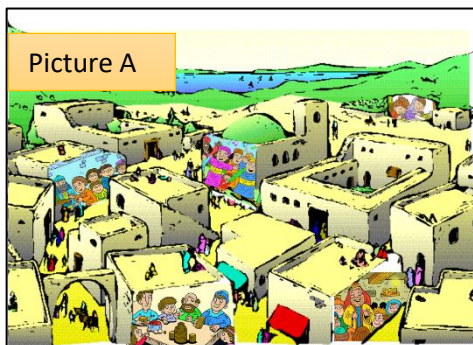
You may choose to use older children as volunteers but remember if they can’t get it right your lesson is a flop, so if you choose this option select and prepare them in advance.



### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

#### Preparation before the lesson:

You will need to have the 2 pictures of Jerusalem printed. On Picture A using a craft knife, carefully cut along the blue dotted lines to make the 5 flaps. You can now stick Picture B under the Picture A. When you lift the flaps, you should be able to see what is happening “inside” the buildings.



You will also need to have these 5 “inside” pictures printed for the lesson.



For some extra fun, dress up as if you are from ancient Israel to tell the story. (see photo for an example.)



#### **The early church:**

Today we are going to sneak a peek at the early church. We are travelling back in time to Israel around 30 AD. Are you ready to go back in time?

*(Get the children to stand up and spin around as you make or play “time travel” sounds. Put on your ancient Israel outfit)*

Here we are in Jerusalem *(show the picture of Jerusalem with the flaps all closed)*. Let’s go and see if we can find the early church. Where do you think we would find the early church?

*(wait for responses)*

Maybe we can find some clues in the Bible. Let’s read from the book of Acts 2:42–47 (NLT)

'All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity — all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.'

In the Bible, it says they met together all in “one place”, they met in “homes” and the “Temple”. The early church was not one building; can you remember what we learnt about the church? Yes, the church is not about the building, it is about the people. We can see that the early church met in different places.

If you listened to the Bible reading carefully, you will also know WHAT they were doing. Can you find these places on the picture? Let’s talk about what they were doing in these different places. *(Let the children lift the flaps, one at a time – they then find the matching picture on the wall. To assist you write these details on the back of each of these pictures)*



Apostle’s Teaching

The believers met together to listen to the Apostle’s teachings. Who were the Apostles? The Apostles were the Disciples of Jesus.

The Apostles had spent lots of time with Jesus so they were teaching the believers all about Jesus and the things that He said and did.

They continued to fulfil what Jesus had told them to do. Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT) “Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

The Apostles were even relying on God’s power to do wonders and miraculous signs. This filled the church with awe (Acts 2:43).



Breaking of bread and sharing of meals

They met together in homes and shared meals together. They also did what Jesus did at what is known as the Lord’s Supper – they shared bread and wine to remember Jesus and what He did for us on the cross. Christians call this communion or breaking bread.

‘For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it.” For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord’s death until he comes again.’  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26



Prayer

The early church would meet together and pray. They kept their minds and hearts focused on Jesus through prayer.



Sharing everything and meeting needs

'All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had.' Acts 4:32

'There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.'  
Acts 4:34-35

The believers shared everything they had with those who were in need. Some even sold their possessions and property and gave the money to help other believers.



Worshipping at the Temple

Not only would the believers meet in homes, they would also meet at the Temple and worship together.

The most wonderful thing is that while the believers were living in community and doing these things, the Bible tells us that more people came to believe in Jesus every day – isn't that AMAZING!

Now that we have explored Jerusalem and the early church, are you ready to go back to our present day? (*Get the children to stand up and spin around as you make or play "time travel" sounds. Remove your ancient Israel outfit*)

It is wonderful to learn all about the early church and what the believers did.

Remember, in the Bible verse it said that the believers DEVOTED themselves to these things. That means they didn't do anything half-hearted, they did them with their whole heart; and they did them with gladness too.

Ask the children to name the things the early church did:

- Listened to the Apostle's teaching.
- Prayed together.
- Worshiped together.
- Shared everything and helped those in need.
- Ate meals together, including the Lord's Supper / Breaking Bread.

Ask the children to name the things that the church does today. Their answers should be similar to what they answered for the previous question. For younger children, you could also ask:

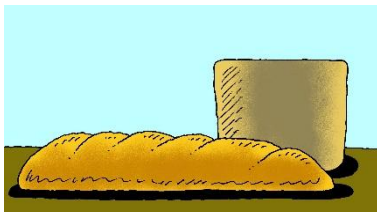
- Does the church today meet together and learn about what is in the Bible?
- Does the church meet together and pray?
- Does the church worship together?
- Does the church help those in need?
- Does the church eat meals together?
- Does the church break bread together?

That's right, the church today (*remind the children again that the church is not about the building, but it is about the people*) still does these things. We have been called to live in community. That means we can rely on each other, all the time keeping Jesus at the centre. We should be united in heart and mind and continue to do what Jesus has called us to do. Do you remember what Jesus has called us to do? It's called the Great Commission:

Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT) "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

#### 4) Your Mission should you choose to accept it:

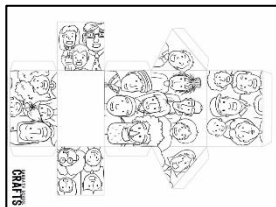
Invite your family to break bread together to remember Jesus and what He has done for us. Have a look in your Kid's Booklet for the details and Bible verses.



#### 5) Craft

##### Option 1:

Colour in and make the house showing that the church is not about the building but rather it is the people:



##### Option 2:

##### Word Search

**The Early Church**  
Acts 2:42-47



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

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

ACTS	COMMUNITY	SHARE
APOSTLES	DEVOTED	TEACHING
BELIEVERS	HELP	TEMPLE
BIBLE	HOMES	UNITY
BREAK BREAD	JESUS	WORSHIP
CHURCH	PRAYER	






## ***Lesson 4: Surveillance Intelligence: Listen, Learn, Pray***

### **Main focus for the lesson:**

- We want our children to **Learn** that we are on a mission to tell others about Jesus. The amazing thing is, is that the Holy Spirit fills us and guides us in this process.
- We trust that children will **Listen** to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as they go about their daily life.
- We want our children to **Pray** continually for those around them who don't know Jesus and for us to be obedient to the Holy Spirit as we go about our daily tasks.

### **1) Memory Verse**

- 1 John 5:14

***“And we are confident that He hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases Him”.***

<sup>15</sup> And since we know He hears us when we make our requests, we also know that He will give us what we ask for. *(not to learn but here for context)*

### **Idea to teach the memory verse.**

Good morning field agents.

Have you ever given your mom or dad a mission? Perhaps you have asked them to print some pictures for a school project or get you some stationery that you really need. Maybe you called from your room to your mom in the kitchen that you would like peanut butter on your bread, because you are really tired of jam. And then you start doubting that they actually heard you or understood what it was that you were asking for. Well unfortunately, as people we all sometimes get things wrong.

But can I tell you someone who we can be 100% confident in? He always hears us when we speak to Him. Let's read today's verse to find out who it is. (Read 1 John 5:14)

This verse is saying that we can be so, so confident that God always hears us when we pray to Him. And when we ask Him for things that please Him, He will give it to us.

Now that doesn't mean that just because I **want** a new Dinosaur Poppit, or to go to McDonald's for lunch that God will give it to me. We definitely can pray that, but we might not always get that. But as we are going to learn today, if we are praying prayers where we are asking God to fill us with the Holy Spirit, if we are praying prayers that God gives us opportunities and to help us tell our family and friends about Jesus then we can be confident that He hears these prayers and will answer them.

Have these signs ready to hold up when that word is said.



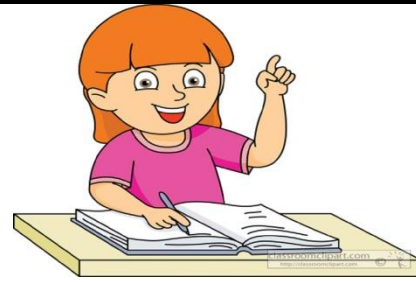
And we are **confident**



that **He**



hears us



whenever we **ask** for anything



that **pleases** Him.

## 2) Hands on

Try and find a real dandelion or otherwise show this video clip <https://youtu.be/h5wRZaeXxE4>.

Who knows what this is? And what happens when the wind blows? God so cleverly made the dandelion to make this big puffy ball to form on the top. This puffy ball is made up of lots and lots of seeds (called pappus). And God made it so that when the wind blows all these seeds get carried away so that dandelion plants can grow wherever they land. (*demonstrate them being blown or show a clip*)

So what can we learn from this lovely little creation of God's? This term we have been learning about doing God's mission – and that is telling others about Jesus and what He has done for us, so that they can have eternal life with God in Heaven too. But the great news is we don't have to do this mission on our own.

First, like our Bible verse taught us today we can be confident that God hears us when we ask Him for help. But also, just like Jesus promised before He went back to Heaven, we have the Holy Spirit who is our helper. When we believe that Jesus is God's son who died for our sin and is now alive in Heaven, then the Holy Spirit comes and lives inside of us.

The Holy Spirit fills us and helps us in many ways, especially with telling others about Jesus. He gives us boldness and power so that we can take God's wonderful message to all the people that we meet.



But the one thing I want you to remember the next time you see a dandelion is that the Holy Spirit leads us. Just like the wind leads the seeds where to go...

He can lead us to people who need to hear about Jesus' love. He can lead us to pray for people. He can lead us in what we should say and do. And when we listen to Him, others too will know about Jesus.

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

Today I want to tell you about two men: Peter and John.

Peter and John were two of Jesus' disciples who followed Him. They listened to Him, learnt from Him and saw Him do many miracles. They loved Jesus so much and when Jesus told them that soon He would die and go back to Heaven it made them very sad. Jesus then told them it was good for Him to go. (John 16:7). Good for Him to go – how could Him leaving be good?

Who would they listen to, learn from and who would do the many miracles that Jesus had been doing so that others could believe in God?

But Jesus explained that they would not be left alone. Instead, they would receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-8). He would live in all believers and go with them wherever they went (John 14:17). And just like Jesus had, He would speak to them, teach them, lead them and help them do miracles to show God's power.

Let's read the very last thing Jesus said to His disciples before He went back to Heaven.

<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

Wow, this means that when we tell others about Jesus, we are **not** alone – the Holy Spirit helps us and gives us the power to do so.

And did the Holy Spirit come? Yes! Just like Jesus had promised the Holy Spirit filled them and now He lives in all believers. (Acts 2)

Peter and John, now filled with the Holy Spirit, continued to do everything Jesus had asked them to do.

For the next part of the story, I am going to need some volunteers to help act out the story as I tell it. (*Choose a Peter, John, lame man, 2 people to carry the man. Use a few props or pieces of material to make them look like their character. The rest of the class can be the rest of the people that came to pray and saw what happened. For younger children move them into place and let them repeat the sentence they should say.*)

One day, Peter and John were on their way to the temple to take part in the 3 o'clock prayers. (*Lead Peter and John to walk over to the rest of the class*)

As they arrived, a man who was not able to walk even since he was born, was carried and put beside the gate to the temple. (*Get the two people to carry the lame man to the front*)

The Bible says that the man was carried here EVERY DAY (*get the two people to carry him to the back and then carry him again to the front*) and there he would sit and beg for money (*get lame man to ask Peter and John for money*).

Peter and John looked at him intently, (*make them stare at the lame man*) and Peter said, "Look at us!" (*get Peter to say "Look at us"*) The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. (*lame man says "Yay, they are going to give me money" and rubs his hands together*)

But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you. (*Ask Peter and John if they are sure? Then get them to check their pockets. You then check their pockets too.*) Nope they didn't have any silver or gold for the man. **But** do you know what they DID have? They had the Holy Spirit living inside of them and they had the power Jesus had promised them! So Peter went on to

say "I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth get up and walk" (*get Peter to repeat this line by line*).

Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. (*get them to act this out*) And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. (*get the lame man to wiggle his feet and ankles, even feel them*) The man jumped up, (*lame man jumps*) stood on his feet, (*get the lame man to balance on one foot then the other to check his legs and ankles*) and began to walk! (*lame man walks*) Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, (*have fun asking the lame man to leap higher as he sings "walking and leaping and praising God – leader can demonstrate this*) and he went into the Temple with them still walking and leaping and praising God.

All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God. (*point to different children in the class and get them to act out and repeat things like "look that man is praising God"; "Isn't he the lame man who sits at the gate"; "Yes, it is that man."; "But how is he walking?" "Let's go and find out."*)

The Bible says when they realised he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate; they were absolutely astounded! (*make the whole class show their astounded faces and say "Oooh" and "Aah"*)

(*Before continuing get all the volunteers to hand in their props etc. and settle the class*) When everyone came to find out what happened Peter thought "Aha, this is my opportunity to teach them about Jesus!" He asked all the people why they were so surprised that this man could walk? Did they think they had made him well? NO WAY! They explained that it was faith in Jesus that had made this man well. Only the power from Jesus could do this. Then Peter and John went on to tell the people all about Jesus and how the people should turn from their sinful ways and accept Him as their Saviour.

Some discussion questions:

- a) Do you think Peter and John could have done this miracle on their own without the Holy Spirit? *No, only by faith in the name of Jesus was the man healed. (Acts 3:16)*
- b) Jesus, Peter and John had all spent time in this town so there is a good chance they would have met this lame man before. Why do you think they didn't heal him before now? (*The Bible doesn't say why the man was not healed before, but we can see that Peter and John use this opportunity to tell others about Jesus and about His power. We also know that Peter and John did not go alone – the Holy Spirit was with them and they called on the name of Jesus! The Bible also tells us that the Holy Spirit leads us and prompts us and so maybe this is what had happened to Peter and John on that day.*)
- c) Could they be confident that Jesus would hear them when they asked for the man to be healed? *Yes, remember our verse. **"And we are confident that He hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases Him."** Peter and John didn't want this man to be healed so that people would think they were powerful, but instead they tell of how great God is and how important it is to turn away from sin and believe in Jesus.*

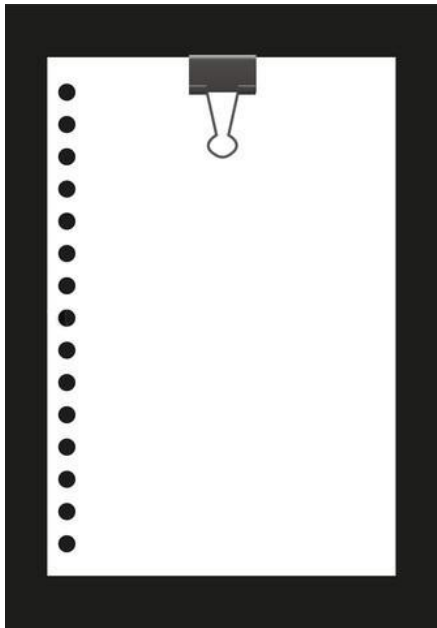
#### **4) Your Mission should you choose to accept it:**

LISTEN for the Holy Spirit to lead you and PRAY for someone you know who does not yet know Jesus.

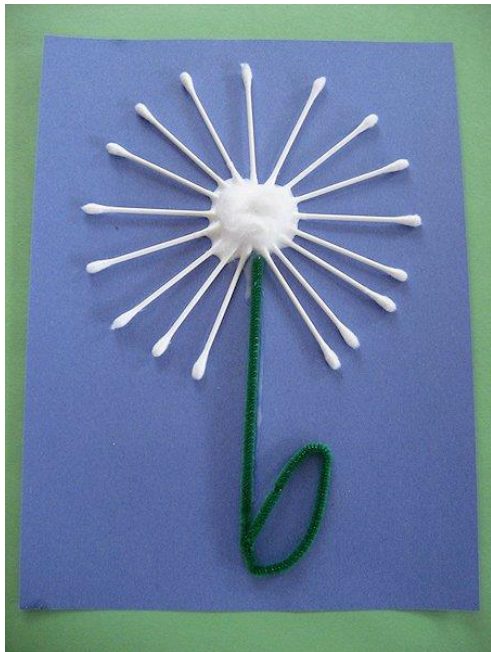
## 5) Craft

### Option 1:

Make a list of all your family and friends who don't know Jesus yet. Stick it up in your room or put it in your Bible and start praying.



**Option 2:** Make a craft based on the dandelion to remind children that the Holy spirit fills us and moves us so that we can tell people about Jesus. Write the verse on the page.



## ***Lesson 5: Faith and Trust in Head Agent G.O.D!***

### **Main focus for the lesson:**

- God is bigger and more powerful than anyone or anything we might face.
- Faith and trust in God enables US to overcome all things.
- We should fix our eyes on God RATHER than the things that worry us or create obstacles in our lives because HE has already overcome it!

### **1) Memory Verse**

- Hebrews 11:1 NIRV

***“Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.”***

### **Idea to teach the memory verse.**

Here are some actions to help teach the verse: <https://youtu.be/MhBiRymi438>

Faith is being sure – right arm across chest.

Of what we hope for – right fist into left palm.

It is being sure – right fist into left palm.

Of what we do not see – cover both eyes with both hands.

Just for fun a video illustration – God is Real: <https://youtu.be/VrCM1U340Xw>

### **2) Hands on**

Materials needed: Blindfold and a chair which you will bring out later.

After you have taught the memory verse, explain to the class that faith is listening to God and trusting Him that He will help you and lead you wherever you should go.

Ask for a “brave” volunteer to help demonstrate this. Get them to come to the front and blindfold them.

Spin them around a few times so that they are now a bit disorientated and don’t know which way is safe to walk. Then, give your blindfolded volunteer instructions on where to walk as they make their way across the room. Give instructions every once in a while so it looks like they might run into something, but when they get close make sure they turn and avoid bumping into anything.

The object here is to have everybody watching and a little worried, whether or not the volunteer is going to make it without falling down or bumping into something.

As the volunteer gets to the other side of the room tell them that when you give the command, and **only when you give them the command**, you want them to sit down. They are not allowed to feel if there is anything to sit on, they just have to have faith and sit down.

As you are explaining this (**very quietly**) bring out a chair or something to sit on and position it so that they will be able to sit on it. Cue your audience not to make any noise. Remember, when the volunteer started there was no chair to sit, so they don’t know if there will be a chair when they sit down.

Lastly tell the volunteer to sit down. When they are safely seated in the chair take off the blindfold and have everyone give them a big round of applause.

As you finish up the object lesson explain that just like the volunteer had to listen for instructions to know what to do, so we have to do the same thing by listening to and trusting in God.



*Examples:*

When God says, "Honour your father and mother", **we have to trust Him** that He knows what's best even if your parents sometimes make mistakes!

When God says, "Love your enemies", **we have to have faith and trust in Him** that he knows what is best for us even if it's not comfortable.

When God says, "Forgive your friend for hurting you", **we have to trust that God knows what's best** for us even though we might not think so.

When we read about what God asks us to do in the Bible we have to trust Him and know that He knows what's best. Even when we can't see the end result.

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

For the lesson you will need to make this simple scale which you can use as a teaching tool in your discussion and story time to emphasize that with God the impossible mission becomes HIMpossible..

**What you will need:** (in order to make a basic scale)

- 1 Hanger
- 2 Polystyrene/Plastic cups
- String
- 12 Marbles or coins with the same size/ weight
- 1 large, heavy item

Find twelve small objects (*e.g. marbles, coins or stones*) with the same size/ weight and one large, very heavy item.



Make a simple scale by placing a hanger on a doorknob or you can simply hold it once you've made it. Tie a piece of string to each side with a cup on each end. You can now use this scale as a part of your Bible story and lesson.

#### **12 spies are sent to Canaan. Numbers 13 and 14**

Faith allowed people in the past to overcome so many obstacles and difficult situations. That brings us to our lesson and story about the *12 spies and the trust and faith that Joshua and Caleb had in the Lord.*

This story is from the Bible in the Old Testament book called **Numbers, chapter 13-14.**

Can anyone remember the story of Moses and the Israelites wandering in the desert for 40 years? Well this story is actually a part of that story...so let's have a quick recap before we get started.

- The Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves.
- God loved the Israelite people so He sent plagues until the Egyptian ruler, Pharaoh let His people go!
- Pharaoh changes his mind about letting the Israelites go and so he gathers up his men to get the Israelite people back. Pharaoh chases after the Israelites and they see the Egyptians coming after them, they are very scared and worried. They complain to Moses but God tells Moses His plan to save them.
- They get to the Red Sea and God then helps them by telling Moses to put his walking stick in the water and the Israelites walk on dry land to safety. God then closes the sea again so none of the enemy can get across.



- They are now safe and they are heading to the land that God has promised will be theirs. God explains this land as having milk and honey and lots of fruit etc. It sounds like a great place and so off they go.
- Along the way God goes ahead of them as a pillar of cloud during the day and He leads them as a pillar of fire by night. He makes food fall from Heaven and water pour out of the rocks.

Wow isn't that incredible! Can you see how God was already making **impossible** situations work out? Moses, in faith and trust, followed God's instructions and the Israelites did not come to any harm.

So this brings us to where Moses and the Israelites are now preparing to enter this land known as the Promised Land, Canaan...

God told Moses to send one leader, from each tribe of Israel, to spy out the land of Canaan. There were 12 tribes and so there were 12 men sent out to search the land of Canaan. (Numbers 13:3 NLT)

Moses told them to see what the people living there were like! How many people there were? What the land was like, was it good or bad, fertile or unfertile? Were the cities like camps with no walls or did they have strong, high walls? He even encouraged them to be brave and bring back some of the fruit from the land. (Numbers 13:17-20)

Off the 12 spies went. They explored the land and returned after 40 days. When they got back they told the people that the land flowed with 'milk & honey' and they showed the people the grapes they had brought back. One grape bunch was so big they had to put it on a pole and carry it between 2 men! They also brought some of the pomegranates and figs. The land was wonderful, just like God had promised! (Numbers 13:25-27)



Do you think they should enter Canaan, the land promised to them by God?  
But wait the spies started to tell them about all the bad things they had seen.



*(You'll need your already set up scale for this part of the story. Add a marble to left cup each time they complained about something they had seen... The scale will now lean heavily to the left)*

Then 10 of the spies began to grumble and complain that the people of Canaan were,

- Powerful
- The towns were big and strong
- The towns had huge walls around them
- They couldn't possibly win against them



But two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, had also seen all the wonderful things **and** all the scary things and this is what Caleb said:

"Let's go at once to take the land," he said. "We can certainly conquer it!" (Numbers 13:30)  
**(add a marble for Caleb and for Joshua to the right cup).**

*But the other 10 spies kept on moaning (add more marbles to the left cup)*

They said:

- We even saw giants
- Compared to them, we felt like grasshoppers – small and powerless

- Then all the people complained and said, they should have just stayed in Egypt to die!



So all 12 spies have seen the same thing. They have seen the good things that God has promised and they have seen the scary obstacles that are in the way. What do you think they should do?

Joshua and Caleb reminded the Israelites that they didn't need to be afraid because the land was just like God had promised and if God was pleased with them He would help them win. Compared to God the Canaan armies didn't stand a chance! (***add a heavy object to the right cup***).

Our scale here shows us no matter what the problem is, they may seem huge and impossible, we can trust God to help us overcome it. The Israelites had seen God do so much for them already, the red sea parting, the water from the rock, the bread from Heaven, a cloud and fire guiding them, and yet they still did not trust God and have faith in Him. And they chose to not go and take the land of Canaan.



Because they had complained instead of having faith, God said that only Caleb, Joshua and the people younger than twenty would one day enter into the Promised Land. Until then they were to wander in the desert for 40 years! (Numbers 14:29-30)

*Refer to the scale:* God being as wonderful, powerful and great as He is, is bigger than any problem. We can always put our trust in God because His word, the Bible and His promises are true. Sometimes, we can be like the Israelites and easily forget to trust Him. We think things are impossible. **BUT** God is bigger and more powerful than anyone or anything we might face and our faith and trust in God gives us the power and strength to overcome all things!

#### **4) Your Mission should you choose to accept it:**

Show love to someone at school like a teacher or "new" kid by a kind word or even a small gift like a chocolate. Show love to others just as Jesus loves us and guides us. Trust that He will show you what to do in these situations and always.

## 5) Craft

### Option 1:

Children make their own scale to remind them that God will always outweigh the odds and help them overcome the impossible.

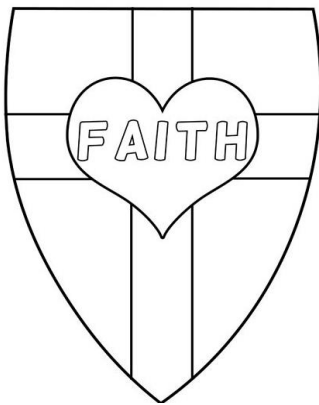
- **Materials needed:**

- 1 ice cream stick
- 2 paper cups
- String
- 1 pipe cleaner



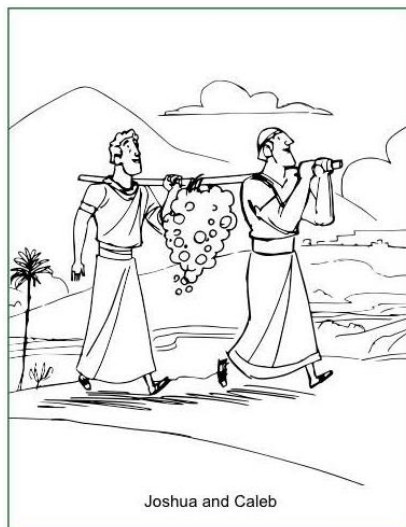
### Option 2:

Shield of FAITH. What impossible thing are you trusting God for? Write them down on your shield of faith and see how God answers your prayers!



### Option 3:

Colouring In – Joshua and Caleb



Joshua and Caleb

## Lesson 6: Mission: Tell Others

### Main focus for the lesson:

- No matter the circumstance, nor how hard it may be we need to tell others about who Jesus is and what He has done.

### 1) Memory Verse

- Romans 10:14

***“But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And How can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone else tells them?”***

### Idea to teach the memory verse.

Option 1: Play a game of broken telephone. You can pretend that they are agents that have to decode and pass on their message. Each round will be a sentence from the verse e.g. *How can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him?* The person at the end can write each message down until they eventually build the whole verse.

Option 2: (older kids) Divide the verse up into its three parts. Children split into three groups and each group learns their part of the verse. Then say the verse group by group. Really emphasise the “HOW” and “UNLESS” parts of the verse.

### 2) Hands on

**Note:** Use the word “get” and not “earn”. This helps make it easier to explain that we GET this free gift and not earn the reward of eternal life through believing in Jesus.



Portia	Hi Cornerstone Kids. I have a great reward for you guys in this box. I am just going to fetch something and while I am away Joe is going to tell you what you need to do to get this reward. <i>(Portia then leaves)</i>
Joe	<i>Joe nods but says nothing</i>
Portia	Okay, I am back. What must you do to get the reward? <i>(let them have some guesses but get it wrong)</i> Um? Joe, did you tell them what they must do to get this reward? <i>(he shakes his head but says nothing)</i> I have to fetch something else while I am away will you tell them?
Joe	<i>Joe nods again and when Portia leaves he begins to get busy with other things. But says nothing.</i>
Portia	<i>(Portia returns and asks the children)</i> What do you have to do to get this reward? <i>(Again let them guess but of course get it wrong)</i> Why do you not know what to do? <i>(they will all say “Joe didn’t tell us)</i>
Joe	Hee hee, you’re right I didn’t tell you. And the reason I didn’t was because I wanted to teach you an important lesson.  You see it is the same with the mission God has given us. We have been told to tell others about Jesus and what they need to do to get the greatest reward ever ... <b>eternal life with God</b> . Some people think they have to be a good person, some think they have to pay money, some think they have to suffer to earn a place in Heaven.  But there is only one way. That is to <b>believe in Jesus!</b>  What is the one way? <b>BELIEVE IN JESUS</b> . And how did you know that? Someone told you. Either you heard it for the first time today or your family or someone else


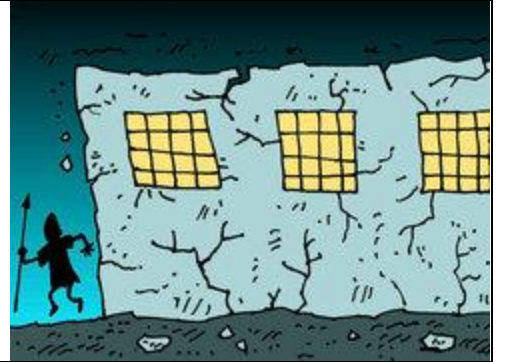




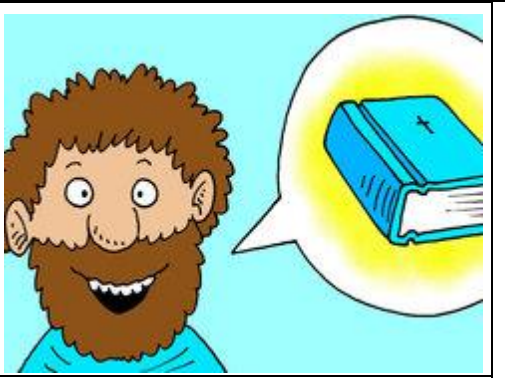


told you. Maybe you've even heard twice or three times before. And that's great. But remember there are lots of people who don't even know who Jesus is. Do you think you can tell them? Of course you can!!!

You can either have Portia then tell them that they had to say the memory verse to get the reward and then play the game of broken telephone. Or you can simply leave it there leaving them wishing someone had of told them what to do.

### 3) Bible Story (Paul and Silas in jail – Acts 16:16-34)

Leader	Today I am going to tell you about two friends who knew how great God is and so they made it their mission to <b>tell</b> everyone about Jesus and what He has done for us. In fact, they travelled all over the place telling people about God EVERY SINGLE DAY!	
Puppet	Hey, I know how great God is too but ...I've had such a hard day today. My mom wasn't happy with me because I didn't finish my homework. My puppy chewed my shoe and my little sister was fighting with me. I'm feeling really down. I'm not sure that I want to tell anyone about Jesus today. 'SIGH'	
Leader	I'm so sorry! But did you know that Paul and Silas also went through hard times?	
Puppet	Did their puppy also chew their shoe?	
Leader	Well I am not sure about that but I do know that some people got angry with them for telling everyone about Jesus. Have you ever tried telling someone something they didn't seem too interested in hearing? This is what Paul and Silas had to deal with all the time, but yet they still chose to TELL EVERYONE the GOOD NEWS!	
Puppet	That sounds so hard!	
Leader	Yes, it must have been. The one time the people in the City of Philippi got so mad that they took them to the rulers of the city and had them beat up and then thrown into jail.	
Puppet	That's definitely worse than the dog eating your shoe! I bet they were very sad and didn't want to tell anyone anymore. Did they sit there and cry?	
Leader	Well, actually no, they PRAISED GOD!	
Puppet	Huh? What? That can't be right?	

<p>Leader</p>	<p>Yes, instead of feeling sorry for themselves, they worshipped God in jail because they really loved God and they knew how good He is. They sang so loud that the other prisoners could hear their singing.</p>	
<p>Puppet</p>	<p>Traaaalaaaalaaaa laaaa laaaaa!</p>	
<p>Leader</p>	<p>Isn't that amazing? They knew God was with them, even while they were locked up in jail! And they chose to sing praises to God not matter what they were going through. But all of a sudden .... the ground began to shake. It was an earthquake!</p>	
<p>Puppet</p>	<p>Oh no! That's terrible!! Their day got even worse.</p>	
<p>Leader</p>	<p>The earthquake broke off all their chains and they were FREE!! And what's even greater, is that God freed all the other prisoners as well!</p>	
<p>Puppet</p>	<p>WOAH! YAY! That's amazing, so they all escaped and were free! YIPPPEEEE! THE END</p>	
<p>Leader</p>	<p>Nope, Paul and Silas stayed!</p>	
<p>Puppet</p>	<p>Umm... what, they didn't escape!? Why would they do that? What if they get captured again?</p>	
<p>Leader</p>	<p>The Guard was SOOO relieved when he heard them call out to say they were still there. He knew he would have been in big trouble if they had of escaped.</p> <p>He fell down before them trembling and asked, "what must I do to believe?"</p>	

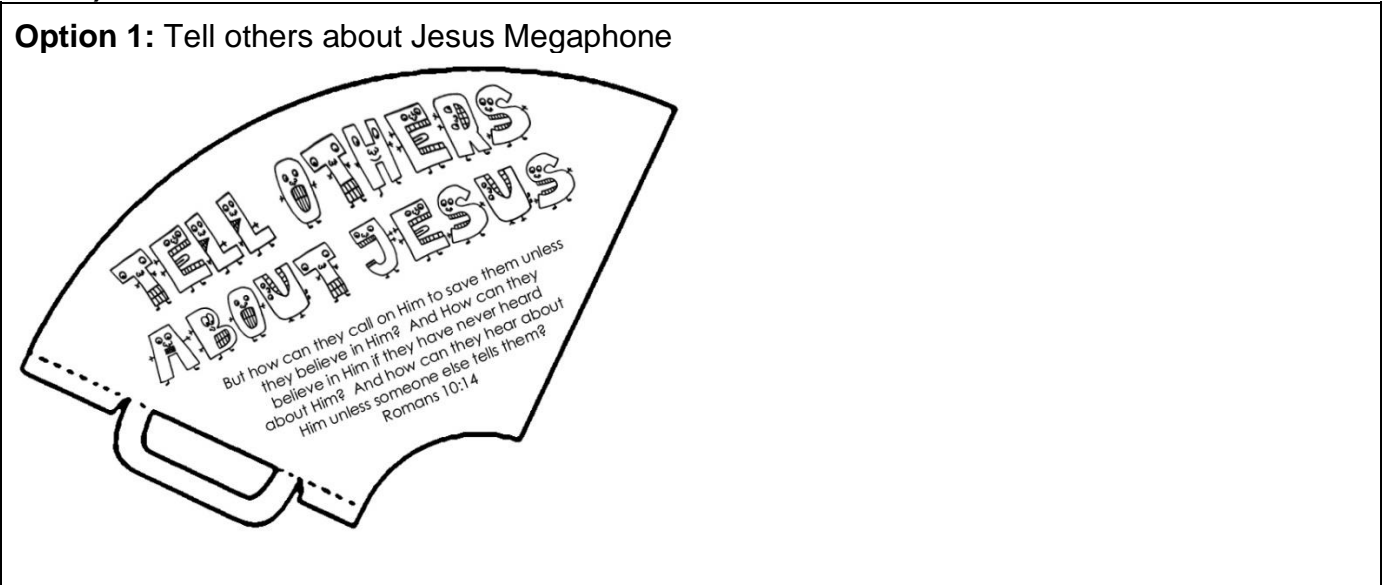
	<p>What do you think Paul and Silas did?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Sat there quietly</li> <li>b) Moaned about how bad a day they were having</li> <li>c) Told him to “believe in the Lord Jesus”</li> </ul> <p>Yes, they told him about Jesus and what He has done for us!</p>	
Puppet	And did the guard choose to believe in Jesus?	
Leader	<p>Yes, in fact he invited them to his home for a meal and his whole family believed too. They were even immediately baptised.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>	
Puppet	<p>WOW! That’s incredible! I also want to be just like Paul and Silas. They made such a difference and still decided to tell everyone about Jesus and how good He is, even though they had a hard day.</p>	
Leader	<p>Just like our verse taught us today, people can’t believe in Jesus if they haven’t heard about Jesus and so no matter what we are going through, we should ALWAYS want to tell everyone around us about how amazing Jesus is.</p>	
Puppet	<p>Especially about what He did for us on the cross. He is such a good God, all the time! I am going to praise God and TELL everyone about Him, even when I’ve had a bad day.</p>	

**4) Your Mission should you choose to accept it:**

Tell someone about Jesus! Choose a person at the shop, at the garage or at school and simply tell them Jesus loves them and died for them! (Do this with an adult, not on your own.)

**5) Craft**

**Option 1: Tell others about Jesus Megaphone**





**Option 2: Paper chain**

Use the strips of paper below to make a paper chain story. Use it to tell the story at home.



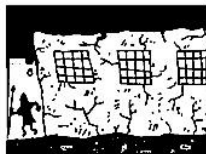
Paul and Silas were put in prison  
for telling others about Jesus.

Acts 16:23



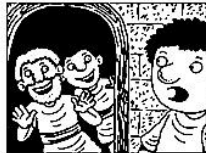
Even in prison Paul and Silas  
sung and prayed to God.

Acts 16:25



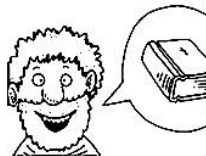
A big earthquake made their chains  
fall off and the doors all open.

Acts 16:26



The guard was shocked that Paul  
and Silas chose to not run away.

Acts 16:28



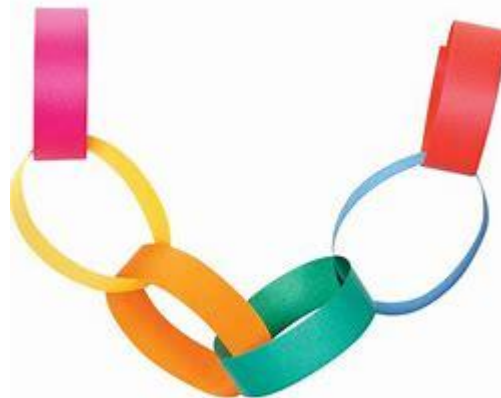
Paul and Silas told the guard "believe  
in Jesus and you will be saved."

Acts 16:31



The man and his household believed  
in Jesus and were baptised.

Acts 16:33



# Lesson 7: Mission: Give Cheerfully

## Main focus for the lesson:

- God wants to use us to give His love, joy and hope to the world in many different ways.
- God want us to be cheerful givers

## 1) Memory Verse

- 2 Corinthians 9:7b

**“God loves a cheerful giver” (ESV)**

### Idea to teach the memory verse.

#### Option 1:

- Give each child a code sheet or divide the children into teams and each team has a sheet.
- Stick the code clues up on the wall.
- Have the children race to decode the verse.
- Once they have decoded the verse have them shout it out.
- Once everyone has decoded the verse say it together a few times.

Use this code to work out the verse.

E	I	◇	G	S	U	R	L

\_\_ D \_\_ V \_\_ A  
   
C H \_\_ F \_\_ \_\_ V \_\_  
   
2 Corinthians 9:7

#### Option 2:

- Stick the verse on the wall.
- Have the children guess the missing letters. Every correct letter gets added to the verse. Every incorrect letter is a strike.
- 5 strikes and they lose (basically Hangman but without having to draw the hanging man).

## 2) Hands on

### OPTION 1:

**What you will need:** A packet of sweets.

Wow look at all these sweets I have. I just love sweets. Do you love sweets? *(Allow the children to respond and tell you what their favourite sweet is)*

Well as you can all see there are more than enough sweets here for us all to get one. They look so good I think I should eat one *(eat a sweet)*. Oh, wow it's so yummy. Would you like a sweet? *(Allow the children to respond)*

Well, what if I said I was going to keep them all for myself and not share them. How would that make you feel? *(Allow the children to respond)* It would make you feel sad right? And you would probably feel like I'm being really rude and mean.

Sometimes we think that the more we hold onto things and the more we keep, the happier we'll be. Jesus said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' (Acts 20:35)

God wants us to share what we have. God doesn't expect us to give away everything we have and end up with nothing. He wants us to share out of the abundance (the extra) that He has blessed us with.

*(Give each child a sweet)* Now imagine I gave you all a sweet, in a grumpy way, and I just threw the sweets at you. Would you think that I really wanted to share them with you? Do you think I was giving them to you with a cheerful/happy/kind heart? *(Allow the children to respond)*

No of course not. When we give, God wants us to give with **cheerful hearts**. He wants us to give gladly.

### **OPTION 2:**

*You will need a piece of A4 paper and a scissor.*

How many corners does this page have? **(4)**

Imagine these 4 corners represent 4 important things in your life that God has asked you to give to Him. He has asked you to share. Maybe these 4 things are your time, your things, your money, your resources, your talents etc.

Sometimes we think that if we give it away, we won't have anything left for ourselves. But when I give this corner away look what happens. **(Cut the one corner off)** How many corners do I have now? **(5)**

Wait hang on. I started with 4 corners and now I have 5. What if I obey God again and I give another corner away what will happen? **(Cut another corner off)** How many corners do I have now? **(6)** Wow this is incredible I started with 4 now I have 6 corners.

What if I cut the other 2 corners off as well what is going to happen? Will I have less or more corners? **(Allow the children to respond and cut off the other 2 corners)** How many corners do I have now? **(8)**

Wow I started with 4 and now I have 8. My corners have doubled. See I was scared that if I gave my corners away, I wouldn't have enough corners for myself, but when we obey God and do what He has asked us to do we will always have enough.

So does that mean we should give things away so that we get more? **(No)** Listen to this verse and see if you can work out why God keeps giving us things and why it is important for us to be generous.

2 Corinthians 9:11 <sup>11</sup> Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. <sup>12</sup> So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.

We give so that people's needs are met and so that they will **thank God!** You see when we give to others, we are reflecting God's generosity through us, His people.

God not only wants us to give our time and our extra food and clothes we might have but He also wants to use us to share the hope, joy and love of Jesus to the world around us. He wants us to be cheerful givers of everything He has given us! If we share/ give something with someone with a grumpy attitude, do you think they will be able to see and feel the love of Jesus? **(No)** That's why God wants us to be cheerful givers, so that others may see Jesus through our actions.

### **3) Bible Story + Lesson**

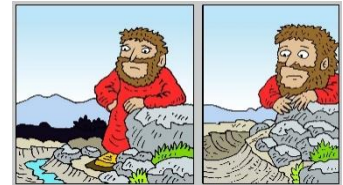
**Take a look at these videos, create these items and amaze your children by adding this to the story:**

**Never ending Flour:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNKc-xVUavl>

**Never ending Oil:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9c67I\\_9ZgM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9c67I_9ZgM)

Today's story is found in 1 Kings 17.

At this time there was a prophet called Elijah. God had told Elijah that there would be a famine in the land for many years. So, this meant that the people couldn't grow food and the river had dried up.



God had instructed Elijah to hide in the wilderness but when the river dried up God told Elijah to go live in the village of Zarephath and there was a widow God had instructed to feed Elijah.

So, Elijah went to Zarephath and when he arrived at the gates of the village, he saw a widow gathering sticks, and he asked her, "Would you please bring me a little water in a cup?" As she was going to get it, he called to her, "Bring me a bite of bread, too."



But she said to him, "I don't have a single piece of bread in the house. And I have only a handful of flour left in the jar and a little cooking oil in the bottom of the jug. I was just gathering a few sticks to cook this last meal, and then my son and I will die."

But Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid! Go ahead and do just what you've said, but make a little bread for me first. Then use what's left over to prepare a meal for yourself and your son.

For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: There will always be flour and olive oil left in your containers until the time when the LORD sends rain, and the crops grow again!"



So she did as Elijah said and she made some bread for him. Then she used what was left over and she made some bread for herself and her son.



The next day when she looked in her jar there was more oil and when she looked in her container there was more flour. So, she was able to make more bread for them to eat for the day.

The next morning the same thing happened. There was more oil in the jar and more flour in the container. Elijah, the widow, and her son continued to eat for many days. There was always enough flour and olive oil left as the LORD had promised.



How incredible is God's provision? He asks the widow to take care of Elijah which must have been a really difficult decision for her to make. She only had enough to feed herself and her son for one more meal. On top of that Elijah asks her to feed him some bread first! But look how good things turn out when we trust and obey God and give generously.

God wants us to give Him what we have. He wants us to give Him our best and He will take care of us. We never have to worry that we will run out and not have enough for ourselves.

#### 4) Your Mission should you choose to accept it:

*Our children need to experience the joy of giving! Here are some suggestions on how we can get our children to give to others.*

a) Give of your **TIME**:

1. Write an encouraging/thanking letter to someone you don't know (e.g. the cashier at the shop/ the man that collects the rubbish/ someone you see walking down the street).
2. Help your sibling/parent with a chore around the house,
3. Invite someone new or someone who may not have friends to sit with you at break time.
4. Help an elderly neighbour with a few chores.

b) Give of your **PHYSICAL THINGS**:

1. Go through your cupboards and give away any clothes that are too small for you.
2. Give away any toys/books that you don't use anymore.
3. Share your lunch with someone who doesn't have any.
4. Make sandwiches for the homeless
5. Donate non-perishable foods. (tins, oats, rice, maize etc)

## 5) Craft

*This week's craft is focused on getting our children to actively do what they have just been taught.*

### Option 1: Write a letter of encouragement and share Jesus.

Find a children's home/hospital/police station close to your site, contact them, and ask for the names of the staff. (Alternatively have each child pick a teacher or neighbour)

Have each child write down an encouraging message, prayer or draw a picture for 1 person.

Spend some time praying over these individuals and encouraging your children that sharing and giving the love of Jesus is the greatest thing we could ever do.

### Option 2: Mission cards:

Give each child a mission card and have them fill in 3 missions that they want to complete this week and then encourage them to share their testimonies next week.

<b><i>Mission card:</i></b> 1: _____ _____ 2: _____ _____ 3: _____ _____	<b><i>Mission card:</i></b> 1: This week I'm going to tell _____ about Jesus 2: I am going to give _____ 3: I am going to help _____ _____
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## ***Lesson 8: Mission Need-to-know: Tell Your Testimony***

### **Main focus for the lesson:**

- To encourage children to practise telling their testimony – “story”.
- For children to know that telling our story will lead others to Christ – and this is what we are called to do.

This lesson can be done as station a rotation game. Split the children into small groups and move from one station to another. Allow 7 to 10 minutes per station.

Station 1 - The memory verse

Station 2 - Hands on

Station 3 - Bible story

Station 4 - Your mission

### **1) Memory Verse**

- Romans 1:16

***“For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes”.***

#### **Idea to teach the memory verse.**

Can you name some powerful things in this world? (*let the children give their suggestions like dynamite, strong machines, people etc.*) These things are all powerful but what about the Gospel. The Gospel is the Good News about God’s son, Jesus, dying on the cross and coming alive again so that we are forgiven. Do you think this Good News is powerful? Let’s read Romans 16:1 and see what it says.

***“For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes”***

Yes, the Gospel, or Good News of what Jesus has done is very powerful because it changes lives for **eternity!** That means forever and ever.

Do you think something this great and this powerful should be passed on to other people?  
Yes!

Play the song <https://youtu.be/GGDoHSbfgQ> to help the children learn the verse. Each time you pause the music the children need to find someone to say the verse to. Shorten the verse for younger children.

## 2) Hands on

As Christians, Jesus wants us to share our story with others. It may seem hard but all we have to do is tell others about who Jesus is and what He has done for us. It is very important to remember that our testimonies do not have to be big events – they can be simple truths that will encourage others.

Paul tells us in Philippians 1:12 that everything that happened to him, both the good and the bad, helped to spread the good News about Jesus.

Did you know that the things that have happened to you can also help spread the good news?

The Bible also tells us in 1 Peter 2:9 that we are chosen by God and because of that we can show others how good God is.



1 Chronicles 16:8 reminds us to give thanks to God **and** to let the people that are around us know what He has done.

So what does that mean for us? We need to know our story, practise it and then share our story with someone else.

### Help the children to find out what their story is.

For older children print out the question cards and hand them out to the children. Everyone takes turns to find another person and answer each other's question. The children can complete their little card with the answers and use this to see that they do have a story they can share.

#### Questions:

- Why do you love Jesus?
- What prayer has God answered?
- How has God changed your life?
- What can you thank Jesus for?
- How do you know God is real?
- How do you like to worship God?
- What are you grateful to God for?
- Why do you tell people about Jesus?

For younger children have some of the questions set out along an obstacle course. When they come to each, the leader asks them the question and they answer it.

## 3) Bible Story + Lesson

Divide the children into small groups and let them each build a different puzzle. (*12 piece puzzle for older children and 6 piece puzzle for younger*)

After you briefly tell the story get the group to read the response of what that person did after meeting with Jesus.

### ***The woman at the well. (John 4:1-42)***

In this story Jesus spoke to a Samaritan woman at a well. The woman was so shocked that Jesus knew everything that she had done wrong. Jesus told her that He is our living water – that

**Before** she met Jesus she did many things wrong



means that He is the one who forgives us and gives us eternal life.

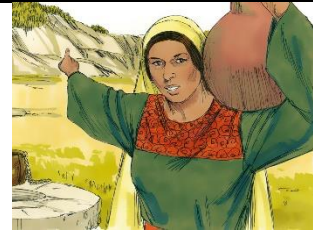
What did the woman do once she found out who Jesus was?  
(get the group to read their verse)

John 4:28 <sup>28</sup>The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone.

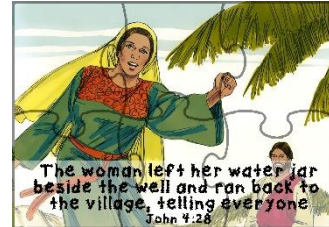
Was the woman's story important?

Yes, because verse 39 says that...

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, "He told me everything I ever did!"



Once she knew who Jesus was, she ran and told others.



### **The man at the pool. (John 5:1-15)**

This man sat by a pool. The people who got into the pool got healed. But the man said he didn't have anyone to help him into the pool. But Jesus just spoke to the man, telling him to pick up his mat and walk. And the man was healed!

What did the man do once he was healed?  
(get the group to read their verse)

John 5:15 <sup>15</sup>Then the man went and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had healed him.

Verse 16 says that when the Jewish leaders at that time heard about what Jesus had done they started making trouble for Jesus.

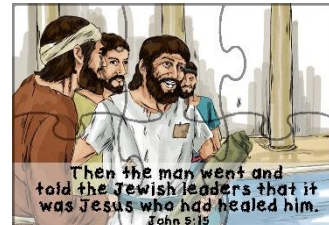
Was the man's story important?

Do you think we should still share our story with others even if people choose to not believe in Jesus? **YES**. We should tell of the great things Jesus has done no matter what.

**Before** he met Jesus he had been lame for 38 years



**After** Jesus healed him, he told others what Jesus had done.



### **The man freed from evil spirits (Mark 5:1-20)**

A man was filled with evil spirits and they made him do horrible things like get angry, howl and even cut himself. When Jesus met the man, He freed him from the evil spirits. The man was so amazed at what Jesus had done for him that he begged to go with Jesus. But Jesus said, "No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful He has been." Mark 5:19

What did the man do once he was freed from the evil spirits?  
(get the group to read their verse)

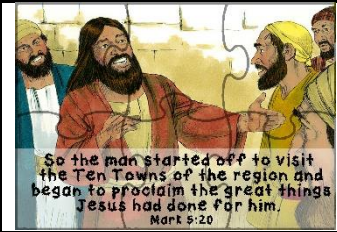
Mark 5:20 "So the man started off to visit the Ten Towns of the region and began to proclaim the great things Jesus had done for him..."

**Before** he met Jesus he was filled with evil spirits.



**After** Jesus freed him from the evil spirits he travelled all around to tell about Jesus had done.

Was the man's story important?  
 Yes, because the end of verse 20 says that everyone was amazed at what he told them.



**4) Your Mission should you choose to accept it:**

Think about your testimony. Write it down or draw a picture of it. Find someone you could share your testimony with. How did it make them feel to hear your story? Did they have a testimony too?

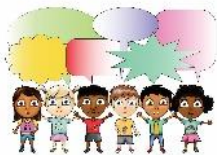
**5) Craft**

**Option 1:**

**My Story**



My name is .....  
 and I am .....years old  
 I like to go to kids church, so that I can .....  
 My favourite worship song is .....  
 because .....  
 I would like to ask God to help make me .....  
 And every day when I pray I ask God to .....  
 I am going tell ..... that Jesus .....

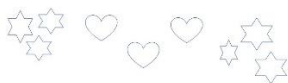


My favorite Verse from the Bible is .....  
 because .....

**Option 2:**

<b>Question ?</b> I love Jesus because _____	<b>Question ?</b> I knew God was real when _____
<b>Question ?</b> I have prayed for _____	<b>Question ?</b> I worship God by _____
<b>Question ?</b> How my life was changed by God _____	<b>Question ?</b> I am grateful to God for _____
<b>Question ?</b> I thank Jesus for _____	<b>Question ?</b> Why I tell people about Jesus _____

**Option 3:**



For I am not ashamed of this good news about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes



Romans 16 vs 2

**Romans 1:16**

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

salvation believes gospel unashamed  
 God power ashamed

# Lesson 9: Mission: Recruit More Agents

## Main focus for the lesson:

- Everything we do is an example to others. Are we being good examples?
- You are not too young to be an example to others.
- Be an example in love, purity, faith and life

## 1) Memory Verse

- 1 Timothy 4:12

***“Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.”***

## Idea to teach the memory verse.

Watch the video clip:

<https://youtu.be/4vg-doEUPhs>

You could choose to let the kids watch the video clip and follow along or you could choose to learn the song and then teach it yourself.



## 2) Hands on

### What you will need:

- 9 Small buckets filled with water, each labelled with a word from the verse (love, actions, words, faith, purity, read, teach, encourage, gifts)



Our memory verse today teaches us that no matter how young we are, God wants us to be an example to others in the way **we act**, the **words** we say, the way we **love** others, the **faith** we have in God and the **pureness** of our hearts. It goes on to say that we should **read** the Bible, **encourage** others, **teach** others and use the spiritual **gifts** that God has given us.

And then says something even more important. It says in 1 Timothy 4:15 ***“Practice these things, immerse yourself in them so that all may see your progress”***.

The Bible says we need to practise these things. That means practise these things (*mention and hold up each small bucket again*) **all the time** and not only when you want. And when we do this, others will see Jesus through our lives.

Let’s use these small buckets of water to explain what this verse means to practise these things and more importantly to immerse ourselves in them.

Do you think I am being a good example?

*(pick up the “love” water bucket to demonstrate)*

My friend is kind to me so I will show her some love *(sprinkle a little bit of water on yourself)* but then she doesn’t invite me to her party *(hide the “love” bucket away)* Oh no! No more love for that friend. No, being a good example means we love others all the time.

Or how about when *(pick up the “words” bucket)* my brother lets me use his bike and I say, “you’re the best brother ever, I love you soooo much” *(sprinkle some water on yourself)* until he loses my favourite cap and then unmentionable words come flying out of my mouth *(hide the “words” bucket away)*.

Or what about reading the Bible *(pick up the “read” bucket)* I love to read the Bible on Sunday at children’s church *(sprinkle some water on yourself)* but the rest of the week I leave my Bible on the shelf collecting dust. *(hide the “read” bucket away)*.

It goes for all of these things. If I am only doing them sometimes and when it suits me then I am not immersed in these things. Just like the water has dried up really quickly it is hard for anyone to see that I am a good example for Jesus. *(show the children that the sprinkled water has dried up)*

But our verses today say we should be immersed in these things and we should always practise them.

***(As you mention each of them pour the whole bucket of water over yourself until you are soaked (or immersed).)***

I must always be a good example in how I **act**, my **words**, my **love** for others, my **faith** in God, and keeping a **pure** heart. I also need to keep on **reading** my Bible, **encouraging** others, **teaching** others and using the spiritual **gifts** that God has given me.

Now can you notice the difference in me? Yes, you see when we immerse ourselves in these things, then everyone will clearly see the difference. They will see Jesus through our example.

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

This story can be found in the book of Acts, chapter 9 verses 1-19. Make two sign boards, one saying: APPLAUSE/CHEER and the other saying: BOO!

As you tell the story of Paul (who used to be Saul) hold up the appropriate boards for the children to boo and cheer as Saul (the persecutor) transforms into Paul (the Apostle).

Many years ago, there was a man whose name was Saul. That's Saul with an "S". He was an enemy of the Church and he did many terrible things to the followers of Jesus. [BOO!!] He was even part of a group that stoned a man named Stephen because he was preaching about Jesus. [BOO!!]

One day, Saul was travelling to the city of Damascus to hunt for Christians so that he could have them thrown into prison. [BOO!!] On the way to Damascus, a bright light appeared and Saul heard the voice of Jesus saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" [APPLAUSE!!]

Saul answered, "Who are you, Lord?"

Jesus replied, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. I have appeared to appoint you as my servant and to be a witness for me." [APPLAUSE!!]

After that meeting with Jesus, Saul's life was transformed. [APPLAUSE!!] In fact, he even got a new name. From that day on, he became known as Paul (that's Paul with a "P") and instead of trying to destroy the Church, he went from town to town preaching and teaching in the name of Jesus. [APPLAUSE!!]

People were amazed at the change that took place in Paul's life. Wherever he went, people said of him, "The man who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy."

The story of Paul who used to be Saul helps us to see how radically Jesus can change us! We want people to see how different we are to the way we used to be and to the rest of the world. We are not different because of anything we changed but because of how Jesus changes us when we choose to accept Him into our hearts!

If we want others to follow Jesus the way we do, we need to set an example for them to follow!

#### **4) Your Mission should you choose to accept it:**

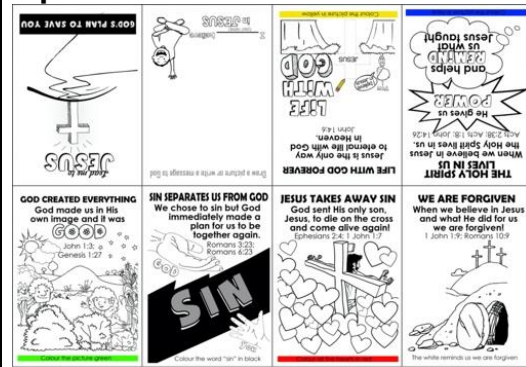
Lead someone to Jesus!

This is a very serious mission, not to be taken lightly. If you know of someone who is not yet a believer and they would like to become a believer, our mission is to point them to Jesus!



## 5) Craft

### Option 1: Salvation Mini-book



To find out how to make these mini books, follow this link: <https://youtu.be/G2tugEOAKTQ>