

# What does the Bible say?



**GOD'S MESSAGE FOR US**  
**2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17**

# What does the Bible say?

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## What does the Bible say?

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## Letter to the leaders

The aim of ministering to children is to firstly introduce them to Jesus and at the same time help them build a relationship with Him that is not reliant on you.

If you have been ministering to children for a while I am sure that you have had a moment when a child has asked you a question where you have had to think twice before answering. Such as, “Who created God?” or, “Why did Jesus have to die?” These are valuable questions they are asking and it is helpful for us to give them the tools to know how to find out these answers for themselves by using the Bible while guided by the Holy Spirit.

In this series we will be asking a whole lot of questions and helping the children to use their Bible to find the answer. The questions we will be focusing on are to help the child form a strong foundation of the Christian faith which they can build upon and use to answer further questions they may have or others might ask them.

Take care to not confuse the children by bringing in questions they are not really asking. There are questions that have been debated by theologians for years and other questions perhaps we will never know the answer to because God chooses so. Weekly debates are not the goal. Helping the children ask valuable questions and finding the answer for themselves so they can grow closer to Jesus is.

Here are some tips to answering questions.

- Use the Bible to back up all the answers to their questions. This helps avoid us teaching our opinion.
- If the question does not benefit the group tell the child that you will answer it during free play.
- If you do not know the answer **do not guess!** Teaching children the wrong thing is worse than saying you do not know. Rather get back to them once you have read and studied what the Bible says.
- Do not bring up questions they are not asking.

The most beneficial way to teach this series is to begin by finding the answer to these questions for yourselves. Teaching from a solid foundation will be way more valuable than trying to learn along with them.

# Lesson 1: The Bible tells us God's Story

## Main focus for the lesson:

- To give the children an overview of God's incredible story in the Bible.
- To use colours to help children learn, understand and teach God's Story.

## 1) Memory Verse

- Joshua 1:8

***“Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.”***

## Idea to teach the memory verse.

### What you will need:

- Study, think and obey posters

The Bible can help us to “prosper and succeed”. This does not mean it helps us become rich or always win at everything. It means the Bible helps us to do what is right, to make wise choices and live lives that please God. It is not the book itself that does this but rather God's message inside and what we do with it. This verse tells us how to use the Bible to succeed as God wants us to.

*Stick the posters around the room. At each one ask the question, “How will you prosper and succeed in all you do?” and the children will answer...*



## 2) Hands on

### What you will need:

- Look inside Cake Clip  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCSeChSHRO8&list=LL>

The Bible is not just another book. It is the most important book. Not because it

has special pages or a pretty cover but because of its message inside. Every word is inspired by God. 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. 2 Timothy 3:16.

From cover to cover we can read about God's love and His everlasting Kingdom and how He wants us to be a part of it.

The Bible is an incredible book because the whole story is about Jesus and Salvation through Him. It is a book so perfectly written that the Holy Spirit comes and helps us understand it, remember it and teach its good news to others.

There is one very important thing to remember about the Bible. Watch this clip and see if you can work out what it is. *(Show the clip of the objects that are actually cakes but you wouldn't know until you looked inside.)*

**To know what the Bible says you need to look inside and read it!**

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

**What you will need:**

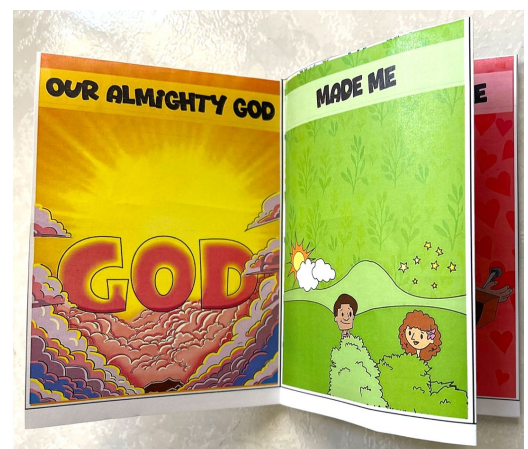
- A3 mini book (or weekly posters)

Use this link to see how to fold a mini book

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2tugEOAKTQ>

The Bible tells us an incredible story with such perfect details about God's plans, His love for us and His Kingdom. And the amazing thing about this story is that it is a true story and it includes us.

*Use the mini book to help teach the lesson and help the children teach this story to someone else.*



## **GOLD**

The Bible starts right in the beginning when there was nothing. But God was there. He has always existed.

## **GREEN**

The Bible tells us how God created everything, including people. People were created to represent God and to live close to God.

## **BLACK**

But then we read about how people sinned. This meant we were separated from God and needed saving. The Old Testament showed us that people kept on sinning and how we really need a Saviour but it also tells us all about God's perfect plan to save us.

## **RED**

The New Testament tells us about the coming of the Saviour, Jesus. Jesus, God's Son, lived a perfect life and never sinned. Even though people continued to sin, Jesus showed the greatest love by taking the punishment for our sins when He died on the cross.

## **WHITE**

The Bible tells us about that victorious day when Jesus came alive again. Jesus had saved us from our sin. The Bible assures us that our salvation can only come through Jesus and it can never be lost.

## **BLUE**

This incredible Good News did not stop there. Jesus said it was better for Him to go back to Heaven. Why? So the Holy Spirit could be sent. From the very beginning the Holy Spirit had always been there through every step of God's plan but now He would live in us to help us become more like Jesus.

## **GREY**

This is where we are in God's plan today: Spirit filled believers who are God's church who have been given the Bible so we know how to live and know this incredible plan of God. But God's story is not finished yet. Jesus will return, the world will be judged and He will rule as King. This will be a wonderful day for believers as sin will be gone forever and we will enjoy eternal life with God.

God wants us to know this story. That is why He has revealed it to us in so many ways - through the Bible, through creation, through prophets passing on God's message, through Jesus and through the Holy Spirit. But more importantly God wants you to allow this story to change your heart. Will you let it?

### **4) Review Questions:**

- a) Ask the children what each colour reminds them about God's incredible story.

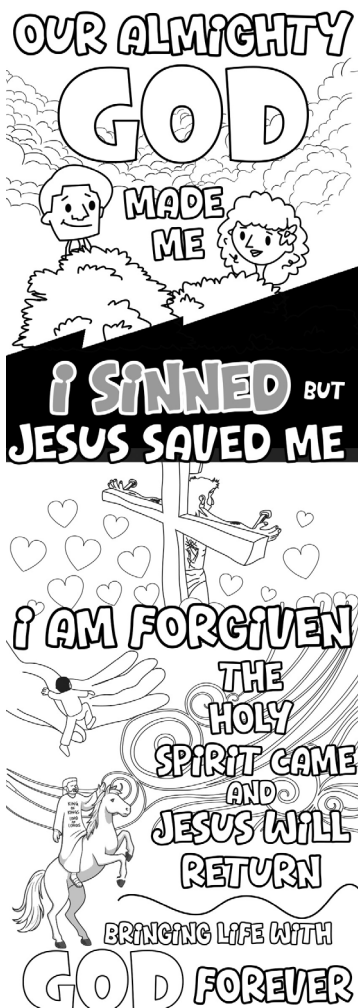
## 5) Craft

### Option 1: Salvation Mini Book

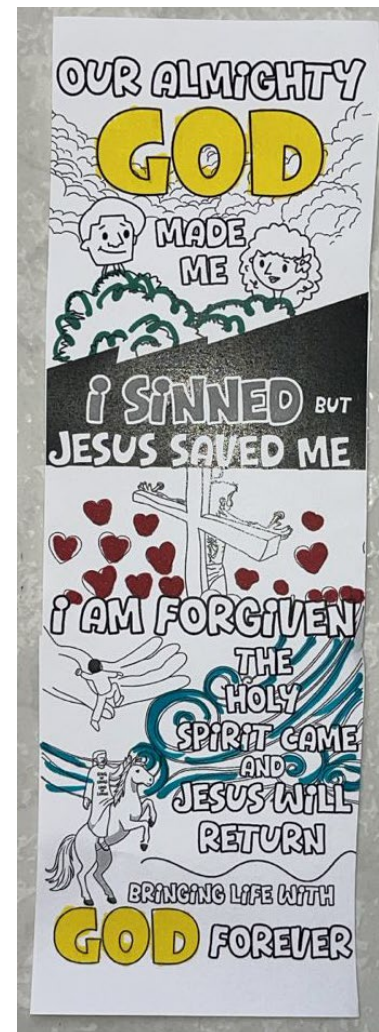
Children colour their mini books to help them remember God's story and teach it to others.



### Option 2: Salvation Colours Bookmark



Children colour the bookmark in the colours they learnt in the story. Encourage them to teach someone else God's incredible story of the Bible.



## Lesson 2: What is the Bible?

### Main focus for the lesson:

- To teach children that the Bible is God's message to them.
- To help children see the value of the Bible in their lives.
- To encourage children to read the Bible for themselves.

### 1) Memory Verse

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

***"<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work."***

### Idea to teach the memory verse.

Play this song to learn the memory verse. Encourage children to make up their own actions as they sing along.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BFGWuXUdhY&list=RD4BFGWuXUdhY&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BFGWuXUdhY&list=RD4BFGWuXUdhY&start_radio=1) 2 Timothy 3:16 (All Scripture) by The Rizers

### 2) Hands on

#### What you will need:

- "Look and see what the Bible says" flaps

#### How to play:

- Stick the flapped pictures all over the venue and choose two or three leaders who will stand at a central place.
- The children run, find a flap, read what it says and run back to tell the leader.
- If there are small children, have a leader stand near the picture so they can read what it says.
- At the end see how many the children can remember. Get them to then tell them to someone else.



Here is a summary of all the flaps:

Jesus loves me  
Sin will be punished  
Jesus is King  
Jesus died for our sins  
Jesus is alive  
Jesus looks after us  
Jesus is the Creator  
Jesus has the power to do anything  
Jesus is God's Son

Jesus lived a perfect life  
Jesus will come again  
Love others  
Obey God  
Pray to God  
Forgive others  
Tell others  
Praise God  
Be thankful  
Read the Bible

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

#### What you will need:

- Bible
- Question and answer puzzle pieces

*Stick up each question puzzle piece as you name them. Then add each answer puzzle piece as you teach the lesson*

There are many questions we can ask about the Bible such as:

- When should we learn what the Bible says?
- Who does the Bible lead us to?
- Who wrote the Bible?
- What does the Bible teach us?
- How does the Bible help us to live God's way?
- How does the Bible help us do God's work?

When should we learn what the Bible says?

Who does the Bible lead us to?

Who wrote the Bible?

What does the Bible teach us?

How does the Bible help us to live God's way?

How does the Bible help us do God's work?

Before we can find the answers to these we first need to answer...

#### How do we read the Bible?

*Show the children how to look up a verse in the Bible and let them practice doing so. Even if they are too young and can only read the numbers it still helps them see that what you are saying is not your opinion but rather God's message to them.*

*(Demonstrate using your Bible)* The Bible is divided into two main sections: The Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament has 39 books and tells stories about God, creation, and His people before Jesus was born and

highlights our need for a saviour. The New Testament has 27 books and is the part of the Bible that teaches us about Jesus, His life on Earth and after He died on the cross. It also teaches us about salvation, gives us examples of how the church should be and the end times.

Because the Bible is made up of many books, 66 books in total, chapters and verse numbers were added later to help us find places easily. Some verse numbers are in the middle of a sentence and so it is important that we read what happened before and after so we understand God's message correctly.

*These are the steps you can follow to help the children use their Bible:*

In the front of the Bible is the contents page which has all the books listed there. Usually, it is divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament. Find the book you are looking for and see what page it starts on. The page numbers could be different from one Bible to another because of the size of the font, pictures in them or even different translations.

Each book is broken down into chapters. The chapter is shown using a large number.

Each chapter is made up of verses. The small numbers show us where the next verse starts.



**1**

Find the book in the contents page and turn to that page number

**2**

Find the chapter by looking at the BIG numbers

**3**

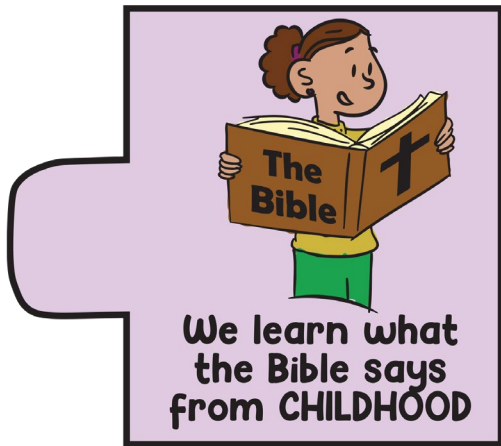
Find the verse by looking at the small numbers

Let's practice and look up the verses 2 Timothy 3:15-17. These verses can help us answer our other questions about the Bible. They tell us about Timothy.

Timothy was a young man who helped others know who Jesus is so they could believe in and follow Him too. It wasn't always easy for him as some people were teaching false things about God and many Christians were suffering for believing in Jesus. So Paul wrote Timothy letters to encourage him. These are the books 1 and 2 Timothy in the Bible. Let's take a closer look at one of these letters to see what it teaches us about the Bible.

Paul reminded Timothy that his mom, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois, had taught him as a child what the Bible said.

"You have been taught the holy Scriptures **from childhood**," 2 Timothy 3:15

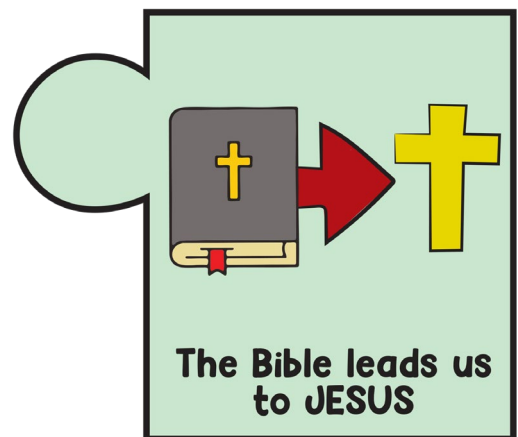


This helps us answer the question: "When should we learn what the Bible says?" (*Stick up the first answer puzzle piece*) *From childhood.*

In those times the whole Bible was not yet written but Timothy would have learnt who God is, how people needed saving because of sin as well as all of God's messages about the Saviour. Paul reminded Timothy how knowing what the Bible said had helped him.

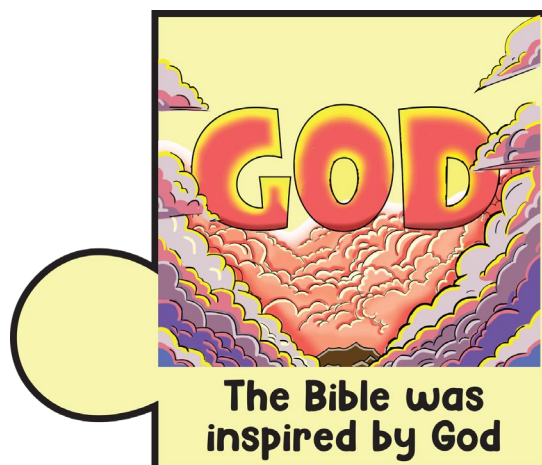
"and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ **Jesus**." 2 Timothy 3:15

When Timothy heard about Jesus he knew Jesus was the Saviour the Bible had been telling him about all along. The Bible had helped show Timothy who Jesus is and gave him the wisdom to choose to follow Jesus. This helps us answer the question: "Who does the Bible lead us to?" (*Add the next answer puzzle piece*) *Jesus.*



Paul then reminded Timothy that the Bible was not just some good stories put together but rather God's message.

"All Scripture is inspired by **God**" 2 Timothy 3:16

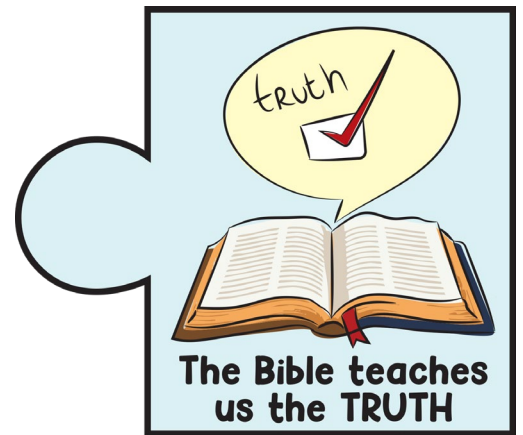


Even though the Bible is written by many different people over a very long time, more than a thousand years, God guided them making sure that every word was His idea. The Bible is God's message to us. This verse helps us answer the question: "Who wrote the Bible?" (*Add the answer puzzle piece*) *God.*

Paul then explained four ways the Bible helps us.

"and is useful to teach us **what is true**" 2 Timothy 3:16

The Bible helps us know the truth of who God is, what Jesus has done and how we should live guided by the Holy Spirit. This helps us answer the question: "What does the Bible teach us?"  
*(Add the next answer puzzle piece) The truth.*



"and to make us **realize what is wrong** in our lives." 2 Timothy 3:16

The Bible helps show us things that are wrong in our lives. For example, it shows us if our actions are sinful or our hearts are not loving God as He deserves.

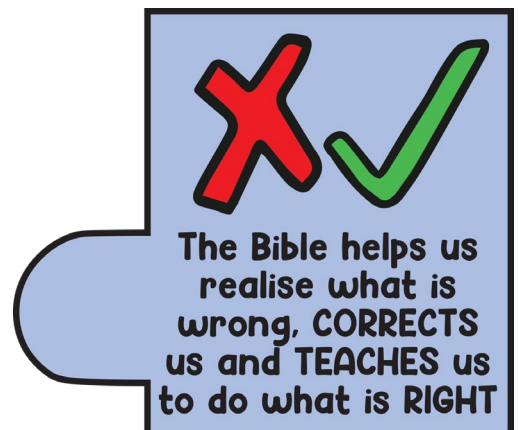
"It **corrects us** when we are wrong" 2 Timothy 3:16

The Bible not only shows us what is wrong but shows us how to change and correct what we are doing.

"and **teaches us to do what is right.**" 2 Timothy 3:16

The Bible also teaches us what is right and trains us to live God's way.

These verses answer the question: "How does the Bible help us to live God's way?" *(Add the next answer puzzle piece) Helps us realise what is wrong, correct us and teaches us to do what is right.*



Remember that the Bible was inspired by God and so even though it was written over a thousand years ago, every word applies to us today. This is why the Bible is described as being alive and powerful. (Hebrews 4:12)

Paul then explained to Timothy that everything God had written had a purpose. Most importantly it gave him the wisdom to recognise Jesus as the Saviour as we read earlier but also that God would use it to prepare and equip him for the good works ahead.

"God uses it to **prepare and equip** His people to do every good work." 2 Timothy 3:17

Even though Timothy was young and faced many challenges, the Bible, which is God's message, helped him live in a way pleasing to God and God used it to prepare and equip him to do what God wanted him to do. This helps us answer the question: "How does the Bible help us do God's work?" (*Add the final answer puzzle piece*) *It prepares and equips us.*



Recap the questions using the puzzles as shown in the review questions section.

#### 4) Review Questions:

Use the puzzle pieces to answer the review questions

- When should we learn what the Bible says? (*From childhood*)
- Who does the Bible lead us to? (*Jesus*)
- Who wrote the Bible? (*God*)
- What does the Bible teach us? (*The truth*)
- How does the Bible help us to live God's way? (*It shows us what's wrong, corrects us and teaches us to do what is right*)
- How does the Bible help us do God's work? (*God uses the Bible to prepare and equip us for the good works He wants us to do*)

#### 5) Craft

##### Option 1: Bible Quizz (Flaps)



Children create their own Bible Quiz questions and use 2 Timothy 3:15-17 to work out the answers

- 1) Cut along the solid line
- 2) Fold the dotted lines backwards so that when you flip the page the question and answer line up.

When should we learn what the Bible says?

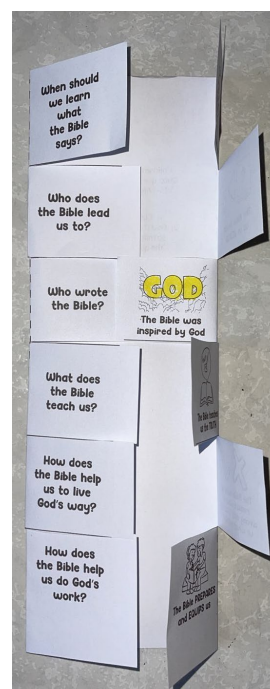
Who does the Bible lead us to?

Who wrote the Bible?

What does the Bible teach us?

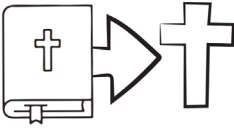
How does the Bible help us to live God's way?

How does the Bible help us do God's work?



## Option 2:

This craft can be done as part of the lesson. They can use their Bibles to answer the question and match the puzzle.

|                                                         |                                                                                                                                             |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>When should we learn what the Bible says?</b></p> |  <p>We learn what the Bible says from <b>CHILDHOOD</b></p> | <p><b>What does the Bible teach us?</b></p>                 |  <p>The Bible teaches us the <b>TRUTH</b></p>                                                                         |
| <p><b>Who does the Bible lead us to?</b></p>            |  <p>The Bible leads us to <b>JESUS</b></p>                 | <p><b>How does the Bible help us to live God's way?</b></p> |  <p>The Bible helps us realise what is wrong, <b>CORRECTS</b> us and <b>TEACHES</b> us to do what is <b>RIGHT</b></p> |
| <p><b>Who wrote the Bible?</b></p>                      |  <p>The Bible was inspired by <b>God</b></p>              | <p><b>How does the Bible help us do God's work?</b></p>     |  <p>The Bible <b>PREPARES</b> and <b>EQUIPS</b> us</p>                                                               |

Cut up the puzzles and use your Bible to answer the questions and join them again

<sup>15</sup> You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. 2 Timothy 3:15-17

## Lesson 3: Who is God?

### Main focus for the lesson:

- God is so great that we cannot even measure how great He is.
- Using the Bible to know God better.

### 1) Memory Verse

- Psalm 145:3

***“Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure His greatness.”***

### Idea to teach the memory verse.

#### What you will need:

- A long piece of string

Get the children to repeat the verse a few times.

Then show a small piece of the string and ask the children: “Is this how great God is?” The children respond: ***“Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure His greatness.”***

Then show a bigger piece of the string and ask the children: “Is this how great God is?” The children respond: ***“Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure His greatness.”***

Then get one child to hold one end of the string and another child to hold the other side of the string and ask the children: “Is this how great God is?” The children respond: ***“Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure His greatness.”***

And what if we had to stretch this string to the other side of the world? “Is this how great God is?” No! He is EVEN greater than this! We can never measure or understand God’s greatness!

### 2) Hands on

#### What you will need:

- Cloud cards
- Poster of all the clouds

*Lay out all the clouds on the floor. When the music plays the children dance around. When it stops they stand on a cloud and read what it says. Play continues until they have had a chance to read each cloud. Then gather the children around the poster. Point to the clouds one by one and briefly explain what each says.*



In the Bible there are times where God was seen in the clouds, on the clouds and above the clouds. (Acts 1; Daniel 7:13-14; Exodus 13:21; Revelation 14:14)  
So for fun we have hidden some clouds for you to find. *Let the children collect the clouds and put them on the giant cloud board.*

Let's look at what each of them say to learn more about God.

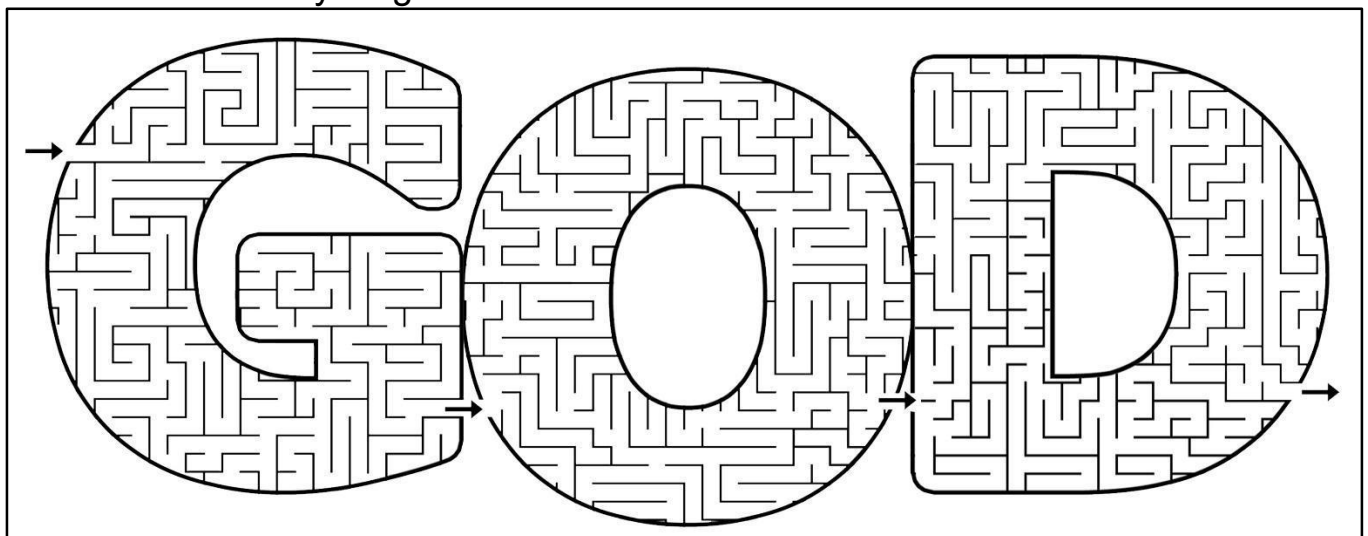
|                                    |                                        |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| God loves you (Romans 5:8)         | God is faithful (Lamentations 3:22-23) |
| God is holy (Isaiah 6:3)           | God is everywhere (Psalm 139:7-10)     |
| God is kind (Psalm 145:17)         | God is powerful (Matthew 19:26)        |
| God is a just judge (Psalm 7:11)   | God is in control (Daniel 4:35)        |
| God corrects us (Hebrews 12:6)     | God rules and reigns (Psalm 103:19)    |
| God is good (Psalm 145:9)          | God knows everything (1 John 3:20)     |
| God created everything (Genesis 1) | God sees everything (Hebrews 4:13)     |
| God forgives us (1 John 1:9)       | God is everywhere (Psalm 139:7-10)     |

These are just some of the things we know about our great and glorious God.  
Say the memory verse again.

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

#### What you will need:

- Maze to show that some things are easy to understand and know about God.
- Impossible Maze which shows that God is so great we cannot understand or know everything about Him.



*On arrival let the children try and solve the maze without telling them that it is impossible to solve.*

Because God is so great and above everyone else we might ask some questions like:

*Use the maze to help teach the lesson. Ask the question, follow along to the verse you must look up and read and then follow on to the answer.*

### Who made God?

The answer is no one. That can seem confusing to us because everything we know has a beginning but not God. Look what the Bible says in Revelation 1:8

"I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end," says the Lord God. "I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One." Revelation 1:8

God has always existed and will always exist. God is eternal. This should make you feel very safe because it means there will never be a time without God.

### Can we see God?

The Bible describes God as being invisible, but that if we want to see what He is like we should look at Jesus. Jesus shows us who God is.

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. Colossians 1:15

Just because we can't see Him doesn't mean He is not there. He is everywhere all the time. That is how incredible He is. One day we will see Him face to face (Revelation 22:4) and when we do we will see how glorious and amazing He is. Look at John's reaction when in a vision He saw Jesus glorified in Heaven.

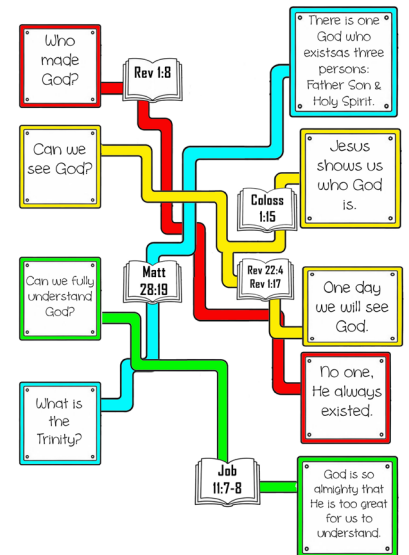
When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as if I were dead. But He laid His right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid! I am the First and the Last". Revelation 1:17

### Can we fully understand God?

It is good to ask questions to help us understand more about Him and how great He is but we need to also understand that it is impossible to fully understand who God is and how great He is.

Read Job 11:7-9 to see what God said to Job when he questioned God.

<sup>7</sup> "Can you solve the mysteries of God? Can you discover everything about the Almighty? <sup>8</sup> Such knowledge is higher than the heavens - and who are you? It is deeper than the underworld - what do you know? <sup>9</sup> It is broader than the earth and wider than the sea." Job 11:7-9



## What is the trinity?

There is one God and God exists as three persons: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They are all fully God, not three separate gods. Together they are one God. People call this the trinity. It can be super confusing for us because God is too mighty to fully understand. But the Bible makes it clear that all of them are God and all are completely united together as one. Jesus even tells us to baptise people in all of their names.

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

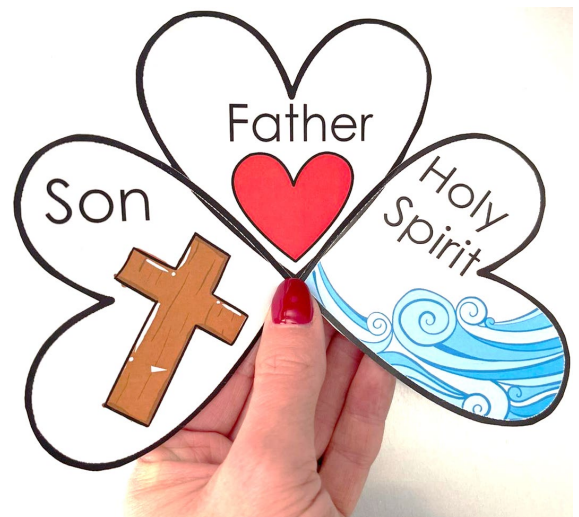
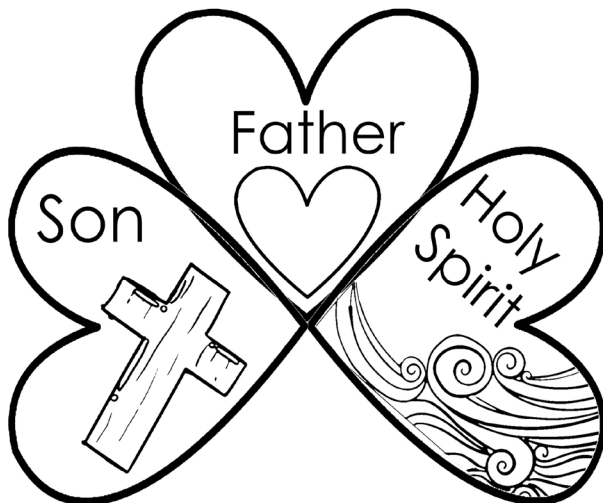
We need to take care to not get tripped up wanting to know everything God knows without more importantly knowing God Himself. There are some things He will make known to us. *(Refer to the maze you used to answer the questions)* But how wonderful it is that He is so GREAT that we will never know and understand everything. *(Refer to the impossible maze.)*

### 4) Review Questions:

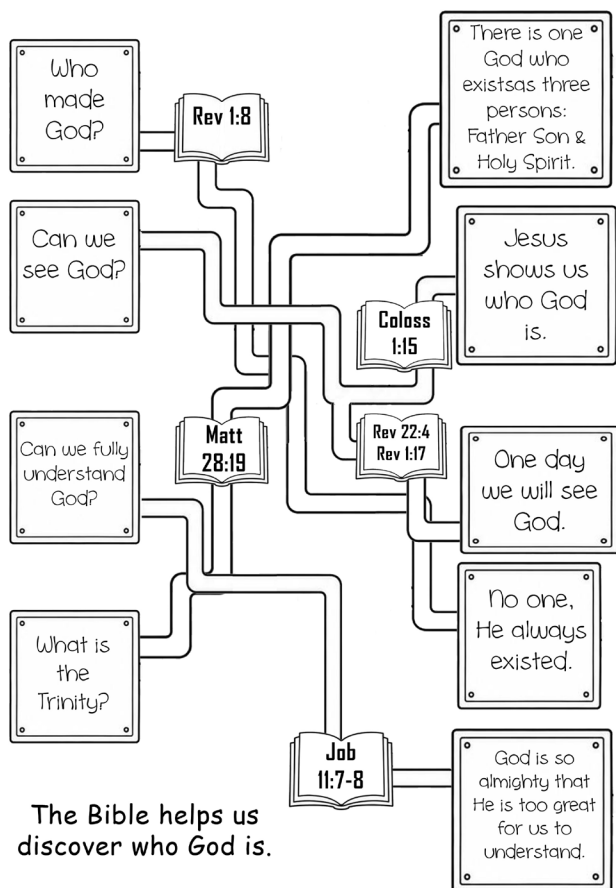
- What is the most incredible thing you love about God? *(Let the children answer) You could also lay out the cards from the hands on and let them choose which they love, learnt about today or will tell someone else.)*
- How can we get to know God better? *(Spend time speaking to Him, reading about Him in the Bible, listening to others' testimonies about Him or learning about Him at church.)*

### 5) Craft

#### Option 1: Trinity Clover

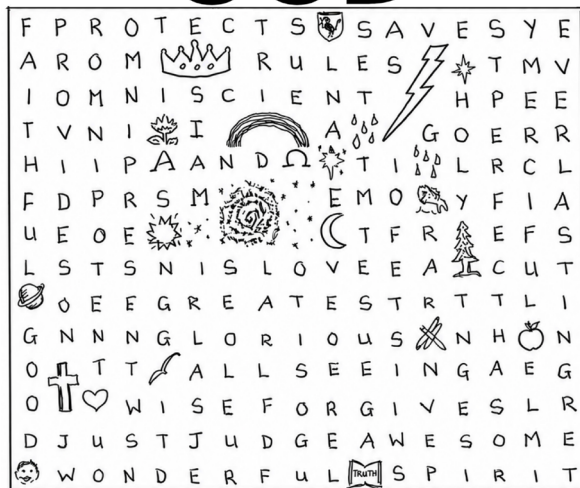


## Option 2: Who is God? (Maze)



## Option 3: Who is God? (Wordsearch)

# GOD



SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THE FOLLOWING WORDS:

- ALL SEEING
- AWESOME
- CREATOR
- EVERLASTING
- ETERNAL
- GOOD
- GLORIOUS
- FAITHFUL
- PERFECT
- IS LOVING
- SPIRIT
- WONDERFUL
- WISE
- I AM
- FATHER
- PROVIDES
- OMNIPRESENT (EVERYWHERE)
- OMNISCIENT (ALL KNOWING)
- OMNIPOTENT (ALL POWERFUL)
- A AND Ω (THE BEGINNING AND THE END)
- FORGIVES
- HOLY
- JUST JUDGE
- MERCIFUL
- MIGHTY
- RULES
- SAVES
- SON
- PROTECTS
- GREATEST

## Lesson 4: Who are we?

### Main focus for the lesson:

- We are created by God in His image
- We are created to love, worship and obey God.
- God made us on purpose for a purpose.

### 1) Memory Verse

- Genesis 1:27

***“So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.”***

### Idea to teach the memory verse.

Children listen to the verse and either sit down or stand up each time they hear the word “created” or “image”.

Ask them questions about the verse:

Who created us? *God*

How were we created? *In His image*

### 2) Hands on

#### What you will need:

- Playdough

What can I make with this playdough? *(Let them answer.)*

You may all have some great ideas what it could be but remember the playdough becomes whatever the person shaping it wants it to be. I may want it to make a heart or a star. *(Keep squashing it and remaking it into what you decide.)*

The creator decides what shape it is going to be and what it looks like, not everyone else.

This is the same when it comes to us. The world tells us who we should be. It says we need to look a certain way, be popular, have lots of money, or be like everyone else. But God created each of us with a purpose. Instead of letting the world shape us, we should let God shape us into the person He created us to be.

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

Seeing as we are asking questions about us, let's use our bodies as a way of remembering the answers.

#### What does it mean to be created in God's image?

*(Our eyes remind us the answer)*

So God created mankind **in His own image**, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them. Genesis 1:27



We weren't made to look like God (*Point to your eyes*), because God is not limited to a body with arms, legs and smelly feet. Rather, we were created to show others what God is like (*Hold hands around your eyes like binoculars*). Like God we are living, we create, we look after things, we

think and reason and we love and have relationships. Unfortunately, because we have sinned we do not represent God as He deserves. But Jesus did! And with the help of the Holy Spirit we can too.



## How did God create people?

*(Our mouths remind us the answer)*



In Genesis we can read how powerful God is as He simply spoke and everything came into existence. (*Demonstrate speaking: God said "Let there be light" and there was.*)

Yet when it came to creating people He breathed life into them.

Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He **breathed the breath of life** into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person. Genesis 2:7



God breathed life into us and again God breathed eternal life into us too when He filled us with the Holy Spirit. (*Demonstrate blowing*)

## Why did God create us?

*(Our hands remind us the answer)*



God created us to have a close relationship with Him (*Put your hands together*). God was with Adam and Eve in the garden and spoke to them. This is the close relationship that God wants with us: Speaking to Him and living with Him. Sin separated us from this relationship (*Separate hands*) but Jesus made a way for us to be close with God again (*Put your hands together again*).





God created us to love, obey and worship Him (*Hold your hands up in the air*) and God also created us with a purpose to do the good works that He has planned for us long ago (*Hold your hands stretched out*).



For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2:10

In the garden God could have named all the animals but He allowed Adam to do so. God also has good things for us to do and once we are made new through Jesus we should start playing our part in God's plan.

Later in the Bible we read how God's chosen people, the Israelites, were not living as people made in God's image. They were not doing the things God had created them for. Instead, they were doing many sinful things, such as worshipping fake gods, hurting others and disobeying God. So God sent them a message.

The Lord gave another message to Jeremiah. He said, "Go down to the potter's shop, and I will speak to you there." So I did as He told me and found the potter working at his wheel. But the jar he was making did not turn out as he had hoped, so he crushed it into a lump of clay again and started over.

Then the Lord gave me this message: "O Israel, can I not do to you as this potter has done to his clay? As the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand. Jeremiah 18:6

God wants us to allow Him to do this with us too. Remember how He created us to be? Our eyes remind us that we are made in God's image so others can see how great God is.

Our mouths remind us how God breathed life into us and again He breathed eternal life into us too when He filled us with the Holy Spirit.

Our hands remind us that God made us to have a close relationship with Him.

Our hands remind us that we are created to love, obey and worship God.

Our hands remind us that we are created with a purpose to do the good works that God has planned for us.

Are you living as God created you to be? If not, will you allow Him to shape you into who He created you to be?

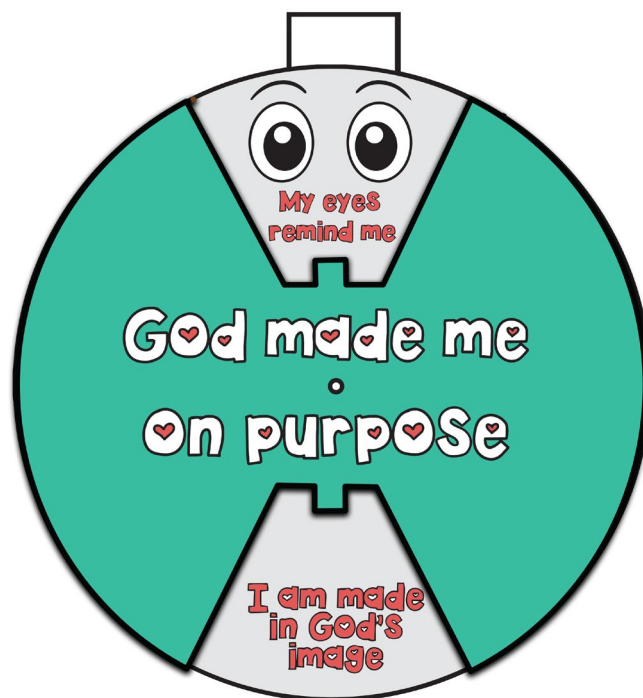
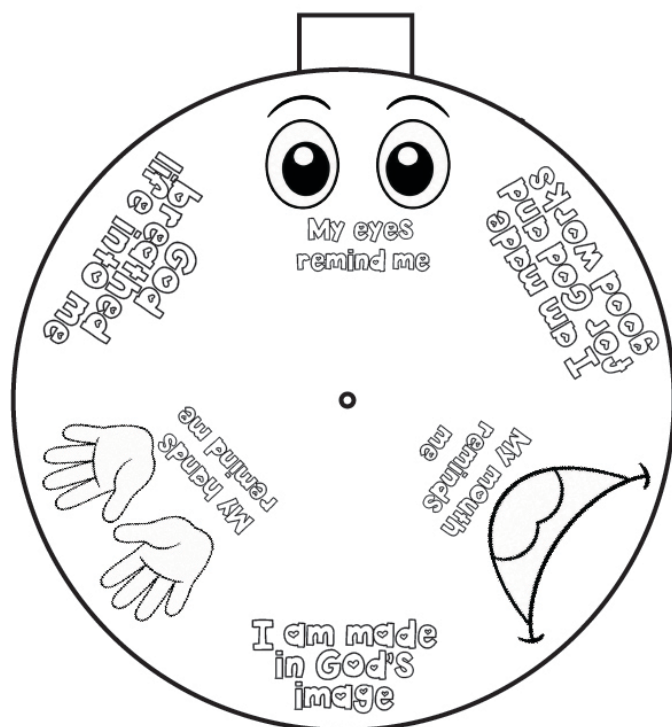
#### 4) Review Questions:

- a) Ask the children what their eyes, mouths and hands remind them how they were created. (See the end of the lesson for the recap.)

#### 5) Craft

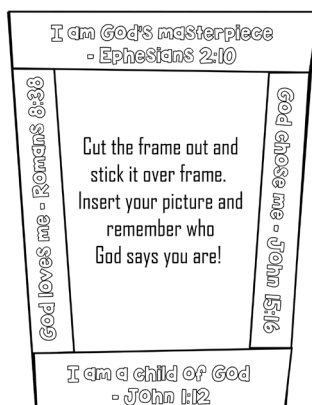
##### Option 1: God made me on purpose (Spinner wheel)

Children can use the craft to remember what they learnt today.



##### Option 2: Child of the King (Photo Frame)

Cut the centre out and stick it onto the frame. Let the children slip in a photo or drawing of themselves.



## Lesson 5: What is sin?

### Main focus for the lesson:

- Sin breaks our relationship with God that we cannot fix, only Jesus can.
- How to live without sinning.

### 1) Memory Verse

- Romans 3:23

***“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.”***

### Idea to teach the memory verse.

#### What you will need:

- Beacon discs (or paper plates)

Create a play area. The leader will throw the discs and the children have to try and avoid them. If a child gets hit by the disc they need to say the verse in order to keep playing.

Conclusion: We should try to avoid sin and obey God, but the Bible teaches that all people have sinned. None of us can live a perfect life like Jesus did. That is why we need Jesus. Jesus died to forgive us of our sins, and He has given us the Holy Spirit to help us live in a way that pleases God. Even so, we will still sometimes fail and sin. When that happens, we should come back to Jesus, confess our sins, and ask Him for forgiveness. He is faithful to forgive us and help us keep following Him.

### 2) Hands on

#### What you will need:

- Something soft, like a slipper, tied to the end of a rope
- Two pieces of rope

*Play the following games as the children arrive to help them understand that they have all sinned and need saving from their sin.*

#### Game 1 instructions:

Get the children to stand in a circle around you. As you spin the rope with the slipper they will try and time their jump so they do not get caught.

#### Game 2 Instructions:

Lay the pieces of rope on the ground to form the two banks of a river. The children all have a turn to jump from one side to the other. Each time widen it a little. Eventually make it way too wide that no one comes even close to being able to jump over it.

<sup>23</sup> For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.  
Romans 3:23

In our first game you may have managed to jump and dodge the slipper once or twice but if we kept on playing you would have definitely been caught. We have all been tripped up by sin. The Bible tells us that we have all sinned!

Our second game shows us that God's glorious standard is so much greater than we could ever reach. It is as if the bank was further than we can even see. The furthest star wouldn't even be close to God's standard. The Bible tells us that we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

And this shows that we all need saving! We all need to be saved from the punishment we deserve for our sins, which is death, or separation from eternal life with God.

**<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23**

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

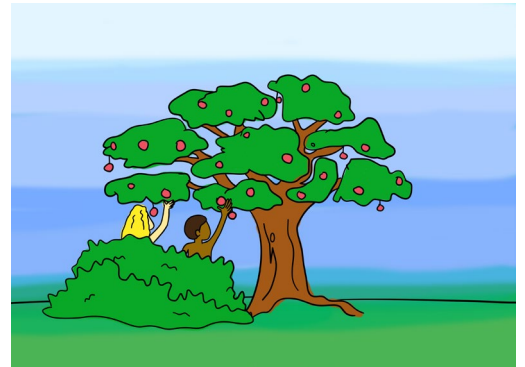
#### What you will need:

- Pictures
- Page with doors to sin and to pleasing God

#### What is sin?

God had made a perfect and wonderful world for Adam and Eve to live in. God told them not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because they would die. But they disobeyed God and brought sin into the world and into every person who would be born after that.

The first sin was disobeying God but mankind has done many more too.



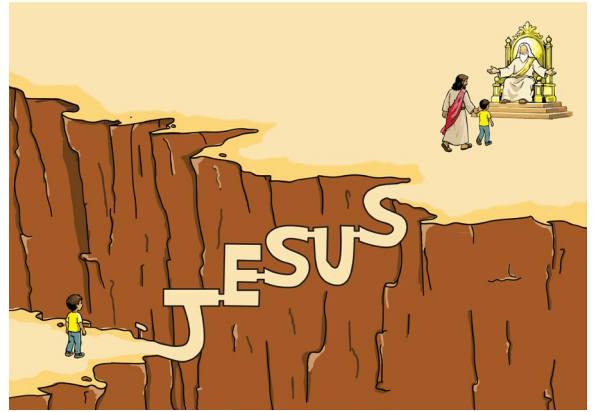
The Bible lists some of them (Proverbs 6:16-19; Galatians 5:19-21,26; Romans 1:29–31 and more). Some sins might surprise us. We may not think that things like not obeying our parents or gossiping are sins, but they are. Other sins may seem worse, and they can make us judge other people or think our own sins are not a big deal.

But God says that everyone has sinned. We all fall short of God's perfect standard. Every sin separates us from God. No matter what the sin is, we all have the same problem. We are all separated from God and need a way to be brought back to Him.

#### How do we get rid of sin?

At just the right time, after people had tried again and again to make themselves right with God and failed, God sent His own Son, Jesus.

Jesus lived a normal human life just like us, but He never sinned. Jesus loved us so much that He was willing to suffer cruel punishment and die on a cross for our sins making a way for us to be with God again. Then Jesus came alive again! This showed that what He had done was enough to take away our sin and make a way for us to be with God again. Jesus had filled the gap between us and God.



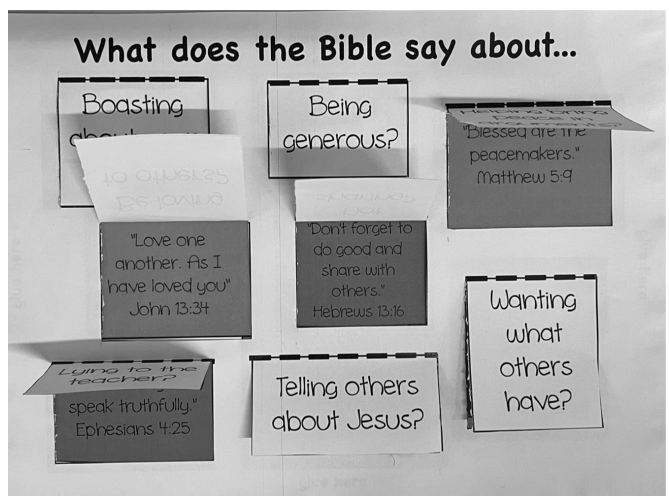
But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12

### How do we stop sinning?

Reading the Bible can help us as it teaches us how God wants us to live, it helps us know what pleases God and tells us how Jesus, our perfect example, lived without sin.

*Use the flaps to demonstrate that we know how to live because when we read His Word, we get to know God and how He wants us to live.*

*Read each one and let the children decide "What does the Bible say about?..." Open each flap to read the answer.*



Jesus has made it so we are no longer slaves to sin and so this is how we should live. This means that before we knew Jesus, sin was like a boss that kept telling us what to do and we kept obeying it. We would lie, be selfish, disobey or do other wrong things because sin had power over us. The Bible says we were slaves to sin.

But when we believe in Jesus and allow Him to be in charge, He forgives us of our sins and sets us free. Sin no longer has control over us. We can still choose to sin, but we don't have to obey it anymore. God gives us the Holy Spirit to help us say 'no' to sin and 'yes' to Him. And when we do fail and we sin, Jesus will keep forgiving us. His grace never runs out.

Twice in the Bible Jesus forgives someone and tells them to "Go and sin no more". Jesus is encouraging them that their lives cannot stay the same. When we realise what His forgiveness has saved us from, we should want to change. We should want to live lives that please Him and show how grateful we are for what He has saved us from. Satan, who rebels against everything, wants us to rebel too. Jesus tells us that obedience and doing good is the way to please, thank and bring glory to God who loves us.

#### 4) Review Questions:

- a) What did Adam's disobedience bring? (*Sin and death*)
- b) What did Jesus' obedience, sinless life, dying on the cross and coming alive again bring? (*Forgiveness and life, a way back to God.*)
- c) Knowing this, how do we respond to Jesus? (*Each one of us, for ourselves, must believe that Jesus is God's Son and what He did was for us to be forgiven and have new and eternal life in Him and with Him and God the Father.*)

*Pray with the children giving them the opportunity to ask Jesus to forgive them, be their Lord and Saviour and help them to stop sinning against Him.*

#### 5) Craft

##### Option 1: Freed from sin (Paper chains)

|                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    |
|                                                                                     |
|                                                                                     |
|                                                                                     |
|                                                                                     |
|  |



## Option 2: What did Jesus do? (Code breaker)

# What did Jesus do?

### CRACK THE CODE!

#### HOW TO USE THE CODE:

- The first number tells you the row.
- The second number tells you the column.

#### EXAMPLES:

1:5 = E  
2:4 = I  
5:1 = V

|   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | A | B | C | D | E |
| 2 | F | G | H | I | J |
| 3 | K | L | M | N | O |
| 4 | P | R | S | T | U |
| 5 | V | W | X | Y | Z |

#### What does the Bible say?

Write the letters in the boxes as you solve the code:

1:2 4:5 4:4      2:2 3:5 1:4      4:3 2:3 3:5 5:2 1:5 1:4      2:3 2:4 4:3

□ □ □      □ □ □      □ □ □ □ □ □      □ □ □

2:2 4:2 1:5 1:1 4:4      3:2 3:5 5:1 1:5      2:1 3:5 4:2      4:5 4:3      1:2 5:4

□ □ □ □ □      □ □ □ □      □ □ □      □ □      □ □

4:3 1:5 3:4 1:4 2:4 3:4 2:2      2:5 1:5 4:3 4:5 4:3      4:4 3:5      1:4 2:4 1:5

□ □ □ □ □ □ □      □ □ □ □ □      □ □      □ □ □

2:1 3:5 4:2      4:5 4:3      5:2 2:3 2:4 3:2 1:5      5:2 1:5      5:2 1:5 4:2 1:5

□ □ □      □ □      □ □ □ □ □      □ □      □ □ □ □

4:3 4:4 2:4 3:2 3:2      4:3 2:4 3:4 3:4 1:5 4:2 4:3      4:2 3:5 3:3      5:1

□ □ □ □ □      □ □ □ □ □ □ □      □ □ □      5 □ 8

♥ ONLY THROUGH JESUS ♥  
CAN WE GET BACK TO GOD ♥



# What did Jesus do?

### CRACK THE CODE!

#### HOW TO USE THE CODE:

- The first number tells you the row.
- The second number tells you the column.

EXAMPLES:  
1:5 = E  
2:4 = I  
5:1 = V

|   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | A | B | C | D | E |
| 2 | F | G | H | I | J |
| 3 | K | L | M | N | O |
| 4 | P | R | S | T | U |
| 5 | V | W | X | Y | Z |

#### What does the Bible say?

Write the letters in the boxes as you solve the code:

1:2 4:5 4:4      2:2 3:5 1:4      4:3 2:3 3:5 5:2 1:5 1:4      2:3 2:4 4:3

BUT GOD SHOWED HIS

2:2 4:2 1:5 1:1 4:4      3:2 3:5 5:1 1:5      2:1 3:5 4:2      4:5 4:3      1:2 5:4

GREAT LOVE FOR US BY

4:3 1:5 3:4 1:4 2:4 3:4 2:2      2:5 1:5 4:3 4:5 4:3      4:4 3:5      1:4 2:4 1:5

SENDING JESUS TO DIE

2:1 3:5 4:2      4:5 4:3      5:2 2:3 2:4 3:2 1:5      5:2 1:5      5:2 1:5 4:2 1:5

FOR US WHILE WE WERE

4:3 4:4 2:4 3:2 3:2      4:3 2:4 3:4 3:4 1:5 4:2 4:3      4:2 3:5 3:3      5:1

STILL SINNERS ROM 5:8

♥ ONLY THROUGH JESUS ♥  
CAN WE GET BACK TO GOD ♥



## Lesson 6: Who is Jesus?

### Main focus for the lesson:

- Jesus shows us who God is.
- Jesus has always existed, He is supreme and He is God, the Son.
- Show the children that the Bible says Jesus is our Creator, Saviour, King, Teacher and Shepherd.

### 1) Memory Verse

- Colossians 1:15

***“Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation”***

### Idea to teach the memory verse.

#### What you will need:

- Words from verse

*Stick the words from the verse in different places in the room. The children will go to the word you call out and say that part of the verse.*

Visible image  
Existed  
Supreme

**Visible image:** “Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God”

**Existed:** “Jesus existed before anything was created”

**Supreme:** “Jesus is supreme over all creation”

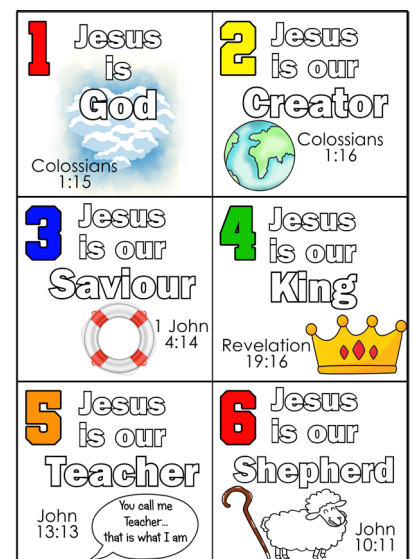
Add in some actions for these words when they repeat the verse. Such as make binoculars when they say “visible image”; jump backwards when they say “existed before” and jump as high as they can when they say “supreme”.

### 2) Hands on

#### What you will need:

- A dice
- “Who is Jesus?” cards (*Print these back to back so the verse is on one side and the numbered picture on the other*)

- 1) Lay out all the cards so the children can see the numbers.
- 2) Children take turns throwing the dice and say out loud what the card with that number says.
- 3) They can then collect the card number they have thrown. If they already have that number, play passes on.
- 4) This can be done as a race against each other or as a team working together to try to complete the set.



### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

#### What you will need:

- “Who is Jesus?” cards (*Print these back to back so the verse is on one side and the numbered picture on the other*)

*Use the cards from the hands on but now lay them out with the verse side up. Each time you read a verse from the Bible, ask the question “Who does the Bible say Jesus is?” Then turn over the card to reveal the answer. For older children let them look up and read the verse for themselves to try and work out the answer.*

We can all be thankful that we know who Jesus is or have at least heard His name before. There are many people who have not. This is one of the reasons that God gave us the Bible, so we could get to know Jesus better.

The whole Bible tells us about Jesus, even the Old Testament before Jesus was born as a man on earth, while the New Testament is filled with stories of what He did each day, how He lived and what He taught us.

Colossians 1:15 -20 is a poem that tells us all about Jesus and how He is supreme or greater than anyone or anything else. *Let the children look up the poem and read the first verse.*

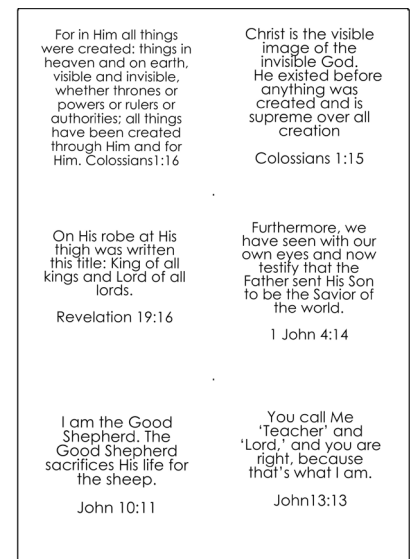
#### Who is Jesus? Jesus is God.

Christ is the **visible image** of the invisible God. He **existed** before anything was created and is **supreme** over all creation. Colossians 1:15

This verse teaches us three important things about who Jesus is. Can you remember what they are? *Get the children to do the actions they did previously in the memory verse.*

#### 1) Jesus is the visible image of God.

Jesus has an identical character and nature to God. In other words, if you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus because He shows us. When we read about Jesus being loving, humble, honest and faithful we can know this about God too. When you see Jesus' great compassion, you are seeing God's compassion. When you see the way in which Jesus treated people, you are seeing how God treats people. Jesus is everything that God is, but in human form.



Who is Jesus? **He is the visible image of God.**

2) Jesus has always existed

Jesus was there with God the Father and the Holy Spirit at the beginning of creation. This shows no one created Jesus, He has always existed. Only God can do that, which is exactly right because Jesus not only shows us what God is like but He is God. How wonderful it is to know that there will never be a time where Jesus does not exist.

3) Jesus is supreme over all of creation.

To be supreme means you are the ultimate best. No one will ever be greater than Jesus because together with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, Jesus is God. It can be confusing for us to understand the perfect union of God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit but that is just how great they are. People decided to call this perfect relationship of three Persons who are one God 'the Trinity'.

This verse is teaching us that Jesus not only shows us what God is like but He is God. **Who is Jesus?** (*Turn over the verse card*) **Jesus is God**

Let's read the next verse of the poem and see what else it teaches us about Jesus.

**Who is Jesus? Jesus is our Creator.**

For in Him all things were created: things in Heaven and on Earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. Colossians 1:16 (NIV)

Jesus is our Creator. The Bible tells us that everything was created by Jesus and for Jesus. He made everything that you can see and even the things we can't see. And He made you! He made you perfectly and He considers you His masterpiece! Imagine that, out of all the wonderful planets, stars, animals and plants, YOU are His prize creation, the one He loves the most.

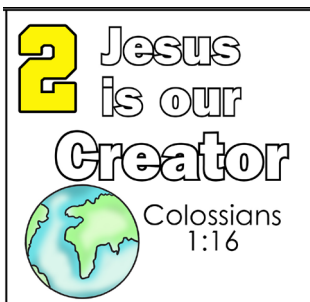
**Who is Jesus? Jesus is our Creator**

Let's read 1 John 4:14 to find out more about who Jesus is.

**Who is Jesus? Jesus is our Saviour.**

"Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent His Son to be the **Saviour** of the world." 1 John 4:14

What does this verse tell us about Jesus? (*Let the children answer*) Again it reminds us that Jesus is the Son of God but it also teaches us that Jesus is our Saviour. He saved us from our sin which separated us from life with God. He did



this while we were still sinners, that's how much He loves us. He chose to die to save us from our sins even though He had never sinned. In doing this, He fulfilled the plan for us to be forgiven and reunited with Him. Is Jesus still dead? No, on the third day Jesus came alive again and He is still alive today. Jesus will live forever, that is what makes Him the perfect Saviour.

Believing in and following Jesus is the only way for us to be with God forever. We need Jesus our Saviour!

**Who is Jesus?** *(Turn over the card to reveal the answer)* **Jesus is our Saviour**

**Who is Jesus? Jesus is our King.**

What does Revelation 19:16 tell us about Jesus? *(Children look up and read the verse and answer)*

On His robe at His thigh was written this title: **King** of all kings and Lord of all lords. Revelation 19:16



Jesus is our King. He is not a king like the kings in the Bible or the kings we know who only rule over a country or a group of people. Jesus is the King of all kings. That means He has authority over everything. Jesus rules over all of creation. His great power can be seen in the miracles He did in the Bible and the miracles He still does today. Jesus will always be King and His Kingdom will last forever.

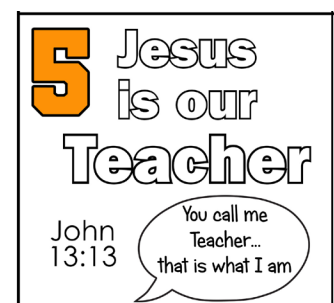
Jesus wants you to be part of His Kingdom. Will you choose Him as your King?

**Who is Jesus?** *(Turn over the card to reveal the answer)* **Jesus is our King**

**Who is Jesus? Jesus is our Teacher.**

Who does John 13:13 say Jesus is? *(Children look up and read the verse and answer)*

"You call Me '**Teacher**' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am." John 13:13



Jesus is our Teacher. While Jesus was here on earth He spent a lot of time teaching and people would come from far to learn from Him. Jesus taught God's message. If we want to learn how to read and write, we would go to a teacher. If we want to learn about God, His love or how to live lives that please Him, we go to Jesus. He is our perfect teacher! The Bible is filled with lessons that Jesus taught but Jesus also taught us through being a perfect example on how to live.

**Who is Jesus?** *(Turn over the card to reveal the answer)* **Jesus is our Teacher**

**Who is Jesus? Jesus is our Shepherd.**

Who does John 10:11 say Jesus is? *(Children look up and read the verse and answer)*

Jesus said: "I am the Good **Shepherd**. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep." John 10:11

When Jesus says He is the Good Shepherd, He doesn't mean He stands in a field with little bleating animals around Him. He is explaining that He is the one who takes care of us, provides for us, protects us, leads us, watches over us and even lays His life down for us. Jesus is saying no one else can do this like He can. Knowing that Jesus is our shepherd should make us feel so loved and secure.

**Who is Jesus?** (Turn over the card to reveal the answer) **Jesus is our Shepherd**



These are only six things we have learnt about Jesus and they all show how amazing He is. This however, can't only be information we know about Jesus but rather truth that changes the way we live, trust and follow Him every day. How exciting it is that there is still so much more to know about Him. So keep reading your Bible and let Jesus reveal Himself to you personally.

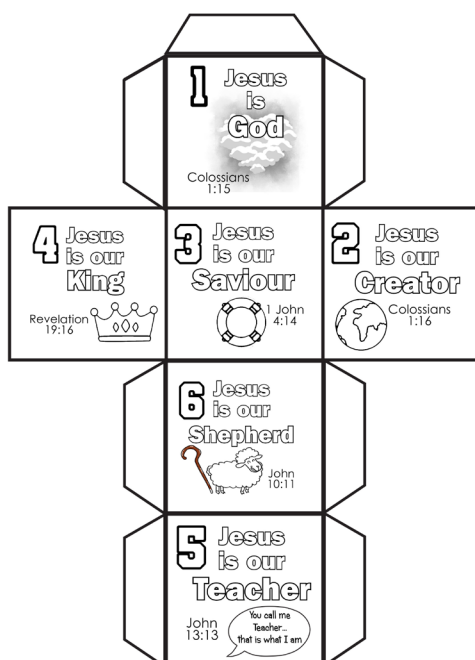
#### 4) Review Questions:

Let the children take turns to roll the dice. Ask them one of the following questions about the number (truth about Jesus) it lands on.

- How does it make you feel knowing this about Jesus?
- Explain what that is saying about Jesus?
- How will knowing this about Jesus change how you live?
- Who will you tell these things about Jesus?

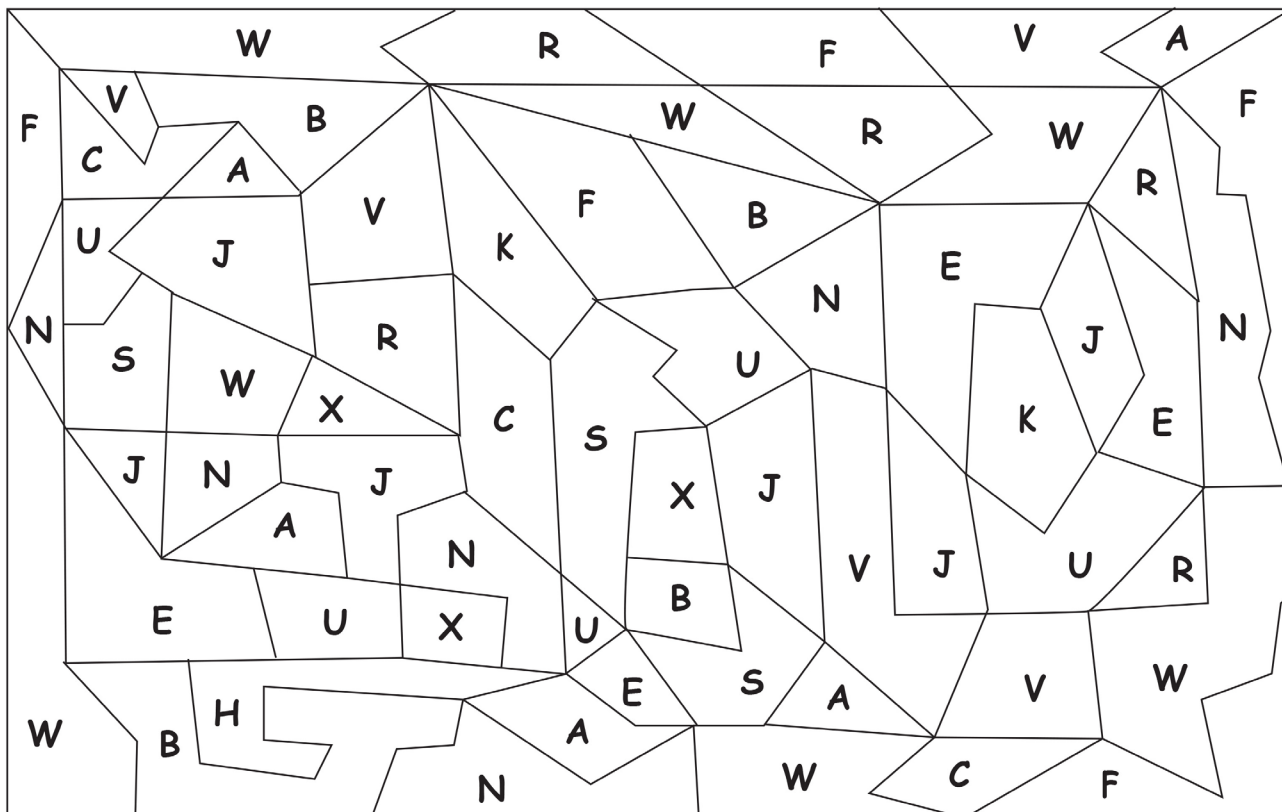
#### 5) Craft

##### Option 1: Jesus is (Dice)



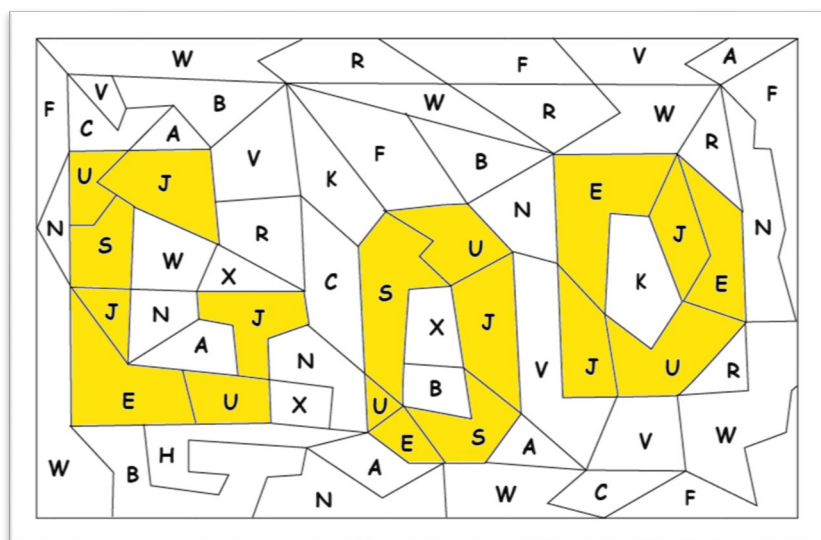
## Option 2: Hidden word (Activity Page)

Colour in only the letters J E S U to see what it reveals about Jesus



Jesus is the visible image of \_\_\_\_

Jesus is the Son of \_\_\_\_



## Lesson 7: What is Salvation?

### Main focus for the lesson:

- We have all sinned and need a Saviour.
- Jesus is the perfect Saviour and the only one who can save us.
- Salvation cannot be earned, but is a free gift from God.

### 1) Memory Verse

- Romans 10:9

***“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”***

### Idea to teach the memory verse.

Divide the children into two groups:

One half says: ***“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord”*** (While doing the action of arms lifted up)

The other half says: ***“and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead”*** (While doing the action of hands to heart)

Then everyone says together: ***“you will be saved!”*** (While doing the action of celebrating)

Repeat a few times.

### 2) Hands on

#### What you will need:

- Black long sleeve zip up jacket to represent our sin.

*Put on the black jacket and zip it up.*

This black jacket represents sin. Sin separates us from God. I don't want to be separated from God, do you? So I am going to try and get rid of my sin. *(Try multiple ways to try and get rid of the sin but none will work.*

We think we can get rid of our sin by... doing good deeds like helping people or saying kind words. But although God wants us to do them, they do not get rid of our sin.

*(Go through other ways such as giving money to the church, suffering for the things you have done wrong, trying to learn as many verses in the Bible as you can etc but none of them will get rid of your sin.)*

Nothing I do can take away my sin. But what does the Bible say?

The Bible teaches us that we cannot save ourselves or take away our own sin, no matter how hard we try. Only Jesus can. God loves us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross for us. Jesus then came alive again making it so that all who believe can be forgiven and have a relationship with God. When we

ask Jesus to be our Lord and Saviour, He takes away our sin. *(Remove the jacket)* Because of Jesus we can now live with God forever.

Use the link to see this in action:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DfP0jx329G8&list=PLUhlIKYncK6bwaSG7ZizJM8J2IvuAmO6N&index=65>

### 3) Bible Story + Lesson

#### What you will need:

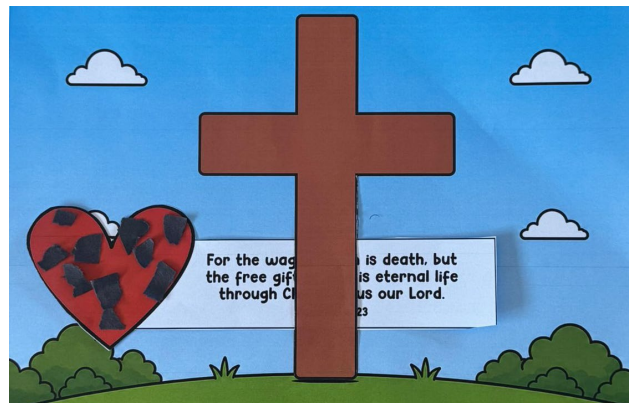
- Heart with verse
- Torn pieces of black paper to represent sin
- Background scene of cross with slit to slide picture through

Salvation, which means to be saved, can seem difficult to understand. So let's start at the very beginning.

#### Why do we need saving? *(Heart with loose pieces of black paper to represent sin)*

In the beginning, when God created people, they chose to disobey God. This is called sin. *(Add pieces of sin to the heart - **do not** stick them on)* Sin is a big deal as it means we cannot have eternal life with God but are rather separated from living with Him.

The Bible says: "For the wages of sin is death,..." Romans 6:23 And because we have all sinned we deserve this punishment and we need a Saviour.



#### Who can save us?

If we keep reading the verse we will see it says "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23

God is holy and just and therefore He cannot let sin go unpunished and so He promised to send a perfect Saviour who would die to save us as we could never make ourselves right with God on our own. God sent His Son, Jesus, who died and rose again. Jesus gives us our free gift of Salvation. Jesus was the perfect Saviour because He was God Himself who had never sinned. Because Jesus became human, He was able to die in our place.

Jesus' death on the cross was enough to pay for the sins of the whole world and the only way for us to be with the Father.

**How do we accept this gift of Salvation?** *(Slip the verse behind the cross from left to right. Keep sliding until all the "sin" is off the heart.)*



Nothing we do can take away our sin. *(Use the hands on as an explanation)*

We need Jesus! Jesus gives us the free gift of Salvation when we believe in Him and choose to make Him our Lord and Saviour.

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

Salvation is all God's work, so all the glory belongs to Him, it is not earned by us.

Salvation comes when we believe in Jesus and choose to follow Him. We don't have to wait until we are older or until everything is perfect. Right where you are today, you can believe in Jesus, recognise what He did for you on the cross, put your trust in Him, and receive the free gift of salvation so you can have a relationship with God.

From the very beginning, we can see that God had a plan to save us because He loves us so much. We could never save ourselves, no matter how hard we try, but Jesus made a way for us to be forgiven and have a relationship with God again.

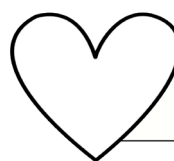
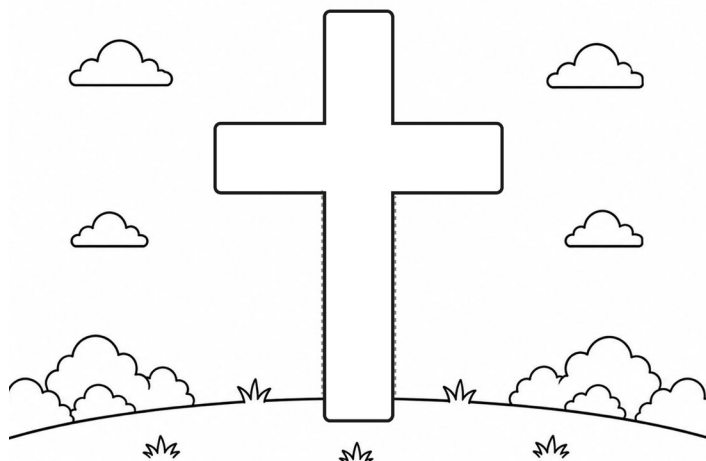
#### **4) Review Questions:**

- a) Does Jesus need to die again? *(No, Jesus was the perfect sacrifice and He defeated **all** sins for eternity and so He does not need to die again.)*
- b) Can I lose my salvation? *(No. Salvation is God's gift. We cannot lose what we did not earn. If we cannot earn salvation by doing good things or obeying rules, then how could we keep it by these? We can be secure in knowing once Jesus has saved us He does not change His mind.)*

## 5) Craft

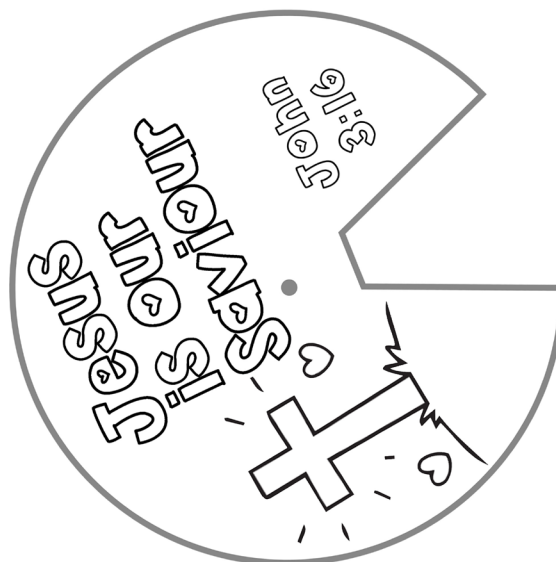
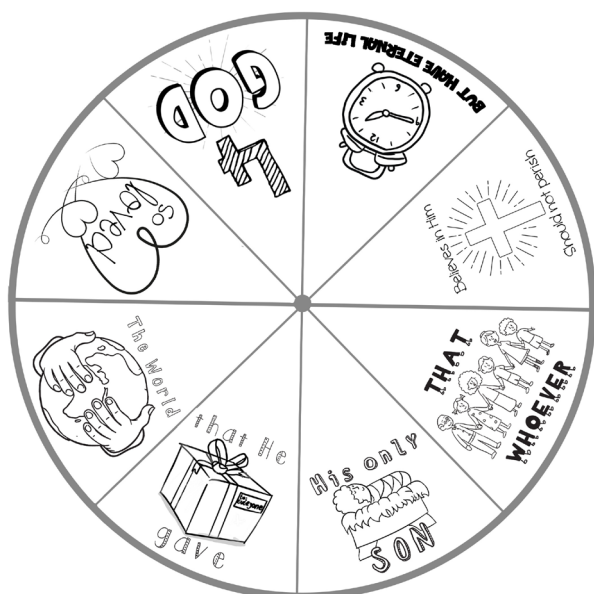
### Option 1: Gift of Salvation (Sliding Heart)

Cut slits along the dotted lines on each side of the cross. Place loose bits of black on the heart to represent sin. Slide the verse through and the sin will come off.



For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Romans 6:23

### Option 2: Salvation Spinner wheel (John 3:16)



## Lesson 8: Who is the Holy Spirit?

### Main focus for the lesson:

- It was better for Jesus to leave so the Holy Spirit could come.
- God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit are God.
- The Holy Spirit is given to believers.

### 1) Memory Verse

- Ephesians 1:13

***“And when you believed in Christ, He identified you as His own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom He promised long ago.”***

### Idea to teach the memory verse.

Have all the children line up at one end of the playing area. Say the verse and get the children to repeat it a few times.

Now get the children to take one hop forward for every part of the verse. Children can see how far they get depending on how far they can hop. For example:

And when you believed in Christ, (Hop forward)  
He identified you as His own (Hop forward)  
by giving you the Holy Spirit (Hop forward)  
whom He promised long ago. (Hop forward)  
Ephesians 1:13. (Hop forward)

### 2) Hands on

#### What you will need:

- Container filled with the slips of paper

***This is better to do at the end of the lesson once the children have an understanding of who the Holy Spirit is.***

Have you ever seen or heard one of those adverts where the person keeps saying “But wait, there’s more!” That is how I feel when it comes to the Holy Spirit. Just when you learn something about Him you see there is so much more to know and so much more to receive from Him.

***Let each child take a turn to pull out a slip of paper and read what it says. For fun between each child say “But wait, there’s more! The Bible says...”***

|                                                                       |                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| The Holy Spirit teaches us (John 14:26)                               | The Holy Spirit helps us to be kind (Galatians 5:22-23)        |
| The Holy Spirit guides us (John 16:13)                                | The Holy Spirit helps us to be patient (Galatians 5:22-23)     |
| The Holy Spirit reminds us what Jesus said (John 14:26)               | The Holy Spirit helps us to be good (Galatians 5:22-23)        |
| The Holy Spirit lives in us (1 Corinthians 3:16)                      | The Holy Spirit helps us to love others (Galatians 5:22-23)    |
| The Holy Spirit helps us pray (Romans 8:26)                           | The Holy Spirit helps us to be faithful (Galatians 5:22-23)    |
| The Holy Spirit prays for us (Romans 8:26)                            | The Holy Spirit gives us joy (Galatians 5:22-23)               |
| The Holy Spirit points us to Jesus (John 16:14)                       | The Holy Spirit gives us peace (Galatians 5:22-23)             |
| The Holy Spirit changes us to be more like Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18) | The Holy Spirit helps us have self-control (Galatians 5:22-23) |
| The Holy Spirit helps us understand the word of God. (John 16:13)     | The Holy Spirit helps us to be gentle (Galatians 5:22-23)      |

### **Ideas for slips of paper:**

The Holy Spirit teaches us (John 14:26)  
The Holy Spirit guides us (John 16:13)  
The Holy Spirit reminds us what Jesus said (John 14:26)  
The Holy Spirit lives in us (1 Corinthians 3:16)  
The Holy Spirit helps us pray (Romans 8:26)  
The Holy Spirit prays for us (Romans 8:26)  
The Holy Spirit points us to Jesus (John 16:14)  
The Holy Spirit changes us to be more like Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18)  
The Holy Spirit helps us understand the word of God. (John 16:13)  
The Holy Spirit leads us. (Romans 8:14)  
The Holy Spirit pleads with us (Romans 8:14;26;27)  
The Holy Spirit comforts us (John 14:26)  
The Holy Spirit strengthens us (Ephesians 3:16)  
The Holy Spirit helps us to be kind (Galatians 5:22-23)  
The Holy Spirit helps us to be patient (Galatians 5:22-23)  
The Holy Spirit helps us to be good (Galatians 5:22-23)  
The Holy Spirit helps us to love others (Galatians 5:22-23)  
The Holy Spirit helps us to be faithful (Galatians 5:22-23)  
The Holy Spirit gives us joy (Galatians 5:22-23)  
The Holy Spirit gives us peace (Galatians 5:22-23)  
The Holy Spirit helps us have self-control (Galatians 5:22-23)  
The Holy Spirit helps us to be gentle (Galatians 5:22-23)  
The Holy Spirit give us power to tell others (Acts 1:8)  
The Holy Spirit helps us understand the Bible (1 Corinthians 2:10)  
The Holy Spirit fills us with God's love (Romans 5:5)  
The Holy Spirit gives us spiritual gifts to help others (1 Corinthians 12:7)  
The Holy Spirit gives us wisdom (Ephesians 1:17-18)  
The Holy Spirit knows everything (1 Corinthians 2:10-11)  
The Holy Spirit is everywhere (Psalm 139:7-10)  
The Holy Spirit is all powerful (Luke 1:35-37)  
The Holy Spirit is eternal (Hebrews 9:14)

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

#### **What you will need:**

- Posters to answer the questions

Begin by folding the dotted line backwards so you are left with only the answers showing on the poster. E.g.

|                          |                                                 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>living<br/>person</b> | <div>Because the</div> <b>living<br/>person</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|

At the end you will unfold them and reveal the full reason why Jesus said it was better for Him to go. Let the children take turns to say them out loud as they hop from one to the other.

**Jesus said it  
was best for  
Him to go**

**Because the  
living  
person**

**who is  
GOD**

**would be  
given  
to us**

**to live in us and  
never  
leave us**

**Making us  
closer to God  
then ever  
before**

Imagine being alive when Jesus was a man on Earth. Imagine following Him every day, watching Him do miracles. Imagine listening to Him teach and explain God's perfect message and plan, getting to know Him better and spending every moment with Him. If you had a question you could just ask Him and He would have the perfect answer. This is what it was like for the disciples. So can you imagine how incredibly sad and scary it must have been when Jesus told them that it was necessary for Him to be killed, come alive again and then return to Heaven.

The disciples relied on Him for everything. Jesus was their comforter, their teacher, their source of truth and their guide by showing them what was right or wrong. Let's read John 16:7 what Jesus said to them.

But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send Him to you. John 16:7

Another name for the Holy Spirit is the Advocate which means, “The One called to walk alongside to help.”

Wow! Jesus said it was better for us that He left. Why? Because then the Holy Spirit would be sent. If Jesus says it is better to have the Holy Spirit, then it is important for us to know who He is and find out more about Him.

Let’s ask some questions and use the Bible to find out who the Holy Spirit is.

### **Do you think the Holy Spirit is a thing, a powerful force or a person?**

The Holy Spirit is powerful but He is not a floating force or power. The Holy Spirit is a person. That does not mean He has skin and bones like we do. Throughout the Bible we can see that the Holy Spirit is alive, He thinks, He can feel sad or happy, He speaks, He leads and so much more.

Let’s read how Jesus speaks about the Holy Spirit.

But when the Father sends the Advocate as My representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—He will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you. John 14:26

Jesus Himself calls the Holy Spirit “He” and not “it”. He says the Holy Spirit teaches, reminds and hears. A force or an “it” cannot do these things.

### **Is the Holy Spirit just any person or is He God?**

The Holy Spirit is God. Jesus includes Him as an equal when He tells us our great commission.

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

He is the third person of something we call the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit. Each are just as important as the other. They have all always existed. They were all there at creation. And they will all be alive for eternity. And while each have different roles and do different things they are completely united. That means they completely agree with everything and they all want the same thing. The Holy Spirit will never say something different to what the Father or the Son have said and vice versa. There is no other relationship like this where three separate people are so perfectly united that they are one and so it can be hard to explain or understand.

*(Teacher note: The analogies we try use such as the egg shell, white and yolk or water, ice and steam all fall short as they do not show three separate and equal people united as one)*

The Holy Spirit knows everything. Do you know what I am thinking or how I am feeling? The Holy Spirit does. The Holy Spirit is everywhere. That means no matter where I am the Holy Spirit is there also. The Holy Spirit is also all powerful

which means He has no limits. The Holy Spirit is God and so there is nothing He cannot do.

### **Do we earn the Holy Spirit or is He given?**

Let's read Ephesians 1:13-14 to find the answer.

<sup>13</sup> And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, He identified you as His own by **giving** you the Holy Spirit, whom He promised long ago. <sup>14</sup> The Spirit is God's guarantee that He will give us the inheritance He promised and that He has purchased us to be His own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify Him. Ephesians 1:13-14

We cannot muster up the Holy Spirit. We do not earn the Holy Spirit by trying hard, being good or doing hard work. The Holy Spirit first draws us to God. Then the Holy Spirit is given to us immediately at the moment we choose to believe in and follow Jesus. God sends and fills us with the Holy Spirit to confirm that we are His children and as a guarantee that we are part of His Kingdom and will receive salvation and everything He has promised.

The Holy Spirit is also given to change us to be like Jesus.

So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like Him as we are changed into His glorious image. 2 Corinthians 3:18

### **Does the Holy Spirit come and go or stay with you always?**

Because we can't see the Holy Spirit we may wonder if He is in us. But if you are a follower of Jesus then He definitely is, because God says so. The Bible tells us that He will never leave us.

<sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and He will **give** you another Advocate, who will **never leave you**. <sup>17</sup> He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. John 14:16-17

As we grow closer to Him we will start to notice more of His presence. Phew, I feel quite peaceful today and the Holy Spirit says "Yes, I did that". He's there when you had self-control and should have got angry but didn't. He's there when you felt joy. He's there when you felt comforted. He's there nudging you when you needed a nudge. He gave you courage when you needed some. He gave you faith when you doubted. He helped you rest well when you needed to rest well. He helped you understand something. He challenged you when you were going to sin and He went "Uh, uh, don't do that" and helped you say no.

There are different ways to experience the Holy Spirit. Sometimes people are so overwhelmed by His presence that they fall down or are so moved with emotion that they cry or they laugh because there is this joy deep inside while some

people just feel so peaceful and sit quietly. These and many others are different ways to experience Him.

*(Lay out all the posters and go through each one, letting the children each take turns to repeat them)*

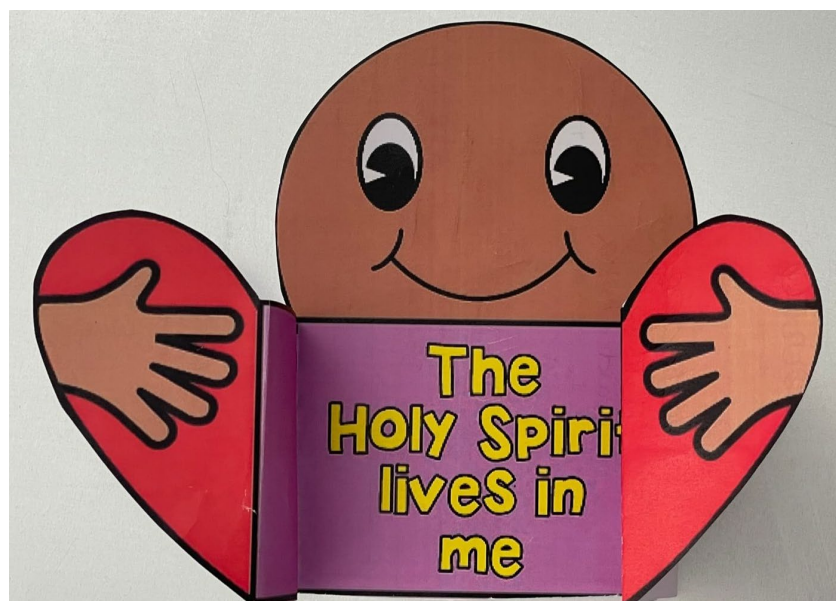
Jesus said it was better for Him to go. Why? Because the **living person** who is **God** would be **given** to us to **confirm** that we are God's children and because He would live in us and **never leave us** we would be closer to God than ever before, even closer than if Jesus was standing right next to us.

#### 4) Review Questions:

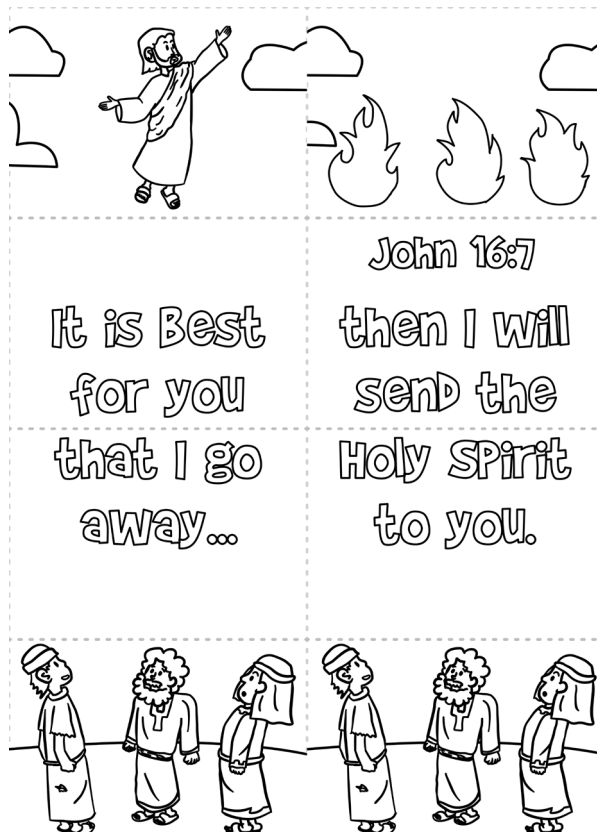
- a) Who is the Holy Spirit? (He is the third person of the trinity of God)
- b) How can I get to know the Holy Spirit more? (By spending time talking to Him and asking Him questions. By reading the Bible. By asking Him to reveal Himself. By listening to His voice above other voices.)

#### 5) Craft

##### Option 1: The Holy Spirit lives in me



## Option 2: Holy Spirit



Fold the page back to back and stick it. Fold the front so that Jesus is with the people and opens to Him ascending into Heaven. Then turn over the page and flip the fold so now the Holy Spirit is sent.



## Lesson 9: Jesus' return

### Main focus for the lesson:

- We can trust that Jesus will come again.
- Jesus came first to save us from sin and next will come to complete our Salvation.
- We don't know when Jesus will come but as believers we live for Jesus until He does.

### 1) Memory Verse

- Matthew 24:44

***“So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him.”***

### Idea to teach the memory verse.

#### What you will need:

- A box
- Balloons
- Skewers

Say the verse a few times and get the children to repeat it with you. Then place a balloon into a box and close the lid. Now each time you say a part of the verse, get one of the children to push a skewer through the box.

The idea is to try and get to the end of the verse **without** bursting the balloon. But if the balloon does burst then explain that it is the same as Jesus' return: we don't know when it's going to happen but we need to be living for Him in the meantime.



### 2) Hands on

#### Game: How should we live until He returns? (Adaption of Captain's Call)

Just before Jesus returned to Heaven let's read what He told them to do: But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be My witnesses, **telling people about Me everywhere**—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

And then Jesus ascended into the clouds! So what do you think the disciples did next? Did they go and do what Jesus had told them? No, they didn't! They were

standing in the same place staring up into the sky. Until two angels came to them and said: “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday He will return from heaven in the same way you saw Him go!”

So does Jesus want us to stand still waiting for Him to come back? No, He wants us to live our lives telling others about Him. We don’t know when He’s coming, so we need to stay ready. Being ready isn’t about being scared. First, we need to choose Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. Then we need to live being led by the Holy Spirit who will make us to be more like Jesus and help us to live lives that please Jesus. Let’s play a game to see what this looks like.

### **How to play:**

*The leader shouts out instructions with actions for the children to follow. Start off slow starting with only a few instructions. Gradually add more and get faster and faster.*

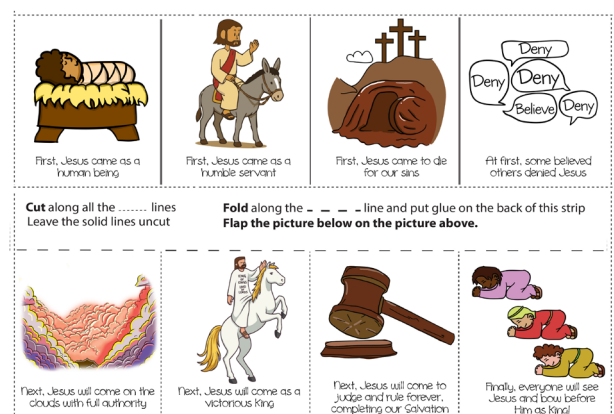
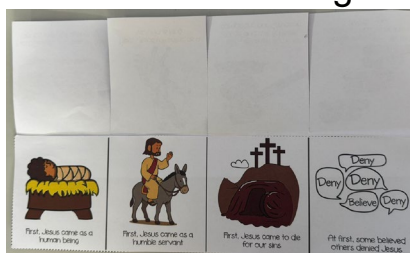
The first thing we need to do is accept Jesus as our Saviour. So if you have accepted Jesus, put your hand on your heart and say: “I love Jesus!”  
Now get ready to live for Him!

| Instruction    | Action                                                                                                              |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tell others    | Find a partner and tell them a truth about Jesus (e.g. Jesus loves you, Jesus died for you, God is always with you) |
| Obey God       | Salute like a soldier and say, “Yes Lord”                                                                           |
| Worship Jesus  | Sing and dance                                                                                                      |
| Serve others   | Do the actions of making sandwiches for the poor                                                                    |
| Pray           | Kneel and pray wherever you are                                                                                     |
| Read the Bible | Sit and do the action of reading                                                                                    |
| Have faith     | Point upwards and shout out, “I trust you Jesus”                                                                    |
| Be generous    | Do the actions of taking some money out of your pocket and putting it in the tithes collection                      |

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

#### **What you will need:**

- Follow the instructions to make the flaps to compare the first and second coming of Jesus.



This series we have looked at how the Bible takes us through God's incredible story. Revelation, the last book in the Bible, uses pictures and language to describe what the end will be like. These might seem strange, scary or confusing but we don't need to be afraid or get lost trying to figure out every meaning.

Although we may think God's story is ending, it is actually the beginning of a perfect new Heaven and Earth where we will live with God forever. As a Christian it is very exciting to know that Jesus will come back! Let's ask some questions and see what the Bible says.

### Why is Jesus coming back and how will He do so?

Let's start by looking at the first time Jesus came.

God said Jesus would come as a baby (Isaiah 7:14), and what God says happens! Jesus put aside being King in Heaven and was born as a human being. (Philippians 2:6-7)



First, Jesus came as a human being



First, Jesus came as a humble servant

God said Jesus would come as a humble servant and even show this by entering on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9). And what God says happens! Jesus put aside being King in Heaven and was born as a human being. <sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill the prophecy that said, <sup>5</sup> "Tell the people of Jerusalem, 'Look, your King is coming to you. He is humble, riding on a donkey, riding on a donkey's colt.'" Matthew 21:4-5

God said Jesus would come as our Saviour. Jesus would be punished for our sins by dying and coming alive again, so we could be forgiven and be reunited with God. (Isaiah 53:5) And what God says happens! Jesus died and came alive again. <sup>3</sup> I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. <sup>4</sup> He was buried, and He was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. Sin has been defeated and through Jesus we can now be with God.



First, Jesus came to die for our sins



At first, some believed others denied Jesus

God said people would deny that Jesus is the Saviour and reject Him as the King who would reign forever (Isaiah 53:3). And what God says happens!

<sup>10</sup> He came into the very world He created, but the world didn't recognize Him. <sup>11</sup> He came to His own people, and even they rejected Him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God. John 1:10-12

Even now that Jesus has returned to Heaven some accept Him while others do not.

God has never failed to keep His word. Every prophecy about Jesus being born, living, dying, and rising again happened exactly as God said. That gives us confidence that His promise to return will happen too. Let's now look at the second time Jesus will come.

Jesus will not come again as a humble baby. God says "He comes with the clouds of heaven, and everyone will see Him" Revelation 1:7

And we can trust that what God says will happen! Jesus' return will not be in secret or uncertain, rather everyone will see His power and glory. What an incredible return it will be!



Next, Jesus will come on the clouds with full authority



Next, Jesus will come as a victorious King

And Jesus will not come as a humble servant but rather as He left, with all authority. God says Jesus will come with all the power as the victorious King of all kings. Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for He judges fairly and wages a righteous war. Revelation 19:11

On His robe at His thigh, was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords. Revelation 19:16

And we can trust that what God says will happen!

And Jesus will not come to save the world from sin again. He has already done that. God says Jesus will come as the eternal ruler who will judge the world and complete the believers' salvation. This will be a glorious day for us as believers.



Next, Jesus will come to judge and rule forever, completing our Salvation

... Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for Him.

Hebrews 9:28

And we can trust that what God says will happen!



Finally, everyone will see Jesus and bow before Him as King!

Finally, no one will be able to deny who Jesus is. Everyone will see Him and bow before Him as King!

<sup>9</sup> Therefore, God elevated Him to the place of highest honour and gave Him the name above all other names, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9-11

And we can trust that what God says will happen!

### When will Jesus return?

We don't know when Jesus is coming. It could be soon or it could be a long time. However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son Himself. Only the Father knows. Matthew 24:36

We do know that He will come and so while we wait we keep loving and following Jesus and help others to do the same.

### Why hasn't Jesus come back yet?

The Bible gives a beautiful answer. God is patient. He is giving more people the opportunity to repent and be saved. Every day that Jesus delays His return is another day for someone to hear the Gospel and choose Him as their Lord and Saviour. The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. 2 Peter 3:9

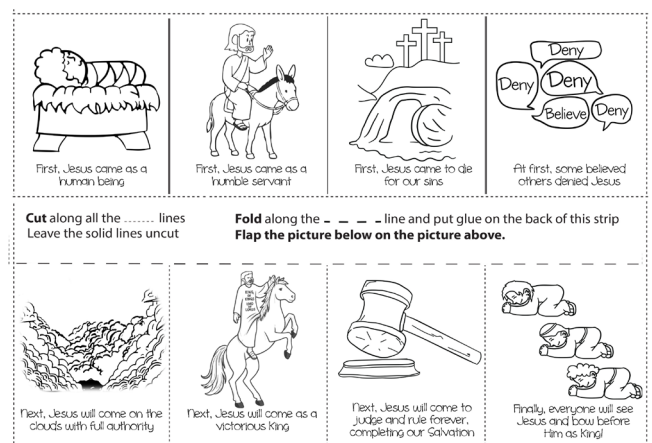
## 4) Review Questions:

- Why did Jesus come? (First to save us from our sin and next to judge the world and complete the believer's salvation.)
- When will Jesus come? (No one knows, but we do know He will come.)
- How should we live in the meantime? (Most importantly we need to choose Jesus as our Saviour, then we live being led by the Spirit and become more like Jesus. We also help others know and love Jesus too.)

## 5) Craft

### Option 1: Jesus' First and Second Coming (Flaps)

Children make their own set of flaps to retell the story



## Option 2: Jesus' Return on the clouds (Cup)

Cut out the cloud. Bubble cut around the picture of Jesus leaving a space to punch a hole. Use string to thread the string through the cup and join the cloud to Jesus.

