



LESSONS TO GIVE YOUR CHILDREN
AN OVERVIEW OF THE
New Testament

Introducing the New Testament

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Introducing the New Testament

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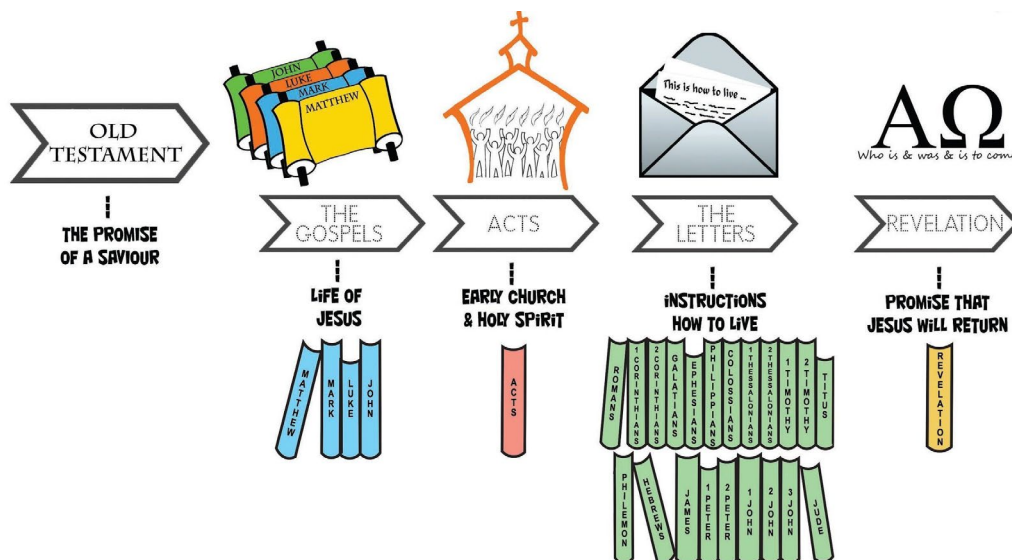
Letter to the leaders

The Bible is so awe inspiring because although it was written so many years ago it is still applicable to us today! No other book is like that. Isn't God's Word amazing, that He knew we would need to hear the same guidance and encouragement that the people living all those years ago needed? God's Word is truly eternal!

Luke 6:48-49 says that when we hear and obey the Word... "It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built."

We do not only want our children to hear the Word but to follow and obey it too. We want them to dig deep into the Word and lay solid foundations for their lives. While it is important to have the knowledge of what is in the Bible, it is more important to get children to develop deep relationships with the Saviour through His Word.

The Old and the New Testament are two parts of the same book. The Old Testament was full of prophecies and promises which pointed to a coming Saviour and the New Testament is the fulfilment of that Saviour, Jesus Christ and His life, death and resurrection.



Each week stick up the section you are teaching on as you build up the picture as shown above. This can be joined onto the sections you built from the Old Testament series. These sections help a child visually see how the Bible is organised so they know where to start if they are looking for something in particular. E.g. If we wanted to find out about the life of Jesus, the four Gospels would be a great place to start.

Encourage children to bring and look up verses in their own Bibles so they can get used to studying it by themselves. And remember... read your Bible too!

Lesson 1: An overview of the New Testament

Main focus for the lesson:

- The importance of reading the Bible and doing what it says.
- Overview of the New Testament.

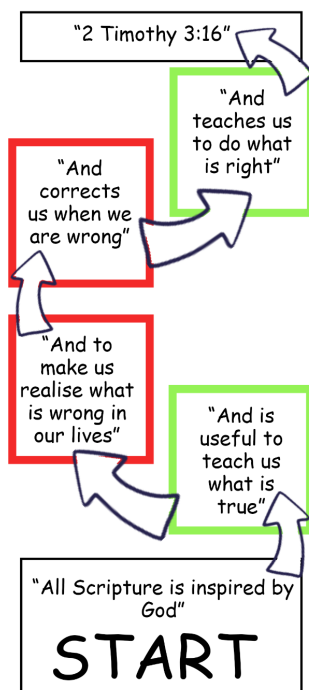
1) Memory Verse

- 2 Timothy 3:16

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.”

Idea to teach the memory verse.

You could do this memory verse activity for the kids to receive their snack.



Lay the squares down as in the picture. In each block kids say a part of the verse. Explain that the green blocks are about anything “good and true” and the red blocks are about what is “wrong”.

Start outside of the squares: “All scripture is inspired by God” while turning around in a circle.

Jump into green block 1: “And is useful to teach us what is true”

Jump into red block 1: “And to make us realise what is wrong in our lives”

Jump into red block 2: “It corrects us when we are wrong”

Jump into green block 2: “and teaches us to do what is right” and jump out with both feet “2 Timothy 3:16”

2) Hands on

What you will need:

- A house firmly cemented into a container
- A house placed in sand into a container
- Water to pour over
- Something to catch the mess and clean up

Hold up the two houses. These two houses look exactly the same but they are not. One comes to Jesus, listens to what Jesus teaches and then



does what Jesus says. The other hears what Jesus is teaching but then doesn't do it.

When the storm comes and they are shaken, tossed about, flooded and turned upside down are they still the same? *Shake, pour water and turn both houses upside down until the non-cemented one falls out, but the cemented one remains.*



Which house do you think listened to Jesus and did what He taught? Yes, the one firmly cemented.

These houses help us understand what Jesus taught us in Luke 6:48-49.

So why do you keep calling Me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say? I will show you what it's like when someone comes to Me, listens to My teaching, and then follows it.

It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built.

But anyone who hears and doesn't obey is like a person who builds a house without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins.

To be like the house which has deep and firm foundations on solid rock, we need to first know what Jesus is teaching us and then do what He says. We need to read the Bible and then do what it says because...

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 2 Timothy 3:16

3) Bible Story + Lesson

Use the "true and false cards" and activities that go with them to help children get an overview of the New Testament.

What you will need:

- True and false cards
- Paper and glue to make links
- A Bible to look up the stories
- Pictures of each section of the New Testament

True or false: The New Testament replaces the Old Testament.

False. The New Testament does not replace the Old Testament because the whole Bible is from God (2 Timothy 3:16).

Jesus Himself also said "Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose." Matthew 5:17

TRUE OR FALSE

The New Testament replaces the Old Testament.

False

Read Matthew 5:17

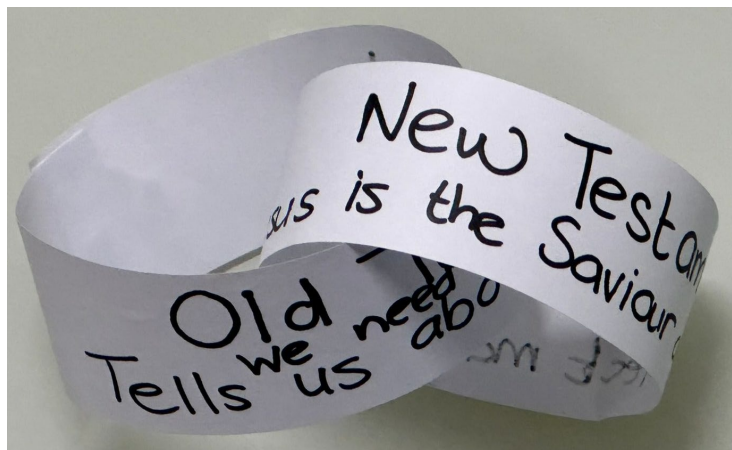
Activity: *Cut out two strips of paper. On one strip, write "Old Testament" and "New Testament" on the other.*

When we read the Old Testament we can see how people sinned over and over again. The Old Testament shows us that we need a Saviour. *(Write "We need a Saviour" on the Old Testament strip of paper)*

Not only does the Old Testament show us that we need a Saviour but it is filled with prophecies, messages from God, of exactly what the Saviour would be like. *(Write "Tells us about the Saviour" on the Old Testament strip of paper.)*

When we read the New Testament we can see that Jesus is that Saviour God promised to send. *(Write "Jesus is the Saviour" on the New Testament strip)* And we can also see that Jesus perfectly matches everything the Old Testament said about Him. *(Write "Jesus perfectly matched what the Saviour would be like" on the New Testament slip)*

So instead of the New Testament replacing the Old Testament they actually link. *(Glue the two strips so that they link together)*



The Old Testament is the start of the story and the New Testament completes it. The New Testament is Jesus fulfilling, or doing, everything God said would happen in the Old Testament.

True or false: The stories we read in the New Testament about who Jesus is and what Jesus did are true stories.

True. The New Testament is a first-hand account from people who lived during the time Jesus was on earth.

For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We saw His majestic splendour with our own eyes. 2 Peter 1:16

TRUE OR FALSE

The stories about who Jesus is and what He did are true.

True

Read 2 Peter 1:16

Activity: *Get three different children to each read one of the following verses from the Bible.*

²¹ One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus Himself was baptized. As He was praying, the heavens opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on Him like a dove. And a voice from Heaven said, "You are My dearly loved Son, and You bring Me great joy. Luke 3:21-22

⁹ One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized Him in the Jordan River. ¹⁰ As Jesus came up out of the water, He saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit descending on Him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice from Heaven said, "You are My dearly loved Son, and You bring Me great joy." Mark 1:9

³² Then John testified, "I saw the Holy Spirit descending like a dove from Heaven and resting upon Him. ³³ I didn't know He was the one, but when God sent me to baptize with water, He told me, 'The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ I saw this happen to Jesus, so I testify that He is the Chosen One of God." John 1:32-34

Some of the stories in the New Testament are written by people who actually saw Jesus do these things. Others are written by people who heard about what Jesus did and were guided by God to accurately write what happened. Everything written about Jesus in the New Testament, really happened.

True or false: The New Testament is written in date order, the order of how things happened.

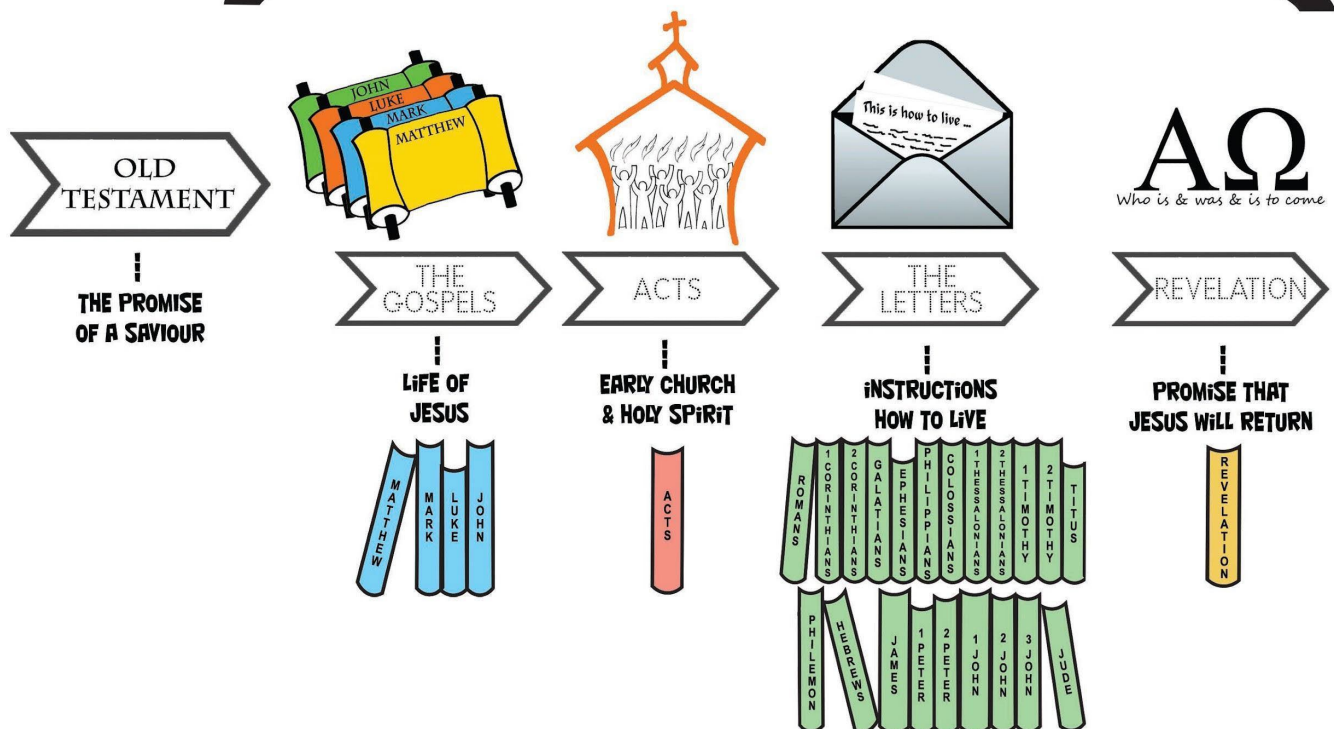
False. The New Testament can be grouped into four main sections:

TRUE OR FALSE

The New Testament is written in date order of how things happened.

False

THE NEW TESTAMENT



o THE GOSPELS (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

Witnesses saw and heard first-hand what Jesus did and were inspired by God to write about Jesus' birth, life, ministry, death and resurrection. This is why some of the stories are repeated in more than one of the gospels. The gospels are also called the "Good News" as they tell of how we can be saved by believing in Jesus. The gospels show us who Jesus is and why He came.

o ACTS

Tells us about the history of the church and how the Holy Spirit is given to God's people to help continue the work Jesus started.

o LETTERS (Romans to Jude)

These are letters written by early church leaders like Paul, Peter, and John. What they wrote was inspired by God. God wanted them to write them to remind,

correct, warn, encourage and teach believers, including us, how to live lives that please Him. The letters make up most of the New Testament.

o REVELATION

This book gives us a glimpse of the final victory against sin and evil. It tells of the promise of Jesus' return as well as what Heaven will be like. The Bible starts with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit and it ends with them living forever too.

Activity: Use the Bible to answer the following true and false questions about the New Testament.

True and false

- The book before 1 Corinthians is Colossians.
False. Romans.
- Revelation is the last Book of the New Testament.
True

- There are 30 books in the New Testament.
False, there are 27 books.

- The biggest section in the New Testament is the Letters.
True, from Romans to Jude.

- The first book in the New Testament is Mark.
False, the first book is Matthew.

TRUE OR FALSE

The book before 1
Corinthians is
Colossians.

False

TRUE OR FALSE

Revelation is the
last book of the
New Testament.

True

TRUE OR FALSE

There are 30 books
in the New
Testament.

False

TRUE OR FALSE

The biggest section in
the New Testament is
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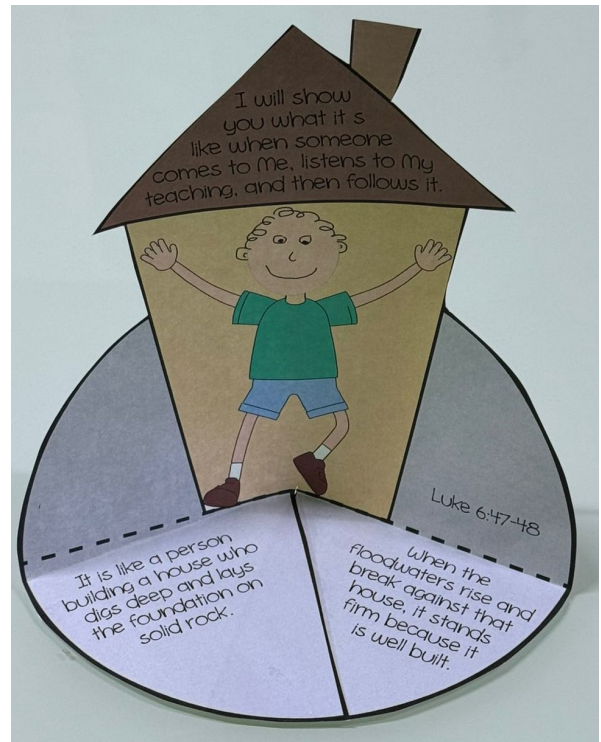
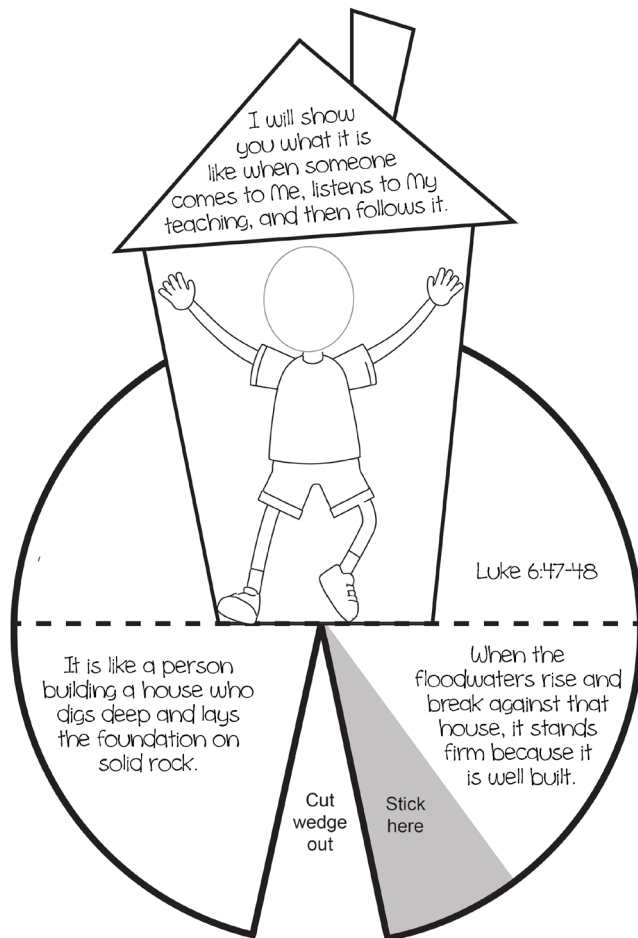
False

4) Review Questions:

- a) How does the Old Testament link to the New Testament? *The Old Testament shows us that we need a Saviour and exactly who He would be. The New Testament tells us about how Jesus is that Saviour!*
- b) Why are the Gospels also known as the Good News? *As they tell us about how Jesus took away our sin by dying on the cross and coming alive again - and that is GOOD NEWS!*
- c) Use the "True and False" cards as review questions.

5) Craft

Option 1: Firm Standing House



Option 2: True or False Cards

Children use the Bible to make their own "True or False" cards and have fun asking each other about the New Testament.

TRUE OR FALSE	TRUE OR FALSE
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Lesson 2: Who is Jesus? (The Gospels)

Main focus for the lesson:

- The Gospels help us find out who Jesus is.
- Jesus is “Lord”, “Saviour”, “Immanuel”, “Messiah” and “Son of God”.

1) Memory Verse

- Matthew 16:15-16

“Then He asked them, “But who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah the Son of the living God.”

Idea to teach the memory verse.

Children dance around while the music is playing and when the music stops everyone stands still and freezes. Leader asks “Who do you say Jesus is” and the children reply, “Jesus is the Messiah the Son of the living God.”

2) Hands on

What you will need:

- Nativity scene (Mary, innkeeper, baby in a manger, three kings)
- Bible



Leader 1	<i>(Serious detective voice)</i> We’ve got a BIG case to solve — “Who is Jesus?” Hmm... where should we look?
Leader 2	Oh that’s easy! THE CHRISTMAS STORY!! <i>(pulls out a nativity scene with a big TA-DA!)</i>
Leader 1	<i>(Starts to open Bible)</i> Um, I was going to say maybe we should...
Leader 2	<i>(Quickly interrupts)</i> No need! I’ll tell you the WHOLE thing. You can... uh... double check in your Bible if you want. <i>(Sets the figures in place as he names them)</i> So Mary is SUPER pregnant... she rides a donkey into Bethlehem... and the innkeeper says in a deep voice: “There’s no room in the Inn!”
Leader 1	<i>(Looking in the Bible)</i> Umm... actually... there’s no innkeeper. It only says “There was no lodging available for them.” Luke 2:7 No grumpy innkeeper... no door shutting in their faces... <i>(Remove innkeeper from the scene.)</i>
Leader 2	Wait... what?! I’ve been acting that scene out for years! Well... then the three wise men show up, right? <i>(Plonks three wise men next to the baby in the manger)</i>

Leader 1	<p>WRONG again! <i>(Reads from the Bible)</i></p> <p>It says "They entered the HOUSE and saw the child with His mother, Mary." Matthew 2:11</p> <p>The wise men went to a house — not a stable! And it might have been months or even years later! <i>(Remove the kings)</i></p>
Leader 2	<i>(Acts all dramatic and falls to the floor)</i> My whole LIFE is a lie!
Leader 1	<p>And... it never even says there were three wise men. It just says three gifts!</p> <p>"They opened their treasure chests and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Matthew 2:11</p>
Leader 2	<p><i>(Throws hands in the air)</i></p> <p>This is crazy! How can we know what REALLY happened?</p>
Leader 1	<p><i>(Holds the Bible up high)</i></p> <p>This is how! The Bible tells the real story — about Jesus' birth, His life, His death, and His resurrection!</p> <p>And the BEST part? It's not just a story. It's TRUE. Jesus really came. He really died for us. He really rose again. And He's still alive today!</p> <p>So if you ever wonder "Who is Jesus?" — don't just guess...</p>
Leader 2	READ THE BIBLE! <i>(Grabs the Bible from Leader 1 and exits reading it.)</i>

3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- Cards explaining the meaning of the words "Saviour", "Lord", "Immanuel", "Messiah" and "Son of God".
- Story cards to build the timeline of Jesus' life as per the Gospels.

The aim is to make a timeline of Jesus' life to show how the Gospels help us answer the question "Who is Jesus?". First, make sure the children understand what the titles "Saviour", "Lord", "Immanuel", "Messiah" and "Son of God" mean.

Next, build the timeline by using a piece of string or lay the pictures on the ground and let the children walk from one to the other. Leave spaces between the pictures. In each gap, talk about what that part of Jesus' life teaches us about who He is. For example: When you reach the picture of Jesus' birth, you can explain, "His birth shows us that Jesus is Immanuel – God with us."



Jesus asked Peter “Who do you say I am?” and Peter got the answer right. Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God!

Peter knew this because God had revealed, or made this known, to him. We need to know who Jesus is. The Bible is God’s message to us and it tells all about Jesus. The Gospel section in the New Testament is a great place to learn all about Jesus’ birth, life, death and resurrection.

The Old Testament gave us many promises: Promises that Christ the Messiah would come. He would be Immanuel, Lord over all and the Saviour of the world. When we read the New Testament again we read these words: “Saviour”, “Lord”, “Immanuel” and “Messiah”. But what do these actually mean? And who is this person?



THE GOSPELS

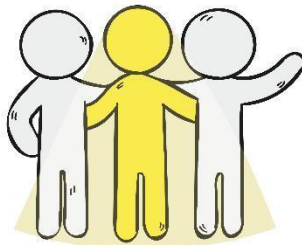
LIFE OF JESUS



Go through each of these cards to explain what they mean. Spend some time helping them learn them by heart. E.g. You can say the name and they must point to the picture or you say the meaning, “The only one who can rescue people from sin” and they say the name “Saviour”. You could also add actions such as Immanuel: hold arms around each other; Messiah: hold your hands up like you’re praising; Lord: place your hands like a crown on your head; Son of God: fold arms like you are carrying a baby; Saviour: pull strong muscles.

Immanuel

God with us



All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through His prophet: “Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” Matthew 1:22-23

Messiah

God’s chosen and anointed King to carry out His purpose and will



The woman said, “I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ! When He comes, He will explain everything to us.” Then Jesus told her, “I AM the Messiah!” John 4: 25-26

Lord

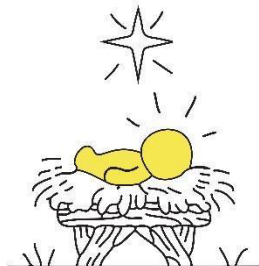
The one God has put in charge of everyone and everything



The Saviour—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! Luke 2:11

Son of God

God’s Son



The Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on Him like a dove. And a voice from Heaven said, “You are My dearly loved Son, and you bring Me great joy.” Luke 3:22

Saviour

The only one who can rescue people from sin



And she will have a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins. Matthew 1:21

Next place the cards shown above and the story cards face down and muddle them up. **Without the children turning them over**, get them to try and match the cards to their pairs.

If we kept on trying to match these we would probably never match them perfectly! But out of all the promises that the Old Testament made about the Saviour, Immanuel, Lord, Son of God and Saviour, the New Testament shows us that Jesus matched them perfectly. Let's read from the Gospels about Jesus' life and what it tells us about who He is.

Story Card

JESUS IS BORN

All of this occurred to fulfil the Lord's message through His prophet: "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a Son, and they will call Him **Immanuel**, which means 'God is with us.' Matthew 1:22-23



Matching card

Immanuel

God with us



All of this occurred to fulfil the Lord's message through His prophet: "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and they will call Him **Immanuel**, which means 'God is with us.' Matthew 1:22-23

We can read the story of Jesus' birth in Matthew and Luke. It was exactly like the Old Testament said it would be. Jesus' birth shows us that He is Immanuel – God is with us.

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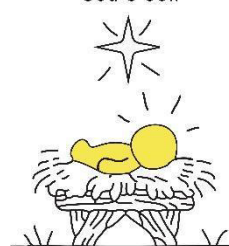
JESUS IS BAPTISED

One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus Himself was baptized. As He was praying, the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on Him like a dove. And a voice from Heaven said, "**You are My dearly loved Son**, and You bring Me great joy. Luke 3:21-22



Son of God

God's Son



The Holy Spirit in bodily form, descended on Him like a dove. And a voice from Heaven said, "You are My dearly loved Son, and You bring Me great joy. Luke 3:22

Jesus was baptised, just like God wants us to be baptised too. Jesus' baptism shows us that Jesus is God's Son.

One day when the crowds were being baptised, Jesus Himself was baptized. As He was praying, the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on Him like a dove. And a voice from Heaven said, "**You are My dearly loved Son**, and You bring Me great joy. Luke 3:21-22

JESUS TEACHES AND HEALS

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at His teaching, for He taught with real **authority**—quite unlike their teachers of religious law. Matthew 7:28

Suddenly, a man with leprosy approached Him and knelt before Him. "Lord," the man said, "if You are willing, You can heal me and make me clean." Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," He said. "Be healed!" And instantly the leprosy disappeared. Matthew 8:2-3



Lord

The one God has put in charge of everyone and everything



The Saviour—yes, the Messiah, the Lord has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! (Luke 2:11)

The Gospels tell us how Jesus travelled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And He healed every kind of disease and illness. Matthew 4:23

The Gospels show us that Jesus taught and healed people with authority and as the person in charge over everything. They show us that Jesus is Lord! He was Lord then and He is still Lord now, as He still teaches us and heals people today.

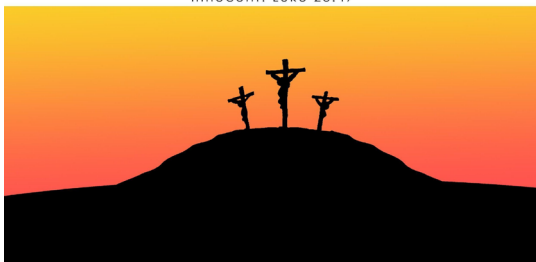
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JESUS IS KILLED

The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. "He saved others," they said, "let Him save Himself if He is really God's Messiah, the Chosen One." Luke 23:35

When the Roman officer overseeing the execution saw what had happened, he worshiped God and said, "Surely this Man was innocent." Luke 23:47



Messiah

God's chosen and anointed King to carry out His purpose and will



The woman said, "I know the Messiah is coming—the one who is called Christ. When He comes, He will explain everything to us." Then Jesus told her, "I AM the Messiah!" John 4:25-26

God chose Jesus to save people from being punished for their sins. Some people mocked Jesus for saying He was God's Chosen One. But in the last moment as He died many of them realised He truly was the Messiah, and they worshipped Him.

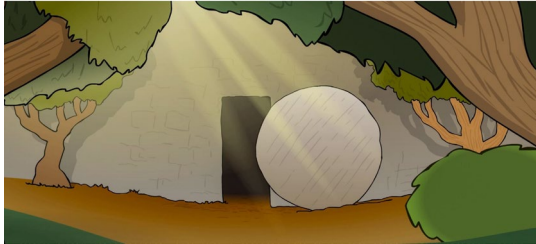
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JESUS IS ALIVE

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to **save** the world through Him. John 3:16-17

"Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as He said would happen. Matthew 28:5-6



Saviour

The only one who can rescue people from sin



And she will have a Son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins. Matthew 1:21

One of the most important reasons Jesus came was so our sins might be forgiven so we can live with God forever. Jesus did this by dying on the cross and coming alive again. Because of what Jesus did we are rescued from our sin forever (even ones we have not yet done.) Jesus is the Saviour!

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to **save** the world through Him. John 3:16-17

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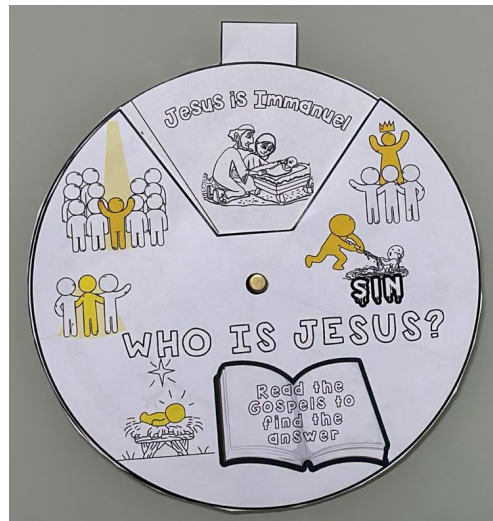
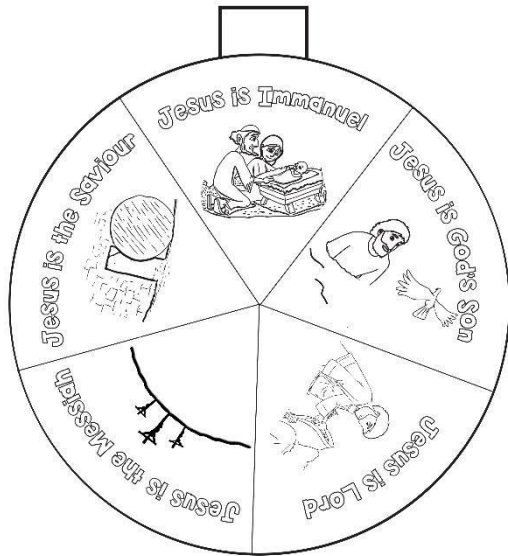
We have only looked at a few stories from the Gospels. There is still so much more they tell us about Jesus: How He lived a perfect life, what He taught and most importantly who He is. And the best way for you to find out more is to... read it yourself.

4) Review Questions:

- What do the words "Saviour", "Lord", "Immanuel" and "Messiah" mean? *(Let the children use the posters to answer if needed. Younger children can point to the picture)*
- Who is our Saviour? Lord? Immanuel? Messiah? *(Jesus!)*
- Where is a good place to start to find out who Jesus is? *(The Bible, New Testament or the Gospels)*

5) Craft

Option 1: Spinner wheel (Who is Jesus?)



Option 2: Life of Jesus Timeline

The children make their own timeline using the pictures from the story.

JESUS IS BORN

All of this occurred to fulfil the Lord's message through His prophet: "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a Son, and they will call Him **Immanuel**, which means 'God is with us.' Matthew 1:22-23



JESUS IS BAPTISED

One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus Himself was baptized. As He was praying, the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on Him like a dove. And a voice from Heaven said, "**You are My dearly loved Son**, and You bring Me great joy. Luke 3:21-22



JESUS TEACHES AND HEALS

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at His teaching, for He taught with real **authority**—quite unlike their teachers of religious law. Matthew 7:28

Suddenly, a man with leprosy approached Him and knelt before Him. "**Lord**," the man said, "if You are willing, You can heal me and make me clean." Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," He said. "Be healed!" And instantly the leprosy disappeared. Matthew 8:2-3



JESUS IS KILLED

The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. "He saved others," they said, "let Him save Himself if He is really God's **Messiah**, the Chosen One." Luke 23:35

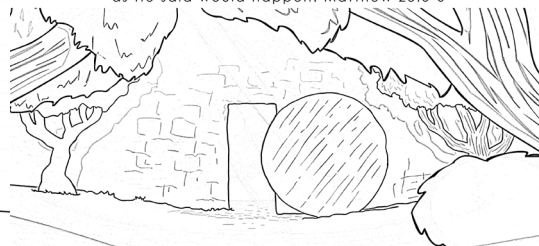
When the Roman officer overseeing the execution saw what had happened, he worshiped God and said, "Surely this Man was innocent. Luke 23:47



JESUS IS ALIVE

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to **save** the world through Him. John 3:16-17

"Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as He said would happen. Matthew 28:5-6



Lesson 3: Jesus taught us (The Gospels)

Main focus for the lesson:

- Jesus is our greatest teacher.
- Jesus teaches us to be different.
- What Jesus taught many years ago still is very important and applies to us today.

1) Memory Verse

- Matthew 5:14

Jesus said “You are the light of the world - like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.”

Idea to teach the memory verse.

What you will need:

- A torch

Write the words of the verse on pieces of paper and stick them up. Shine the torch on each one as the children repeat the verse. Do this a few times.

Now the leader shines the torch on a child or group of children and says, “You are the light of the world” and the children must say the rest of the verse: “Like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.”

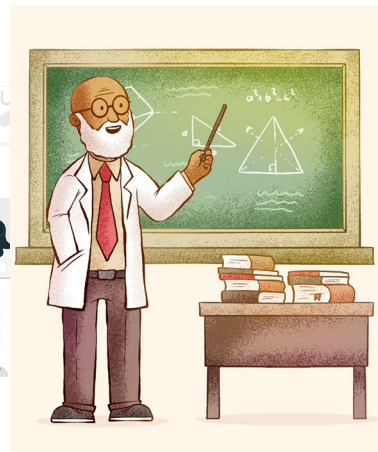
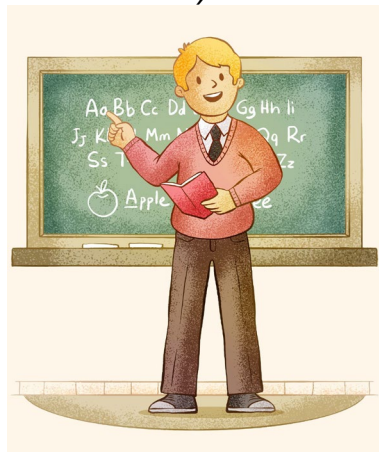
Because we have Jesus in our hearts and we live for Him and for His kingdom we need to be different and we need to shine our light for Him.

2) Hands on

What you will need:

- Pictures of different teachers
- Pictures of Jesus teaching people in different places

Show the pictures and ask the children what they all have in common. (*They are all teachers*)



Do you have a teacher? What is a teacher? *(A teacher is someone who helps us know and understand facts and how to do things.)*

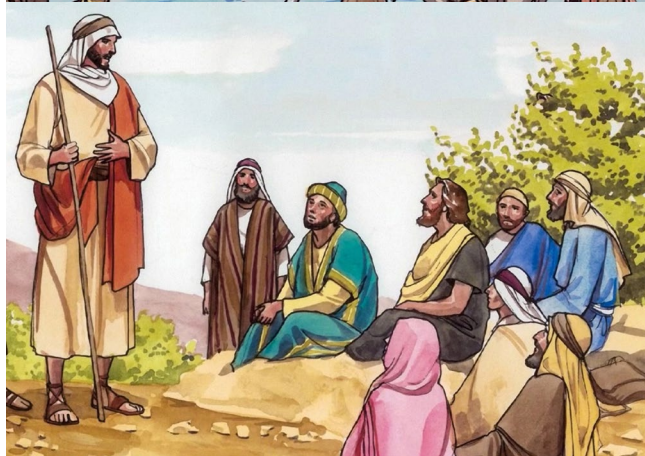
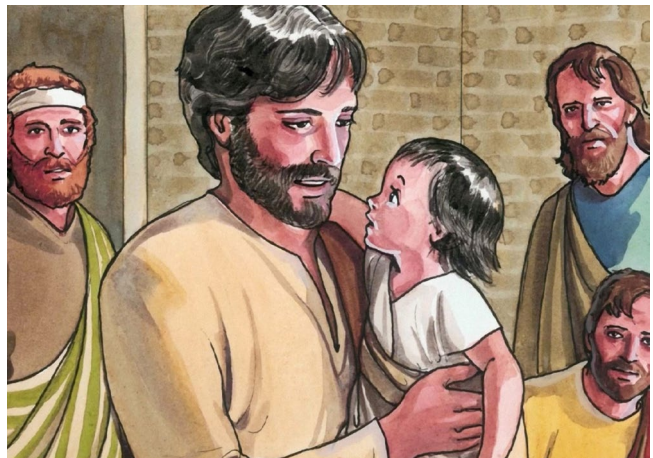
Did you know that Jesus was a teacher too? But He didn't teach maths and geography. He taught people about God and how much God loves us. He taught people how to love God and each other.

Jesus isn't just any teacher, He is the greatest teacher that we will ever have. Jesus taught with authority and power.

The people were amazed at His teaching, for He taught with real authority—quite unlike the teachers of religious law. Mark 1:22

Even those who had heard teachings about God before were amazed by what Jesus taught. This was because Jesus didn't just teach us how to be good people, Jesus taught us how to **be different!** Jesus taught us how to be perfect like His Father. Jesus taught us how to act like children of God.

Jesus didn't just teach some people in one place. Jesus taught everyone everywhere He went. He taught on boats, in people's homes, on the road, in the fields and even on the side of mountains! *(Show the pictures of the various places Jesus taught).*





Jesus started teaching when He was only twelve years old and He still teaches us today! He really is the greatest teacher! Today let's see how Jesus taught us to **be different**.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- Scenario cards printed back to back

BE DIFFERENT

If you forgive those who sin against you, your Heavenly Father will forgive you.
Matthew 6:14

Forgive them like you want to be forgiven. E.g. Take a deep breath. Forgive them. Talk kindly instead of shouting.

BE DIFFERENT

Don't judge others and you will not be judged.
Matthew 7:1

Don't judge people who are different from you. E.g. Instead of staring or pointing, you smile and say "Hello".

BE DIFFERENT

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need.
Matthew 6:33

Don't worry about impressing people, focus on pleasing God.

BE DIFFERENT

God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
Matthew 5:7

Be honest and forgiving, even when it's hard. E.g. Don't lie back. Stay calm. Tell the truth kindly. Forgive them even if they don't say sorry.

BE DIFFERENT

Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you.
Matthew 7:12

Choose kindness and put others first. E.g. Let the other person go first. Offer to push them. Ask if you can have a turn after them.

BE DIFFERENT

God blesses those whose hearts are pure for they will see God.
Matthew 5:8

Be honest even when no one is looking. E.g. Do your own work even if you get it wrong.

BE DIFFERENT

Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.
Matthew 6:4

Do good things because it's right and brings glory to God, not for attention. E.g. Bring sandwiches and give it to the teacher without the others seeing.

BE DIFFERENT

But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! Matthew 5:44

Love everyone, even your enemies. E.g. instead of calling them names back, you choose to say nothing mean and even pray

BE DIFFERENT

You are the light of the world.
Matthew 5:14

Let your actions show that you are a child of God. E.g. Encourage your team to be good sports, congratulate the other team when they score.

<p>SCENARIO</p> <p>You see someone who looks and acts different from you.</p> <p>What do you do to be different?</p>	<p>SCENARIO</p> <p>You can see someone else's answers to the test. No one will know if you cheat.</p> <p>What do you do to be different?</p>
<p>SCENARIO</p> <p>Your sibling takes something of yours and breaks it. You're really mad.</p> <p>What do you do to be different?</p>	<p>SCENARIO</p> <p>You and someone else go to swing at the same time.</p> <p>What do you do to be different?</p>
<p>SCENARIO</p> <p>Your friend lies about something and blames you. Everyone believes them and you're upset.</p> <p>What do you do to be different?</p>	<p>SCENARIO</p> <p>A classmate calls you a hurtful name and leaves you out of a game.</p> <p>What do you do to be different?</p>
<p>SCENARIO</p> <p>Everyone's talking about how to get more followers or likes online. They say you're not cool if you don't.</p> <p>What do you do to be different?</p>	<p>SCENARIO</p> <p>Your school says the person who donates the most sandwiches gets a prize.</p> <p>What do you do to be different?</p>

SCENARIO

Your teammates are "smack talking" the other team.

What do you do to be different?

One day, Jesus went up a mountain to teach His disciples and a big crowd of people gathered to listen to Him too. Moms, dads, children, workers, poor people, sick people and all kinds of people had all come to learn from Jesus. This teaching is known as "The Sermon on the Mount" and although it was taught

thousands of years ago, everything that Jesus taught is still very important to us today. How amazing is that!

The people were amazed at His teaching, for He taught with real authority—quite unlike the teachers of religious law. Mark 1:22

Jesus' lessons teach us how to live as true children of God. He teaches us to be different and stand out by doing what is right. We can find the "sermon on the Mount" in the Book of Matthew, chapters 5-7. Let's take a look at some ways Jesus teaches us to **be different**.

- **Shine for Jesus**

If it is pitch black that you cannot even see your hand in front of your face, what do you do? Sit down and cry? Or head to where you can see light? Jesus taught us that we are the light! Not we can be or should be. We are the light that helps other people change from not knowing who God is to praising Him.

Jesus teaches us how we need to be an example to the world in the way we act, speak, have pure hearts and do everything to bring peace and show love to others.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your Heavenly Father. Matthew 5:14-16

Scenario: Your teammates are "smack talking" the other team. What do you do to **be different?** (*Let the children answer E.g. Encourage your team to be good sports, congratulate the other team when they score.*)

Be different: Let your actions show that you are a child of God.

- **Love everyone**

Is it good to be kind to people? Is it good to love people? Yes! Jesus loves everyone and wants us to love others too. In fact, it is one of the most important commands that Jesus wants us to follow. Most of us have been taught that since we were young but let's read *who* Jesus teaches us to love.

⁴³ "You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbour' and hate your enemy. ⁴⁴ But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!

⁴⁵ In that way, you will be **acting as true children of your Father in Heaven**. For He gives His sunlight to both the evil and the good, and He sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. ⁴⁶ If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. ⁴⁷ If you are kind only to your friends, how are you **different from anyone else?** Even

pagans do that. ⁴⁸ But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in Heaven is perfect. Matthew 5:43-48

Jesus teaches us not only to love the people we want to love. He teaches us to be different and love everyone, even our enemies!

Scenario: A classmate calls you a hurtful name and leaves you out of a game. What do you do to **be different**? *(Let the children answer E.g. instead of calling them names back, you choose to say nothing mean and even pray for them later.)*

Jesus set the perfect example of how to love so we know how to love others too. He even loved those who persecuted Him.

Be different: Love everyone, even your enemies.

- **Do good things humbly.**

Is it good to be generous? Yes. Is it good to pray? Yes. Jesus did these things and Jesus wants us to do them too. We do these good things so that everyone will praise God.

In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your Heavenly Father. Matthew 5:16

But Jesus also taught us that there is a wrong way to do these things. Let's read what Jesus taught.

¹“Watch out! Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in Heaven. ² When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. ³ But when you give to someone in need, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. ⁴ Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you. Matthew 6:1-4

Scenario: Your school says the person who donates the most sandwiches gets a prize. What do you do to **be different**? *(Let the children answer. E.g. Bring sandwiches and give it to the teacher without the others seeing. Donate the prize back. Give your sandwiches to someone else to hand in.)*

Be different: Do good things because it's right and brings glory to God, not for attention.

These are just three of the things Jesus taught on the mountain. Imagine how much more we learn when we read it for ourselves from the Bible.

Hand out the scenario cards to a small group of children. Give them time to discuss what they would do to be different like Jesus wants them to.

Scenario	What do you do to be different?	Be different and...	Verse
Your friend lies about something and blames you. Everyone believes them and you're upset.	Don't lie back. Stay calm. Tell the truth kindly. Forgive them even if they don't say sorry.	Be honest and forgiving, even when it's hard.	God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Matthew 5:7
Everyone's talking about how to get more followers or likes online. They say you're not cool if you don't post often.	Don't worry about being popular. Focus on being kind. Take a break from screens.	Don't worry about impressing people, focus on pleasing God.	Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need. Matthew 6:33
You can see someone else's answers to the test. No one will know if you cheat.	Do your own work even if it's wrong.	Be honest even when no one is looking.	God blesses those whose hearts are pure for they will see God. Matthew 5:8
Your sibling takes something of yours and breaks it. You're really mad.	Take a deep breath. Forgive them. Talk kindly instead of shouting.	Forgive them like you want to be forgiven.	If you forgive those who sin against you, your Heavenly Father will forgive you. Matthew 6:14
You and someone else go to swing at the same time.	Let the other person go first. Offer to push them. Ask if you can have a turn after them.	Choose kindness and put others first.	Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. Matthew 7:12
You see someone who looks and acts different from you.	Instead of staring or pointing, you smile and say "Hello".	Don't judge people who are different from you.	Don't judge others and you will not be judged. Matthew 7:1

4) Review Questions:

Use the scenario cards to help the children understand how to “be different” for Jesus.

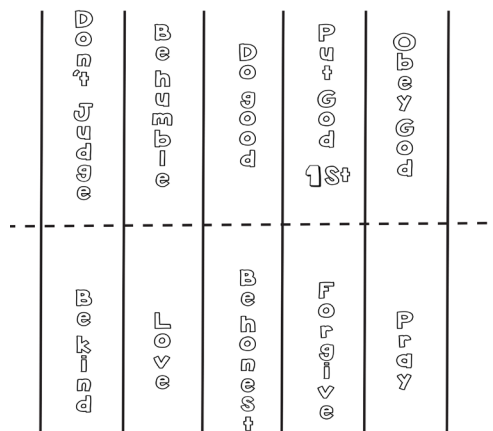
5) Craft

Option 1: Paper lantern (Shine for Jesus)

- 1) Cut off the long strip “Shine for Jesus” to add as a handle at the end.
- 2) Fold the page along the dotted line.
- 3) Cut along the solid lines but do not go all the way to the end.
- 4) Glue the end pieces together to form the lantern.
- 5) Now add the handle and remember to shine for Jesus.



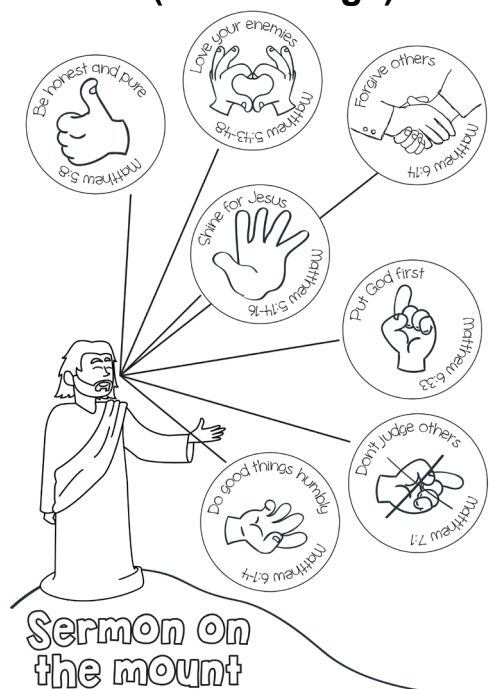
SHINE FOR JESUS



BE DIFFERENT

Jesus said “You are the light of the world - like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.” Matthew 5:14

Option 2: Sermon on the mount (Colour Page)



Lesson 4: The Character of Jesus (The Gospels)

Main focus for the lesson:

- The Gospels show us who Jesus is and His character.
- Jesus shows us who God is.
- By knowing who Jesus is, we can start to become more like Him with the help of the Holy Spirit.

1) Memory Verse

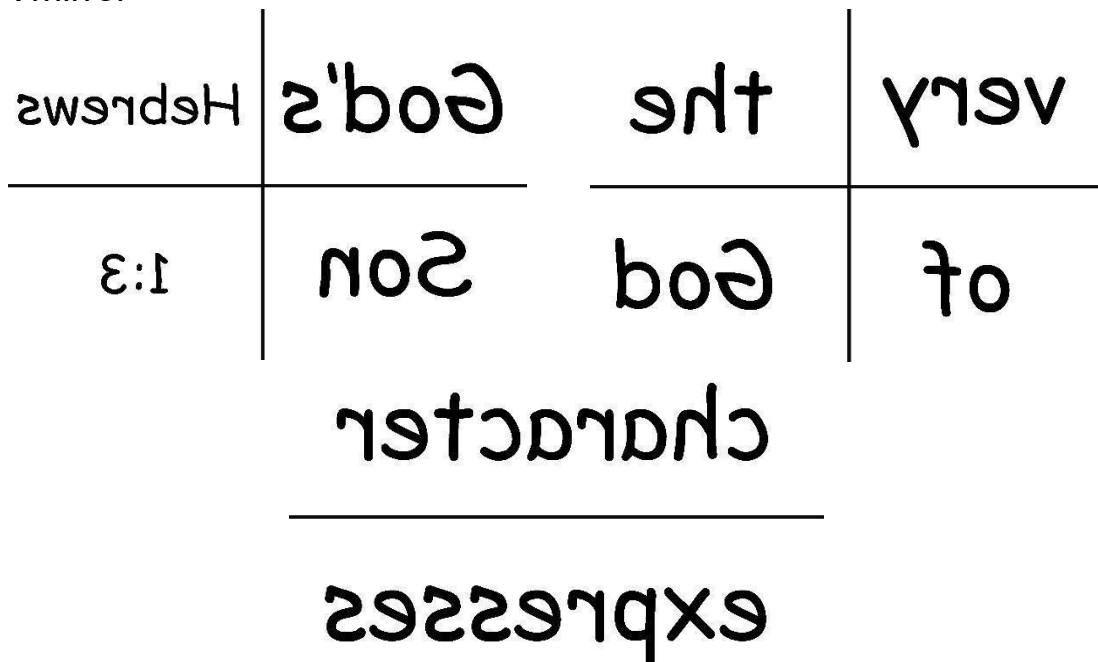
- Hebrews 1:3

'The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and He sustains everything by the mighty power of His command.'

Idea to teach the memory verse.

What you will need:

- Sets of mirrored verse cards
- A mirror



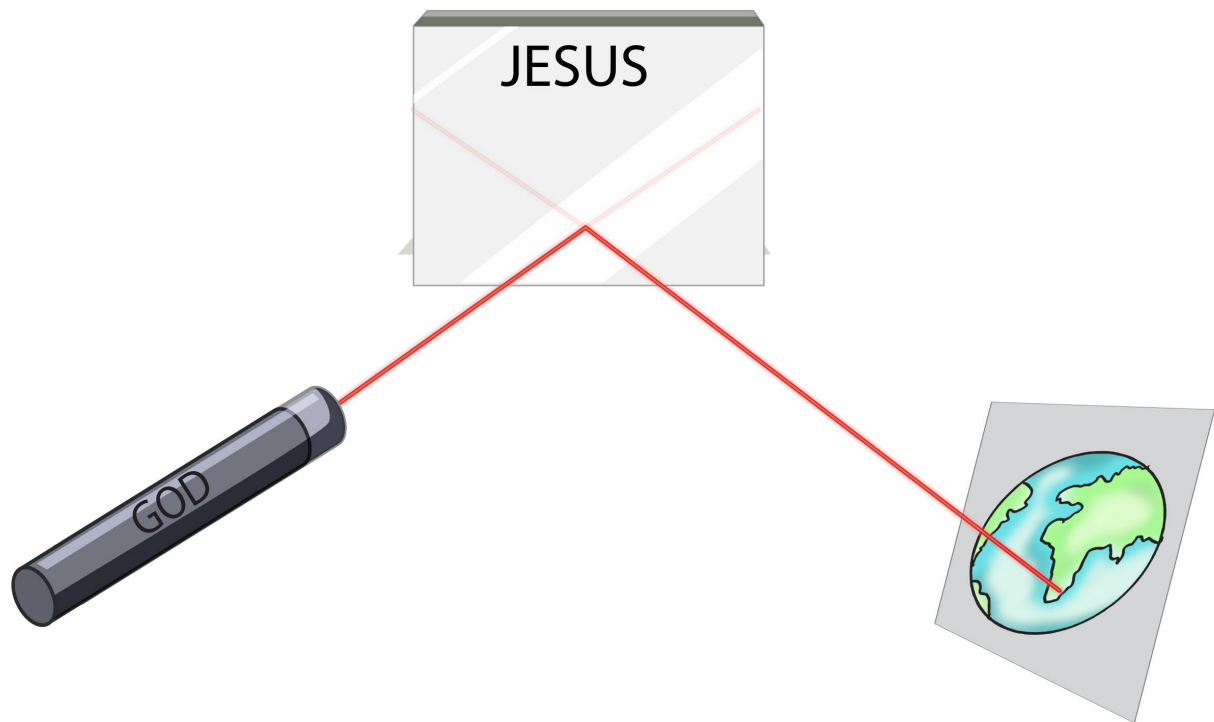
The verse has been shortened to **"God's Son expresses the very character of God."** Hebrews 1:3

- 1) Split the children into teams and have them line up. Each team will need a set of the mirrored memory verse cards stacked in order.
- 2) The first player from each team runs to their team's pile, grabs the top card, and holds it up to a mirror to read the word. Once they figure out the word, they run back to their team and everyone shouts the word together.
- 3) The next person in line can only go once the whole team has shouted all the words they've gotten so far in order.
- 4) Keep going until every card is used and the team is shouting the full Bible verse out loud!

2) Hands On

What you will need:

- Laser (Labelled “God”)
- Mirror (Label it “Jesus” and later add “Us filled with the Holy Spirit”)
- Picture of the World



In the four books Matthew, Mark, Luke and John (known as the Gospels), we can see the character of Jesus. We see that Jesus is loving, humble, honest, faithful and so much more!

'The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and He sustains everything by the mighty power of His command.'
Hebrews 1:3

Hebrews 1:3 tells us that Jesus reflects the very character of God, so when we read about the character of Jesus we are reading about the character of God. *(Shine the laser labelled “God” onto the mirror labelled “Jesus” and hold the picture of the World so the reflected light from the laser shines on it).* Just like this, Jesus shows us the character of God.

Jesus wants us to reflect God's character too, so much so that when He went back to Heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit. He lives in us and helps us to reflect God's character to everyone else. *(Shine the laser onto the mirror now labelled “Us filled with the Holy Spirit” and reflect it onto the picture of the World.)*

His life is also a perfect example to follow and so it is important for us to get know Jesus more and more. A great place to start is to read the four Gospels, which tell us all about who Jesus is and what He has done. So get reading and reflect God to everyone!

3) Bible Story + Lesson

Show the picture and tell the story to the point where the children have to decide what Jesus did next. Then add in the picture of Jesus and discuss how the Gospels show us Jesus' character.

The first four books of the New Testament are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They are known as the Gospels. These books tell us about Jesus' life while He was on Earth. When we read them we are not only learning stories about Him but rather we are getting to know who Jesus really is. And as we get to know Him more, we can ask the Holy Spirit to help us show that same love, faithfulness and forgiveness in our own lives.

- **Jesus helps**

A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. "If You are willing, You can heal me and make me clean," he said. Mark 1: 40

(Show picture of leper)

Leprosy is a terrible disease. You get big sores, your skin rots so you smell really bad and your fingers can even fall off. Nobody wanted to ever get that sickness and so people who did have leprosy were chased away from their families and friends and even out of town. So this lonely and desperate man begs Jesus for help.



Do you think Jesus will help Him? Why? What do you know about Jesus that makes you think this? *(Let the children answer)* We know Jesus' character. He is kind, loving, compassionate and willing to heal. He is always willing to help us. Let's read what Jesus did.

Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," He said. "Be healed!" Instantly the leprosy disappeared, and the man was healed. Mark 1:41



Jesus could have avoided the leper like everyone else. Jesus could have just told the leper he was healed. But He did something unexpected. Jesus **reached out** His hand and **touched** the man and then He healed Him. Jesus showed that He loves everyone, and He wants to help.

(Stick on picture of Jesus touching and healing the leper)

- **Jesus puts others first**

³⁰ The apostles returned to Jesus from their ministry tour and told Him all they had done and taught. ³¹ Then Jesus said, "Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile." He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and His apostles didn't even have time to eat.

³² So they left by boat for a quiet place, where they could be alone. ³³ But many people recognized them and saw them leaving, and people from many towns ran ahead along the shore and got there ahead of them. ³⁴ Jesus saw the huge crowd as He stepped from the boat...
(Show the picture of the huge crowd)



What do you think Jesus did next? What do you know about Jesus that makes you think this? (Let the children answer. We know Jesus's character. He loves people. He puts others before Himself.) Let's read what Jesus did.

...and He had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So He began teaching them many things. Mark 6:30-34



Jesus was exhausted and hungry so we would understand if He sent the crowds away or tried to sneak off. But Jesus loved others and put others first.

(Stick on the picture of Jesus teaching the crowd)

- **Jesus is faithful**

Jesus knew He was about to be arrested and sent to the cross so He spent time praying to God, saying, 'Father, if You are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from Me. Yet I want Your will to be done, not Mine.' Luke 22:42.

Then soldiers came to arrest Him and when the disciples saw what was about to happen they exclaimed, "Lord, should we fight? We brought the swords!"

What do you think Jesus did next? What do you know about Jesus that makes you think this? (Let the children answer.)



Jesus loved God and He was faithful to God. To be faithful means you are loyal to someone and you do what you say you are going to do. Jesus did not want to be arrested and killed but He wanted to be faithful and do God's will.



Jesus didn't run or fight. He let Himself be arrested – not because He had to, but because He chose to. He had said He wanted God's will to be done and He was faithful to do God's plan, even when it was hard and scary.
(Stick on the picture of Jesus being arrested)

So they arrested Him and led Him to the high priest's home. Luke 22:54

In allowing this to happen Jesus was also faithful to us too as He died for our sins just like He said He would.

- **Jesus is forgiving**

Jesus was brought before the Roman governor, Pilate.

Pilate turned to the leading priests and to the crowd and said, "I find nothing wrong with this man!" Luke 23:4

But the people still insisted that Jesus be found guilty and killed. The soldiers mocked, whipped and treated Jesus very badly before they nailed Him to the cross.

(Show picture of the soldiers mocking Jesus)



What do you think Jesus said to them? What do you know about Jesus that makes you think this? (Let the children answer) Jesus loves all people, even sinners.

We would understand if Jesus shouted mean things at them or defended Himself but that is not what He did.



Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." Luke 23:34

Even while on the cross and even while the people were punishing Jesus, He still showed them love and forgiveness.

(Stick on speech bubble of what Jesus said)

Wow. Just three stories from the Gospels show us Jesus' character and how amazing He is. And there is so much more to learn and love about Him so it's time to get reading!

4) Review Questions

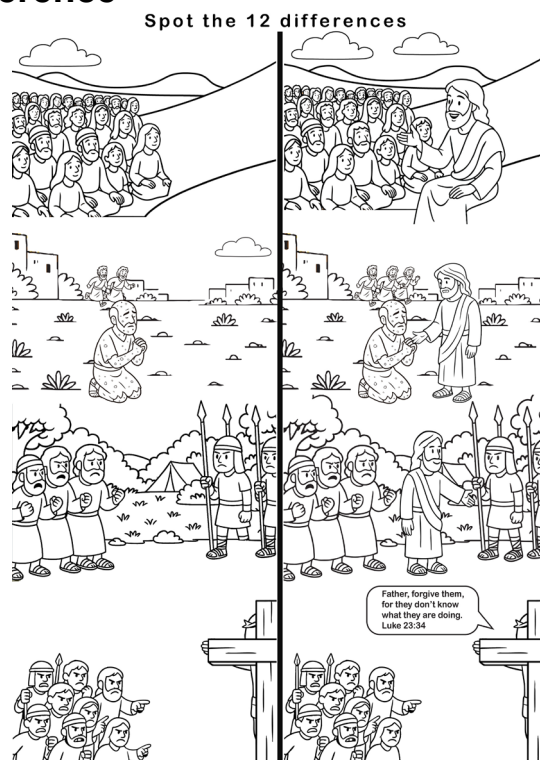
- What four books make up the Gospels? (*Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.*)
- How can we get to know Jesus more? (*By reading the Bible, especially the Gospels in the New Testament.*)
- How can we become more like Jesus in our everyday lives? (*Knowing Jesus more and knowing His character so we know the example we need to follow and asking the Holy Spirit to help us.*)
- What do you know about Jesus? Who can you tell?

5) Crafts

Option 1: Follow Jesus Footprints



Option 2: Spot the difference



Lesson 5: So we will believe in Jesus (John)

Main focus for the lesson:

- The Book of John tells us about the miracles Jesus did.
- Jesus did miracles so that we see and believe He is God's Son.
- Those who believe in and follow Jesus, God's Son, have eternal life.

1) Memory Verse

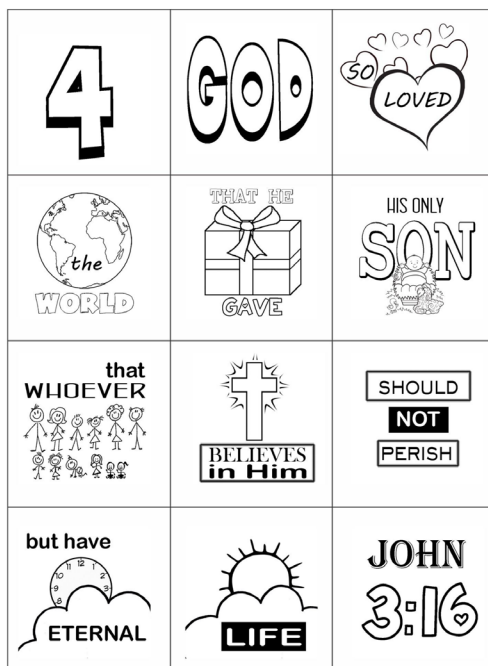
- John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.”

Idea to teach the memory verse.

Get volunteers to stand in line each holding a card from the verse. Once the children have repeated it a few times, mix everyone up and let the children put them in the correct order again.

These cards can be used as a craft, where the children can use them as a memory match game.



2) Hands on

What you will need:

- A glass of water
- A piece of cardboard, big enough to cover the rim of the glass

(Show the glass of water and the cardboard.) If I told you that this piece of paper could stop the water from pouring out of the glass would you believe me? *(Allow the children to respond.)* You would want proof, right?

(Hold the piece of card over the glass and carefully turn it upside down. Slowly take your hand out from under the paper and the water stays in the glass!)

Now do you believe me? In the same way when Jesus told the people that He and God were one, and that He was God's son the people didn't believe Him either. They wanted proof too.

¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words I speak are not My own, but My Father who lives in Me does His work through Me. ¹¹ Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me. Or at least believe it because of the work you have seen Me do." John 24:10-11

Jesus did miracles, not to amaze people or make Him famous but as proof to show that He is God's son. They are one! The same power that God has, Jesus has too. John wrote many of these miracles down in the Book of John so that we would know and believe that Jesus is God's son too.



3) Bible Story + Lesson

There are four books that make up the Gospels section and the Book of John is one of them. Listen to this verse and see if you can work out what John's purpose was for writing this book.

"The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in Him you will have life by the power of His name." John 20:30-31

John knew the only way for us to be saved from our sins was to **believe** in Jesus. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that whoever **believes** in Him will not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

John really wanted us to realise how important it is for us to believe that Jesus is God's son who saves us from our sin. In fact, John wrote the word "BELIEVE" 93 times!

Today, as I'm telling you some stories from the Book of John, and when you hear me ask "So why did Jesus show God's **POWER**?" I want you to stand up and shout "So that we will **BELIEVE**!". (*Practice a few times with the children*)



The very first miracle that Jesus did was at a wedding. When all the wine had run out, Jesus turned water into wine; the best wine anyone had ever tasted! Only God has the power to do miracles. The disciples and Jesus' mom saw what had happened. Let's read and see how they reacted.

¹¹ This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed His glory. And His disciples believed in Him. John 2:11

So why did Jesus show God's **POWER**? (*Children react "So that we will BELIEVE!"*)



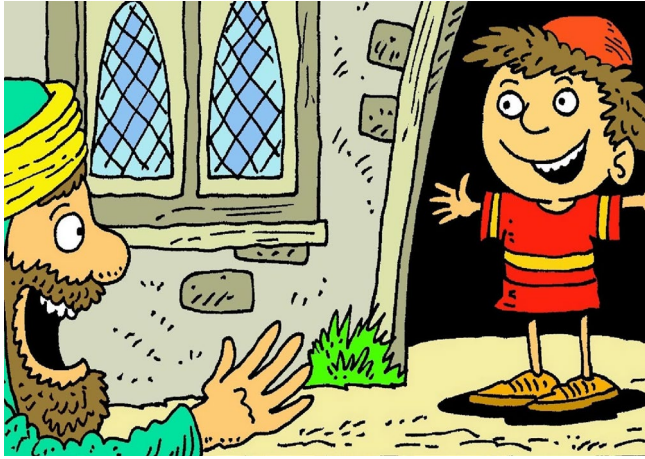
Jesus met a Samaritan woman at a well and had a long conversation with her. She had done a lot of wrong things in her life and Jesus knew about them all, even some things that no one could possibly know. Only God has the power to know things about us that no one else knows.

The lady was shocked that Jesus had such power and ran to tell the people from her village. Let's read and see how they reacted.

⁴² Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard Him ourselves. Now we know that He is indeed the Saviour of the world." John 4:42

So why did Jesus show God's **POWER**? (*Children react "So that we will BELIEVE!"*)

Jesus met a man whose little boy was very sick and about to die. The man believed that Jesus could heal his boy by just speaking. Jesus sent the man



home with the promise that his boy was healed. Only God has the power to heal the sick. When the man got home the boy was healed! Let's read and see how everyone reacted.

And he and his entire household believed in Jesus. John 4:53

So why did Jesus show God's **POWER**? (Children react "So that we will **BELIEVE!**")



Jesus met a man who was born blind. Jesus spat on the ground to make some mud and rubbed it on the blind man's eyes. As soon as the man washed it off he could see! Only God can make the blind be able to see again! Let's read how the healed man reacted.

"Yes, Lord, I believe!" the man said. And he worshiped Jesus. John 9:38

So why did Jesus show God's **POWER**? (Children react "So that we will **BELIEVE!**")



A man named Lazarus was Jesus' friend. He got very sick and died. Jesus went to Lazarus' tomb and called for him to come out. Lazarus was raised from the dead! Only God can raise someone from the dead. Lazarus' family, friends and a huge crowd had seen what Jesus did. Let's read how they reacted.

⁴⁵ Many of the people who were with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw this happen. John 11:45

So why did Jesus show God's **POWER**? "So that we will **BELIEVE!**"

If you keep on reading the Book of John, you will find even more miracles that Jesus did and even more people who believed. And these are not even all of the miracles Jesus did! Jesus makes it easy for us to believe He is God's Son.

The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. John 20:30



Some people, even though they heard and saw everything Jesus did, still refused to believe Jesus is God's Son and they had Him killed. They thought they could stop people from believing in Him. But three days later Jesus showed God's power again. He came back to life and is still alive today!

So why did Jesus show God's **POWER**?
"So that we will **BELIEVE**!"

4) Review Questions:

- Why did Jesus do miracles? (*To show God's power so people would believe He is God's Son*)
- Why did John write the miracles down? (*So that we would believe Jesus is God's Son*)
- What miracle do you remember learning from the Book of John and what does it tell you about Jesus? (*All of the miracles show us that Jesus is God's Son. They help us believe.*)

5) Craft

Option 1: So you will believe mini book

<p>John 20:31</p> <p>SO THAT YOU BELIEVE JESUS IS GOD'S SON</p>	<p>Fill in what Jesus did for you and I...</p>	<p>John 3:16</p> <p>so all who believe will have eternal life</p> <p>Jesus died and came alive again</p>	<p>John 11:45</p> <p>and many saw and believed in Jesus.</p> <p>Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.</p>
<p>Jesus turned water into wine</p> <p>and the disciples believed in Jesus. John 2:11</p>	<p>Jesus knew all about the woman</p> <p>and she and her village believed. John 4:42</p>	<p>Jesus healed the nobleman's son</p> <p>and he and his household believed in Jesus. John 4:53b</p>	<p>Jesus healed the man born blind</p> <p>and he believed and worshipped Jesus. John 9:38</p>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2tugEOAKTQ> Use the link to know how to fold the mini book. (Mini Story Book - (Craft) - Leader Resources)

Option 2: John 3:16 Cards



Let each child decorate two sets of cards so they can take them home to play the game.

1. Each child places their set of memory verse cards face down in a random order in front of them.
2. Each one takes a turn to flip over one card.
3. If it's the next word in the verse, they leave it face up.
4. If it's not the next word, they turn it back over.
5. Keep going until all the cards are face up in the correct verse order.
6. First child to finish wins or just reshuffle and play again for fun!

Lesson 6: God's church grew (Acts)

Main focus for the lesson:

- The Holy Spirit led the believers and gave them power and so God's church grew.
- Acts tells us about the people God used to spread the Good News about Jesus.

1) Memory Verse

- Acts 1:8

Jesus said: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses, telling people about Me everywhere."

Idea to teach the memory verse.

What you will need:

- A paper cup cut and folded as in the pictures. Write the verse on the blades.



The message of Jesus didn't stay in one place—it spread everywhere, powered by the Holy Spirit! *Throw the helicopter up in the air and watch it spin and land.*

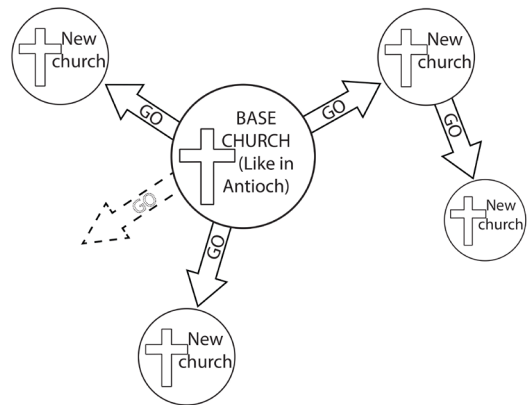
This paper helicopter reminds us of how the Good News didn't stay in one place, it spread and travelled far; just like this helicopter flies up and lands in a new place every time. And just like this paper helicopter can't fly on its own, it needs air to move through its blades, we need the Holy Spirit to help us take the message to new places.

Children make their own helicopters. They can throw the helicopters up and try to say the verse before it lands on the ground. Where do you think your helicopter would go if it kept flying? That's how far God wants the message of His love to spread!

2) Hands on

Demonstrate to the children how the first churches started and how churches form today. Begin with them all standing in a big circle.

Jesus wants everyone to believe He is God's Son and to love and follow Him. In the New Testament we see that the believers began to meet together to learn more about Jesus, to pray and to worship Him. They are the church. *(Form a small group of children in the middle.)* This pleases Jesus as He wants us to live in unity.



In the Book of Acts, we see how the first churches helped other churches to form too. People left and taught others about Jesus and the new believers met together to learn more about Jesus, to pray and to worship Him. *(Get two to leave in different directions and call a few from the outer circle to form another group. Repeat until there are many small groups and no one is left in the outer circle.)*

Do you see how the Good News of who Jesus is and what He has done has spread? This is how it was at the beginning and it is the same today. Jesus wants us to be the church. The people who believe in Him, meet together and help others to know, love and follow Him too.

Jesus knew we could not do this on our own and so who did He send? *(The Holy Spirit)*

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses, telling people about Me everywhere. Acts 1:8

Refer to the helicopter not being able to go anywhere unless there is air moving through its blades. We can't go and tell the Good News without God's Holy Spirit.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- Puppet
- Evidence (Photograph, letter, map)

The Book of Acts is about people who told the Good News about Jesus wherever they went, by the power of the Holy Spirit. God did amazing miracles and healings through them, changing lives forever. It is filled with adventures, miracles, danger and so much more all for Jesus.

The Book of Acts is really important because it shows us what Jesus wants His church to be like. It also reminds us to rely on the Holy Spirit who is with us and fill us with His power.

The very first church started in Jerusalem, in Israel. That is far away from here. So how did churches get to Africa, and America and all over the world? The Book of Acts gives us lots of evidence. Let's see what we can discover.

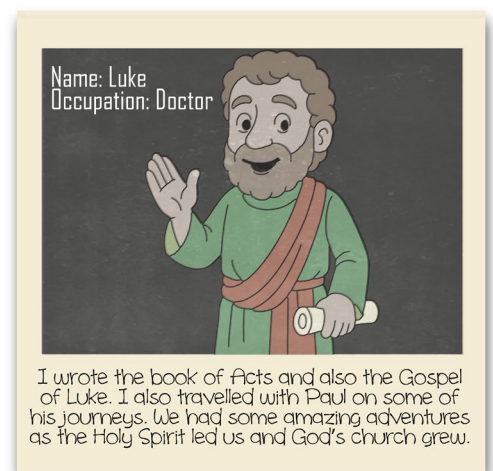
- **Puppet** (Peter puppet)



Hi! I'm Peter. On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came (Acts 2:41). When everyone was confused about what was happening, I reminded them that God was pouring out His Spirit just like He had promised. 3000 people believed in Jesus. God showed me that His Good News is for EVERYONE! He wants us all to be part of His church. God was always there to help me. He even sent an angel to free me from prison (Acts 12:5-17). The Holy Spirit gave me power to heal the sick and as many believed, God's church grew (Acts 5:12-16).

- **Evidence 1:** (*Photograph of Luke*)

Hello, I'm Luke, a doctor. I wrote the Book of Acts and also the Gospel of Luke. I also travelled with Paul on some of his journeys. We had some amazing adventures as the Holy Spirit led us and God's church grew.



- **Evidence 2:** (*Letter from Philip rolled up like a scroll*)

I, Philip, had been preaching in Samaria, there had been miracles and healings and many Samaritans had believed. An angel came to me and told me to go to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza. I did. I saw an Ethiopian high official in his chariot. He was reading from a scroll of Isaiah, the prophet, but did not know who it was about. I told him it was about Jesus and he believed it! I baptised him and he went back to Ethiopia rejoicing, he had Good News for his people.

Suddenly I found myself in Azotus (Ashdod), 32 km from where I had just been! From there I went to Caesarea telling people about Jesus. The Book of Acts is full of how the Holy Spirit led me and God's church grew.

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Suddenly I found myself in Azotus (Ashdod), 32 km from where I had just been! From there I went to Caesarea telling people about Jesus. The Book of Acts is full of how the Holy Spirit led me and God's church grew.

- **Evidence 3:** (*Map*)

Paul hated what Jesus' believers were doing and wanted to destroy them all, but as they ran away the Good News spread



and God's church grew. *(Draw lines and arrows onto the map starting at Paul and spreading out.)*

Jesus changed his heart. He had chosen him to go to the nations. As he went from place to place, the Holy Spirit led him and God's church grew.

(Connect the dots to show the three journeys Paul did. (White – Journey 1; Green – Journey 2; Pink – Journey 3)



Many tried to stop Paul and other believers from spreading the Good News about Jesus, but as they ran away and were persecuted more people got to hear about Jesus. *(Draw more lines all over the map).* God's church kept on growing. You can read about all of Paul's adventures in the Book of Acts.

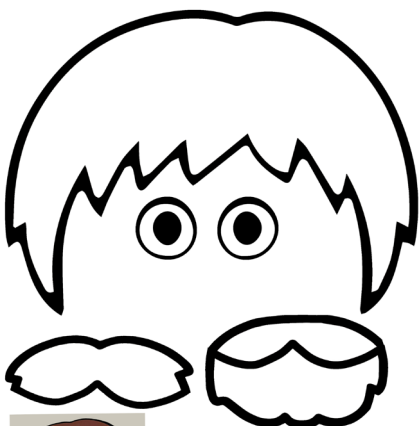
4) Review Questions:

- a) Who does God want to use to give his Good News? *(All believers)*
- b) Who needs to know? *(Everyone)*
- c) Why did God send the Holy Spirit? *(As a helper to lead believers, give them power and help them grow God's church. The Holy Spirit is still helping us today.)*

5) Craft

Option 1: Helicopter Cup

Children make their own helicopters. They can throw the helicopters up and try to say the verse before it lands on the ground. Where do you think your helicopter would go if it kept flying? That's how far God wants the message of His love to spread!



Cut out the parts
and stick them
onto a paper lunch
bag to make a puppet

Option 2: Paper Bag Puppet

Let the children make their own puppet to retell the stories from the Book of Acts.

Lesson 7: Learn from the letters (Romans to Jude)

Main focus for the lesson:

- The letters were written to remind, correct, warn, encourage and teach believers how to live.
- There are so many things we can learn from the letters. Help the children remember as many as they can.

1) Memory Verse

- Ephesians 5:1-2

“Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are His dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Jesus. He loved us and offered Himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.”

Idea to teach the memory verse.

What you will need:

- Letter with the memory verse written on

Players sit in a circle. One person is chosen to be “Paul.” “Paul” holds the letter with the memory verse written on it.

How to play the game: (Adaptation of “I wrote a letter”)

- 1) “Paul” walks around the outside of the circle holding the “letter.” As they walk, everyone says together:

Paul wrote a letter to the church,
And on the way he dropped it.
Someone must have picked it up
And put it in their pocket.

It wasn't you, it wasn't you... It was YOU!

- 2) While walking, “Paul” secretly drops the letter behind someone's back. That person tries to catch “Paul.”
- 3) “Paul” must run around the circle and try to sit in the empty spot before being tagged.
- 4) If “Paul” gets caught, then they stay “Paul” and try again. If they make it to the spot, then the chaser becomes the new “Paul.”
- 5) Before starting again everyone says the memory verse together.

2) Hands on

Game 1: The letters help us...

What you will need:

- Posters

The people who wrote the letters were inspired what to write by God. God wanted them to write them to remind, correct, warn, encourage and teach the readers how

to live. *Go through each of the posters. What do you notice about each of these letters? Who are they written to? To people who believe in Jesus.* These letters are messages from God to us on how to live in a way that pleases Him; to live like Jesus did. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. Ephesians 5:2

Why the letters were written	Action
To remind us	Hand on head
To correct us	Move from thumbs down to thumbs up
To warn us	Flick fingers like flashing lights
To encourage us	Fist pump
To teach us	Wag pointer finger



How to play:

1. Round 1: Name the reason why the letters were written and children do the appropriate action.

2. Round 2: Do the action and the children say what it represents.

Game 2: What next?

Play these games after the lesson

What you will need:

- Cards from the lesson
- Milk tops
- A line to toss from

How to play:

Round 1:

1. Lay the cards face-up on the floor.
2. One at a time, each child/team stands at the line and tries to toss their milk top onto a card.
3. If it lands on a card, they must say the book and the instruction (E.g. 1 Corinthians says "Stop sinning.")
4. Once they get it right they keep the card. The one with the most cards is the winner.

Round 2:

1. Everyone works together to lay the cards in the order of the books in the Bible.

Play starts again.



3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- Posters of the 21 letters
- Mini versions of these that you can slip into your Bible

Have one set of the letters scattered in the venue. Give the children time to remember as many as they can. The mini version you will slip into your Bible where you find the verse, finding each one as you do the lesson.

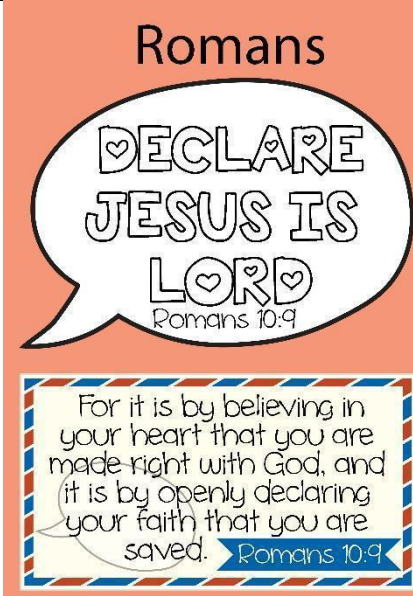
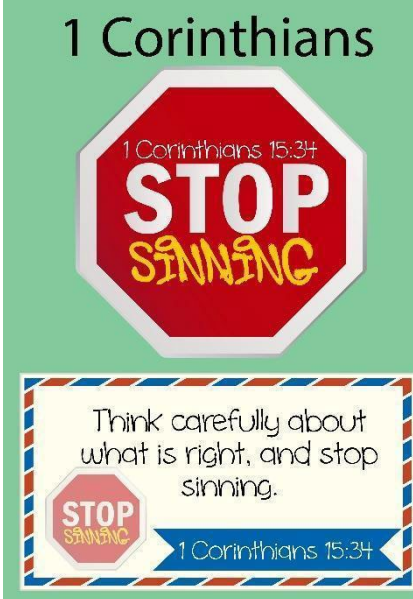
We know the most important decision we can make is to believe in Jesus and make Him the Lord of our lives. Once we've done that, what do you think we must do next? *(Let the children answer)*


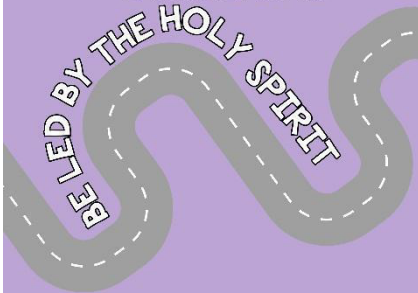

"Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are His dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Jesus. He loved us and offered Himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God." Ephesians 5:1-2






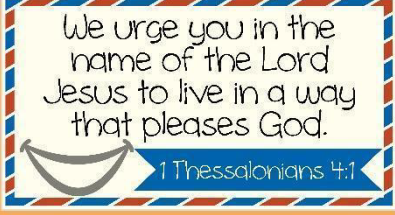
We must live lives that please God. We must follow Jesus' example. And the Bible helps us know how to do this. There are 21 books in the New Testament which are letters written to believers - just like us. They were written to teach us,


encourage us, correct us, warn us, and remind us how to follow Jesus every day. *(Show them the large section the letters take up in the Bible).*
I have taken just one verse from every book that gives us an instruction on how to live lives that please God.

*Get the children to walk around and look at the cards, trying to remember as many as they can. Gather them again and go through each one. You will begin each time by saying “**First we believe in Jesus and make Him Lord of our lives. WHAT NEXT?**” Page to the next book in the Bible to find the card then hold it up. The children go to where it is stuck up in the venue and read it out loud.*

What next	Book	Verse
Declare Jesus is Lord	<p>Romans</p> 	<p>For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. Romans 10:9</p>
Stop sinning	<p>1 Corinthians</p> 	<p>Think carefully about what is right, and stop sinning. 1 Corinthians 15:34</p>






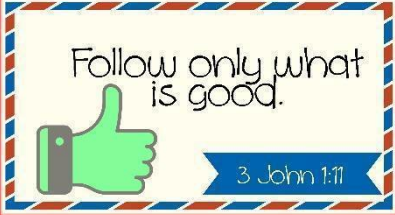
<p>Be generous</p>	<p>2 Corinthians</p>  <p>Be generous</p> <p>"For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."</p> <p>2 Corinthians 9:7</p>	<p>For God loves a person who gives cheerfully. 2 Corinthians 9: 7</p>	
<p>Be led by the Holy Spirit</p>	<p>Galatians</p> <p>BELED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT</p>  <p>So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives.</p> <p>Galatians 5:16</p>	<p>So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. Galatians 5:16</p>	
<p>Live like Jesus</p>	<p>Ephesians</p>  <p>LIVE LIKE JESUS</p> <p>Live a life filled with love, following the example of Jesus.</p> <p>Ephesians 5:2</p>	<p>Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are His dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Jesus. He loved us and offered Himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God. Ephesians 5:1-2</p>	

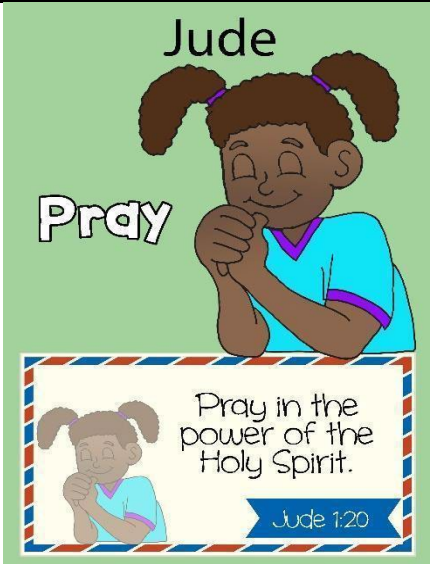
<p>Be joyful</p>	<p>Philippians</p>  <p>BE JOYFUL</p> 	<p>Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again - rejoice! Philippians 4:4</p>	
<p>Obey your parents</p>	<p>Colossians</p>  <p>OBEY YOUR PARENTS</p> 	<p>Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord. Colossians 3:20</p>	
<p>Please God</p>	<p>1 Thessalonians</p> <p>Make Jesus happy</p>  	<p>We urge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to live in a way that pleases God. 1 Thessalonians 4:1</p>	

<p>Be strengthened by God</p>	<p>2 Thessalonians</p> <p>Be Strengthened by God</p>  	<p>But the Lord is faithful; He will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one. 2 Thessalonians 3:3</p>	
<p>Be a good Example</p>	<p>1 Timothy</p> <p>Be a good example</p>  	<p>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. 1 Timothy 4:12</p>	
<p>Tell others about Jesus</p>	<p>2 Timothy</p> <p>Tell others about Jesus</p>  	<p>So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord. 2 Timothy 1:8</p>	

<p>Don't argue</p>	<p>Titus</p>  	<p>They must not slander anyone and must avoid quarrelling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone. Titus 3:2</p>	
<p>Welcome everyone</p>	<p>Philemon</p> <p>Welcome everyone</p>  	<p>Welcome him as you would welcome me. Philemon 1:17</p>	
<p>Worship God</p>	<p>Hebrews</p>  	<p>Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe. Hebrews 12:28</p>	

<p>Do what the Bible says</p>	<p>James</p>  <p>Do what the Bible says</p> <p>Don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. James 1:22</p>	<p>But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. James 1:22</p>
<p>Give your worries to Jesus</p>	<p>1 Peter</p>  <p>Give your worries to Jesus</p> <p>Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you. 1 Peter 5:7</p>	<p>Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you. 1 Peter 5:7</p>
<p>Beware of false teachers</p>	<p>2 Peter</p>  <p>Beware of false teachers</p> <p>Lies Lies Lies</p> <p>There will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them. 2 Peter 2:2</p>	<p>But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them. In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves. 2 Peter 2:2</p>

<p>Love others</p>	<p>1 John</p>  <p>Love others</p> 	<p>Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7</p>	
<p>Obey God</p>	<p>2 John</p> <p>Obey God</p>  	<p>Love means doing what God has commanded us, and He has commanded us to love one another, just as you heard from the beginning. 2 John 1:6</p>	
<p>Only do good</p>	<p>3 John</p> <p>Only do good</p>  <p>good good good bad good good good good</p> 	<p>Follow only what is good. Remember that those who do good prove that they are God's children, and those who do evil prove that they do not know God. 3 John 1:11</p>	

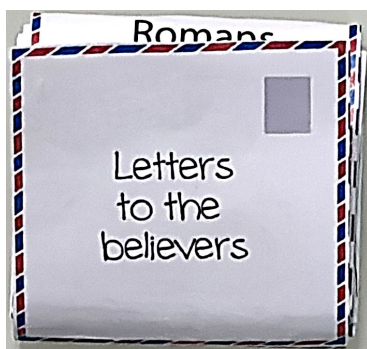
Pray		Pray in the power of the Holy Spirit and await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring you eternal life. In this way, you will keep yourselves safe in God's love. Jude 1:20
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4) Review Questions:

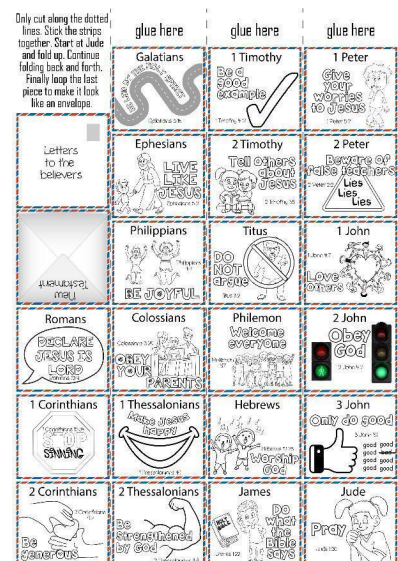
- Who are the letters in the Bible written to? *(They were written to believers, just like us.)*
- How do the letters help us? *(They remind, correct, warn, encourage and teach us how to live lives that please God.)*
- What can you remember learning from the letters? *(Let them use the cards to help them answer if needed)*

5) Craft

Option 1: Folding Letters from the Bible



Only cut along the dotted lines. Stick the strips together to form one long strip. Start at Jude and fold up. Continue folding back and forth. Finally loop the last piece to make it look like an envelope.



Option 2: Wordsearch



Lesson 8: Road to Salvation (Romans)

Main focus for the lesson:

- Jesus is the only one who can save us from our sin. We call this Salvation.
- The Book of Romans gives us important verses that teach us about being saved from our sin.

1) Memory Verse

- Romans 5:8

“But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”

Idea to teach the memory verse.

Use the following song to help teach the verse.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cT1N1CNh9Cc> His own love for us by Connect Kids.

The Bible version of this verse is "But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (CSB)

2) Hands On

(Based on Romans 5:8 + Romans 1:16)

What you will need:

- A torch
- The person template

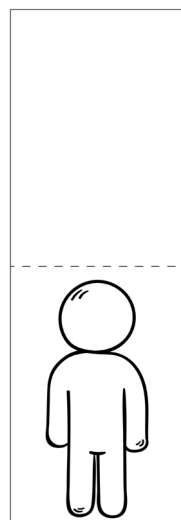
Start with a page folded in half. On the outside draw a person and on the inside draw the same picture of a person but with a messy heart full of sin.

You may get up in the morning and say to yourself in the mirror “You are looking fine this morning. I am having a great hair day. And look at that million-dollar smile. I am a pretty awesome guy”

I mean take this guy he looks pretty good. *(Show the picture of the person)*. But the Bible says God looks on the inside (1 Samuel 16:7). That means He looks at the things no one else can see. He looks at our hearts.

(Hold the torch up behind the paper so that the messy heart becomes visible)

Ooo, that’s the bit we don’t want to see. Because we all have sin inside our hearts, we all tell lies or gossip or say nasty things to other people. And yes, you may do some good things but none of them get rid of the sin.



God sees and knows everything we've ever said and done wrong but He doesn't turn away. He won't give up on us. In fact, He did the most amazing thing: He gave us the gift of forgiveness. "God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

When we read the Bible we find that it is like a light showing us all of the ways God wants us to live for Him and helps us to see the things we are doing wrong. We can ask Jesus to forgive us and when we do, the Bible says that He will forgive us and remove our sins! *(Tear the back page that has the sin away)*

But that doesn't mean that we go on sinning. It means that we go on reading His Word and letting it shine on other parts of our life so that we can tell others this Good News too.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- Signs with the verses on
- Bible

The Book of Romans is a letter Paul wrote to the people in Rome to help them understand why we need Jesus. It explains that no matter how hard we try to be perfect, we all fall short of God's perfection and glory. It reminds us that we all sin and that we can't earn our forgiveness nor eternity in Heaven. Our sin is a big deal.


But the Book of Romans is also filled with hope as it tells us how God still wants to be with us, even though we have sinned against Him. And it tells of how Jesus made a way so we can. Jesus died and came alive again. We can be saved from our sins.

Let's look at this book and learn some of the important verses it tells us so that we can share this Good News with others too.

Lay the signs out and let the children move from one to the other as you discuss the verses. The last sign will be the cross that says "Jesus saves".

(Start at the first sign)

When you are righteous you do what is right all the time! Everything is good, or right, between you and God. There's nothing you've done wrong or that makes Him displeased with you. That sounds wonderful. But Jesus is the only one who ever lived and got this right. The Bible tells us in Romans 3:10 "There is no one righteous, not even one."



**Romans
3:10
There is
no one
righteous,
not even
one.**

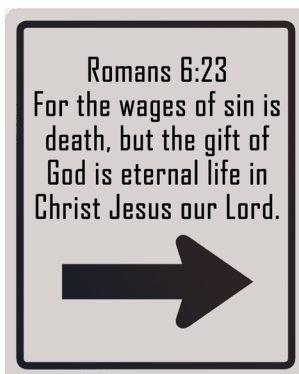
(Walk to the next sign)

Even worse than not getting things right is that we do things wrong, things that go against God. Point to your friend and say "you have sinned". It's quite easy for us to tell others that they have sinned, but it is not very nice when they point at us and say so.

Romans 3:23
For all have sinned
and fall short of the
glory of God.

In **Romans 3:23** it says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." This verse says **all** have sinned. It does not say everyone else has sinned. So what we should be doing is pointing to ourselves and saying "I have sinned".

When we get to know God's power, His goodness, His love and His perfection we think "WOW!". This is the easiest way to explain what God's glory is. It is the "WOW!" of God's greatness and perfection that nothing and no one comes close to be like. Our sin means we do not come close to God's standards of perfection. We fall short of His glory. *(Refer to the cross sign far away on the other side)*



(Walk to the next sign)

You may ask "What's the big deal if we sin?"

Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." The price we should pay for our sin is death but Jesus paid this price for us. He took our punishment for our sins. In its place He gives us a free gift of eternal life with God! We can be with God forever, and that gift comes through Jesus.

(Walk to the next sign)

Thankfully God doesn't wait for us to do everything perfect before He forgives us. If that was the case, we would never be able to be forgiven.

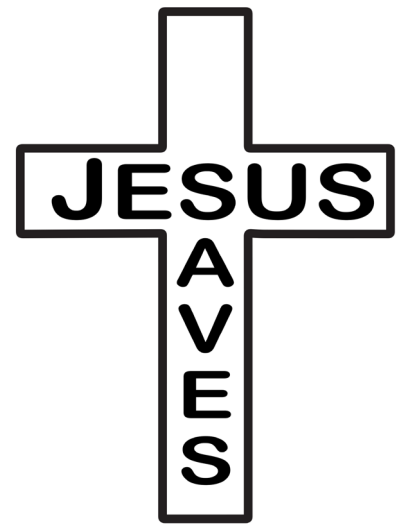
Romans 5:8 shows us just how much God loves us: "But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for our sins, even while we were still sinners.



Romans 10:9
If you declare with
your mouth, 'Jesus is
Lord', and believe in
your heart that God
raised Him from the
dead you will be
saved.

Romans 10:9 tells us how to accept this gift: "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved." God makes it so easy for us to accept His free gift. We have to believe in Jesus and say it out loud. Thank you Jesus for making a way!

Now that we know the truth and have accepted Jesus, we receive salvation through Him. We are saved from our sins. Do you think once we are saved we can just keep on living the way we lived before we believed in Jesus? No.



Romans 12:2

Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:2 says, "Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

Following Jesus isn't just about a one-time decision. It is about a daily transformation. God doesn't want us to just do what everyone else is doing so that we "fit in". Instead, He wants to change the way we think and act so we can become more like Him. He helps us do this through the Holy Spirit, praying and by us reading our Bibles. It is up to us to daily rely on God, surrender everything to Him and do our best to obey Him and not to sin.

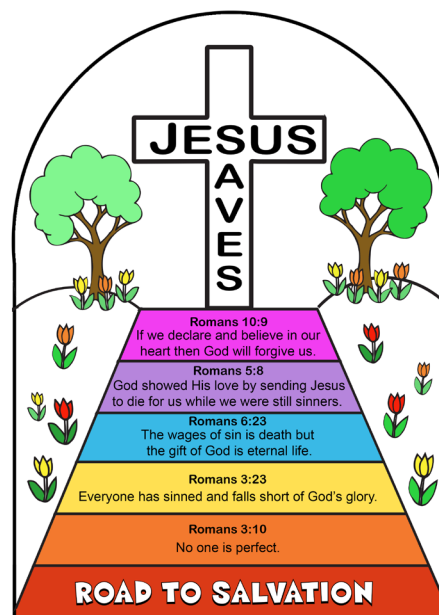
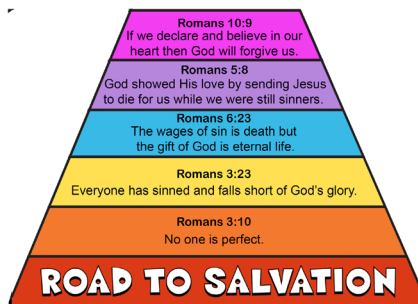
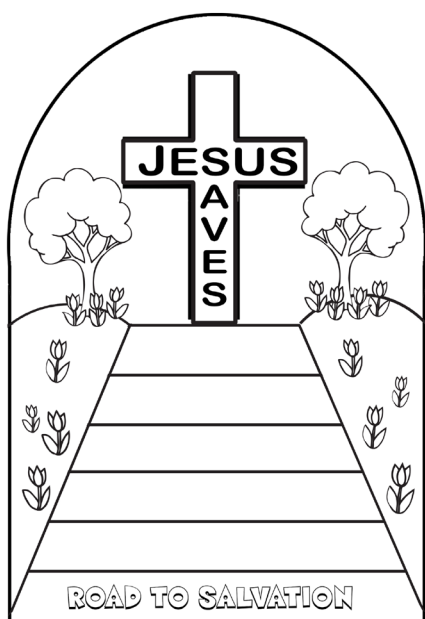
4) Review Questions

- a) Is sin a big deal? Why? *(Yes. Sin means we are going against God and the penalty is death or separation from God.)*
- b) How do we earn salvation? *(Nothing we do can earn our forgiveness. It is a free gift from God. We accept this gift when we believe Jesus died and came alive again for our sins.)*
- c) Have you ever sinned? What do you think you should do when you sin? *(We need to repent. We have all sinned. We all need Jesus. It is important that we realise what we have done is wrong and goes against God and ask Him to forgive us and He will. We need to try our best to not sin.)*

5) Crafts

Option 1: Road to Salvation

Children cut and stick each verse onto the craft.

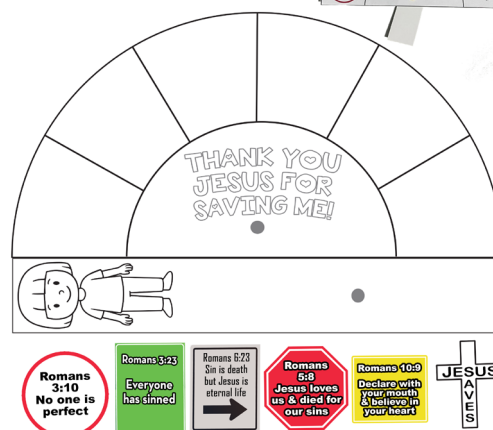


Option 2: Salvation Road Signs

Cut out the Romans Road signs and stick them in the correct order on the semi-circle. Use a split-pin to join the person to the semi-circle. Now you can lead them down the Romans Road to Jesus.



Cut out the Romans road signs and stick them in the correct order on the semi-circle. Use a split-pin to join the person to the semi-circle. Now you can lead them down the Romans Road to Jesus.



Lesson 9: Know, Grow and Go (Colossians)

Main focus for the lesson:

- Paul wrote a letter to the church in Colossae reminding them who they were in Christ and how to live lives that please God.
- The letter Paul wrote back then still applies to us today.

1) Memory Verse

- Colossians 3:17

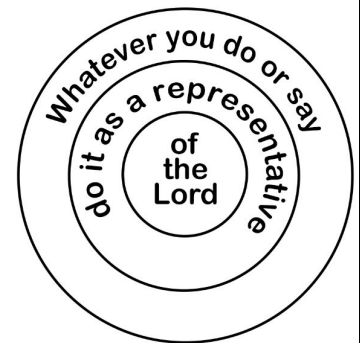
“And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

Idea to teach the memory verse.

What you will need:

- A few small stones or bottle tops
- Chalk to draw circles on the ground

Draw three circles with chalk on the ground. Write the words of the verse inside the circles as in the picture. Get the children to say the parts of the verse as they try to throw the stones into each section of the circles.



2) Hands on

What you will need:

- A team jersey or cap / or a school uniform
- A blank t-shirt

Our memory verse today used the word “representative” which means you are a person that “represents” someone else.

Have the leader enter dressed up representing a team or a school but then say nothing.

What team do you think they represent? *(Let the children answer)*

When you wear this, people know *who you represent*. We may not wear a jersey that says ‘Team Jesus’ but we *represent* Him by how we act, how we speak, how we treat others.

Next the same leader then starts cheering for another team. E.g. Wearing the Chelsea jersey, they say “Manchester United is the best team ever! I am going to go and watch all their games. I have signatures of all the players. Go Man U go!”

Is that what you expected the leader to say? No. It is the same with us. If we are going to believe and follow Jesus we need to show that on the inside and on the outside. We represent Jesus by how we live every day through our actions and words.

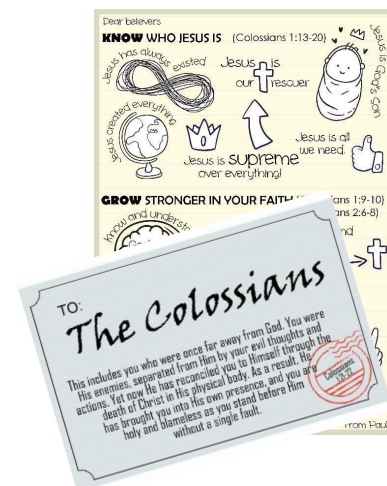
3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

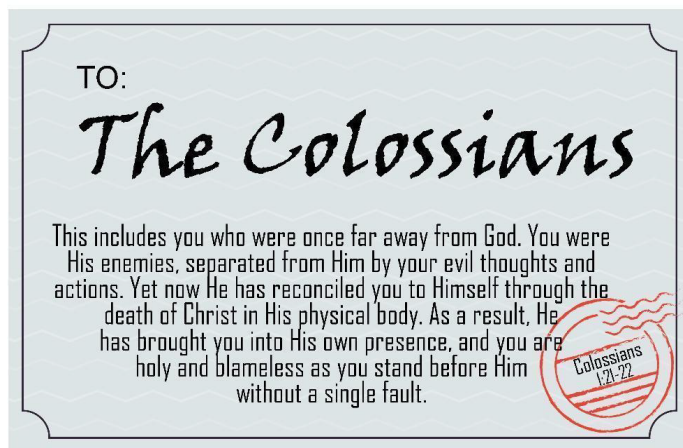
- Envelope and letter inside
- NLT Bible

This series we have learnt that the biggest section that makes up the New Testament are the letters which were written to churches and to people who believed in Jesus. We also learnt that in general these letters were written to remind, correct, warn, encourage and teach the readers how to live.

Today we are going to look at one of these letters.



Who was this letter written to? (Show the labelled envelope)



This letter was written to the believers in Colossae. Before becoming Christians, the Colossians were Gentiles. A Gentile was anyone who was not part of God's chosen nation, the Jews. These people didn't grow up knowing or worshipping God. Instead, they worshipped many different fake gods and followed false teachers who told them all kinds of confusing lies on how they should live.

Paul starts his letter by reminding them who they were but more importantly who they are now because of Jesus.

Let's read what he wrote. (*Read Colossians 1:21-22 from your Bible and the children can follow along or read the envelope.*)

The Colossians were sinful people separated from God but now they are blameless without one fault and part of God's family. But how was this possible? Only through Jesus! Jesus made a way for sin to be forgiven and to be with God once more. He did this by dying on the cross and coming alive again.

How amazing is God that He inspired someone like Paul to write a letter so many years ago that still applies to us today?

This letter was written to us too.

We sinned and did things that went against God and so we were enemies or separated from God too. Maybe sometimes when you make a mistake or sin

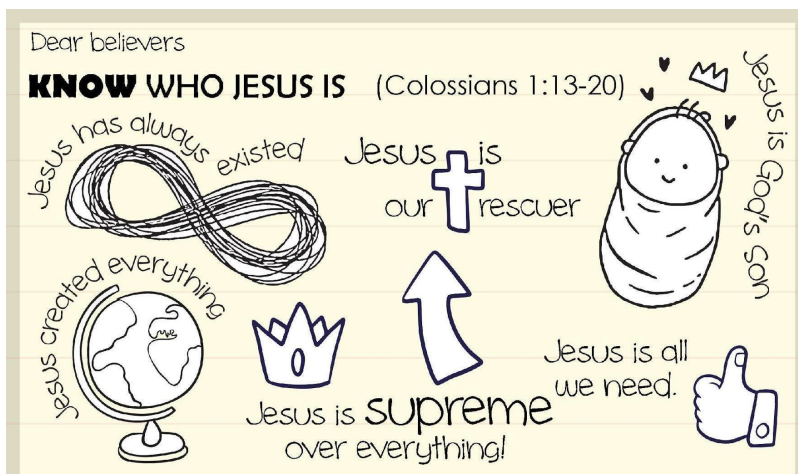
you feel like you still are far away from God. But this is not true. Because of Jesus, when you believe in Him and make Him Lord of your life, God says you are part of His family forever. Nothing can change this!

Why did Paul write this letter to them? (Show the letter inside)

Paul was in prison when he wrote this letter to the church and in fact Paul had never met the Colossians. But Paul loved Jesus and he wanted others to love and follow Him too. So when Paul heard that people were teaching them wrong things about Jesus he wrote them a letter so they would **KNOW** who Jesus really is, **GROW** stronger in their faith and **GO** and live lives that pleased Jesus.

1) **KNOW** who Jesus really is.

(Read these verses from the Bible and let the children find the matching pictures)



In Colossians 1:13-20 Paul gave a very clear explanation of who Jesus is and why He is so important:

Jesus is God's son. Jesus is our rescuer and because of Him our sins can be forgiven and we can be part of God's Kingdom. Jesus is supreme over everything! This means He is way greater and

stronger than anyone or anything and He is in control of everything. Jesus has always existed and Jesus created everything. Jesus is the head of the church. Jesus is all we need.

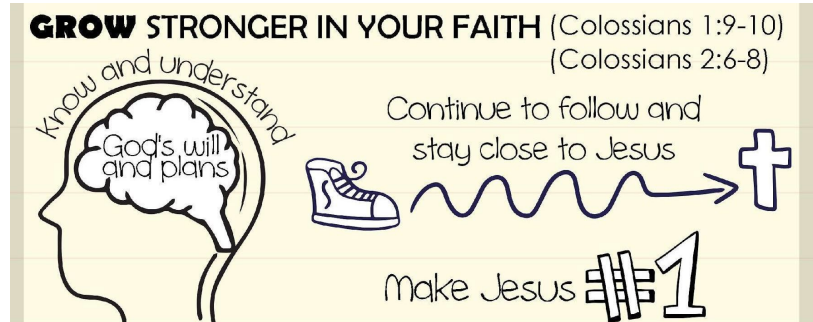
This letter was written for you to **KNOW** too.

We must know the truth too. We must know Jesus is supreme above everything. We must know that we are saved by Jesus and not through the things we do. When we know these things people won't be able to confuse us or trick us into doing wrong things. When we know who Jesus really is our lives become better, even when we go through tough situations. This is because of the joy we feel knowing that Jesus is in control and nothing stops Him from loving us and us being part of His family.

2) **GROW** stronger in your faith

(Read these verses from the Bible and let the children find the matching pictures)

Colossians 1:9-10 reminds us to ask God to tell us what He wants and what His plans are. Knowing and understanding what God wants and expects, helps us to grow as we learn to know God better.



Colossians 2:6-8 tells us that our faith grows stronger first by accepting Him as our perfect and supreme Lord and Saviour and then continuing to follow what He says every day. It also teaches us to let our “roots grow down into Him” and to let our “lives be built on Him.” That means to trust, get to know and make Him the most important one in our lives, always listening to Him rather than people’s opinions.

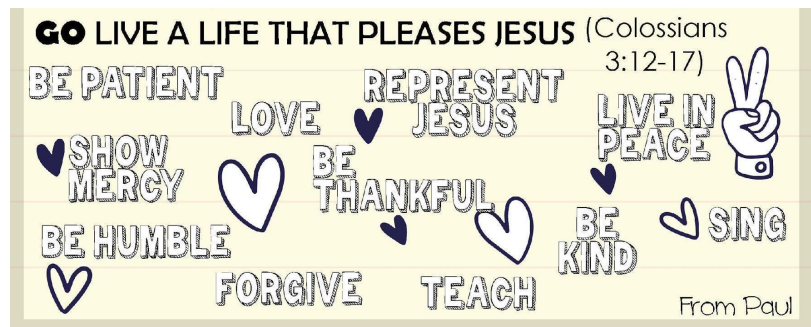
This letter was written for you to GROW too.

As believers we need to keep following Jesus every day. We need to stay close to Jesus by reading the Bible, praying, and making Jesus the most important part of our lives. Jesus needs to be in charge of the choices we make, the things we think about and even the plans we have for our future. We need to also be aware that not everything we hear is true. Some things might sound smart or popular, but if they don't match what Jesus teaches, we shouldn't believe them.

3) **GO** and live lives that please Jesus

(Read these verses from the Bible and see how many the children can remember)

Colossians 3:12-17 tells us how to live lives that please Jesus. We need to have mercy, be kind, humble, gentle and patient. We need to forgive others like Jesus forgave us. We need to love others and live in peace. We need to teach others about Him and sing praises of thanks to Him.



We live like this because God chose us to be the holy people He loves. Holy means to be perfect and without fault. We **GO** and live like this because our actions show others how great God is and how thankful we are to Him.

“And whatever you do or say, do it **as a representative** of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.” Colossians 3:17

This letter was written for you to GO too.

The lists of how we should live may feel impossible to do but thankfully God forgives us when we get it wrong **and** God has given us the Holy Spirit to help us be like this.




Are you ready to **KNOW** who Jesus really is, **GROW** stronger in your faith and **GO** and live a life that pleases Jesus?

4) Review Questions:

- Where in the Bible can you find the letter Paul wrote to the Colossians? (In the New Testament, in the letters section)
- This letter was written to the churches in Colossae but God put it in the Bible for you to learn from it too. How has it helped you to know, grow and go and live for Jesus?

5) Craft

Option 1: Know Grow Go Bookmarks

<p>KNOW WHO I AM IN CHRIST</p>  <p>Your real life is hidden with Christ in God - Colossians 3:3</p>	<p>GROW BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS</p>  <p>Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ - Ephesians 5:2</p>	<p>GO REPRESENT JESUS EVERYWHERE</p>  <p>And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of Jesus Christ - Colossians 3:17</p>
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Children decorate a set of the bookmarks. Encourage the children to find the verses in their Bibles and read it with their family or friends.

Option 2: Dog Tags



Soldiers in the army wear something called “dog tags” so that everyone will know who they are. It is important for us to know who God has made us to be. God made us to **KNOW** who Jesus is, **GROW** to be like Him and to **GO** live a life that pleases Him. Let the children make their own set of dog tags so they remember that Jesus wants them to **KNOW**, **GROW** and **GO**!



Lesson 10: What God wants us to know (Revelation)

Main focus for the lesson:

- The many titles given to Jesus in the Book of Revelation help us know who He is.
- God gave John visions so we would know what to expect in the times we live in.
- These visions show us that the beginning was perfect and the end will be perfect and that God is always in control.

1) Memory Verse

- Revelation 21:6

“And He also said, ‘It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End.’”

Idea to teach the memory verse.

What you will need:

- A long piece of rope or tape on the floor.

Children change where they stand along the rope and they say the verse.

(Children stand in the middle of the rope) And He said to me, ‘It is finished!

(Children move to the beginning of the rope) ‘I am the Alpha

(Children move to the end of the rope) and the Omega

(Children move to the beginning of the rope) the Beginning

(Children move to the end of the rope) and the End.’

2) Hands on

Option 1: Skit - We know the ending

Two leaders are watching the final minutes of a sports game on a device. One is pacing up and down totally stressed out while the other is completely calm.

Leader 1	<i>(Biting their nails)</i> Oh no, no, no... not the corner kick! This is where it all falls apart. I can feel it. My stomach's in knots!
Leader 2	<i>(Feet up, eating their snacks, relaxed)</i> Relax. We got this.
Leader 1	<i>(Pacing up and down)</i> Relax?! Did you see our defence last game? It was like Swiss cheese - holes everywhere!
Leader 2	You're stressing for nothing. We're going to win.
Leader 1	<i>(Hides their face and peeks through their fingers)</i> They're lining up for a penalty. I can't watch. Tell me when it's over!
Leader 2	<i>(Completely calm)</i> Penalty? Psh. It's all good. We're going to win.
Leader 1	<i>(Look at Leader 2)</i> How are you so calm? My heart is doing backflips and you're over there like it's a spa day! <i>(Look back at the device)</i> What?! We are tied! And it's the final minutes. I can't handle this stress.

Leader 2	Seriously, you don't need to stress. They are going to win.
Leader 1	Laaadduuuuuma! Goal! And the final whistle blows. They've done it! They won! Wait... how were you so confident? You weren't even nervous!
Leader 2	This is a recorded game. I watched it last night. I knew we won.
Leader 1	Ahh I am going to get you. (<i>Chases Leader 2 out of the room</i>)

Leader 2 wasn't stressed and worried at all, because she knew what was going to happen. She knew they would win. This is the same for us when it comes to the Book of Revelation. God tells us what is going to happen, the troubles and the victory. And most importantly He tells us how everything will end - us living with God forever and ever in the most perfect new Heaven and Earth. Reading and understanding the Book of Revelation gives us hope, peace and excitement for what is to come.

Option 2: Names of Jesus

What you will need:

- Flags hung around the room
- Music



When you read the Book of Revelation you will see there are so many different names or titles given to Jesus. These show us who He is and the great things He has done.

The children dance around while the music plays. When the music stops they stand by any of the flags. The leader reads out a random explanation. E.g. "God started everything and will end it when He chooses to do so." The children who are standing at that flag will call out the name E.g. "Jesus is the Alpha and Omega."

Title given to Jesus and their explanations:

Alpha and Omega (Revelation 1:8)	God started everything and will end it when He chooses to do so.	Faithful and True (Revelation 19:11)	He is always with us and what He says He will do will happen.
The Lamb who was slain (Revelation 5:12)	Jesus is the "Lamb" who was sacrificed for the payment for our sins.	King of Kings (Revelation 19:16)	The greatest and highest king ever.
Lion of Judah (Revelation 5:5)	From the tribe of Judah as was promised.	The Root of David (Revelation 22:16)	God promised that Jesus would come from David's family.
The Bright Morning Star (Revelation 22:16)	Jesus brought perfection and forgiveness into a world of sin. He brought light into a world of darkness.	Lord of Lords (Revelation 19:16)	Jesus has more authority and power than anyone else ever.
The Word of God (Revelation 19:13)	Jesus is God's message in a person.		

3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- Booklet (Story Aid – The Book of Revelation.)

Print the pictures as a booklet. The one side will show the vision in the Book of Revelation and opposite it will be the page you will complete as you explain what God wants us to know through these visions.

The Book of Revelation



What does God want us to know?

God gave John visions which are like pictures or dreams that reveal what was currently happening and what would happen in the future. The Book of Revelation is John explaining what he saw so we can also know what God says will happen. The book is called Revelation as it is God revealing to believers what He wants us to know.

Revelation 1-3

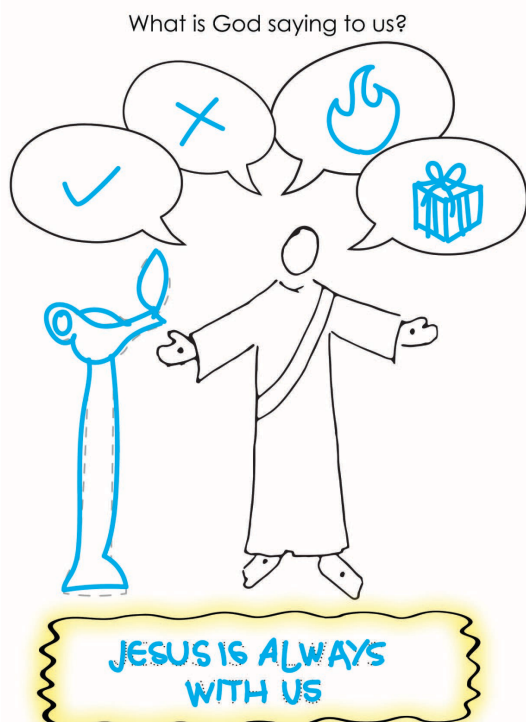
Visions from Revelation 1- 3

The first revelation is of Jesus standing in great authority, power and truth, surrounded by seven lampstands.

These seven lampstands are the seven churches telling the Good News of Jesus' salvation, just like lamps bring light into darkness. Jesus is there with the churches. He speaks to each church through the Holy Spirit; praising, correcting wrongs, sternly warning them, giving encouragement and promising rewards.



What does God want us to know?



We, as followers of Jesus, are the church. We are like one of these lampstands. *(Trace over the lampstand.)*

Just like in the picture, Jesus will always be with us through the Holy Spirit, loving us and watching over us.

And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Matthew 28:20

And through the Holy Spirit, Jesus speaks to us. He praises us for the things we do well.

(Draw a "tick" in the speech bubble)

He corrects and gives us stern warnings for the things we do wrong. *(Draw a "X" in the speech bubble)*

He encourages us to keep on telling others about Him. *(Draw a "flame" in the speech bubble)*

And He reminds us of the rewards He promises we will receive. *(Draw a "gift box" in the speech bubble). (Trace over "Jesus is always with us")*

Visions from Revelation 6 - 16

Then we read about more pictures, such as seven seals, seven trumpets and seven bowls. Each of these show disasters, plagues, wars, sickness and many troubles, all because of sin.

But the picture also showed a lion and a lamb which is Jesus. Even in all this disaster He is always in control!

He has all the power and all the glory.



What is God saying to us?



What does God want us to know?

We see terrible things happen around us and these will continue to happen because sin has ruined our world. *(Write the words: war, sickness, disease, trouble, crime, fighting, earthquakes, disaster on the picture of the world.)*

BUT we can have peace because we know God and Jesus are always in control and the love They have for us never ends. We do not have to worry about these things because we know the end of the story. We know Jesus has promised He will come back and we know God has a victory plan. Let's look at the next two pictures to see what it is.

Visions from Revelation 19 - 20

Then God revealed a vision to John, a great white throne of judgement, showing that a day will come where everyone who ever lived will stand before God and be judged.

The vision also showed a feast and a lake of fire. Those who have not chosen to follow Jesus, will be punished for their own wrong-doing. Satan will also be judged and will be totally defeated. His wickedness will end and his fiery punishment will go on forever.

Those who believe in and have chosen to follow Jesus will be welcomed, like a guest to a glorious wedding feast.



What is God saying to us?

God wants us to love and follow Him but He allows us to choose.



to believe in and follow Jesus

I choose ...

to NOT follow Jesus



Because of Jesus we receive a feast instead of punishment

What does God want us to know?

Hearing that we will one day stand before a big white throne and be judged by God can seem scary. BUT we should actually look forward to the day Jesus comes and this judgement happens because if we have chosen to believe in and follow Jesus, we will be welcomed to a glorious feast in Heaven.

(Trace over the words to help children understand that the only way to be welcomed by Jesus and avoid punishment is to believe in and follow Jesus.)

Note: If a child is worried about someone they know who is unsaved, remind them that God loves them even more than we do. He even reminds us that

Jesus is patient in returning because He wants to give everyone a chance to repent and choose to believe in and follow Him (2 Peter 3:9).

Visions from Revelation 21 - 22

The Bible starts, in Genesis, with God creating a perfect world where we live with Him. This was ruined because of our sin. *(Refer back to the world you wrote the disasters on.)*

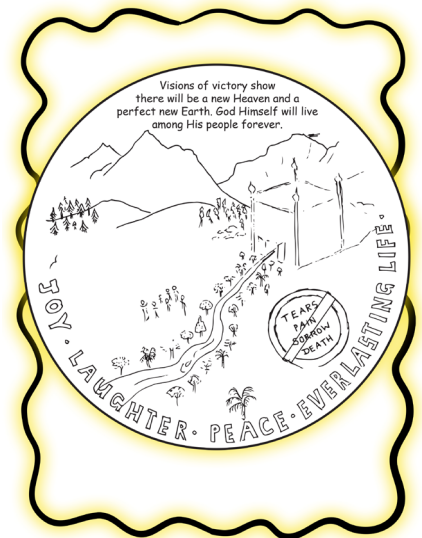
Now, the Bible ends with visions of victory, showing us a new Heaven and a new Earth where God will once again live among His people forever.

Close your eyes and imagine the most beautiful place you have ever seen. The new Heaven and new Earth will be much greater than this!

John explained it to be a place filled with light, more brilliant than the sun but never too bright for your eyes. The streets are made of gold, shining like glass, and the gates are made of pearl. The walls sparkle with every kind of jewel - red rubies, blue sapphires, and green emeralds, each more beautiful than the last. A crystal-clear river flows from God's throne, and trees grow along its banks, bearing fruit that never runs out. *(Let them open their eyes again.)*

It will not only look beautiful but it will be the perfect place, full of peace, no fighting and no anger. There is no pain, no sadness, and no sickness. No one ever cries because there is nothing to be sad about. No one is ever sick because God has made everything perfect. You will never feel afraid or lonely because God is always there.

Revelation 21 - 22



What is God saying to us?



BE PART OF GOD'S
VICTORY PLAN

What does God want us to know?

In the beginning God made a perfect world for us which our sin ruined. At the end He will make a perfect Heaven and Earth again for those who have chosen Him as their Saviour. Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega - the Beginning and the End.

We are part of God's victory plan. *(Let the children write their names onto the perfect new Heaven and new Earth picture.)*

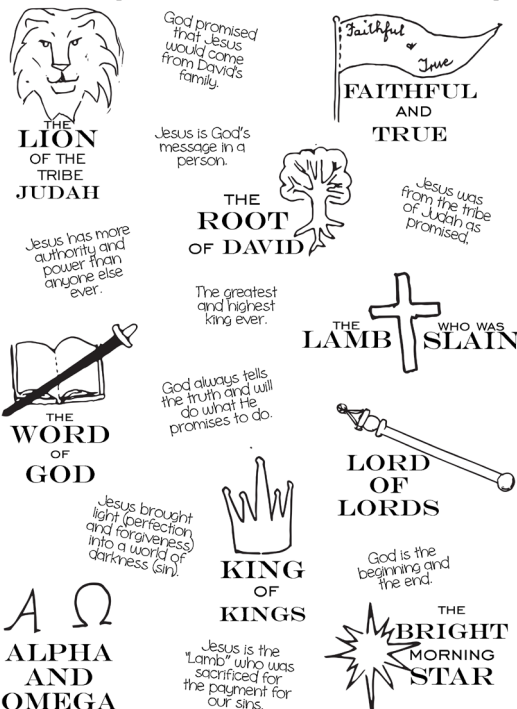
4) Review Questions:

- Who will be able to enjoy the new Heavens and new Earth forever with Jesus? *(Those who have asked Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins and chosen Him as their King)*
- What will we not find there? *(Sadness, sorrow, sickness, tears, death, pain, sin)*
- What names of Jesus can you remember and what do they tell us about Him? *(Refer to any of the names in the table above)*

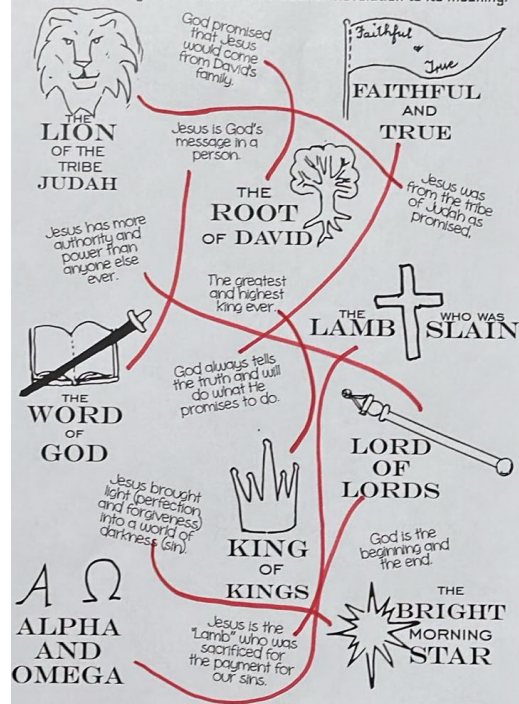
5) Craft

Option 1: Titles of Jesus (Match the column)

Match the title given to Jesus in the Book of Revelation to its meaning.



Match the title given to Jesus in the Book of Revelation to its meaning.



Option 2: Revelation Circle Craft

Children cut and glue the circles together to remind them of God's victory plan.

