

Easter Lessons

Palm Sunday

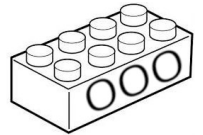
Lesson 1 All Ages

Aim: To teach the children the story of Palm Sunday.

- ☀️ Jesus comes as gentle and humble king
- ☀️ Jews were expecting military conquest.
- ☀️ They were expecting God's Messiah to save them from the oppression of the Roman government.
- ☀️ Jews had a misunderstanding of the nature of Kingship.

Bible: Zechariah 9:9 Matthew 21:1-11,15 Luke 19:28-40

Let's Move

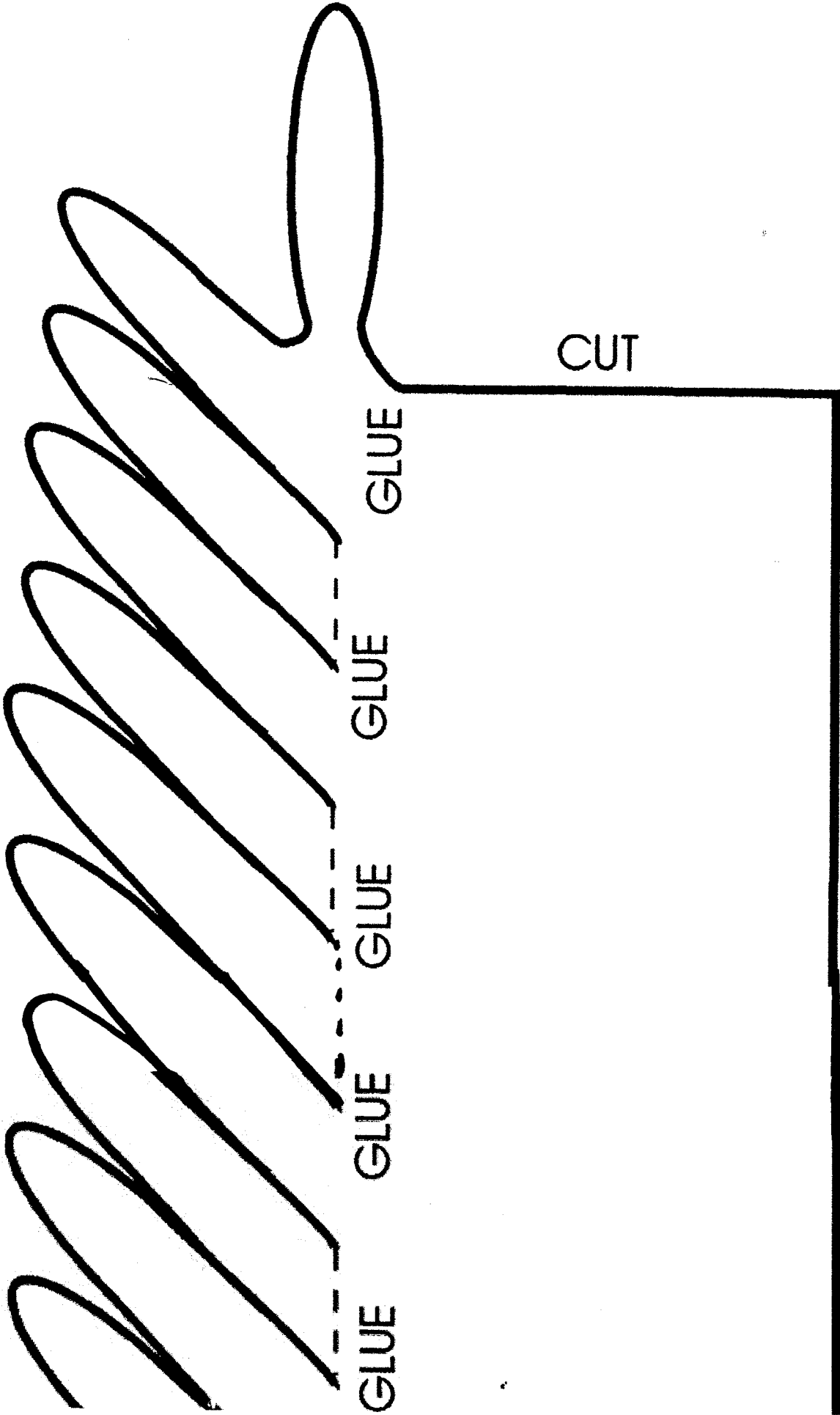


Let's Move Activity 1 (Older)

Need:
Nothing

Do: The children have to move across a space - between two points (you can decide how long or short, I would say at least 6 meters) - as a unit. If you want, you can make it an obstacle course. Ask them to get into groups of three. Wait for them to form their groups before giving the challenge. Decide beforehand where they are going to move between, and show them the space as you speak about the challenge. Once the groups have had five minutes to discuss their strategy, let groups move across the space, one group at a time. Please note that they don't have to use all the body parts mentioned, but they may not use more than that.

Say: Please get into groups of three for this activity. As a group, you need to move from one side of the space to the other, as one unit. The challenge is that you are only allowed to use four legs, two elbows and three hands between you. You have five minutes to discuss your strategy, and then we will start.



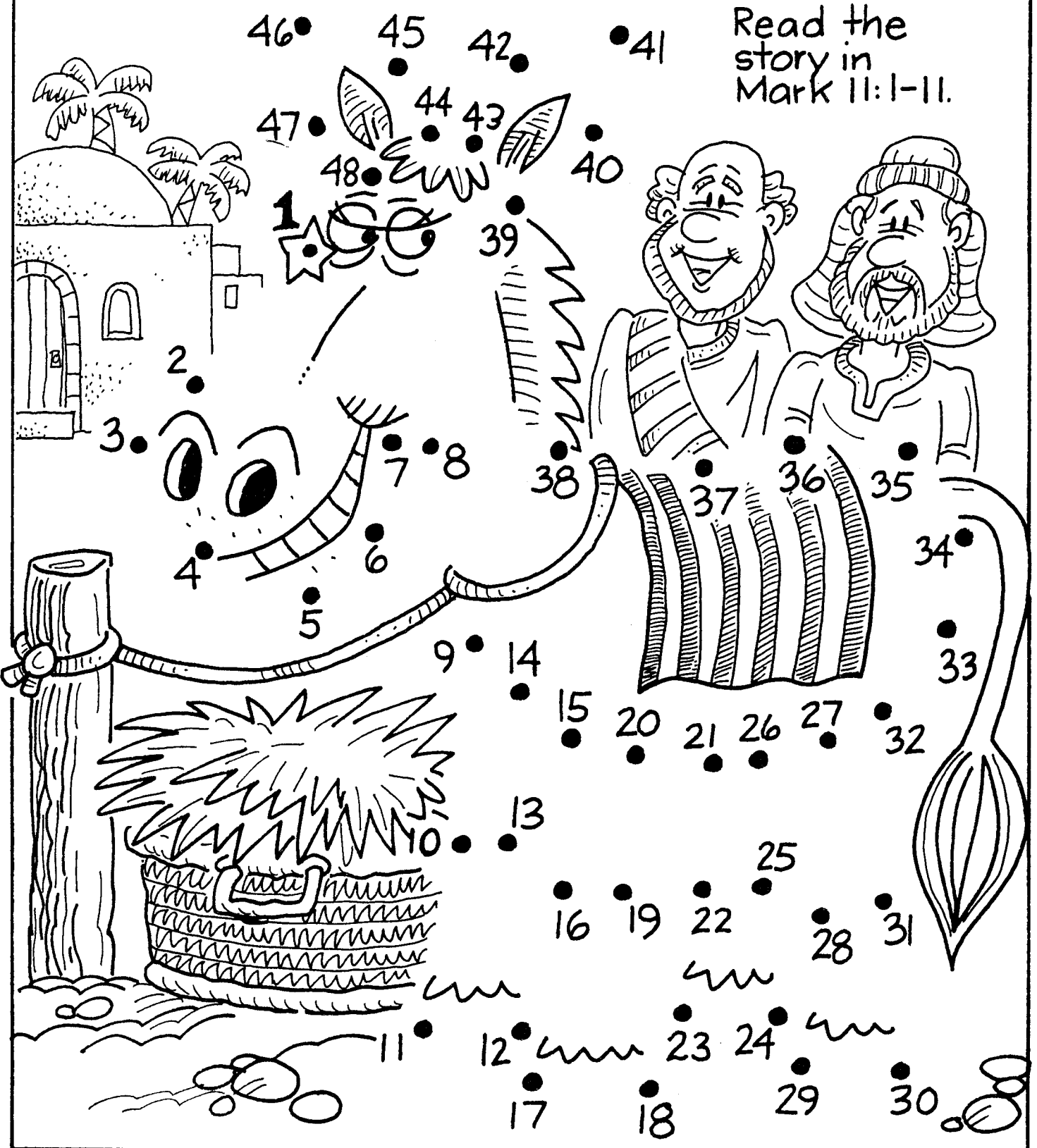
Pray

Think of the story of Jesus riding the donkey through the streets. Imagine yourself as one of the people standing next to the road. What would you have been shouting out to Jesus? Spend some time worshipping Jesus and thanking Him for being your King.

PALM SUNDAY

Jesus sent his disciples to find this animal. Connect the dots and find it!

Read the story in Mark 11:1-11.

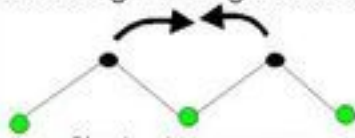


FANFOLD the FAN PALM

1 Color

2 Cut on solid line

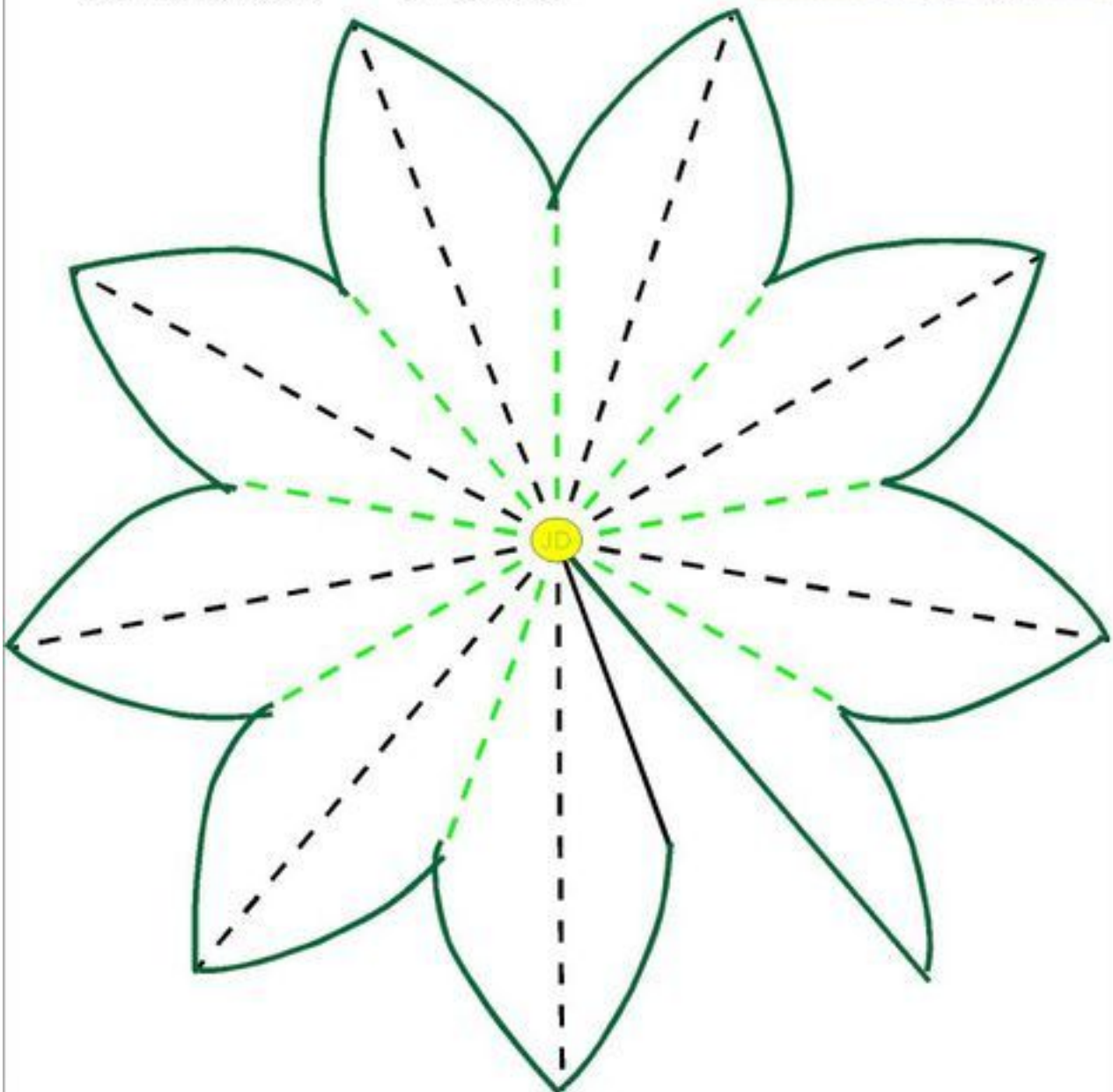
3 Fold on all the long black dashed lines
and bring two long black dashed lines together



4 Pinch the short green lines
along the backside of the paper





5 Glue craft stick to back

6. + you may tape stick to back
until glue dries.





The images in this Bible story can be downloaded absolutely free from www.freebibleimages.org in PowerPoint, Keynote, JPEG or PDF formats. This Story Planner shows what is happening in each scene. Read the account from the Bible and then plan how you will tell the story. There is a space for your notes. You can delete any images/slides you don't require and add your own as needed.

| Description | Image | My notes |
|---|---|----------|
| |  | |
| <p>1 One day, Jesus was outside the city of Jerusalem with His disciples. He was preparing to enter the city in a very special way. Instead of walking in like most people, Jesus was going to ride in - on a donkey! But before He could do this, He needed a donkey, so He gave some instructions to His disciples.</p> |  | |
| <p>2 'Go to the village ahead of you,' Jesus told His disciples, 'and at once you will find a donkey tied there. The donkey will have her colt beside her. Untie the donkey and bring it to me.'</p> |  | |
| <p>3 One of the disciples was bothered by this. 'But what if the owner asks us what we're doing, taking his donkey without even asking?' he asked. 'How will we explain ourselves?' 'Just tell the owner that the Lord needs the donkey and he will understand,' replied Jesus.</p> |  | |

Read Luke 19:28–35.

Discuss the questions.

Jesus asked His disciples to go and take a donkey that didn't belong to them.

How would you have felt if you were one of those disciples?

Do you think it was wrong of the disciple to question Jesus?

Would you be willing to obey Jesus, even if He asked you to do something that you didn't understand, or didn't make sense to you at the time?

Let's Move Activity 2 (Younger)

Need:
Tambourine or
wooden sticks

Do: Beat different rhythms using the instrument, and ask the children to move around the room as the music instructs them. You may have to discuss what each rhythm is telling their body to do. Examples could be

- slow, loud beats mean that you have to stomp around the room
- Steady beats mean that you have to walk around the room
- Fast beats mean that you have to run around the room
- Long, short, long, short beats mean that you have to skip around the room
- Fast, quiet beats may mean that you have to run around the room on your tip-toes.

Say: Please spread out and find your own space in the room. I am going to play a rhythm on the tambourine/drum. Put up your hand if you think you know what the rhythm is telling your body to do. Let's all do that movement together. *(Repeat until you have played all the different rhythms that you want to)*

Now I am going to play the drum again, and you do the movement you think it is telling your body to do, without us talking about it. (Do a few different rhythms).

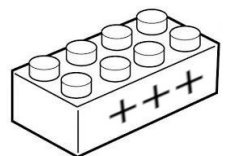
Well done everyone!

Let's Listen

Let's Listen Activity 1 (Younger)

Need:
YouTube video

Do: Find the video God's Story: Palm Sunday by Crossroads Kids Club on YouTube and have it ready to show the children.



Say: Let's watch a video of the Bible story together.

Journal

The people in today's story worshipped Jesus. They shouted good words to Him. Make a list of all the good things that you know about God. Then say them to Him.

-
- 4 So the disciples went into the village, and sure enough there was a donkey with its foal beside it. The disciples started to untie the donkey, when suddenly the owner appeared. 'Hey!' he shouted. 'What do you think you're doing?' 'The Lord needs it,' explained the disciple.



- 5 'Oh, that's all right then,' said the man. He already knew how wonderful Jesus was, so he was very pleased to be able to give his donkey away. He smiled as he watched the two disciples lead the animal away down the street. It was such a privilege to be able to give something to Jesus!



- 6 Now here's a special secret to do with donkeys. It was no accident that Jesus chose one to ride into Jerusalem. A long, long time before Jesus was born, a prophet of the Lord, whose name was Zechariah, said that one day the King of Israel would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey. Zechariah also said that this King would be meek and humble - just like Jesus.



- 7 Another special secret about the donkey was that it had never had anyone ride it before. But when Jesus sat on it, it didn't buck, or jump, or try to shake him off. So Jesus rode towards Jerusalem, and some people started to gather to welcome Him in.





Let's Listen Activity 2 (Older)

Need:
Pictures of a
famous person,
if you want

Say: Imagine if a really famous person came to visit Cape Town/our city.

- How do you think s/he would arrive?
 - In a private jet?
 - In a normal aeroplane like everyone else?
- Do you think that a lot of people would want to see the famous person?
 - What would happen if people found out that they were going to be at a certain shopping centre, or at one of the beaches?

In the time in history when Jesus was on earth, the Israelite people had been waiting for a long time for God to send a King to save them. Many, many years before, Zechariah, one of God's prophets, had given the Israelites a message from the Lord, saying that one day the King of Israel would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey. He also said that this King would be meek and humble, just like Jesus was.

They thought that Jesus would save them from the Romans, who were really nasty to them, and made their life really difficult, just like Moses had saved the Israelites from Egypt. They were expecting a king who would fight against the Romans, and beat them, and show them who was boss!

Bible

Read Matthew 21:1-11. Write down your favourite part of the story. Imagine what it sounded like and felt like to be there.

8 Soon the whole city was gathering to watch Jesus. Some people wondered who He was, but others already knew. 'He is a prophet from Nazareth!' they said. Many people cut branches off palm trees and waved them about, while others threw sheets and clothes on the road, and others clapped their hands and shouted.



9 But not everyone was happy about what Jesus was doing. Some of the priests and leaders started to grumble. 'That man is not a king!' they complained. 'How dare these people shout praises to Him!'



10 'Hosanna!' shouted the people. 'Hosanna to God in the highest! Long live the Messiah who comes in the name of the Lord! Hail to you, King of Israel!'



11 Jesus rode right through the gate and then on up the street, towards the huge and beautiful Jewish Temple. It was where many people came to worship God, to pray and to confess their sins. This was the heart of the whole Jewish nation, and Jesus also called it His Father's house.



But that was not the kind of king that Jesus was. He had not come to just rescue the Israelite people by fighting the Romans. Instead He was going to rescue all people, saving them from sin, death and the devil.

The Israelite people didn't know that yet, so when they saw Jesus coming into the city on a donkey, they were very excited. Usually people walked everywhere. Only very important or very rich people rode an animal. The people were very excited, and cut palm branches from the trees to wave at Jesus, and threw branches and even their clothes onto the ground, so that Jesus wouldn't have to ride through the dirt and get dirty. And all the people were cheering, shouting "Hosanna", and worshipping God. The word Hosanna was what people said when there were very happy or wanted to praise someone. It was an expression of adoration.

But not everyone was happy about Jesus being there. Some of the Jewish priests and leaders started moaning to each other, saying that Jesus wasn't a king, and how dare the people shout praises to Him! When Jesus heard what they were saying, it made Him really sad. Jesus rode all the way up the street, until He got to the Jewish Temple, the place where people came to worship God. He got off the donkey, and went into the Temple.

Let's Listen Activity 3 (Older)

| |
|--|
| Need: Bibles Dress up clothes Props |
|--|

Do: Make sure that you have enough Bibles, dress up clothes and props for the number of groups that you're going to divide into. Divide the children into groups of about 8. Make sure that there is a strong leader in each group.

Say: Please get into groups of 8. You have 30 seconds to make your group. *Give them 30 seconds. Help those who can't find a group. Hand out Bibles to those who don't have one.*

Please look up Matthew 21:1 in your Bible. Today's Bible story is verse 1-11, and verse 15. Let's read it together. Is there anyone who would like to read it for us? *Divide the verses up between those who want to read. Choose fluent readers.*

In your groups, you are going to act out today's story. You need to read the story in the Bible together, figure out all the characters of the story, and

Create

**Draw a picture of yourself as one of the people
worshipping Jesus.**

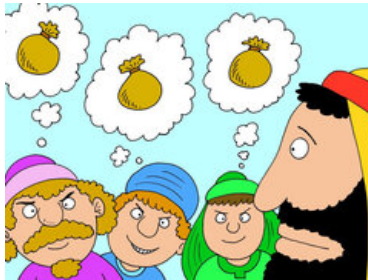
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- 12 Jesus got off the donkey and walked into the Temple. But instead of finding people praying or worshipping, He found a market place! There were men sitting about with animals to sell, and there were tables with money to change. And the floor was a mess, and the smell of all the animals was horribly strong. As Jesus looked about He became very angry.



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- 13 He couldn't see anyone behaving as they should behave in God's House. Everywhere He looked He saw greediness, and cheating, and buying and selling, just like outside on the streets where all the shops were. It was quite the wrong way for things to be in this place!



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- 14 He also saw that the people who had taken over the Temple were more interested in making money than serving God. Their hearts had grown fat with greed, and they clutched bags of money as they waited for the next customer.



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- 15 At last Jesus could take no more of this insult. He reached for some rope and began to swing it round like a whip. He ran toward the greedy people and began to turn their tables over, and chase their animals out of the Temple.



decide who is going to play which character. There is a box of dress up clothes and props here for you to use.

Walk around and help where needed.

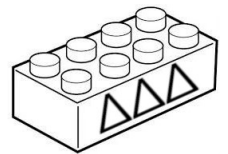
Let's Listen Activity 4 (Younger)

Need:
Pictures and
outline of Bible
story

Do: Download the story outline and pictures from www.freebibleimages.com. Look for the story called King Jesus. Use the story outline to tell the story while you show the children the pictures. Either print the pictures or show them digitally.

Say: Today's story from the Bible is of when Jesus rode a donkey through Jerusalem. Many people came to see Him, and cheered Him as He rode by. But not everyone was happy to see Him! Listen carefully as I tell you the story.

Let's Do



Let's Do Activity 1 (Younger)

Need:
Green paper
Straws or
chopsticks
Sticky tape
Scissors

Do: Print out the leaf/palm branch on green paper for each child. It is a good idea to enlarge it slightly. For young children, cut the worksheet out. Otherwise, ask children to cut along the solid lines. Glue along where it says GLUE. Place the straw or chopstick on the right hand side of the paper, and ask the children to roll the paper as tightly as they can around the straw/stick, until they get to the glue. You could use tape instead, which may be easier. Fold the little 'leaves' that have the dotted line underneath them back, and the other 'leaves' forward. Help where needed. **Prepare one as an example to show the children what the completed craft looks like.**

Say: I am going to give each of you a green piece of paper. You need to cut on the thick lines so that it looks like mine. When you have finished, I will help you to glue a stick onto it so that you can wave your palm branch around.

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- 16 'It is written,' said Jesus loudly, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you have made it into a den of thieves!' The dust flew, pots broke, animals ran here and there as Jesus swung the rope about. But not one person dared to argue with Jesus because everyone knew He was right.



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- 17 The Pharisees, and other leaders, who were supposed to be in charge of the Temple, felt guilty and angry. They knew they should have stopped all the buying and selling in the Temple, but they loved all the money they got from it. Now they began to grumble. 'We must kill this man!' they said to each other.



-
- 18 And one other thing that really annoyed the priests and leaders was the way the children loved Him. When Jesus had finished clearing the Temple, many children started to shout praises to Him. 'Hosanna to the Son of David!' they cried. 'How dare they!' said the priests and leaders.



-
- 19 But Jesus knew what these men were grumbling about. He turned to them and said 'Have you never read, "Out of the mouth of young children and babies God has given strength"?' What did Jesus mean by this? Jesus meant that the children understood who He was, but the grown ups didn't.



Once everyone has finished the craft, encourage them to use it as you tell the story.

As Jesus rode through Jerusalem on the donkey, the people waved palm branches and shouted "Hosanna to the King!". Let's pretend that one of you is Jesus riding on a donkey, and the rest of us will wave our branches and shout "Hosanna to the King!"

Arrange the children in two lines, so that it is easy for Jesus to walk through the middle.

Well done! Who else would like a chance to be Jesus?

Well done!

Let's Do Activity 2 (Older)

| |
|---|
| Need: Instructions Bibles Paper for writing Pencils Pencil crayons |
|---|

Do: Set up each station as per instructions below. You may want to read out the instructions for each station so that the children have an idea of what they will be doing at the station. Walk around while the children are busy and encourage where necessary.

Say: You are going to have some time to spend with God. There are four different things that you can do. You can do as many of them as you have time for. The choices are:

Prayer, Journal, Bible reading or Create. You will find the instructions at each station.

Prayer: Think of the story of Jesus riding the donkey through the streets. Imagine yourself as one of the people standing next to the road. What would you have been shouting out to Jesus? Spend some time worshipping Jesus and thanking Him for being your King.

Journal: The people in today's story worshipped Jesus. They shouted good words to Him. Make a list of all the good things that you know about God. Then say them to Him.

Bible: Read Matthew 21:1-11. Write down your favourite part of the story. Imagine what it sounded like and felt like to be there.

Create: Draw a picture of yourself as one of the people worshipping Jesus.

20 Do you understand who Jesus is? Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah. If Jesus came riding into your town today, would you go to welcome Him in? And would He be your king?



21



Let's Do Activity 3 (Younger)

Need:
Palm Sunday
worksheet
Pencil crayons

Do: Print copies of the worksheet. Help younger children to follow the numbers to connect the dots.

Say: I have a picture for you to colour in, but first you have to finish drawing the picture! Follow the numbers in order, drawing lines between the numbers, to finish the picture. Then colour it in.

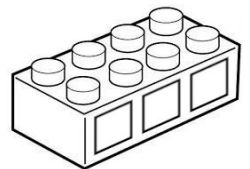
Let's Do Activity 4 (Older)

Need:
Worksheets
Selotape
Straws or sticks

Do: Print copies of the worksheet. Practice folding the palm leaf, using a colour copy as a guide. Remember that once you have made copies for the children there will only be black lines... not green lines. The black lined are long, and the green lines are short. Keep it as an example to show the children. Help the children to attach straws or chopsticks to the fan with sticky tape so that they can wave them around. Depending on the age and ability of your class, you may have to do the activity together, step by step.

Say: We are going to make a palm leaf. To make it you have to follow the instructions on the worksheet very carefully.

Let's Chat



Let's Chat Activity 1 (Older)

Need:
Bibles
Questions

Do: Print the questions for the groups before the time. Help the children find the Bible passage, if necessary. While the children are busy, go around the room and

help prompt discussion if needed.

Say: In your groups, I want you to look up and read Luke 19:28–35. Then I want you to discuss the questions.

Jesus asked His disciples to go and take a donkey that didn't belong to them.

- How would you have felt if you were one of those disciples?
- Do you think it was wrong of the disciple to question Jesus?
- Would you be willing to obey Jesus, even if He asked you to do something that you didn't understand, or didn't make sense to you at the time?

Let's Chat Activity 2 (Younger)

Need:
A picture of
today's Bible
story

Do: Show the picture as you talk. If you made the palm leaves in **Let's Do Activity 1**, then children can wave them as they talk.

Say: As Jesus walked down the road the people were shouting praises to Him. What are some of the things that you think they were saying? What would you say to Jesus if He was here right now? The good news is that even though we can't see Jesus in front of us, He is here with us. Let's think of something to say to praise Him. We will go around the circle and each have a turn. When it's your turn, shout your praises in your loudest voice! *For younger children, ask each child what they would like to say, and then have the class shout it together. You may have to do each 'praise' a few times for the children to get the hang of it. If you want, they can stand up and shout and wave their palm leaves as they praise Jesus. Have fun praising Jesus together!*

Easter Lessons

Communion

Lesson 2

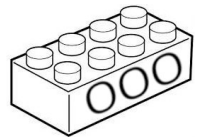
All Ages

Aim: To teach the children where communion comes from and what it means.

- ✱ Passover was a celebration to remember how God had freed/saved the Israelites from Egypt
- ✱ Jesus gives new meaning to the Passover meal
- ✱ He tells the disciples that the kingdom that they long for is here
- ✱ He weaves passover and the cross into one story
- ✱ The bread and the blood - new covenant, forgiveness of sins and kingdom of God.

Bible: Matthew 26:17-35 Mark 14:12-31 Luke 22:7-38 John 13:18-38

Let's Move



Let's Move Activity 1 (All)

Need:
Space to play in

Do: Practice showing the instructions beforehand so that you can demonstrate them easily. Practice calling out the instructions so that you don't get stuck. The game works best if you chop and change instructions quite quickly.

Say: I need everyone to stand up and make sure that you can swing your arms around your body without touching anyone else.

I am going to teach you some movements. Then we are going to play a game using the movements. It's called the bread game.

Garlic bread - stand up as tall as possible, with arms next to side

Toast - jump up and down on the spot

Bread roll - make your body into a circle.

Sandwich - find a partner and stand back to back

Loaf of bread - five of you need to stand in a straight row, behind each other

Let's practice that a few times.

Now I am going to say one of the types of bread, and you have to do the correct action as quickly as possible. See how many instructions you can do correctly!

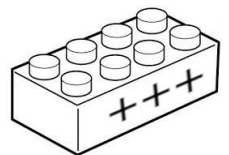
Let's Move Activity 2 (Younger or Older if you make the hiding places challenging enough)

Need:
Paper glasses
and bread to
hide

Do: Use the worksheet from **Let's Do Activity 1** for a hide and seek game. Make 5 (or more) copies of the worksheet onto white or coloured cardboard and cut them out. Hide them around the space before the time. Remember to keep one of each to show the children what they are looking for.

Say: Today's Bible story is about bread and juice. I've hidden 5 pictures of bread and 5 pictures of juice around the room. It looks like this. You need to find the pictures. When you've found a picture, bring it to me.

Let's Listen



Let's Listen Activity 1 (Older)

Need:
Bible pictures to
go with the story

Do: Use a children's illustrated Bible to find pictures to go with the different parts of the story. Show them as you tell the story.

Say: The Jewish people have a special celebration called Passover. It is when they remember how God rescued them from Egypt. The Israelites, another name for the Jewish people, were slaves in Egypt. Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, didn't want to let them go free. God sent Moses to speak to Pharaoh. God sent a whole lot of plagues, which were horrible things that happened to the people, the animals and the land. Still Pharaoh wouldn't let the people go. The last thing that God did was send an angel to kill all the oldest sons in the family. God told the Israelites to kill a perfect lamb, and use its blood to make marks on the doorframe. The angel would pass

over the homes where the lamb's blood marked the door, and the people inside would be safe. After that, Pharaoh let the Israelite people go. The blood of the innocent lamb had helped save them.

Jewish people would celebrate Passover by travelling to Jerusalem, the city where the Temple was, and having a special meal with their families and friends. A bit like when we have a special meal for Christmas.

Jesus told His disciples - His followers whom He was teaching - that they were going to celebrate Passover together. He asked two of them to prepare the meal at the house of someone who lived in Jerusalem. The two disciples found the house, asked the man where they could have the meal, and prepared the room and the meal for Jesus and the rest of the disciples.

While they were eating the meal, Jesus picked up the loaf of bread that was on the table, said thank you to God for it, and broke it. He handed it out to His followers, and said: "Take this and eat it. This is my body. Every time you eat it, remember what I have done for you."

Then He took a cup of wine. He said thank you to God for it and handed it to them. He said: "All of you drink from it. This is My blood of the covenant. It is poured out to forgive the sins of many people. From now on I won't drink or eat with you again until the day I drink and eat with you in my Father's kingdom."

Then they sang a hymn together and went out to the Mount of Olives.

Let's Listen Activity 2 (Younger)

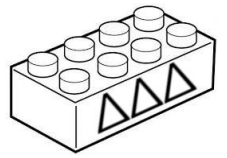
Need:
Bible story
outline and
pictures

Do: Before the time, print the Bible story outline and the pictures that go with it from www.freebibleimages.org If you go to the website and search for "JESUS EATS WITH HIS FRIENDS (THE LAST SUPPER)" you will find all the resources for this story, including Power Point slides.

Say: Today's story from the Bible is about a special meal that Jesus had with His disciples, just before He died on the cross. Is Jesus still dead? No! He came alive again after 3 days! Where is Jesus now? He is in Heaven with Father God!

Listen carefully to the story.

Let's Do



Let's Do Activity 1 (Younger)

Need:
Worksheets
Brown paper
Purple paper

Do: Hand out the worksheet. Give each child an A5/6 piece of brown and purple paper to tear and glue onto the bread and juice glass.

Say: We are going to make a picture to remind us of communion. On the piece of paper is a picture of a piece of bread, and a glass. I am going to give you a piece of brown paper. You need to tear little bits of paper off this big piece of paper, and glue it onto the piece of bread. Then take the piece of purple paper that I give you, and tear little bits of paper off the big piece of purple paper, and stick it onto the glass to make the juice. Make sure that you can still see the outline of the bread and the glass! Take your picture home and tell your family about communion.

Let's Do Activity 2 (Older)

Need:
Bibles
Paper
Pencil crayons
Worksheets
Instructions

Do: Set up each station as per instructions below. You may want to read out the instructions for each station so that the children have an idea of what they will be doing at the station. Walk around while the children are busy and encourage where necessary.

Say: You are going to have some time to spend with God. There are four different things that you can do. You can do as many of them as you have time for. The choices are:

Prayer, Journal, Bible reading or Create. You will find the instructions at each station.

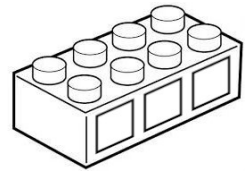
Pray: Spend some time thinking about today's story. Think about what you learnt about the bread. Thank Jesus for giving His body for you. Think about what you learnt about the wine. Thank Jesus for paying the price for your sin with His blood. Tell Jesus how grateful you are and how much you love Him.

Journal: Spend some time thinking about today's story. Think about what you learnt about what the bread and wine represents. Write a letter to Jesus, saying thank you for what He did for you, and what it means to you.

Read: Read the story in Matthew 26:17-19 and 26-30. Which part of the story stands out to you? Write out the verse that you think is most important in that story.

Do: Complete the worksheet (Faith in Kids p22)

Let's Chat



Let's Chat Activity 1 (Older)

Need:
Video

Do: Find the video called What is Communion by Kids on the Move on YouTube. Have it ready to play. Split the group down the middle of the room into two groups. Keep refining the questions until the children answer most of the points under each question.

Say: The Jews celebrate Passover every year to remember that God rescued them from being slaves to the Egyptians. Every time they have the meal, they remember what God did for them.

We celebrate communion to remember that Jesus rescued us from being slaves to sin. Every time we break bread and drink the wine, we remember what Jesus did for us on the cross, and the freedom that we now have because of it.

Let's watch this video together to understand more about communion. Listen carefully so that you can answer the questions afterwards.

I am going to split you into two groups. One group is the bread group, and one group is the wine group. Let's see which group can answer most of the questions. Remember to put up your hand if you think you know the answer.

What does the bread remind us of?

Jesus is the bread of life - He feeds us spiritually.



Jesus' body was broken for us so that we can have healing - physical, emotional and spiritual healing.

What does the wine remind us of?

Jesus' blood paid for our sins.

When we believe in Him and follow Him, His blood takes away our sins and we can be born again into God's family.

What should we do before we take communion?

Examine our hearts.

See if there is anything that we have to ask forgiveness for.

Why do we have communion with other people?

We are part of a community - we are all the body of Christ.

We are part of His family and are brothers and sisters in Christ.

Let's Chat Activity 2 (Younger)

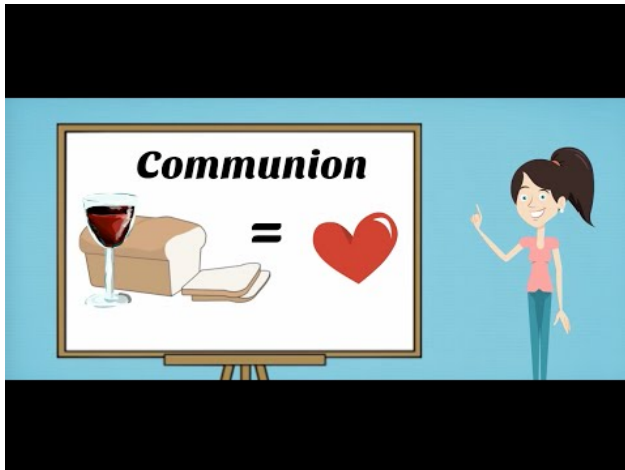
Need:
Video
Communion cup
with juice
Loaf of bread

Do: Find the video called Communion for Kids by Jonathan Smith on YouTube. Have it ready to play. Have the juice in a cup and the loaf of bread ready to show.

Say: In today's story Jesus told the disciples that whenever they broke bread together and shared it, and drank juice together, they should

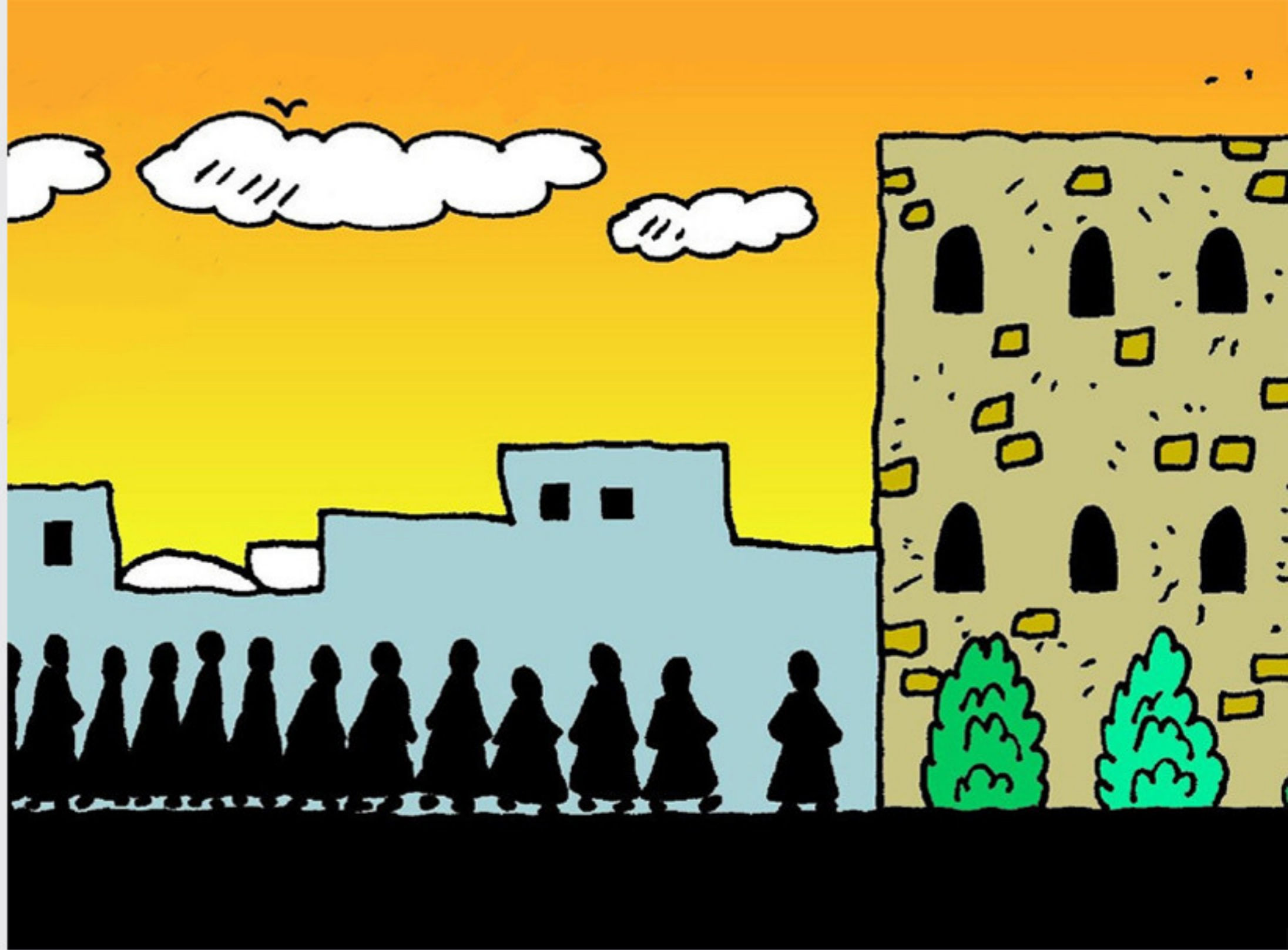
remember what He had done for them on the cross. Can anyone remember doing this in church? We have a little piece of salty biscuit, and a little glass of juice. When we do this together, it is called communion. When we have communion, we remember that Jesus loved us so much, that He died on the cross for us so that we can be part of God's family. When we eat the bread we remember that His body was broken for us so that we can be healed. Jesus heals our bodies when we are sick or have a broken bone. He heals our hearts when we are sad because of something that has happened. He heals our Spirits - He heals us from our sins. When we say sorry He forgives us and He no longer sees us as sinners. When we drink the juice we remember that Jesus' (blood) takes away all our sins.

Let's watch this video together.



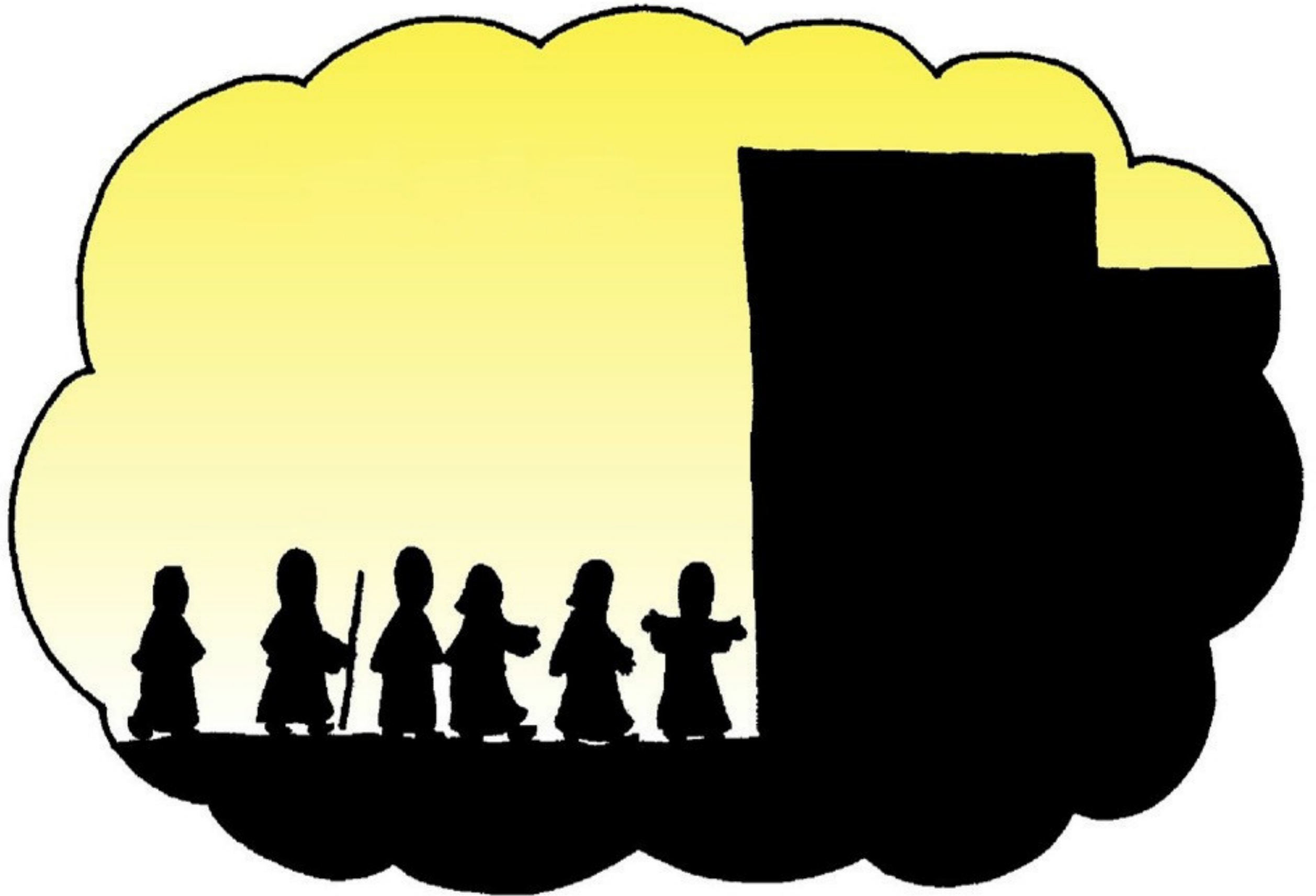


**Free
Bible
images**



Jesus eats with His friends (The Last Supper)

Luke 22:7-20



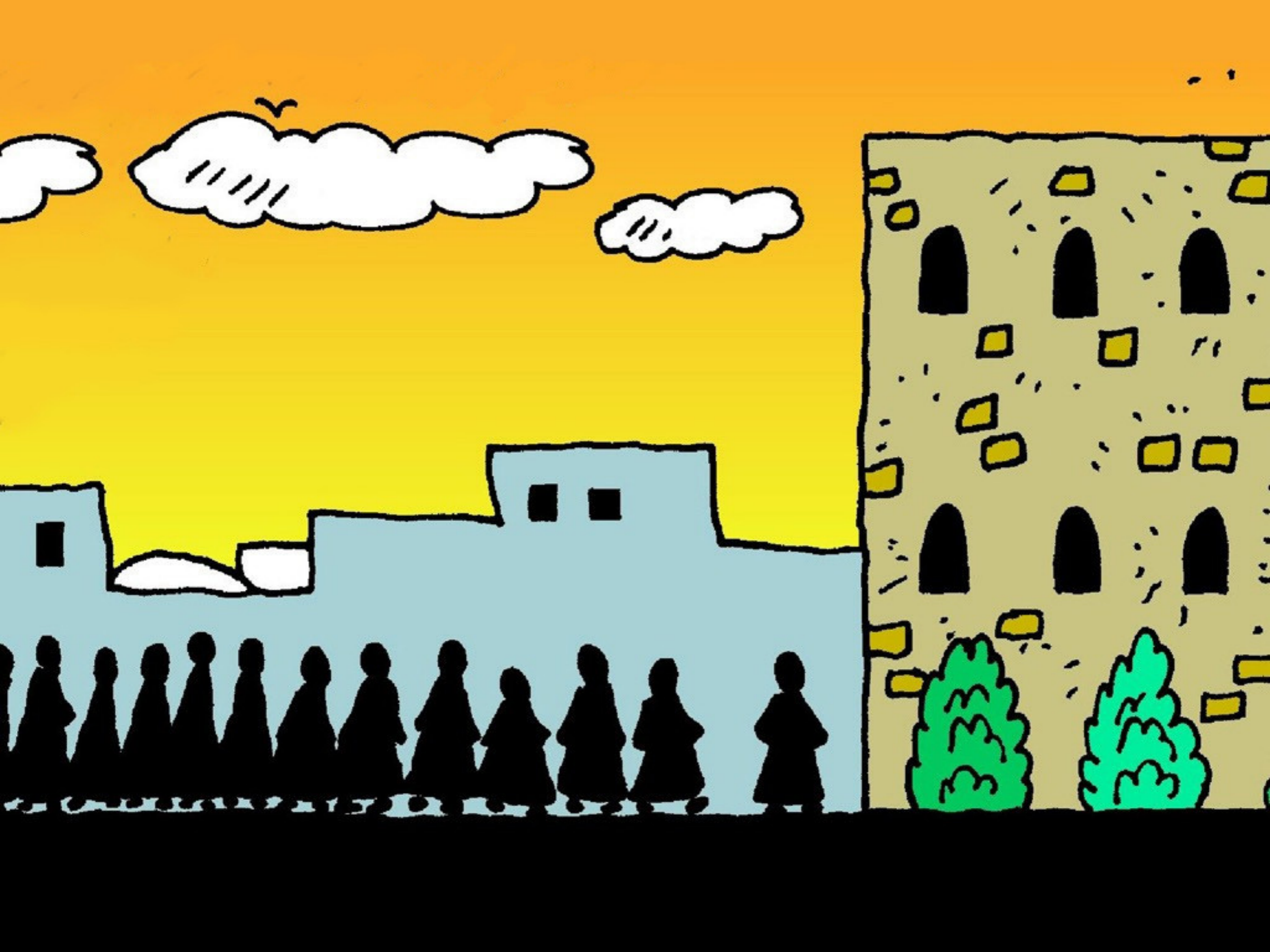
















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Jesus eats with His friends (The Last Supper)

Luke 22:7-20

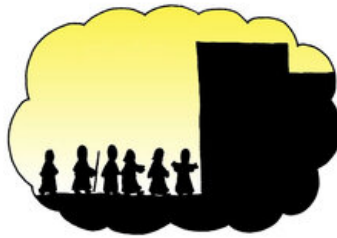


The images in this Bible story can be downloaded absolutely free from www.freebibleimages.org in PowerPoint, Keynote, JPEG or PDF formats. This Story Planner shows what is happening in each scene. Read the account from the Bible and then plan how you will tell the story. There is a space for your notes. You can delete any images/slides you don't require and add your own as needed.

| Description | Image | My notes |
|-------------|-------|----------|
|-------------|-------|----------|



- 1 This is a story found in the Bible and tells us about a special meal Jesus had with His friends, the disciples. It's a meal we celebrate today to remember Jesus and how He died and rose again to save us.



- 2 Jesus said to His friends, I want to eat the Passover feast with you before I go away. Go and get it ready for us.



- 3 'Look for a man carrying a water jar and follow him. He will show you where to go.' His friends found the man and followed him.



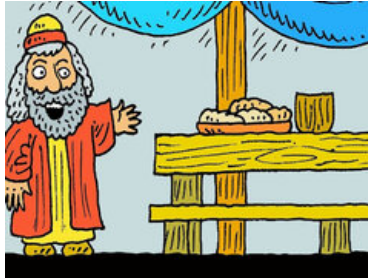
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- 4 The man went into a house. This was the house Jesus would be coming to for the meal. Jesus' friends knocked at the door and waited.



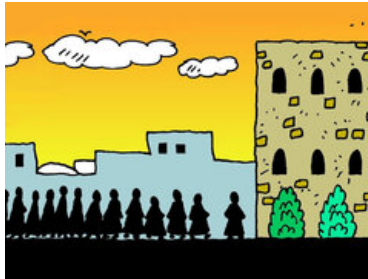
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- 5 'Do you have a room for Jesus?' they asked. 'Yes, I have a room upstairs. Everything you will need is ready. I knew Jesus would come,' said the man.



-
- 6 He took them upstairs to a big room. They got dinner ready with baskets of flat bread, and wine made from grape juice.



-
- 7 Soon Jesus arrived with His other friends. They went upstairs to have dinner together.



-
- 8 Jesus took the flat bread and broke it. They shared it. They shared the grape juice, too. Jesus said, 'Whenever you do this, remember me.' In church we call this 'Communion'.





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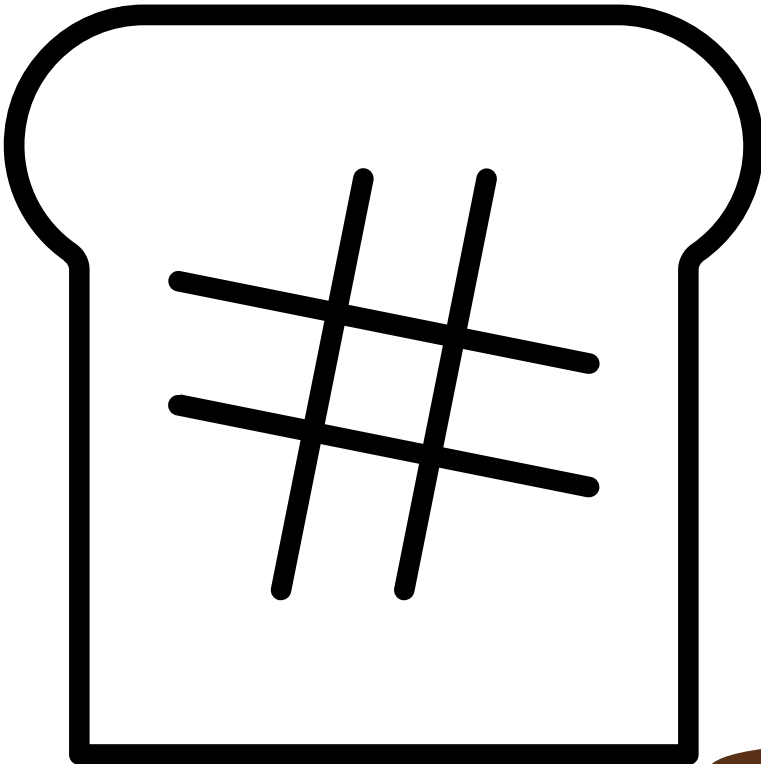
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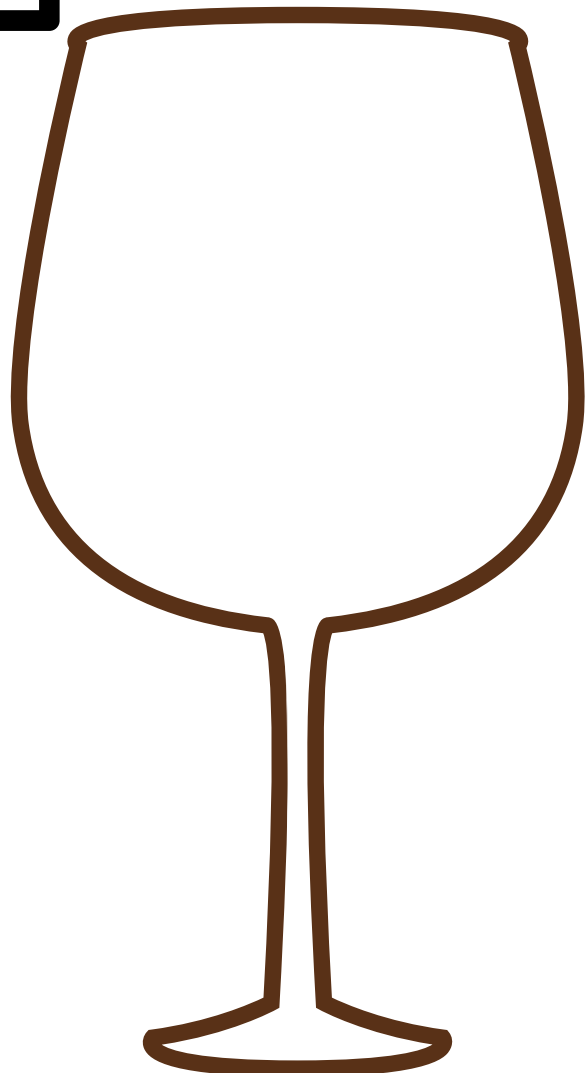
www.freebibleimages.org

Communion



Tear little bits of brown paper and stick it onto the picture of the bread.

Tear little bits of purple paper and stick it onto the glass to make the juice.



Pray

Spend some time thinking about today's story. Think about what you learnt about the bread. Thank Jesus for giving His body for you. Think about what you learnt about the wine. Thank Jesus for paying the price for your sin with His blood. Tell Jesus how grateful you are and how much you love Him.

Journal

Spend some time thinking about today's story. Think about what you learnt about what the bread and wine represents. Write a letter to Jesus, saying thank you for what He did for you, and what it means to you.

Bible

Read the story in Matthew 26:17–19 and 26–30.

Which part of the story stands out to you?

Write out the verse that you think is most important in that story.

Create

Complete the worksheet



MEALS WITH JESUS

Lesson 7: The Last Supper

LUKE 22:14-20



Did you spot it?

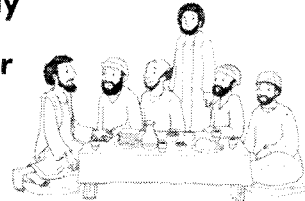
Draw pictures in the boxes...

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| What did they drink? | What did they eat? |
|----------------------|--------------------|

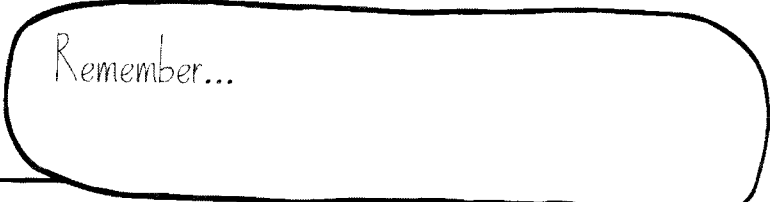


Tick the correct answer. Jesus had a meal with...

- the royal family
- a famous actor
- his friends the disciples



Work it out




Use these letters to finish the words...

DDLOOOY

SSS = B _ _ _

 = B _ _ _

 = B _ _ _

Write or draw what Jesus wanted his friends to remember



Live it out

How much do you think Jesus loves you?
Make a mark on the scale



| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Jesus died for you because he loves you. Draw a picture to show how that makes you feel... | Draw a picture of yourself with Jesus at the greatest meal ever... | Draw a face to show how you will feel when you see Jesus... |
|--|--|---|

Meals with Jesus



A journey through
Luke's Gospel

Lesson 7

The Last Supper

faith **in** kids



9
lessons

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Living Out (www.livingout.org) commissioned Faith in Kids (www.faithinkids.org) to produce these resources to help children understand Jesus' care for the marginalised. Visit www.faithinkids.org from November 2020 to download these resources.

These resources tie in with our book of family Bible times, 'Meals with Jesus'. Published by The Good Book Company.

thegoodbook.com | thegoodbook.co.uk | thegoodbook.com.au | thegoodbook.co.nz | thegoodbook.co.in

We recommend the International Children's Bible for use with children during the lesson. Our leader's notes use the New International Version.

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'All for the glory of God alone' (1 Corinthians 10:31)

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The Last Supper

READ LUKE 22:14-20



Big Idea:

Jesus' death, which saves his people, is to be remembered.



Faith in Kids looks like:

Children who thankfully remember that Jesus died to welcome them to the greatest meal ever.



Preparation

Pray and read the Bible passage. Read **Where are we going?** and **Win my heart first** to give you a better understanding of the passage and the **Big Idea**. Spend some time thinking through how this makes a difference to your life.

Read the lesson plan for the age group you will be teaching. Use a **Get Going** or **Brain Break** idea from a different age group if it is better suited to your children.

Prepare your lesson. Think through the **Take 10 minutes to focus!** questions before preparing your

Teaching Time. Use the International Children's Bible (which can be found online at www.biblegateway.com) for a simplified version of the text during **Teaching Time**. Keep the **Big Idea** in your mind to help you teach it clearly in every part of your lesson. Collect/draw/print/make what you need for the different sections of the lesson.

Pray for the children in your group to grasp the **Big Idea** and to live it out in their lives. Remember that you have the Holy Spirit's help as you teach God's word!



Where are we going?

Jesus is on a mission to bring lost, broken sinners back into friendship with God. He wants them to one day sit around the dinner table with their heavenly family at the greatest meal ever. But this can only happen through his death. Jesus hosted this last

supper so we would have a way to remember him, his death and his love for us. We want the children to know that the reality which this meal symbolises is for them too.



Win my heart first

What are some of your fondest memories? Happy times with friends and family? Special moments with loved ones? Those are the memories we like to bring up, share and remember. But in his last hours, Jesus told us to remember him and his death. It's not the warm and fuzzy kind of memory we want to remember and yet it is the greatest show of love we will ever experience.

Jesus faced judgment so that we wouldn't have to. He knew he would be broken but he still gave his life for us. He poured out his blood for us so that we could be welcomed into God's precious family. Remember Jesus. Remember his rescue. Look forward to the day when you will sit at a table in heaven, sharing the greatest meal ever with Jesus.

v14-15 Jesus 'eagerly desires' to eat the Passover with his disciples. This was a meal that mattered to Jews - a time when they remembered God's judgment and rescue. In Egypt, his angel of death had passed

through in judgment, but 'passed over' the houses where a perfect, spotless lamb had died in the place of the family's firstborn. The lamb made it possible for them to escape slavery and judgment and go to the Promised Land.

v16-20 Jesus used this meal to show that he is the true Passover lamb. He would die in the place of those who trust in him. God's judgment will pass over them, and fall on him instead. Even better, Jesus has his eyes fixed on an exciting family dinner to come (v16, 18): one day we will sit with Jesus at the feasting table of God.

v19-20 Jesus' body will be broken in the place of sinners. His own blood will be shed for them. Jesus' death has always been God's plan. Wicked men will do their worst, but God is still calling the shots: the cross is his plan for our rescue.



Question for my heart

Jesus repeats the phrase, 'for you'. How does it make you feel to remember again that Jesus gave his body and poured out his blood for you? Why do you think Jesus is so eager for you to remember this?



Bible Story Idea

This has been written as an all-age slot to introduce the whole church family to what the children are learning today, but it could be adapted for the children's classes.



Helpers Needed

Volunteers to be Jesus and 3-4 disciples.



Props

Table and chairs set up at the front. Money bag, bottle of perfume, pictures of a lamb and a blood-painted door frame (look at www.freebibleimages.org for pictures), plates, pitta bread, cup/wine glass, red juice, large sign that says 'REMEMBER JESUS!', picture of a cross, heart with 'friends with God' written on it, Blu Tack, an example of what your church uses for the Lord's Supper.



What to Say

In our 'Meals with Jesus' series we have seen that Jesus welcomed anyone and everyone. He shared a table with the people no one else wanted - the bad, the sinful, the broken and needy, like Levi the tax collector and the woman with the perfume. One day, Jesus will have a meal with every person who has ever trusted in him - even us!

In today's story, we will find out how it's possible for sinners to look forward to that special meal with Jesus.

Jesus was with his friends, the disciples. They'd had many meals together but this meal was special. It was the Passover. They had this meal on the same day, every year - like we have special meals at Easter and Christmas.

It was a celebration meal to remember how God rescued his people from Egypt. It was when a lamb died instead of God's people in the final plague.



What to Do

Hold up a money bag and a bottle of perfume.

Jesus and disciples come to the front and sit at the table.

Show pictures of a lamb and a blood-painted door frame.



What to Say



What to Do

But, Jesus said something surprising at this meal. He told his friends that he was going to suffer and die to give them a new and better rescue.

Jesus would be like the lamb but better. He would die, so that others could live forever.

Jesus gave them a new meal of bread and wine so his rescue could be remembered.

Jesus holds up the lamb picture and shows it to the disciples. He points to the lamb and then to himself.

Jesus holds up the bread and the cup/wine glass.

Jesus took some bread, broke it and gave it to his friends.

Jesus: 'This bread is my body that I am giving for you. Do this to remember me.'

Jesus breaks the bread and shares it out.

Then Jesus poured a drink, thanked God and said...

Jesus: 'This cup shows the new agreement that God makes with his people. It begins with my blood which is poured out for you.'

Jesus pours juice into the cup and passes it around.

It was ordinary bread and wine - not Jesus' actual body or blood!

They were pictures to help us understand how he can save sinners and make us friends with God.

Jesus gave his life for us.

He took the punishment for us.

Hold up the bread.

Hold up the cup.

Jesus gave his friends an instruction.

Jesus: 'Do this to remember me.'

continued →



What to Say

We still use this meal to remember Jesus. We call it the Lord's Supper or Communion. We eat bread and drink grape juice to remember Jesus' death on the cross.

The meal is like a big sign that says 'REMEMBER JESUS!'

Remember... Jesus was punished for our sin.

Remember... Jesus rescued us so we can be friends with God and safe forever.

One day Jesus will come back and take us home. We will sit at the table with him, in heaven, loved and safe forever! We have a new and better rescuer. Let's always remember him.

Pray



What to Do

Hold up what is used for the Lord's Supper in your church.

Hold up 'REMEMBER JESUS!' sign.

Hold up 'REMEMBER JESUS!' sign.
Stick the picture of a cross to it.

Stick the 'friends with God' heart to the sign.

Sit at the table with Jesus and the disciples.



Lesson Overview



10 minutes to focus



Get Going



Teaching Time



Brain Break



Heart & Hands



10 Minutes to Focus

When preparing, keep these questions in mind and check your planning to see that you are ready to engage your group. Take that clarity into your **Teaching Time** so that you get the **Big Idea** across.



Get Going

Focus the children's attention on the theme of the session using a game or activity. Light, not manic, so that the children can be calm afterwards, with their minds ready.



Teaching Time

Teach the key content of the lesson in an engaging way. Place emphasis to point clearly to the **Big Idea**. If you have used the **Bible Story Idea** already, you may not need to cover the whole story again. If not, you can adapt it to use here with your group or tell the story in another way, perhaps using the suggestions below. However you do this **Teaching Time**, conclude with a simple explanation of the **Big Idea**.



Brain Break

A chance to rest the children's minds before **Heart and Hands**. Get children moving. Finish by linking the activity to the **Big Idea** so that this time serves the Bible story.



Heart & Hands

Small group discussion:

The vital chance for the children to reflect on the story, so that its truths impact their hearts. They do the talking, not the leader. All the children need to be given the opportunity to respond. Ask each question to multiple children. The questions will lead the children to see how their heads (thoughts), hearts (feelings) and hands (actions) are shaped by the Bible story through the work of the Spirit.



Explorers

3–5s



Take 10 minutes to focus! Think about how to help your children understand that the meal was a way to remember Jesus' saving death and his love. Plan how you will tell the story to keep it simple and clear - avoid confusing explanations about the body and blood.



Get Going

Special Meals

You will need:

Pictures of a nativity scene, a cross and a birthday present. Pictures of food eaten at Christmas, Easter and birthdays. 3 paper plates.

Lay out the food pictures for the children to see. One by one, hold up the pictures of the special occasions e.g. nativity scene. Ask the children to put

the Christmas food pictures on a plate. Talk about what is being celebrated at Christmas and the special meal you have. Ask them what they eat for their Christmas meal. Do this for each special occasion and meal.

Link: In today's story, Jesus and his friends had a special meal.



Teaching Time

You will need:

Breadsticks, red juice and cups for each child, a toy figure to be Jesus. Be aware of allergies and intolerances in your group before giving them anything to eat or drink.

Sit in a circle on the floor or around a table and pretend to be Jesus' friends. Explain that Jesus (hold up the toy figure) and his friends had a very special meal together. Tell the children that Jesus loved his friends very much. He was going to die to save them. Explain that Jesus wanted them to have this meal to remember him.

Tell the story in a very simple way while acting out the sharing of the bread and wine (hand out pieces of breadstick and pour juice for each child - you will repeat this again so use small amounts). Explain that Jesus wanted them to think about him every time they had this meal. He was going to die. He wouldn't be with them all the time anymore (hide the Jesus toy

figure away).

Do some play acting with the children to help them understand that the meal was a way to remember Jesus. Pretend you are the disciples after Jesus death - move around the room/pretend to go to sleep and wake up to help the children understand that time has passed and his friends were missing him. Ask the children what they can do to remember Jesus - they could have the special meal (share out pieces of the breadsticks and juice). As you share the meal, talk about Jesus' love for his friends and what he did on the cross. Explain that they were doing what Jesus had told them to do - they were remembering him when they had the special meal.

Explain that Jesus wants us to remember him too. He wants us to remember that he died for us too. That is how much he loves us. Teach the children the memory sentence - 'Jesus died to save me.' Get the children to repeat it back to you a few times.



Brain Break

Remember Me

You will need:

Breadsticks and cups (from **Teaching Time**).

Set out some breadsticks and cups to one side. Play a game of 'Simon Says' using simple actions for the children to copy. Every 4-5 actions, call out 'Jesus said,

"Remember me." When you say this, the children must run and sit near the breadsticks and cups and pretend to have the special meal to remember Jesus.

➡ **Link:** Jesus gave his friends a special meal to remember him and that he died for them.



Heart & Hands

Craft Time - Make a 'broken bread' craft

You will need:

Printouts of craft sheet A (see **Appendix**), heart stickers and crayons.

Cut the sheets horizontally and give each child one half to colour and decorate. Stick the hearts around the cross. Help the children fold the sheet. Fold line 1 inwards. Fold the sheet back at line 2 to show the joined up bread loaf (the cross will be hidden). This is your opportunity to make things personal for each child. Remind them that Jesus died for them because he loves them. Use this craft time to reinforce the **Big Idea** of the lesson to get them ready for **Think Time**.

Think Time

Use the illustrations to remind the children of the story. Point to different parts of the pictures and ask them to tell you what is happening. Talk about how the special meal helps Jesus' friends remember him and that he died to save them.

Big Question

Who must we remember? Jesus.

A follow up question

Why? He died to save me.

Pray

Dear Jesus, thank you for dying for us. Please help us to remember how much you love us. Amen.



Discoverers

5–7s



Take 10 minutes to focus! Read through the verses and think about what each verse says about Jesus' love for you. Pray that Jesus will help you to communicate this love to the children.




Get Going

Remember Remember

Let the group 'study' one of the leaders/children and try to remember the details of what they're wearing. Ask that person to leave the room and change one small detail of their outfit. When they come back, the group

can guess what was changed. Play a few rounds.

 **Link:** It is hard to remember everything. In today's story Jesus gave his friends a way to remember him and what he would do for them.



Teaching Time

You will need:

A cushion, paper plate, napkin and cup for each person in the group, jug of red juice, pitta breads. Be aware of allergies and intolerances in your group before giving them anything to eat or drink.

Set out the cushions, plates and napkins on the floor. Get the children seated so you can act out the story together with yourself as Jesus and the children as the disciples.

Before you read out the passage, explain that they must listen out for two big pictures that Jesus used. Hand out the juice and pitta bread as you read out those verses. Once you've acted out the story, ask the children if they spotted the two big pictures Jesus used.

Hold up the bread: ask the children what the bread

was a picture of.

Hold up the juice: ask the children what the wine was a picture of.

Explain that Jesus wanted his friends to remember his great rescue. As he gave bread and wine to each person he was saying: 'I will die for you.' He was going to die to take the punishment for their sin. Jesus died so that his friends can be with God forever.

Finish with a point or two about how Jesus' rescue is for anyone who trusts in Jesus. He died for us! Talk about why Jesus wants us to remember his death. Explain that one day we will get to enjoy the best meal ever with God in heaven because of Jesus' rescue. Keep in mind the **Big Idea** and what you thought through in **Take 10 Minutes to Focus**.



Brain Break


Picture the Meal

You will need:

4 sheets of paper, 2 of one colour and 2 of another colour. Draw a loaf of bread on one sheet of each colour and a wine glass on the other sheet of each colour. Cut the papers into small squares so the children can reassemble them like a puzzle.

Place all the coloured squares on one side of the

room. Split your group into 2 teams and give each team a colour. One at a time, a child from each team runs to the pile to rescue a square of their colour. Back in their teams they must put their squares together to make a picture of the bread and the wine glass.

 **Link:** Jesus gave his friends a meal to help them remember his rescue - he died on the cross to save us.



Heart & Hands

Use the illustrations to help the children remember the story. Worksheet A is the suggested sheet for this age group. The questions below can mostly be found on the worksheet which has been designed to aid your discussion. If possible, enlarge the page to A3 so you can work on it together. Make sure each child can still answer the personal questions honestly for themselves (e.g. hand out Post-it notes for them to write/draw their answers to these questions).

Did you spot it?

- Who did Jesus have a meal with?
- What did they drink?
- What did they eat?

Work it out

- What are the bread and wine pictures of?
- What did Jesus want his friends to remember? Why?
- If we forget that Jesus died for us, what will we forget?

Live it out

- How much do you think you need to love a person to die for them? How much do you think Jesus loves you?
- How does it make you feel that Jesus loved you so much that he died for you?
- How will you feel when you see Jesus at the greatest meal ever?

Prayer Idea

Jesus told his friends that he was about to give his life to save them. What would you say to him if he was sitting with us now? Jesus is with us by his Spirit so we can say those things to him - turn them into prayers of thanks.

Craft Time

Make a 'broken bread' picture.

Use the craft if you have time available after your discussion. Craft instructions can be found in the **Explorers Craft Time** section.



Adventurers 8-11s



Take 10 minutes to focus! How will you help your children see that Jesus' death is for them as individuals? How will you help them to see that remembering Jesus' death will help them to appreciate more and more what he has done for them?



Get Going


Memorise It

You will need:

A tray, lots of random items and a cloth big enough to cover the tray.

Show the children the tray of items. Give them a minute to memorise the items before covering them. Get the

children to write down everything they can remember. Repeat a few times to see how they improve on their score.

 **Link:** It can be hard to remember things. Doing something again and again can help us to remember. In today's story, Jesus tells his friends to do something to remember him.



Teaching Time

You will need:

Cushions, pens, Bibles or printouts of the passages. Cut out 2 large paper circles to make 'plates'. If you have a large group of children then split up and give each group 2 standard paper plates.

Sit on the cushions on the floor and explain that Jesus and his disciples were having a Passover meal in today's story. The Passover meal first happened when God rescued his people from Egypt. They had the same meal every year to remember that rescue.

Read Exodus 12:1-14 together. Ask the children the questions to help them find out about what God's people were remembering. Write 'Past - Egypt' on a plate - let the children write or draw answers on it.

- Who had died? Who was this meal for/who would be saved?
- What did they eat at this meal? Why?
- What had God done?
- Why was the meal called the Passover?
- How do you think the people who ate the first Passover meal felt?

What was it God's people were remembering?

Next, read Luke 22:14-20 together. Ask the following questions to help them find out what Jesus wanted them

to remember. Write 'Now - the Upper Room' on another plate - let the children write or draw answers on it.

- Who was going to die? Who was this meal for/ would be saved?
- What did they eat at this meal? Why?
- What had God done?
- Why did Jesus want them to remember these things at the Passover?
- How do you think the people eating this meal felt?

Make the connection between the two meals: like a lamb had died in the place of the firstborn children in Egypt, Jesus was going to die in our place on the cross. Both times, God provided a sacrifice to rescue his people - the lamb and God's son, Jesus. Jesus wanted his friends to know and remember that God's judgment is coming again. But, by trusting in Jesus, it will pass over them and fall on him. God is giving us an even better rescue than the Passover. The Israelite's rescue took them to the Promised Land, but Jesus' rescue takes people to eternity with his Father.

Finish with a point or two about how Jesus' rescue is for us if we trust in him. Keep in mind the **Big Idea** and what you thought through in **Take 10 Minutes to Focus**.



Brain Break

Rescue Tag

Play a game of tag. Choose a child to be the 'tagger' and another child to be the 'rescuer'. When a child is tagged, they must call out, 'I need to be rescued' for the rescuer to come and set them free.

➡ **Link:** You had to remember to call out, 'I need to be rescued' to be set free. Jesus tells us to remember how he rescued sinners - his death on the cross.



Heart & Hands

Use the illustrations to help the children remember the story. Worksheet B is the suggested sheet for this age group. The questions below can mostly be found on the worksheet which has been designed to aid your discussion. If possible, enlarge the page to A3 so you can work on it together. Make sure each child can still answer the personal questions honestly for themselves (e.g. hand out Post-it notes for them to write/draw their answers to these questions).

Did you spot it?

- What was remembered at the Passover?
- What did Jesus say the bread represented at this meal?
- What did Jesus say the wine represented at this meal?

Work it out

- Think of 3 gifts you would like to receive. How would you feel if you received those gifts?
- The bread and wine remind us of Jesus' body and blood. How is that a gift?
- Where would you put it on the scale of 'small gift' to 'massive gift'? Why?



Xtra Stretch

- Why do you think God's people needed to be reminded of how he set them free from slavery in Egypt?
- Why do you think we still need to be reminded of

what Jesus has done for us even though it is so amazing?

- What can we do to make sure we keep remembering what Jesus has done?

Live it out

- How does it make you feel that Jesus said his death is for you? Why?
- Jesus says we must remember him. What difference will that make to your life now?
- Jesus said to his friends that he would not eat that meal again until he was hanging out with them at the greatest meal ever. When you see him there, what will you say to him?

Pray

Jesus says, 'I've given my body for you; I've shed my blood for you.' What would you like to say to him now? Turn that into a prayer of thanks.

Craft Time

Make a 'Remember!' magnet

Have this craft ready to use if you have time available after your discussion.

You will need:

Craft sheet B (see **Appendix**) printed onto card, small magnets/magnetic tape, glue and coloured pens.

Get the children to draw or write a sentence on a 'Remember' note to help them remember Jesus' death. Attach the magnet to the back.



Mixed Ages

3–11s

This component is suitable for a mixed group of children aged 3–11 years old. Use this if you are unable to break your group into smaller classes because of the number of children or leaders you have.




Take 10 minutes to focus! How will you help your children understand that Jesus' death is how he has rescued us too? Think about how to make the story engaging for all the children while also helping the older ones go a bit deeper.



Get Going

Sit in a circle. The person to start says, 'Do this to remember me' before doing a simple action (e.g. clap hands/slap knees/make a funny face/tap an elbow/lift an arm). The rest of the circle then copy the action. The next child says, 'Do this to remember me' before doing the previous action and then adding in their own.

The rest of the circle then copies the 2 actions. Continue this around the circle with each child adding in a new action.

 **Link:** In today's story, Jesus gave his friends a way to remember his death and how it saves them.



Teaching Time

You will need:

Outline drawings of a loaf of bread and a wine glass, Bibles, cushions, paper plates, napkins, cups, jug of red juice, pitta bread. Be aware of allergies and intolerances in your group before giving them anything to eat or drink.

Give the older children the pictures of the bread and the wine glass. Ask them to look at the passage and write down on the pictures what the bread and wine are pictures of. While they are doing this, get the younger ones to help you set up for the special meal Jesus and his friends had. Set out cushions, plates and napkins for each child. Explain to them that Jesus wanted his friends to have a special meal to help them remember him.

Once the scene has been set up, get all the children together on the cushions. Read through the story and act it out together. Play the role of Jesus and get the

children to be the disciples.

Read verses 14–16: give the children a simple explanation of the Passover rescue of God's people from Egypt. Explain that God told them to have the special Passover meal to remember the rescue every year. Point out that Jesus knew he would die to save them – he wanted his friends to have a way to remember him and his rescue.

Read verses 17–20: act out the giving thanks and sharing of the wine and bread (pour cups of juice for each child and share the pitta bread). Ask the older children what the bread and wine were pictures of. Ask the children who Jesus said he was giving his body for. Help them see that Jesus was saying, 'I am going to die for you' – this was how he would rescue his friends. Just like God told his people to remember their great rescue from Egypt, Jesus told his friends to remember his rescue of them.

Finish with a point or two about how Jesus' rescue is

for us if we trust in him. Jesus' friends can look forward to one day having an even greater meal with God in

heaven forever. Keep in mind the **Big Idea** and what you thought through in **Take 10 Minutes to Focus**.



Brain Break

Rescue Relay

You will need:

A piece of card with a cross drawn on it. Attach string to the top and bottom of the picture (the strings need to be the length of the space you are playing in) and 10 toy figures/teddies/dolls.

Split your group into 2 and have each small group stand on opposite sides of the room. Each group must have an end of string. Give the toys to one group. That

group must place a toy on the cross picture so that the opposite group can pull their end of the string to get the toy to their side. The cross picture then gets pulled back by the other group so the next toy can be moved across the space. Work as a team against a time limit to rescue all of the toys.

Link: In today's story, Jesus told his friends to remember him and his rescue. He died on the cross to save us.



Heart & Hands

If you have more than one leader then you could split up into smaller groups of similar aged children (if possible). If not then get the younger ones busy with a craft so you can have some discussion time with the older children.

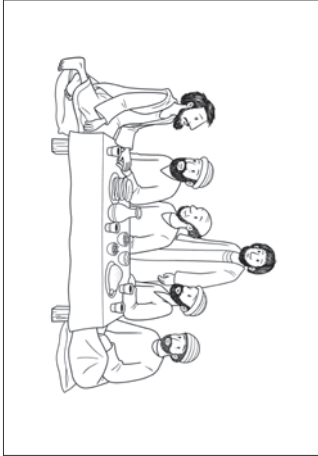
Use the illustrations to help the children remember the story.

Depending on your children, use the craft/ worksheet and questions that will suit them best from the Explorers/Discoverers/Adventurers sections.

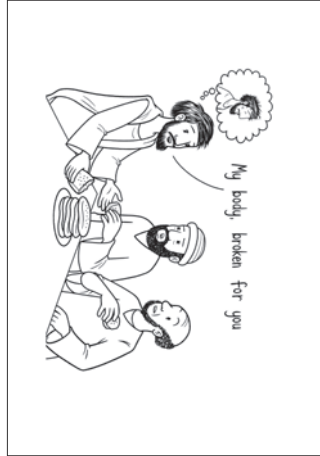


Appendix

The following pages can be copied, printed and used to accompany this lesson.



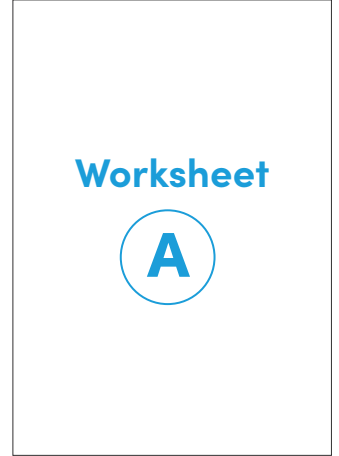
p19



p20



p21



p22



p23



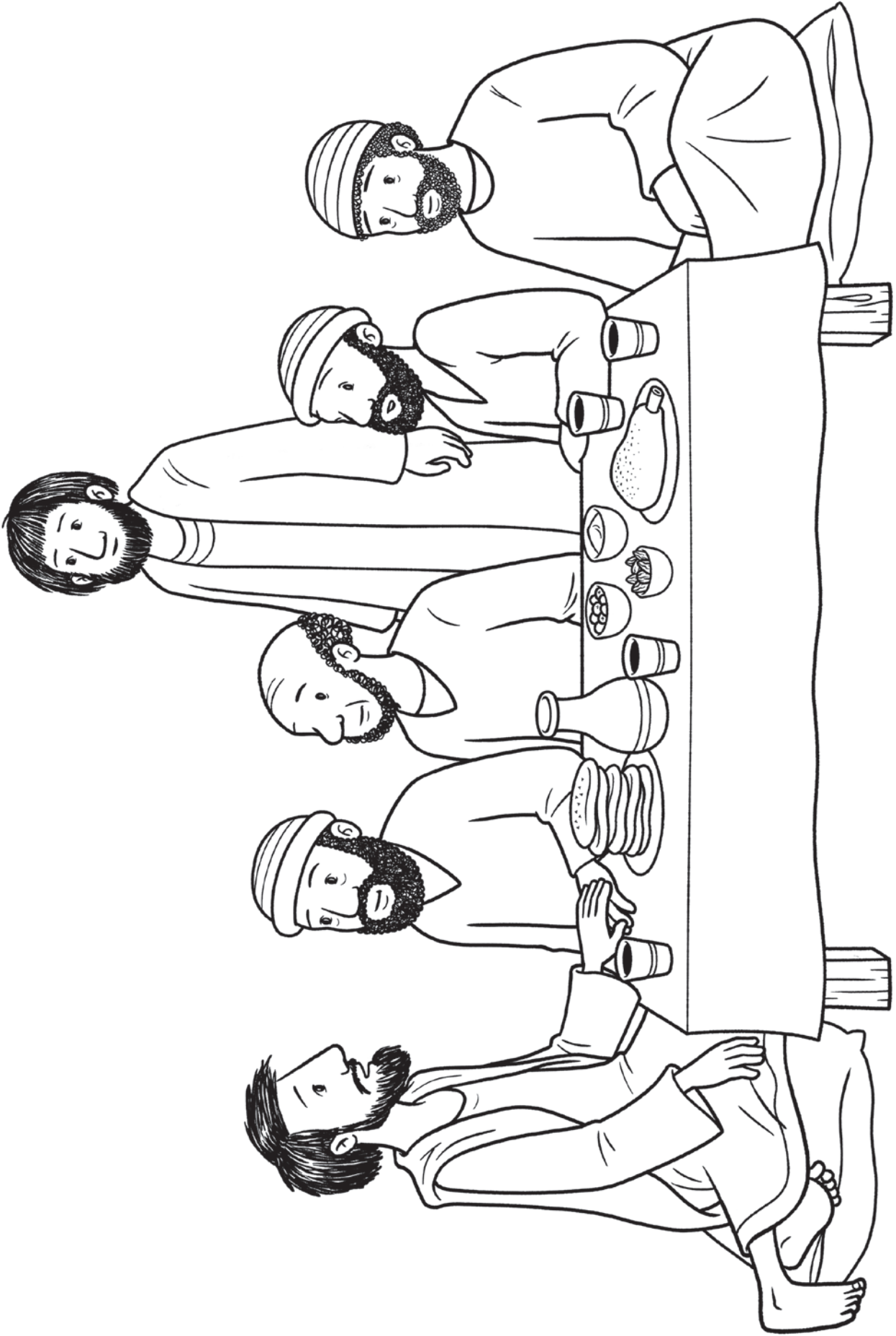
p24

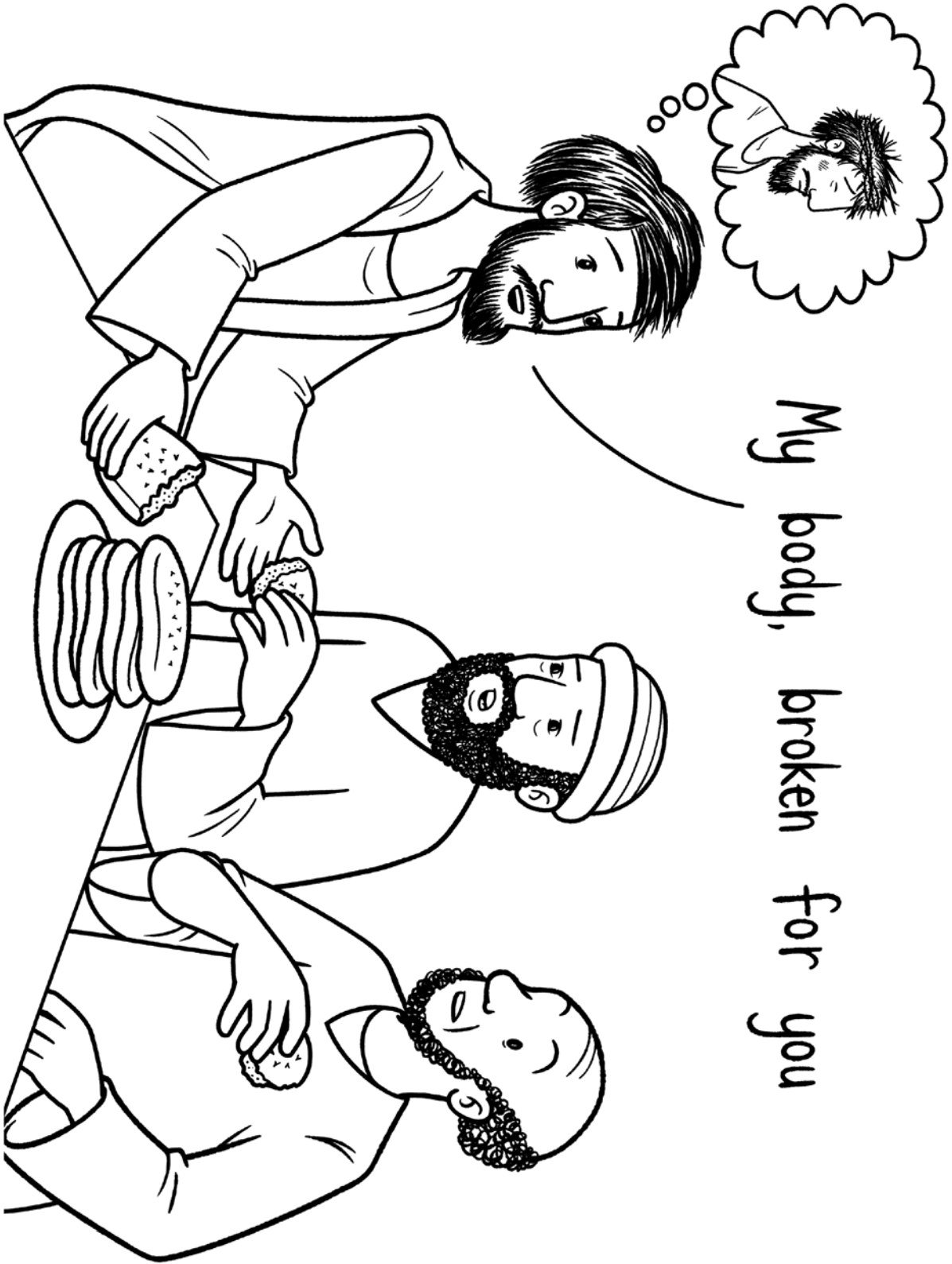


p25



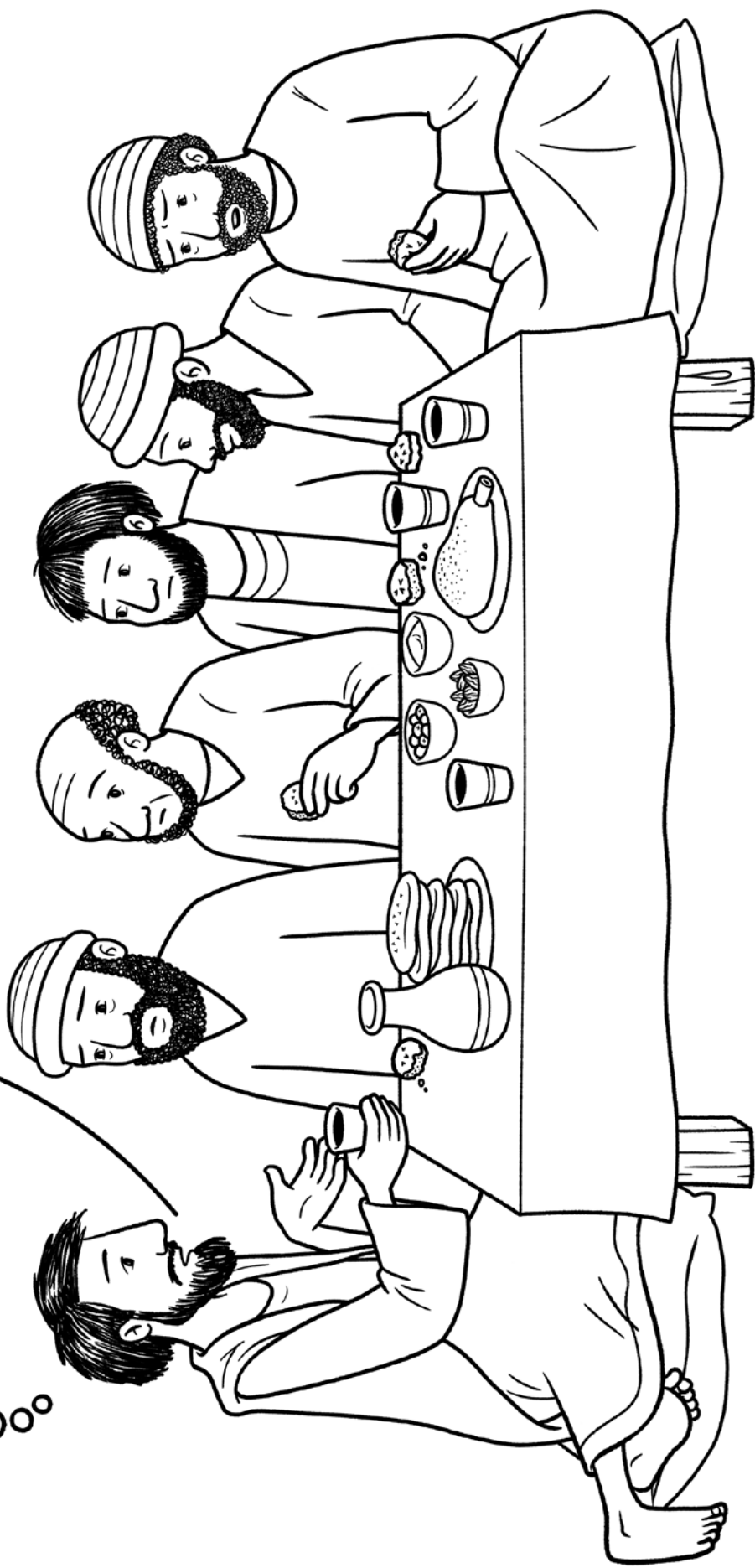
p26







My blood, poured out for you





Lesson 7: The Last Supper

LUKE 22:14-20



Did you spot it?

Draw pictures in the boxes...

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| What did they drink? | What did they eat? |
|----------------------|--------------------|



Tick the correct answer. Jesus had a meal with...

- the royal family
- a famous actor
- his friends the disciples





Work it out

Remember...

Use these letters to finish the words...

DDLOOOY

 = B _ _ _ _

 = B _ _ _ _

Write or draw what Jesus wanted his friends to remember



Live it out

How much do you think Jesus loves you?
Make a mark on the scale



| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Jesus died for you because he loves you. Draw a picture to show how that makes you feel... | Draw a picture of yourself with Jesus at the greatest meal ever... | Draw a face to show how you will feel when you see Jesus... |
|--|--|---|

B

MEALS WITH JESUS

Lesson 7: The Last Supper

LUKE 22:14-20



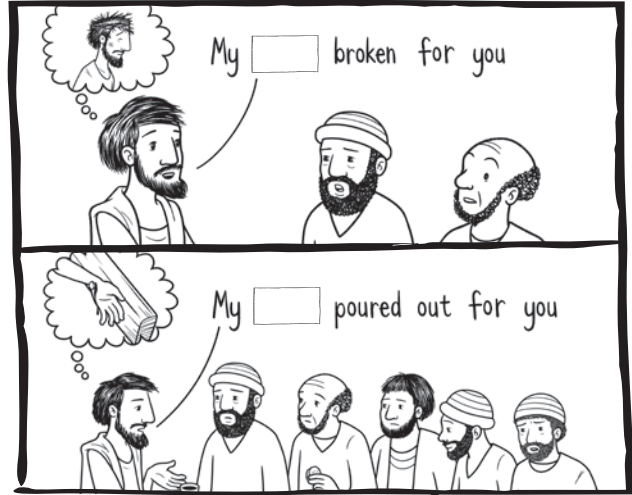
Did you spot it?

Fill in the missing words...



Tick the correct answer. What was remembered at Passover?

- Noah built the ark
- God rescued his people from Egypt
- Jesus was born



Work it out

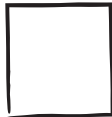
Think of 3 gifts you would like to receive. Mark them on the scale

SMALL GIFT

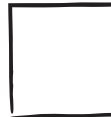


MASSIVE GIFT!

Draw a face in each square to show how you would feel if you received that gift



GIFT 1



GIFT 2



GIFT 3



What gift did Jesus give us?

Where would you put Jesus gift on the scale? Why?



Live it out



Looking back

Jesus died for you. Draw an emoji to show how that makes you feel.



Now

REMEMBER ME...

What difference will remembering Jesus make to your life now?



Looking forward

What will you say to Jesus when you see him at the greatest meal ever?



Use these questions to get a conversation started about today's lesson with your child. Pick a time that sets you up for success - maybe in the car on the way home or before bedtime. Make yourself part of the conversation and share your own ideas - this is not a test!

MEALS WITH JESUS

Lesson 7: The Last Supper

LUKE 22:14-20



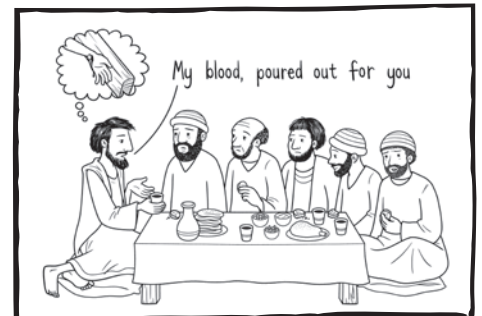
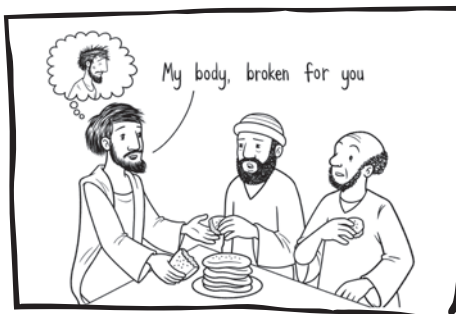
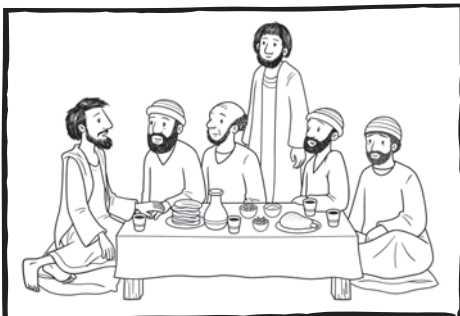
Big Idea:

Jesus' death, which saves his people, is to be remembered.



Faith in Kids looks like:

Children who thankfully remember that Jesus died to welcome them to the greatest meal ever.



3-5s

- Who must we remember?
Jesus.
- Why? *He died to save me.*



5-7s

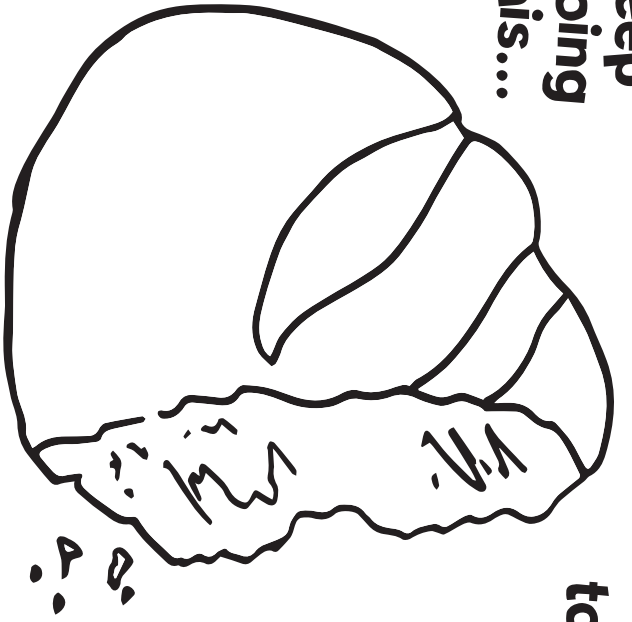
- Who did Jesus have a meal with?
- What did they eat and drink? Why?
- What does Jesus want us to remember?



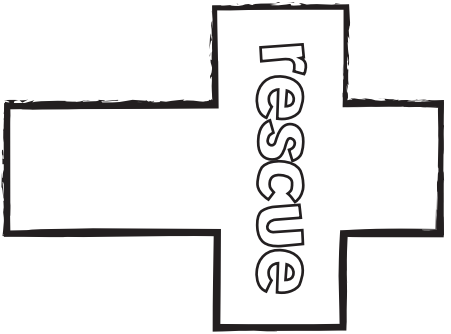
8-11s

- What did they eat and drink at the meal? What were those pictures of?
- What did Jesus tell them to remember?
- How has the story changed how you feel about Jesus?

Keep doing this...



to remember Jesus

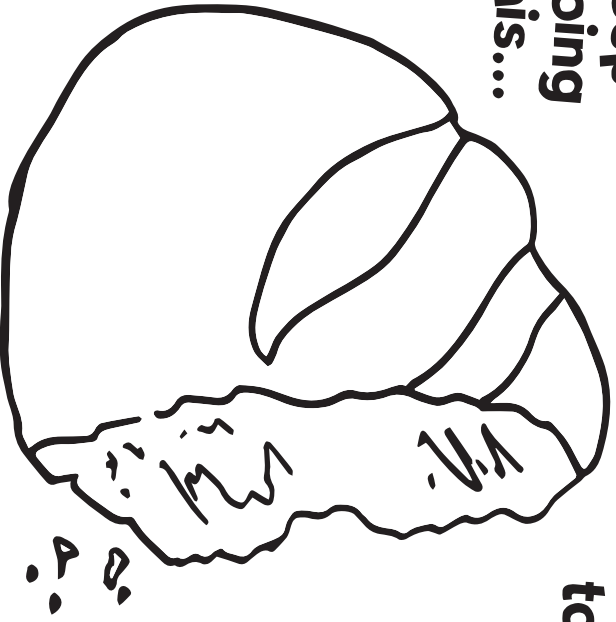


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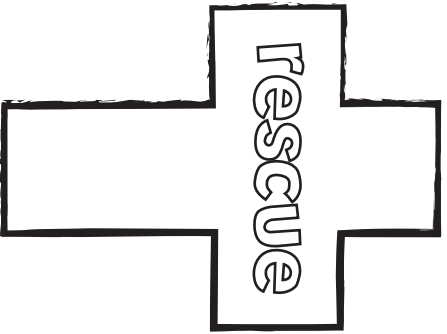


2

Keep doing this...



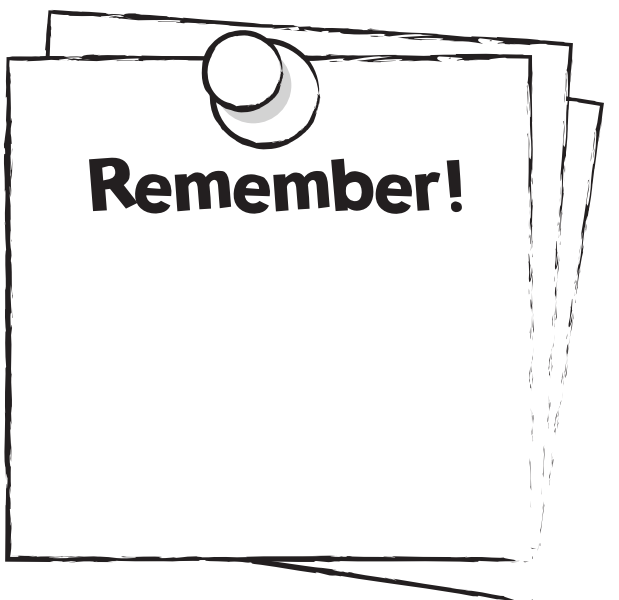
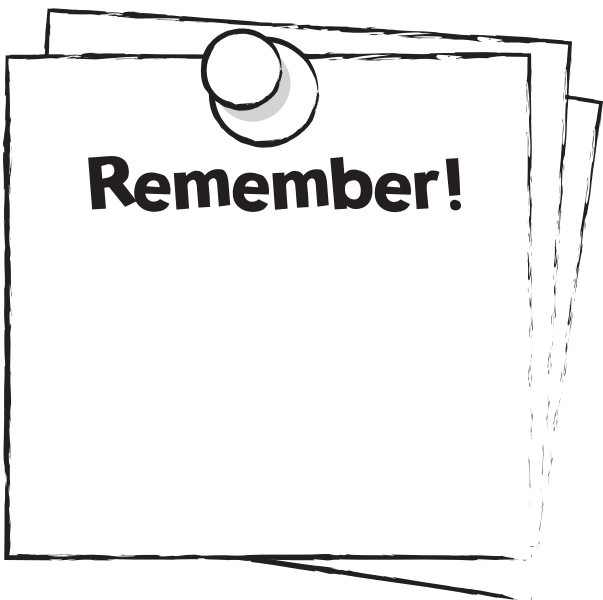
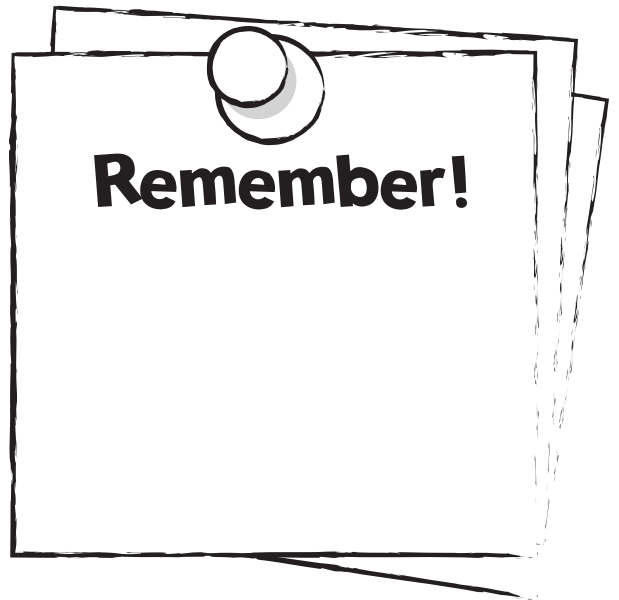
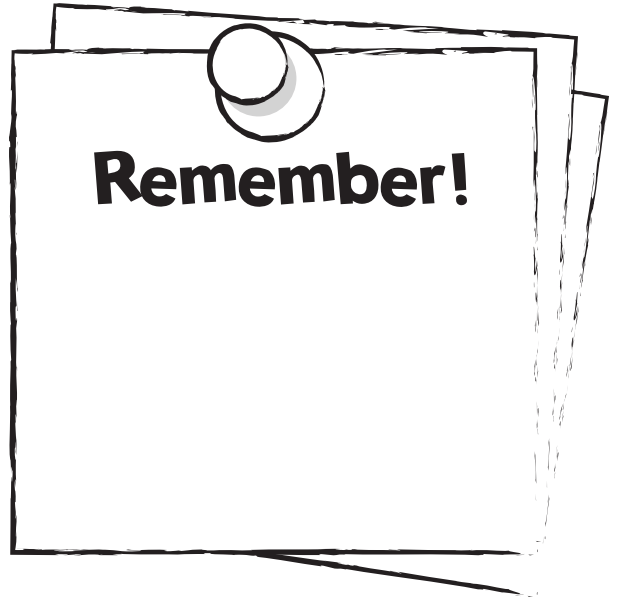
to remember Jesus



1



2



Meals with Jesus

Cover artwork
inspired by

The logo for The Good Book Company features a red swoosh above the text. The word "the" is in black, "good" is in red, and "book" is in black. Below "book" is the word "COMPANY" in all caps, black, and smaller font.

the**good**book
COMPANY

The logo for Faith in Kids features the word "faith" in red, "in" in white inside a red circle, and "kids" in red.

faith**in**kids

www.faithinkids.org

Easter Lessons

The Garden of Gethsemane

Lesson 3

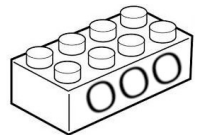
All Ages

Aim: To teach the children about what happened in the Garden of Gethsemane and afterwards.

- ✱ Disciples sleepy - in His biggest time of need, His closest friends were not there for Him.
- ✱ Jesus - "take this cup from me" Jesus asks God if there is any other way for people to be saved, so that He doesn't have to do this. BUT He is prepared to do it if it means that people will be able to once again have a relationship with God. I wonder if it was the physical pain or the emotional and mental pain of being separated from His Father that caused Jesus such turmoil? Or both?
- ✱ Arrested - Peter cuts off ear.
- ✱ Disciples scatter - Peter follows, but at a distance. Peter was afraid that he would also be arrested for being associated with Jesus.
- ✱ Jesus arrested and tried - found guilty, although He is innocent
- ✱ Jesus put to death on the cross

Bible: Matthew 26:36-56 Mark 14:32-50 Luke 22:39-46

Let's Move



Let's Move Activity 1 (Older)

Need:
Nothing

Do: This game has a villain (Baddie) who murders people and a detective that has to find out who the villain is. If you don't like the idea of 'killing' people, then change the villain to someone who makes the people go lame for a while. As long as the person being targeted by the villain makes a big show of being killed or made lame.

If the group is bigger than 12 children, split into two groups. Encourage the Villain to 'kill' people at least every 20 seconds.

Say: We are going to play a game called Detectives. Everyone needs to sit in a circle. I am going to choose one person to be the Detective and one person to be the Murderer. Everyone else in the circle will close their eyes while I choose the people. The Murderer will kill people by winking at them. If you have been winked at, you need to die in a very dramatic way, without giving away who murdered you. The Detective needs to discover who the murderer is. The Detective has 3 guesses.

Discuss:

- * How did you feel, knowing that someone in the group was trying to harm you?
- * How did you feel when the Detective accused you of being the Murderer?
- * Have you ever been betrayed by a friend? How did it make you feel?
- * Have you every been accused of something that you didn't do? How did it make you feel?
- * Have you ever been punished for something that someone else did? How did it make you feel?

In today's Bible story, Jesus was betrayed by one of the disciples. This was someone who was part of Jesus' group of 12 for three years! Jesus was accused of something that He didn't do, and then punished for things that others had done.

Let's Move Activity 2 (Younger)

| |
|--|
| Need: Lullaby or sleepy time music |
|--|

Do: Have the music ready to play. Keep switching the music on and off, every 20 seconds or so. Play for as long as the children are enjoying it.

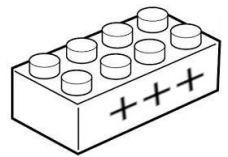
Say: We are going to play a game. I want everyone to make sure that you have a space around yourself big enough to lie down in. When the music is playing, I want you to lie down and pretend to sleep. When the music stops playing, I want you to kneel and put your hands together under your chin, as if you are praying. As soon as you hear the music, you need to lie down and pretend to sleep.

Well done everybody. Who of you feel sleepy now?

Today's Bible story is about when three of Jesus' special friends kept falling asleep, instead of praying for Jesus.

Let's Listen

Let's Listen Activity 1 (Older)



Need:
Video

Do: Find the video called God's Story - Easter from Crossroads Kids' Club on YouTube.

Watch the video beforehand. You can decide whether you're going to stop it at 3:56, before it talks about what happens after Easter, or whether you're going to watch the whole video.

Say: I want everyone to find a space to sit where they can see the screen. We are going to watch a video about Jesus.



Last week we spoke about the last supper that Jesus and His disciples had together. Jesus took the bread, broke it, and told the disciples that they should do this often, to remember that Jesus's body was broken for their healing. Then He passed around the wine, and told them that His blood would be shed for the forgiveness of people's sins.

After supper, Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, left. He was the one who betrayed Jesus. The Jewish priests and people in charge were sick of Jesus and all the attention that He was getting. They didn't believe that He really was God's Son, the One that God had sent to rescue them. They wanted to get rid of Him. But Jesus was popular with the people, so they wanted to arrest Him in a quiet place. Judas agreed to help them by telling them when Jesus was away from the crowds, and easy to arrest. Jesus knew what Judas was doing, and Judas knew that Jesus knew.

Jesus and the rest of the disciples went to a place called Gethsemane, a garden filled with olive trees. When they got there, Jesus asked His three closest friends, Peter, James and John, to walk a little bit further with Him. He asked them to pray for Him, because He was about to do something

really difficult. Instead of praying, they slept! Even though Jesus came back three times to check on them, they kept falling asleep! I suppose they were tired after a long day of walking, and then eating a big meal.

While the disciples were sleeping, Jesus was praying! Remember, Jesus was fully God, but He was also fully human. He was feeling stressed about having to die on the cross. He knew that while He was on the cross, He would be separated from God. He knew that He would have to take all of God's anger about the whole world's sin on Himself. The Bible says that He was so anxious, that He was sweating blood. BUT Jesus was prepared to die on the cross if it meant that people could be forgiven of their sin and become part of God's family. He spoke to God and said: If there is any other way that this sin problem can be solved, please can we do that way instead. But I will do whatever YOU want me to do. Even though it was an extremely hard thing to do, Jesus was prepared to do it so that we could be saved.

Jesus was accused of all sorts of things that He never did, but He didn't try to defend Himself. He just kept quiet. Eventually, after three different people in charge had spoken to Him, and a whole lot of people had shouted that He should die, He was sentenced to die on the cross, a terrible punishment that was given only to the worst kind of criminal. But He did it so that we could be saved.

Let's Listen Activity 2 (Younger)

Need:
Video

Do: Find the video called Jesus prays in Gethsemane by Saddleback Kids on YouTube.

Say: I want everyone to find a space to sit where they can see the screen. We are going to watch a video about Jesus.



Jesus had a very difficult thing to do. He had to die on the cross. He knew that it was going to be hard, and painful, and that people would say nasty things about Him. It was making Him feel a bit worried. He asked His friends to pray for Him, but instead they kept falling asleep! Even though Jesus knew that dying on the cross was going to be a difficult thing to do, He also knew that it was the only way to pay for all the bad things that people had done. It was the only way that people could be forgiven and become part of God's family. So He did it. Jesus died for us, so that we can be part of God's family.

Did Jesus stay dead? No! On the third day He came alive again! But that is a story for another time.

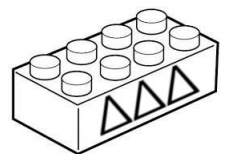
Let's Listen Activity 3 (Younger)

Need:
Bible story
outline and
pictures

Do: Before the time, print the Bible story outline and the pictures that go with it from www.freebibleimages.org If you go to the website and search for "JESUS PRAYS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE" you will find all the resources for this story, including Power Point slides. Prepare the story well enough to be able to tell it, and not read it.

Say: Today's story is about when Jesus and some of His best friends went to a special garden to pray. Listen carefully while I tell you the story.

Let's Do



Let's Do Activity 1 (Younger)

Need:
Worksheets
Scissors
Pencil crayons
Glue
A4 paper

Do: For young children, consider cutting out the puzzle pieces beforehand. Hand out the worksheets to the children. Help where necessary.

Say: I have a worksheet for each of you to do. You need to cut out the different pieces of the puzzle, and then arrange the pieces so that they look like the picture in the top left hand corner. When you are happy with your picture, I will give you a piece of white paper to glue your picture onto. You can colour in the picture once you have glued all the pieces in place.

Let's Do Activity 2 (Older)

| |
|--|
| Need: Bibles Paper Pencil crayons Instructions |
|--|

Do: Set up each station as per instructions below. You may want to read out the instructions for each station so that the children have an idea of what they will be doing at the station. Walk around while the children are busy and encourage where necessary.

Say: You are going to have some time to spend with God. There are four different things that you can do. You can do as many of them as you have time for. The choices are:

Prayer, Journal, Bible reading or Create. You will find the instructions at each station.

Pray: Jesus was betrayed by someone close to Him, accused of things that He didn't do, and then punished for a crime that He didn't commit. He did all of that willingly, to give you the opportunity to be part of God's family. Spend some time thinking about it, and then talking to God about it.

Journal: Jesus was betrayed by someone close to Him, accused of things that He didn't do, and then punished for a crime that He didn't commit. He did all of that willingly, to give you the opportunity to be part of God's family. Spend some time thinking about that, and then write about how it makes you feel.

Bible: Read Mark 14:32-50. Which part of the story stands out to you? Why?

Create: Draw a picture of yourself in the Garden with Jesus and the disciples. What would you have been doing?

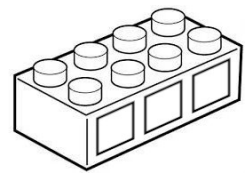
Let's Do Activity 3 (Younger)

Need:
Worksheets

Do: Hand out the worksheets and help where necessary. Very young children will need help with the alphabet.

Say: I am going to give you a picture to colour, but you first have to finish drawing the picture! Follow the alphabet to finish drawing the picture. Put up your hand if you need help.

Let's Chat



Let's Chat Activity 1 (Older)

Need:
Paper
Pencils
Whiteboard

Do: Divide the class carefully, making sure that there are children with strong opinions, or good leadership abilities, in both groups. If a debate won't work, brainstorm a list of answers for each question. For either option, the idea is that the answers come from the children's thinking.

Say: Imagine how you would have felt if you were Jesus in the Garden, with your best friends, and instead of doing what you asked them to do, they kept falling asleep. How would you have felt?

Who knows what a debate is? It is when two people, or two groups of people discuss something from two different opinions. We are going to debate what happened with Jesus' disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane. I am going to divide you into two teams. One team is going to explain why it is understandable that the disciples fell asleep instead of praying with Jesus. The other team is going to explain why it is awful that the disciples fell asleep instead of praying with Jesus.

Let's Chat Activity 2 (Older)

Need:
Nothing

Do: Think about a time when you were let down by a close friend, or when you let a close friend down.

Share if appropriate.

Say: Jesus chose His best, closest friends to go with Him into the Garden. He knew that what He was about to do was going to be extremely difficult, and He wanted comfort and support – remember, Jesus was God, but He was also fully human. Instead of being there for Him, His friends kept falling asleep! What kind of friends were those? How do you think it made Jesus feel?

Have you ever been let down by a friend? How did it make you feel? Are you still friends with that person? Have you forgiven that friend?

Have you ever let a friend down when they were counting on you? Have you asked them to forgive you?

Let's Chat Activity 3 (Younger)

Need:

A picture of Jesus praying in the garden.

Do: Show the picture as you talk. Give each person a chance to hold the picture as they pray. If your children are very young, then give each child a chance to hold the picture, and all say together: "Thank you Jesus for dying for _____ (name of whoever is holding picture). Give each child a turn.

Say: Jesus went to the special garden to talk to Father God. He knew that He had to do a very difficult thing, and He needed His Daddy to help Him. Even though dying on the cross was a very difficult thing for Jesus to do, He still did it, so that we can be part of God's family. Is Jesus still dead? No! He is alive and in Heaven with God.

Let's go around the circle and say thank you to Jesus for doing a difficult thing and dying on the cross to take away our sins, so that we can be part of God's family, and also call God our Daddy.

I am going to pass the picture around. When you are holding it, then say: "Thank You Jesus for dying for me".

End with a one sentence prayer.

Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane

Matthew 26:36-50



The images in this Bible story can be downloaded absolutely free from www.freebibleimages.org in PowerPoint, Keynote, JPEG or PDF formats. This Story Planner shows what is happening in each scene. Read the account from the Bible and then plan how you will tell the story. There is a space for your notes. You can delete any images/slides you don't require and add your own as needed.

| Description | Image | My notes |
|-------------|-------|----------|
|-------------|-------|----------|



- 1 Jesus had been on the Mount of Olives with His disciples. At the bottom of the mountain is a very old olive orchard called the Garden of Gethsemane (Geth-sem-an-ee).



- 2 Jesus was sad because He knew that soon He would die on the cross. He took Peter, James and John to the olive orchard in the garden of Gethsemane, to pray.



- 3 His friends sat down in the garden while Jesus went a little way off to pray by Himself, asking His Heavenly Father to help Him face what was about to happen.



-
- 4 When Jesus went back His friends were all fast asleep. 'Wake up,' He said. 'Couldn't you watch and pray with me for just one hour?'



-
- 5 Then the temple guards with torches and swords came looking for Jesus. Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' disciples, had agreed to show them who Jesus was if they paid him 30 silver coins.



-
- 6 'The person I greet with a kiss on the cheek is Jesus,' Judas told the soldiers. Peter, James and John were shocked when the High Priest's soldiers came to arrest Jesus.



-
- 7 Peter was so angry he cut off the ear of Malchus, the High Priest's servant. 'Put away your sword,' said Jesus. 'People who use swords will get killed by them.' He reached out and healed his ear.



-
- 8 Judas betrayed Jesus and the guards arrested Him and took Him away to be questioned by the high priest. Jesus' friends were so scared they ran off.





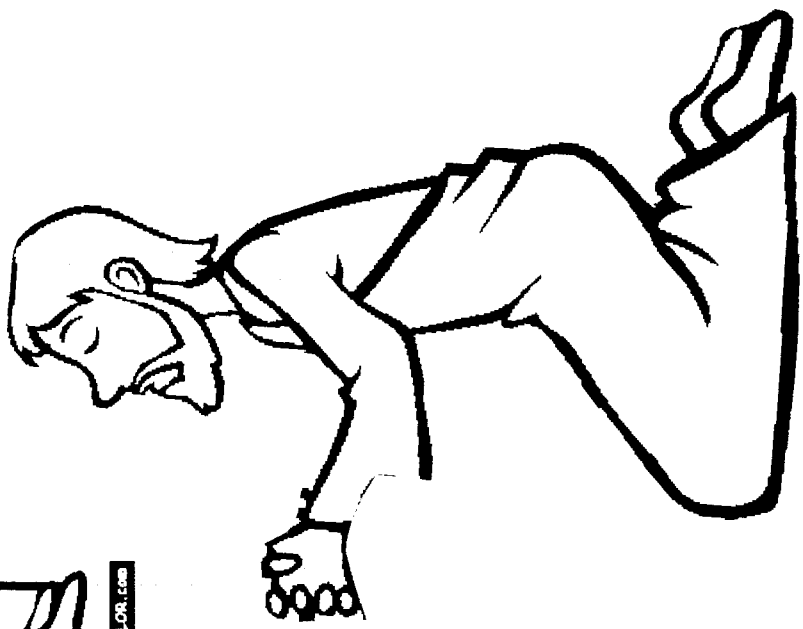
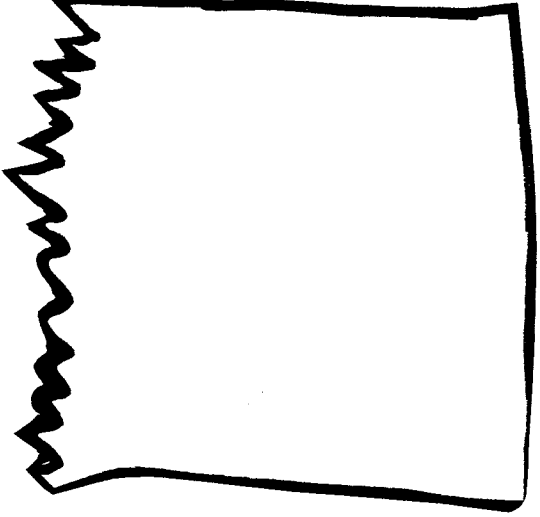
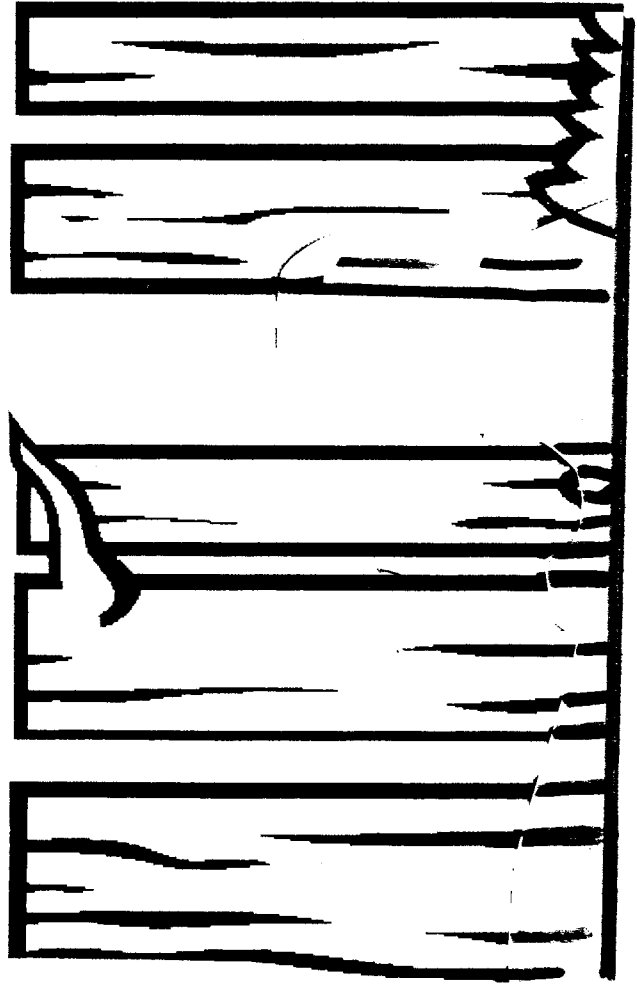
CONTRIBUTED BY
JILL KEMP (story) & RICHARD GUNTHER (illustrations)

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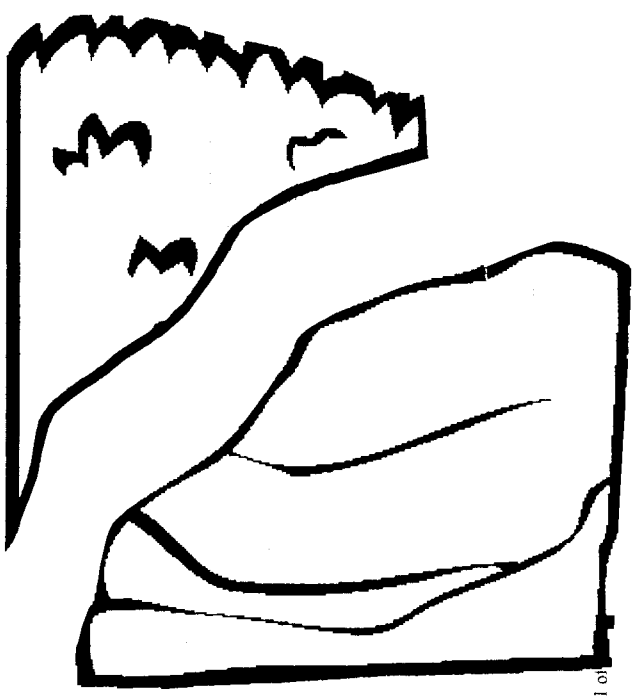
Further free resources in support of this story and images can be found at www.lamblogic.co.nz



www.freebibleimages.org



www.thecolor.com



Pray

Jesus was betrayed by someone close to Him, accused of things that He didn't do, and then punished for a crime that He didn't commit. He did all of that willingly, to give you the opportunity to be part of God's family. Spend some time thinking about it, and then talking to God about it.

Journal

Jesus was betrayed by someone close to Him, accused of things that He didn't do, and then punished for a crime that He didn't commit. He did all of that willingly, to give you the opportunity to be part of God's family. Spend some time thinking about that, and then write a letter to Jesus, telling Him about how it makes you feel.

Bible

Read Mark 14:32–50.

Which part of the story stands out to you?


Why?

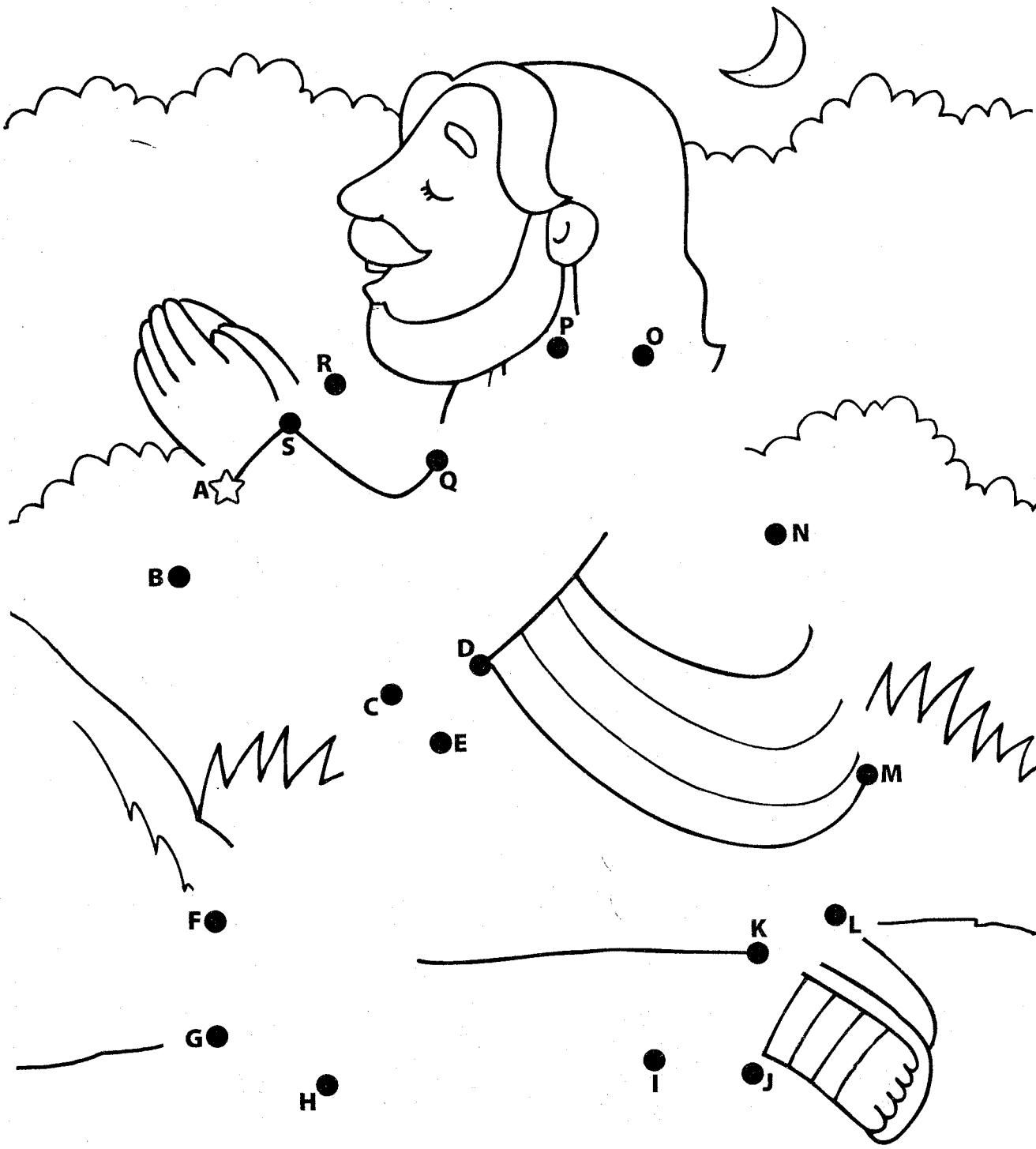
Create

Draw a picture of yourself in the Garden with Jesus and the disciples. What would you have been doing?

Alone in the Garden

Jesus talked to his father in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:32).

Connect the dots • A–S. Color  the picture.



Easter Lessons

Jesus is arrested

Lesson 4
All Ages

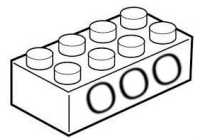
Aim: To teach the children about Jesus dying on the cross.

- ☼ Jews wanted to arrest Jesus quietly, away from the crowds (because He was popular, and they didn't want trouble from the crowds)
- ☼ Judas agreed to betray Him.
- ☼ People gave false witness, because there was nothing that Jesus was doing wrong.
- ☼ Jesus died on cross "King of the Jews" - it was treason to call yourself king because only the Roman Emperor was king.

Note to Teachers: Although I haven't included it, it would be a very good idea to ask if any children would like to give their life to the Lord at the end of this lesson.

Bible: Luke 22:47 – 23:56 John 18-19

Let's Move



Let's Move Activity 1

| |
|-------------------------------------|
| Need: 35 cups Ping pong balls |
|-------------------------------------|

Do: Make sure that 11 of the cups are in one colour, and 24 are in another. The very cheap disposable plastic cups don't work well because they fall over too easily. Set up the cups as follows: use the 11 coloured cups to make a cross. Set other cups around it so that there are 7 rows of cups with 5 cups in each row. It may be a good idea to use sticky putty to attach the cups to a tray/ table. Make a line that the children have to stand behind when throwing the balls. The children take turns to see how many balls they can throw into the 'cross' cups. You could add a competition aspect to this game by dividing the children into groups, and they can earn points for every ball that lands in one of the cross cups.

Say: We are going to play a game. You will get 3 ping-pong balls. You have to try and throw each ball into the 'red' cups that make up the cross.

Let's Move Activity 2 (Younger)

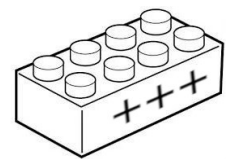
Need:
7 bowls
Beanbags/ball-
pond balls

Do: Arrange the bowls/paper plates into the shape of a cross. Make a line that the children have to stand behind. Give each child three beanbags and see if they can throw it onto one of the 'cross' paper plates/bowls.

Say: We are going to play a game. Who can tell me what shape the paper plates/bowls make? That is right. They are in the shape of a cross, like the cross that Jesus died on. I am going to give you 3 beanbags. You need to throw the beanbags one at a time and try to get them to land on one of the cross paper plates. I will show you where you have to stand.

Let's Listen

Let's Listen Activity 1 (All ages)



This has been adapted from a Trueway lesson. You can find the original lesson and graphics here <https://truewaykids.com/easter-lesson/>

Need:
9 Envelopes
Pictures cut up

Do: Before the time, put the correct picture into the correct envelope. Then hide the envelopes around the space that you will be using. Once the children have found the envelopes, use the pictures inside to tell the story of Easter. If you have more than 20 children, consider dividing the group into two groups making two sets of envelopes in two different colours to hide. As the children find the envelopes, let them keep them, but ask them to sit with you so that the others have a chance to find an envelope too. Then call out the number and let the child take the picture out of the envelope.

Envelopes:

1. Coins
2. Cross
3. Nail

4. Crown
5. Sponge
6. Ripped fabric
7. Stone
8. Cloth
9. Empty envelope

Say: I need your help for today's Bible story. I have hidden 9 envelopes around the room. Your job is to find an envelope. If you find one, come and show me. They look like this (*show envelope*).

(Once all the envelopes have been found and everyone is settled, start opening the envelopes.)

1. Coins

Who has envelope number 1? What is in your envelope? What do coins have to do with the Easter story?

Judas was one of Jesus' 12 disciples. He had been part of Jesus' team for three years! But for some reason that we don't know, he decided to betray Jesus. The Jewish leaders and priests did not like Jesus at all and wanted to arrest Him, but they didn't want to arrest Him in front of a lot of people. He was very popular, and they didn't want the people to try to stop them. So they made a deal with Judas. They would pay him 30 pieces of silver to take them to Jesus when He was away from the crowds.

Older children

The strange thing is that Jesus knew what Judas was going to do, and Judas knew that Jesus knew. Matthew 26:17-25 says that during the last supper - the one where Jesus told the disciples about the bread and the wine - Jesus said that someone at that table was going to betray Him. All the disciples asked if it was them. When Judas asked if it was him, Jesus said yes. Then Judas got up and left.

Younger children

Who of you have a favourite toy, or a blank that you sleep with? Would you swap your favourite toy for 1 sweetie? What about 5 sweeties? To swap means that you would get the sweeties, but I would get your toy forever. What about for 10 sweeties?

Judas swapped Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. He made a very bad choice.

2. The Cross

Who has envelope number 2? What is in your envelope? What does a cross have to do with the Easter story?

Older children

In the time of History when Jesus lived, being hung on a cross was a terrible punishment for doing something really, really bad.

It was a horrible way to die because it was very painful and took very long. What do your parents do when you've done something wrong, or disobeyed a rule in your house? Do you get a time out? Do they take away your device? What else do they do?

What punishment would you give to someone who had done nothing wrong? Jesus did absolutely nothing wrong. He lived a perfect life, but He was given the worst punishment - dying on the cross.

Younger children

At home, when you make a bad choice and don't listen to your mom or dad, your mom and dad might say that you can't watch television, or you can't have screen time, or you have to go to your room, or you have to go to bed early.

Would it be fair if you did nothing wrong, and then your parents still punished you? No.

That is what happened to Jesus. He had done nothing wrong, but He was given the worst punishment. He had to die on the cross.

3. Nail

Who has envelope number 3? What is in your envelope? What do nails have to do with the Easter story?

Older children

The soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross. They put nails through His wrists and through His ankles. It must have been very, very painful. Jesus is very powerful. If He had wanted to, He could have commanded the angels to get Him off the cross. But He stayed on the cross to take the punishment that all of us and the rest of the world deserved. He died to take our punishment so that we can choose to follow Him and become part of God's family. He suffered for us, so that we can live as God's child.

Younger children

The soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross. Jesus let them do it because He knew that it was important for Him to die on the cross and pay for all the

wrong things that people in the world have done. He did that to make it possible for us to become part of God's family.

4. The Crown

Who has envelope number 4? What is in your envelope? What does a crown have to do with the Easter story?

Jesus is the King of the Universe! He is the greatest King ever! But most people didn't believe that He was God's Son, or a King. The Roman soldiers made a crown out of a branch from a thorn tree, and put it on Jesus' head. They did it to mock Him. They were being bullies.

Even though they treated Him so badly, Jesus forgave them. Just before He died, He asked God to forgive them, because they didn't know what they were doing.

Even today people still make fun of Jesus and mock Him. Do you ever hear people using God or Jesus' name like a swear word? That is not showing respect or honour to Jesus. We should never, ever do that.

5. The Sponge

Who has envelope number 5? What is in your envelope? What does a sponge have to do with the Easter story?

While Jesus was on the cross the Roman soldiers dipped a sponge in some sour juice, almost like wine, and offered it to Jesus. They did that twice. The first time He didn't have any, but the second time, just before He died on the cross, He has some. He probably had to suck on the sponge to get some liquid into His mouth.

6. The Ripped Fabric

Who has envelope number 6? What is in your envelope? What does a ripped piece of material have to do with the Easter story?

Older children

Before Jesus died on the cross, the only way to be forgiven from sin was to kill a lamb or a dove and then the priest would pray for you. Only innocent blood takes away sin. It's the only thing that can pay for it.

Only the priest could go into God's presence. A big, thick, heavy curtain separated the special place where the priest would meet with God from the rest of the people. It was as thick as a man's hand, and very wide and long. When Jesus died on the cross the curtain was ripped from top to bottom. It was showing that from now on anyone could meet with God and enjoy His

presence. Jesus' innocent blood made a way for us to be with Father God and enjoy His presence.

Younger children

In the temple - the place where the Jewish people went to church - there was a very big curtain. Only the special priest could go behind the curtain, and only once a year, to meet with God. When Jesus died, the curtain tore in half! It was God showing everyone that anyone who believed in Jesus could become part of His family, and meet with God any time that they wanted to.

7. The Stone

Who has envelope number 7? What is in your envelope? What does a big stone have to do with the Easter story?

Once Jesus was dead, His body was taken down from the cross, wrapped in bandages, and put inside a cave. The soldiers rolled a huge stone in front of the cave so that nobody could steal Jesus' body. They also put men in front of the cave to guard it.

8. The Cloth

Who has envelope number 8? What is in your envelope? What does cloth have to do with the Easter story?

Jesus' body was put into the tomb on Friday, but when the ladies arrived at the cave on Sunday morning, the stone had been rolled away and the cloths that had been wrapped around His body were folded up. Jesus was not there.

9. The Empty Envelope

Who has envelope number 9? What is in your envelope? Nothing! Why is your envelope empty? What else was empty in the Easter story?

The tomb was empty. Jesus' body was not there. An angel told the ladies that He had risen. That means that He was alive again! Jesus had beaten death.

Let's Listen Activity 2 (Older) *This is a good activity to do with the older children to explain how the Jews managed to legally kill Jesus. I would do*

Activity 1 (With or without hiding the envelopes) to explain the entire story, but do activity 2 with the older children as well.

Need:

Dress up clothes for Annas, Caiaphas, Pilate and Jesus

Do: To make this story easier to explain, have dress up clothes for the three 'judges' that Jesus was taken to, and stand behind the characters as you tell their part of the story. Alternatively, find pictures of the different characters and show the pictures as you talk about them. The rest of the children could be part of the crowd, who could move from character to character as you tell the story. If you have the time and the resources, you could act out the whole story, starting with Judas betraying Jesus.

Say: The Jewish leaders did not like Jesus. They didn't like it that He was so popular with people. They did not like it when He told them that what they were doing was wrong. They did not like it when He disobeyed their (silly) laws. They were jealous of Him. They wanted to get rid of Him once and for all.

They sent a gang of men with Judas to arrest Jesus while He was in the garden, praying. Remember, we heard that story last week. They tied Him up and took Him to Annas' house. He was the man who used to be the High Priest (previous High Priest) - the most important person in the Jewish church. He questioned Jesus, and tried to get Him to say something wrong, so that they could get Him into trouble. But Jesus said nothing.

So Annas sent Jesus to Caiaphas, who was the High Priest in charge at that time. A whole lot of different Jewish leaders started asking Jesus questions and trying to catch Him out. They started blaming Him for stuff. But what they were saying didn't make sense. Eventually Caiaphas, the High Priest in charge, said: "Are You the Messiah, the Son of the blessed God?" Jesus answered: "I am". (Mark 14:61-62).

Everyone there agreed that it was speaking against God - blasphemy. They decided to kill Him.

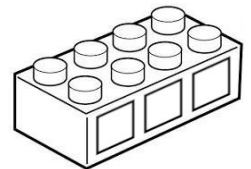
But... the Jewish leaders had a problem. Because the country was ruled by the Roman government, they were not allowed to punish someone with death. Only someone from the Roman government could do that. So they took Jesus to Pilate who was the governor. They knew that even under Roman law Jesus couldn't be put to death for blaspheming, so they charged Him/blamed Him for treason - that means trying to overthrow the Roman government - and for trying to get the people in the land to rebel

against the government. They accused Jesus of saying that He was the true king, and not Ceasar, who was the Emperor or King of Rome at that time. Jesus did not do that! But the Jewish people knew that it would upset the Romans.

Pilate didn't think that Jesus was really guilty, but he wanted to stay popular with the Jewish leaders and not upset them. He told the crowd that he would set one prisoner free, and asked them if he should free Jesus, but the crowd - who had been stirred up by the Jewish leaders - shouted that Jesus should be killed. So Pilate gave Jesus to the soldiers to be killed on the cross.

Let's Chat

Let's Chat Activity 1



Need:
Bibles
Song
Multi-media

Do: Find the song God so loved on YouTube. I like the version by Tasha Cobbs Leonard. We The Kingdom (Live) The chorus starts at 48 seconds.

Help the children look up the verse if necessary. Work out your own actions for the verse beforehand in case you have to help children who are struggling.

Say: The Jewish leaders said that Jesus had to die on the cross because they didn't like Him. They lied and accused Him of mocking God and mocking the Roman Government. But what did God say about why Jesus had to die on the cross? Let's look up John 3:16.

"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life."

What does that verse mean?

God knew that the only way that sin could be forgiven was to pay for it with innocent blood. Sin brings death. The only way to pay for sin is by something dying. In the Old Testament, before Jesus, animals had to be killed to pay for sins. When Jesus died on the cross, He took all the punishment on Himself and paid for ALL sin. Even for the sin of people that haven't been born yet. God was prepared to send Jesus because He loves us so much, and wants us to be part of His family. Jesus was prepared to

do that BECAUSE HE LOVES US SO MUCH and wants us to be a part of God's family.

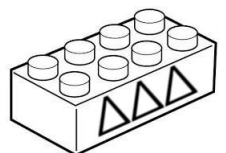
I'm going to play you the chorus of a song. See if you recognise the words of the chorus. *Play just the chorus of the song "God so Loved".*

The words of the song are almost the same as the words that we read in the Bible. Instead of saying "eternal life", they say that we will live forever, which means the same thing. If you know the song, sing it with me. If you don't try to sing along as soon as you can.



Well done everyone. Now let's see if we can work out some actions to go with the words. *(Either do as a big group, or divide the children into smaller groups and give them a few minutes to work on actions together.)* Let's sing the song together and do the actions at the same time. *(Repeat a number of times, until the children can say the verse.)*

Let's Do



Let's Do Activity 1 (Younger)

Need:
2 worksheets
Scissors
Glue

Do: Print two worksheets per child. Choose the worksheet that shows the country that the children live in. For very young children, consider cutting the

different parts out before the time. If you want to, you can change the verse inside the heart to match the words from the Bible that you read from. Make one beforehand to show the children while you explain.

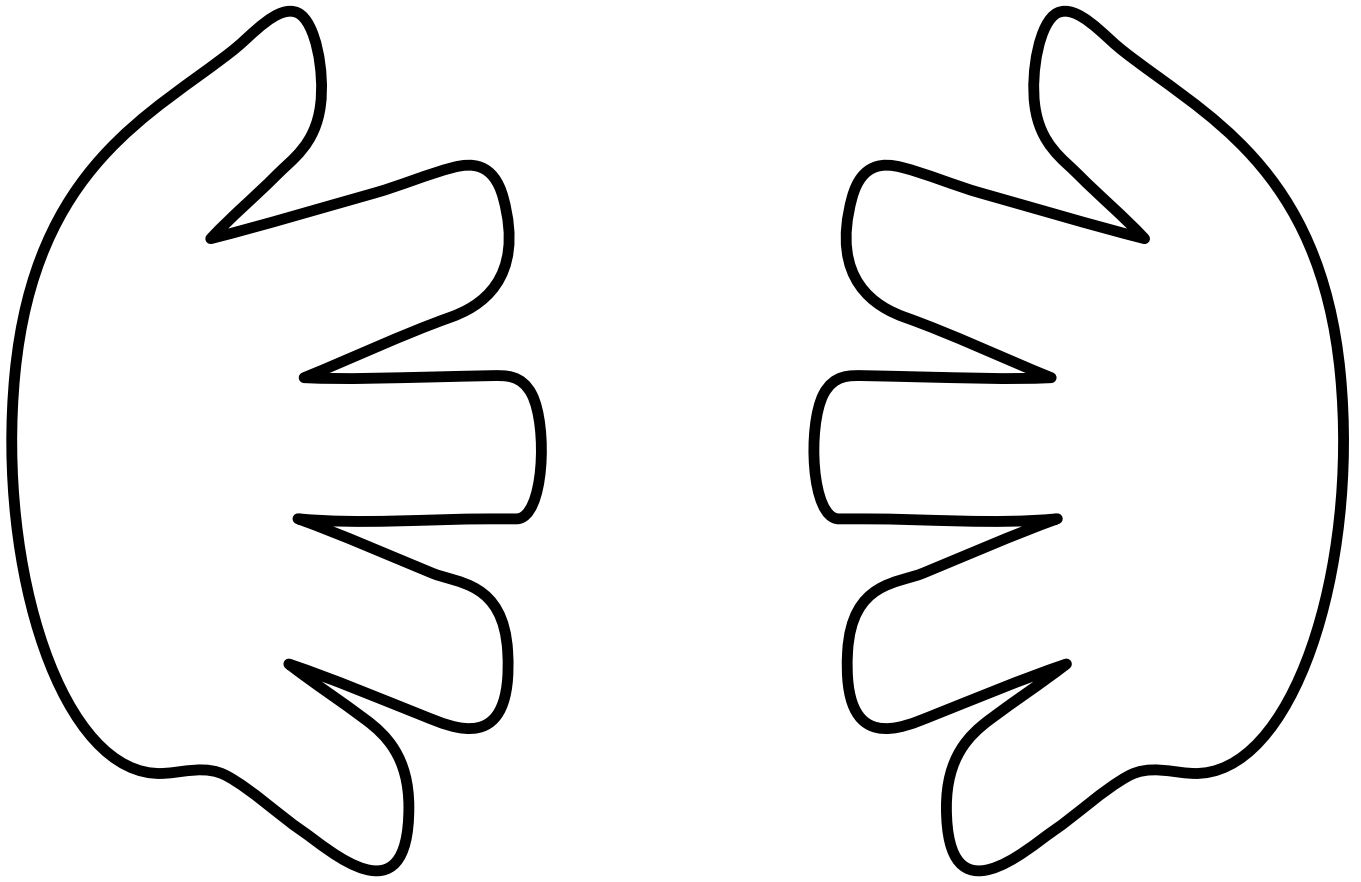
Say: We are going to make a picture to go with the verse that we learnt. You need to colour in the pictures on both worksheets. Then you need to cut out the heart, hands and globe. Glue the hands on the sides of the globe and glue the heart in the middle.

Let's Do Activity 2 (Older)

| |
|---|
| Need: Worksheets Pencils Erasers Colour pencils |
|---|

Do: Hand out copies of the worksheets. With younger children, go through the worksheet and explain what they need to do. They should use their finger over the words while you explain. Once they understand what they have to do, they can use a pencil. It may be a good idea to pair older children who read well with younger children. Help where necessary.

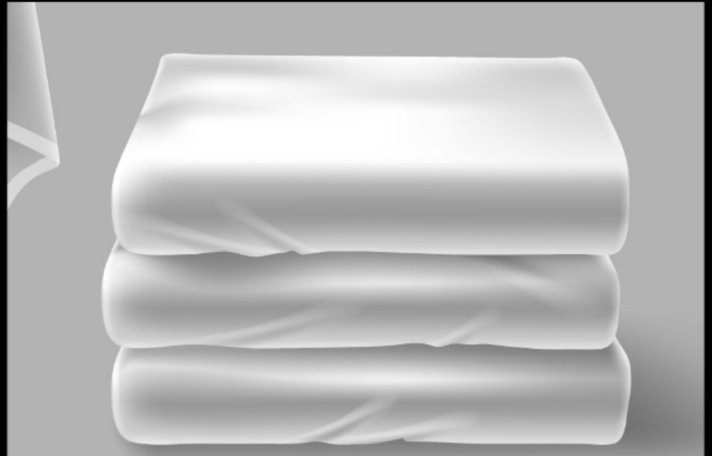
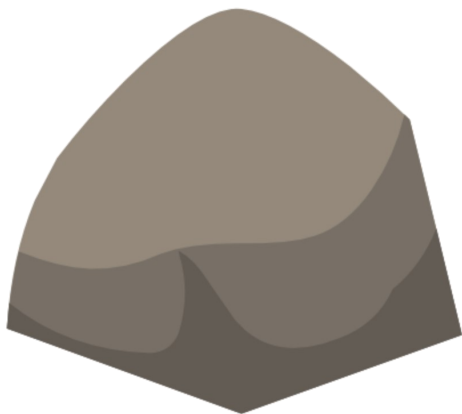
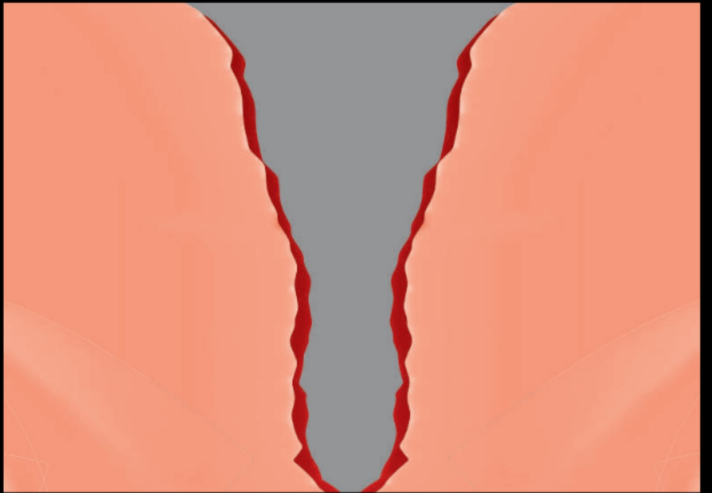
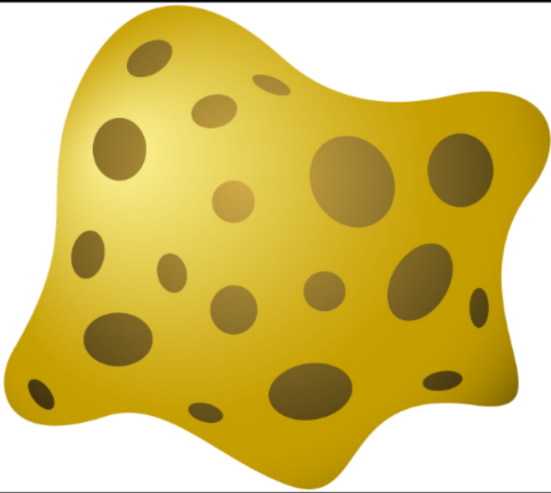
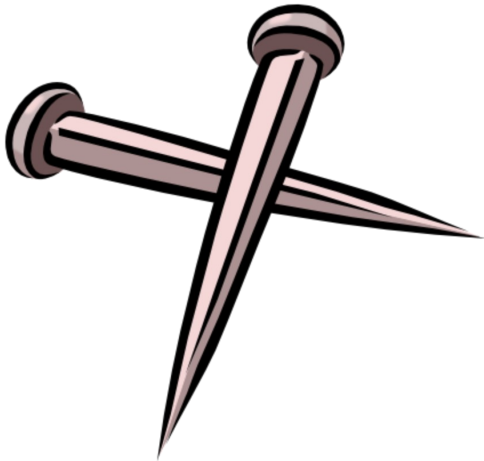
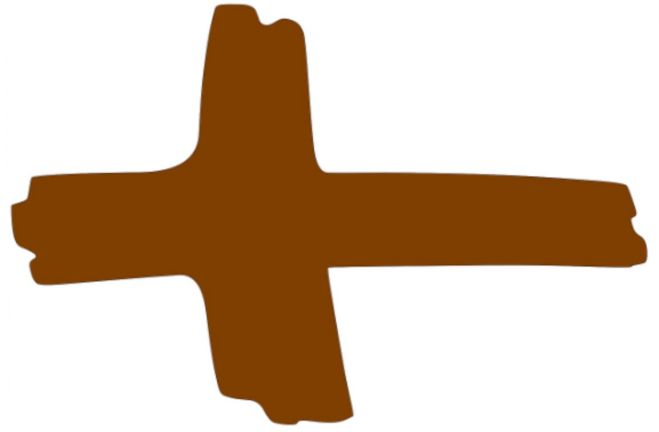
Say: I am going to give you a worksheet. You need to find your way through the maze. Be careful, it is tricky! There are all sorts of dead ends and wrong words to try and trick you! First use your finger, and when you are sure that you know your way through the maze, use your pencil.



For God so loved the
world that he gave his
one and only Son, that
whoever believes in him
shall not perish but have
eternal life.

John 3:16





Easter Lessons

Jesus is Risen

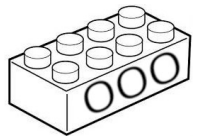
Lesson 5 All Ages

Aim: To teach the children about Jesus' death and resurrection.

Bible: Matthew 27:31 – 28:7

Many of the activities in this lesson were shared with me by Natasja Nortjè, one of my amazing team leaders. Some of the activities come from <https://truewaykids.com/easter-lesson/>

Let's Move



Let's Move Activity 1 (All)

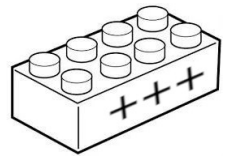
| |
|--|
| Need: Plastic spoon for each child Plastic egg per group |
|--|

Do: The children are going to have an egg and spoon relay race. The catch is that they have to put the spoon in-between their teeth. Younger children can hold the spoon in their hand. Divide the children into equal groups and ask them to stand one behind the other. Position the groups so that they all have the same starting point. Draw a line or position a chair at the place where the children have to walk to. If you use a chair, make them walk around the chair. Give each child a plastic spoon. Give the child at the front of the row a plastic egg.

Say: We are going to have a relay race. I will divide you into equal teams. Teams will line up, with their members standing behind each other. Each member of the team will get a spoon that they have to put in their mouth. The first team member will have a plastic/real egg in their spoon. They have to carry the egg in the spoon, go around the chair, come back, and then pass the egg to the spoon of the person behind them. When they have finished all of that they will go and sit at the back of their row. As soon as the second person has the egg in their spoon, they may run around the chair. Continue until everyone in the team has had a chance. The first team with all their members having run around the chair with the egg in their spoon, and sitting down, is the winner.

Let's Listen

Let's Listen Activity 1



Need:
Sensory box
Props

Do: Prepare a sensory box by putting rice or dried pasta into a large basin. It should be large enough for a few children to work with at once. Collect different things that go with the Easter story to hide inside the basin of rice/pasta. Things like stones, small rocks, ripped material, empty envelope, picture of a cave, little bandages, picture of thorn crown, real little crown, angel, If you like you can use the pictures from Lesson 4: Jesus is arrested. Let's Listen Activity 1. Plan your Easter story around the objects that you have collected.

Possible Ideas:

- * Cross - Jesus took our punishment for things that we had done wrong onto Himself.
- * Nails - Jesus was nailed to the cross
- * Crown - the soldiers put a crown on Jesus' head and teased Him.
- * Ribbed Fabric - the curtain that separated people from God ripped in two when Jesus died. Now anybody could speak to God whenever they wanted to!
- * Stone - the tomb was covered with a huge stone
- * Empty envelope or empty container - 3 days later the stone was rolled away, and the grave was empty. Jesus was alive! He had beaten/conquered death and sin!
- * Bandages - the ladies found the bandages that had been wrapped around Jesus' body neatly folded up in the tomb.
- * Angel (Christmas decoration) - the angel told Mary that Jesus wasn't in the tomb. He was alive!

Say: I wonder if any of you can help me. I want to tell you today's Bible story, but I dropped all the things that I brought along into this bowl. Do you think you can help me find it?

Let the children search for things. As they find something, comment on it and ask them if they know which part of the Easter story it is. Then let them put it in front of them.

I'm going to tell you the Easter story using all the things that you found. If I speak about the thing that you have, then you need to hold it up high.

Let's Listen Activity 2 (All/Older)

Need:
Box of props per
group
Bible for teacher

Do: Before the time make up a box of props for each group of 6 children. The box should include things like little stones or rocks, leaves, sticks, pieces of cloth, dice, big tree seeds and anything else you think will work with the story. Let your imagination go wild! Open your Bible as if you're reading from it. Put your notes inside your Bible.

Say: Please can everyone get into groups of 6. Today's Bible story is about when Jesus died and then rose again. Listen carefully as I read it to you, because after I have read the story, you're going to use the props to act it out while I read it a second time.

The story comes from Matthew 27:31 to Matthew 28:7

1. Jesus was lead away to be crucified/die on the cross.
2. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means "The place of the skull").
3. When they had crucified Jesus, they divided up His clothes by casting lots and they sat down to keep watch over Him. Above His head they placed the written charge: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS
4. Two rebels were crucified with Him one on His right and one on His left.
5. The people, chief priests, teachers of the law and elders mocked Jesus: "Come down from the cross, save Yourself, if You are the Son of God!"
6. From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land.
7. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice: "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means "my God, my God, why have You forsaken (abandoned or left) Me?"
8. And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, He gave up His spirit.
9. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, the earth shook and rocks split.
10. When the centurion (Head soldier) and those with him saw what happened they exclaimed: "Surely, He was the son of God!"
11. As evening approached a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph asked Pilate for Jesus' body , and Pilate ordered the body to be given to him.

12. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in clean linen cloth and placed it in his own new tomb that he cut from a rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance and went away.
13. The next day Pilate ordered the chief priests to take a guard to the tomb to guard it and seal it so that Jesus' disciples didn't come to steal His body .
14. The day after that, the day after the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.
15. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled back the stone and sat on it.
16. The angel said to the women: "Do not be afraid, I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, He has risen, just as He said".

Your leader has a box filled with all sorts of things. As a group, you are going to use the different things in the box to help tell the Bible story. Remember, in the story we heard about:

- Jesus
- Pilate
- Priests, teachers of law, elders and other people
- Centurion and guards that guarded Jesus
- Mary and Mary Magdalene
- The angel

You will also need:

- The cloth that tore
- The crosses
- The tomb where Jesus was buried.

I'm going to give you 5 minutes as a group to quickly decide on what you would like to use.

(Help the children where necessary, but try to let them figure it out for themselves as much as possible.)

I'm going to read the story again and then you will use these objects to act out the story as I read it to you.

Conclusion:

Jesus had risen, He wasn't in the tomb, Just As He Said! God had kept His promises through Jesus, He had saved us from eternal death to eternal life, because He loves us so much! He is the eternal, everlasting God, the God of the beginning and the God with no end. Nothing is impossible for God, and that was proved by the empty grave. Some religions display Jesus still hanging on the cross, but we don't do that, why? Because Jesus is not on the cross anymore, and He is not in the tomb. He is alive, and reigning with God most High.

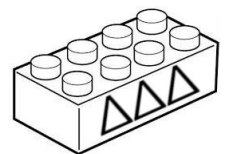
Activity 3 (Younger)

Need:
Bible story

Do: Colour print Let's Listen Activity 3.1 & 3.2 and read it to the children. Discuss any questions they may have.

Say: Today is a special day for people who love Jesus. Today is the day that we remember that even though Jesus died on the cross for us, He did not stay dead! He came alive again! Let's listen to the story from the Bible.

Let's Do



Let's Do Activity 1 (All)

Need:
A4 Cardboard
White craft glue
Crayons, paint or
pencil crayons

Do: Before the time prep the craft by making a large cross on each piece of cardboard using the glue. It needs to dry before the children work with it. The cross will be almost invisible when it is dry. Let the children use different colour crayons or paint to colour over the cross. It will leave a silhouette of the cross with beautiful colours around it.

Say: I am going to hold up a piece of paper. Tell me if you can see the picture on the piece of paper I'm holding. (*Show them the page with the invisible cross on*). I am going to give each of you a page. I want you to use

lots of different colours to colour over the whole page. When you've done that, you'll be able to see the picture that is hiding.

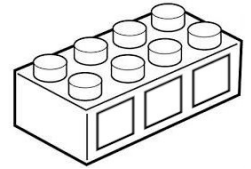
Let's Do Activity 2 (Older)

Need:
Worksheets

Do: Make copies of the worksheet. It is not necessary for all the children to have the instructions worksheet. Make sure that you cut the worksheet into a square for it to fold correctly. Make one to show the children. Help the children to fold the worksheet.

Say: Who of you have ever made a 'quack-quack'? We are going to make one this morning. This one is all about the Easter story. Make sure that you take it home and use it to tell your family all about the Easter story.

Let's Chat



Let's Chat Activity 1 (All)

Need:
Kari Jobe song
Media player
Journals/paper
Pencil crayons
Pencils

Do: Before the time find the song Forever by Kari Jobe. If you can, try and make something that looks like an empty tomb, and put a light inside of it. White Christmas lights work well.

Say: We are going to spend some time with God now. I want each of you to get your journal or some paper, and something to write with.

I am going to play you a song. Listen to the words carefully. Write down or draw what the song makes you think about.

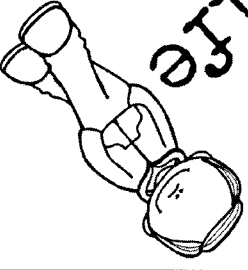
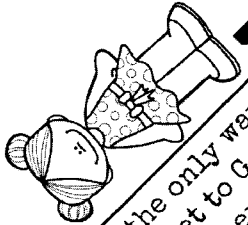
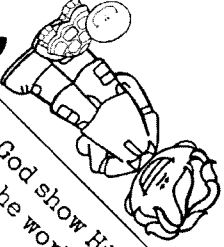
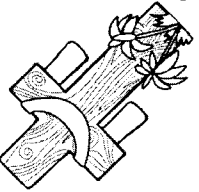
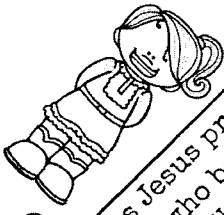
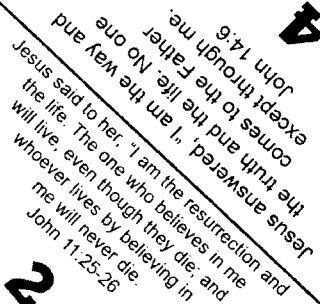
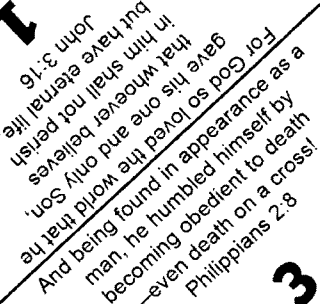

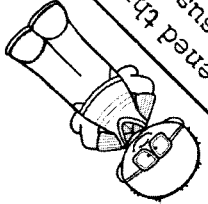
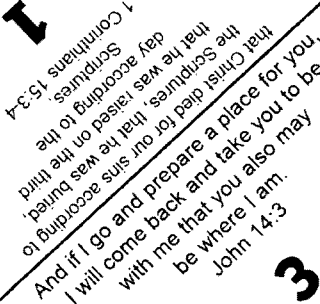
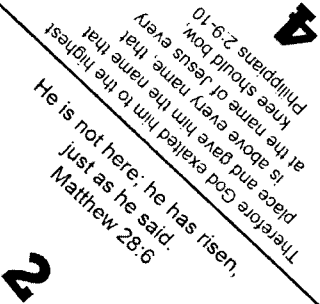
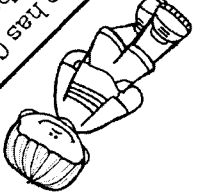
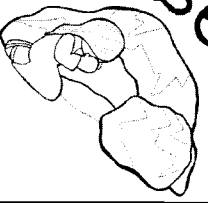
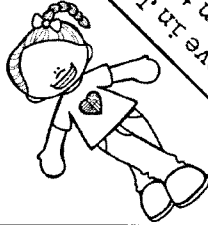
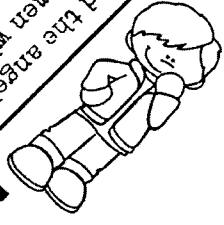

As the song is playing, walk around and pray for the children. You can either stop and pray over them, or just walk around quietly and pray for them without them knowing.

Would anyone like to share what the song made them think of?

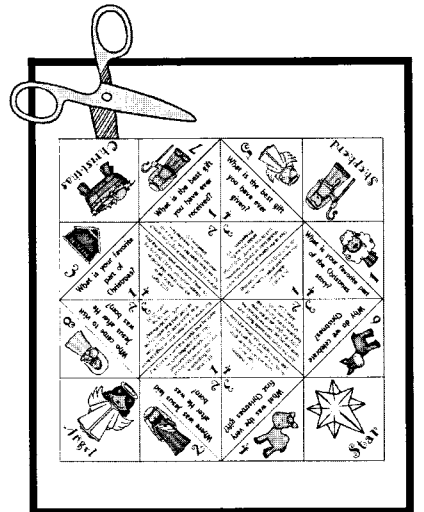
Let's pray

"Jesus, thank You so much for everything that You have done for us. Please let us never forget it. In Jesus' name, Amen."

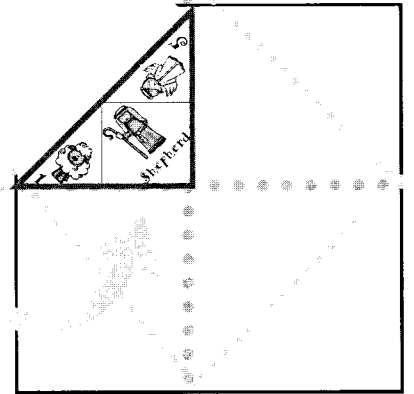
Black and White NIV

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  <p style="font-size: 2em; transform: rotate(-45deg);">Life</p> |  <p style="font-size: 2em; transform: rotate(-45deg);">4</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">What is the only way that we can get to God the Father?</p> |  <p style="font-size: 2em; transform: rotate(-45deg);">2</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">How did God show His love for the world?</p> |  <p style="font-size: 2em; transform: rotate(-45deg);">Easter</p> |
|  <p style="font-size: 2em; transform: rotate(-45deg);">6</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">What does Jesus promise to those who believe in Him?</p> |  <p style="font-size: 2em; transform: rotate(-45deg);">3</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">Jesus answered, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die." John 11:25-26</p> |  <p style="font-size: 2em; transform: rotate(-45deg);">1</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16</p> |  <p style="font-size: 2em; transform: rotate(-45deg);">8</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">When Jesus became a man, He humbled Himself to the point of what?</p> |
|  <p style="font-size: 2em; transform: rotate(-45deg);">1</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">What happened three days after Jesus died?</p> |  <p style="font-size: 2em; transform: rotate(-45deg);">1</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. John 14:3</p> |  <p style="font-size: 2em; transform: rotate(-45deg);">2</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father. Philippians 2:9-10</p> |  <p style="font-size: 2em; transform: rotate(-45deg);">3</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">Whose name has God highly exalted above every name?</p> |
|  <p style="font-size: 2em; transform: rotate(-45deg);">He's Risen!</p> |  <p style="font-size: 2em; transform: rotate(-45deg);">5</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">If we believe in Jesus, what will happen to us after we die?</p> |  <p style="font-size: 2em; transform: rotate(-45deg);">1</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">What did the angels say to the women who were looking for Jesus' body?</p> |  <p style="font-size: 2em; transform: rotate(-45deg);">JOY</p> |

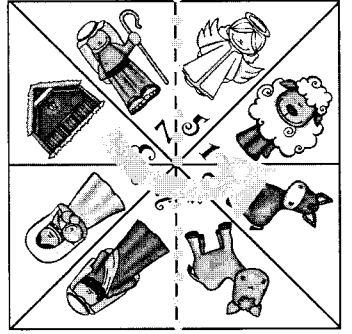
1. Cut out the square along the outer lines. Do not cut any interior lines.



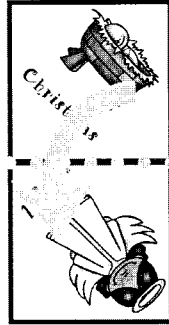
4. Flip paper over, picture side down. Fold the corners up and toward the center.



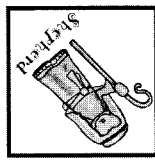
7. You will now have a square with pictures up. Fold square in half.



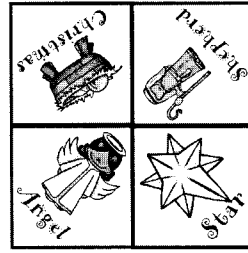
8. Fold rectangle in half.



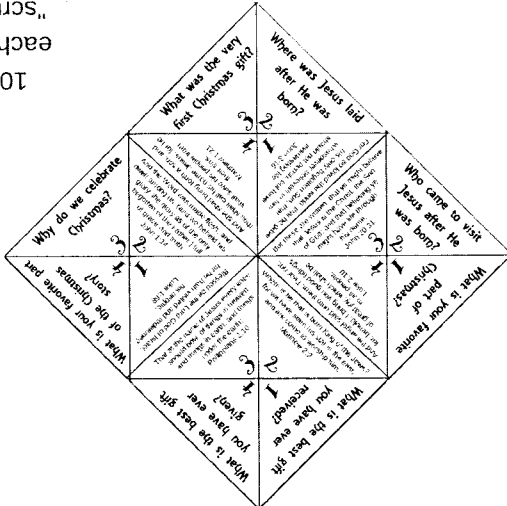
9. You should have a tiny square. Unfold pictures looking up at you again.



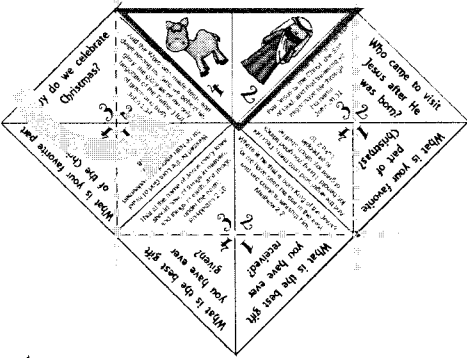
11. After the corners are lifted to the center, you should see this image, but 3-D.



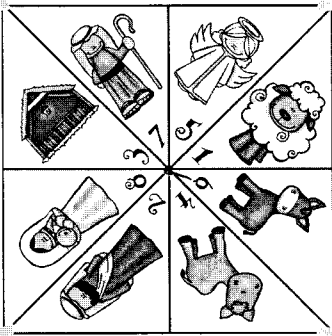
5. Flip the page over again so that the word side is up.



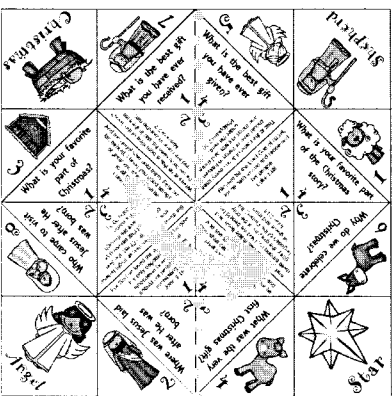
6. Fold the corners up to the center of the square.



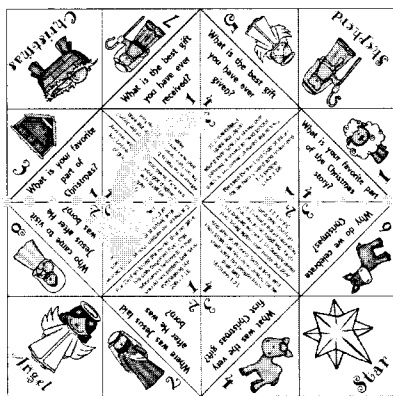
10. Place your fingers under each of the flaps in the back and "scrunch" the four corners up in the center until they meet.



3. Fold in half the other direction. Unfold.



2. With picture side up, fold square in half. Unfold.





Three days later, Jesus' friends went to visit his tomb.

When they arrived, it was empty. The huge stone had been moved.

Soon Jesus appeared to them.

Jesus had risen from the dead, just as He had promised.



Jesus was still praying in the garden when a mob came to arrest him.

Judas, one of Jesus' disciples choose to betray Jesus for some coins.

Peter wanted to fight them. But Jesus went with them peacefully.



They took Jesus to the Roman ruler and to the King.

They couldn't find anything wrong with Jesus. He obeyed all the rules and did nothing wrong.

But they feared the people, so they gave them a choice: Jesus or a criminal.

The people choose to kill Jesus.



They gave Jesus a cross to carry.

It was heavy.

He climbed to the top of a hill and they nailed Jesus to it.

Jesus was in a lot of pain, but He prayed that God would forgive the people.

Finally, Jesus said, 'It is finished,' and He died.

Easter Lessons

Walking to Emmaus

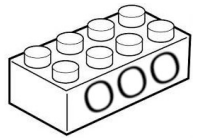
Lesson 6

All Ages

Aim: To teach the children that even if sometimes things don't make sense to us and we don't understand what is happening, we can ask God to open our eyes to see what He is doing, and trust Him to do what He says He will. To teach the children that the Bible is all about Jesus, even the Old Testament.

Bible: Luke 24:13-35

Let's Move



Let's Move Activity 1 (Younger)

Need:
Different objects
in a box
Blindfold

Do: Collect enough different objects for each child in your class to have a chance and put them in a box or a bag that is not see-through. Set the box with the objects on a table. Call up a child, blindfold them, and then give them an object from the box. They have to feel it and guess what it is. Make sure that the children can't see what is in the box. Make sure that the other children can see the object, but ask them not to say what it is.

Say: We are going to play a game. I am going to call one of you to the table and put a blindfold over your eyes. Then I am going to give you something to feel. It won't be anything horrible or slimy. You need to feel the object with your fingers, and then try to guess what it is. I have enough things for everyone to have a chance to guess. Who would like to go first?

Let's Move Activity 2 (All)

Need:
Light/lamp
Sheet
Way to suspend
sheet
Objects

Do: Collect a number of different objects. Set up your space with a light behind a sheet or tablecloth. Hold up the object between the light and the sheet. It needs to cast a shadow onto the sheet. The children sitting in

front of the sheet should be able to see the object's shadow. Make sure that they don't see the object beforehand. Call a child up, then give them the object to hold in front of the light to make a shadow. If you want to you can change it into a competition by dividing the children into groups and giving groups turns to guess. Record which group guessed the most correct answers.

Say: We are going to play a game. One of you is going to get a chance to hold an object up in the light box. The rest of you have to guess what the object is. Who would like to go first?

Let's Move Activity 3 (Older)

Need:
YouTube clips
Multi-media
facilities

Do: Find a Zoomed In picture game on YouTube. This site is very useful. It is called Guess the Picture. You can play individually or in groups.



Say: We are going to play a game. I want you to get into two groups. I am going to show you a picture on the screen. It is a close up of an object. You need to guess what the object is. You may shout out instead of putting up your hands. The first group to guess correctly will get a point.

Let's Move Activity 4 (Older)

Need:
Lots of Lego
blocks
Screen/box

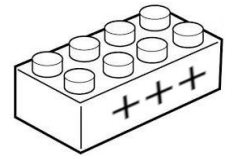
Do: Before the time, build a construction using Lego blocks. Put it behind a screen or in a box and don't let the children see it until the activity. Make bags of Lego for each pair, making sure that there are all the blocks the children need to replicate your construction, and a few extra.

Say: I have a challenge for you. You need to get into pairs. Each pair will get a bag of Lego. Inside this box I have something that I have built using

Lego. You and your partner need to copy my construction. The challenge is that only one person may see the construction, and may not touch their Lego blocks. The other person may touch the Lego blocks, but may not see the construction. Decide who is going to look, and who is going to build. All those who are doing the looking, you may come and have a look as many times as you need to. The winning pair is the one that copies my construction correctly, first.

Let's Listen

Let's Listen Activity 1 (Younger)



Need:

Long Scarf

3 toy figures

Toy house

Bible

Do: Put the scarf on the floor as a path, with the house at one end of it. Place two of the toy figures at the opposite end of the scarf. Have the third figure (Jesus) ready to add. Have the Bible ready to hold up. Take note of more instructions in italics in the story.

Say: Today's story is about two of Jesus' followers who were walking home after Jesus had died on the cross. They were feeling very sad. Can you show me a sad face? (*Make the toy figures walk down path as you talk. You could ask some children to help you.*)

While they were walking, a man that they didn't know joined them. (*Let the third figure join them*). He told them that the Bible was one big story all about Jesus. (Hold up the Bible).

He told them that the Bible said that Jesus had to die, but that He would come back to life again. That made the followers very happy. Can you show me a happy face?

The followers asked the man to have a meal with them. (*Put the figures next to the house*). While they were eating together, they got a big surprise. Can you show me a surprised face? Can you guess what the surprise is? The surprise was that the man with them was Jesus! He had been with them for the whole walk, teaching them about what the Bible said about Him. (*Hide the Jesus figure*)

As soon as the followers realised that it was Jesus, He disappeared. He was there one minute, and gone the next.

The followers were so surprised and so happy that Jesus was alive!

When we read the Bible it helps us know all about Jesus. Jesus helps us to understand the Bible and know all about Him.

Let's Listen Activity 2 (Younger)

Need:
Emmaus poster
Jerusalem
poster
Road pieces

Do: Print the posters of Emmaus and Jerusalem. Print onto card and cut out the pieces of road. Place the Jerusalem and Emmaus poster a meter or two apart. Spread the pieces of road out in-between. Encourage the children to work together to build the road connecting the two places. As they build, discuss the story. Once the road is complete, allow the children to 'walk' their two fingers along the road and talk about how excited the two followers must have been to realise that they were walking with Jesus.

Say: Who can remember what we celebrated last week? Yes! Easter! We remembered how Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins. But did Jesus stay dead? No! He rose again! God made Him come alive again. Today's story from the Bible happens on the same day that Jesus came alive again. Only a few of His special friends had seen Him. Two of His other friends were walking down a road from Jerusalem, where Jesus was, home to Emmaus. I need some help to build this road. Who thinks that they can help me?
(Try and speak as you are building the road. Otherwise, build the road and then tell the story.)

The friends were feeling sad, because their teacher, Jesus, had died. But then something amazing happened! Jesus came and walked with them, but they didn't know it was Him. They talked about everything that had happened. When they sat down to eat, Jesus broke some bread to eat. Right then their eyes were opened, and they knew it was Jesus! But then Jesus disappeared. The two friends were so happy, they ran back to tell everyone. "Jesus is alive!" They said. Knowing Jesus is alive makes us happy too. We know that Jesus is always with us.

Let's Listen Activity 3 (Older)

Need:
Group questions
Bibles
Roll of brown
paper
Signs
5 pairs of shoes
Cushions
Cups and plates

Do: Place the brown paper on the floor to make a path. Make one sign saying Jerusalem and one sign saying Emmaus. Place the Jerusalem sign and 2 pairs of shoes at one end. Place the Emmaus sign and the cups, plates and cushions at the other end. Place 3 sets of shoes in the middle of the path.

Split the group into three groups and give each group a passage to read from the Bible.

Group 1: Luke 24:13-21.

Group 2 Luke 24:22-29.

Group 3 Luke 24:30-35.

Say: Today you are going to help tell the Bible story. I need you to get into three groups. Each group will get a few verses to read from the Bible. If you don't have your own Bible, you may use one of mine. (*Hand out the verses to the different groups*)

Group 1 needs to come and sit at the Jerusalem part of the road. Group 2 needs to come and sit in the middle of the road, where the 3 pairs of shoes are. Group 3 needs to come and sit where the cushions are.

Let's set the scene:

Two of Jesus' followers were walking home a few days after Jesus had died. They were not part of the 11 disciples, but part of the group of many people who followed Jesus. They were talking about everything that had happened.

Can someone from group 1 read Luke 24:13-21 please. (*Let them read*)

Thank you. Can someone from group 2 read Luke 24:22-29 please. (*Let them read*)

Thank you. Can someone from group 3 read Luke 24:30-35 please. (*Let them read*). Thank you.

In your groups, I want you to answer the following questions. You can write the answers down because we want to discuss everyone's answers together.

- * How did the followers feel? Why:
- * What did they know/learn about Jesus?
- * Did anything change for them?

Thank you everyone. Let's look at verse 32.

What do you think they meant when they said that it felt as if their hearts were on fire, or a fire was burning in them?

They were excited because Jesus explained what the scriptures were saying. In those days they didn't have the Bible like we have, but they did have the Old Testament. They did not have their own copy, like we have our

own Bible, but they would have been taught what the Scriptures said when they went to Temple, like we go to church.

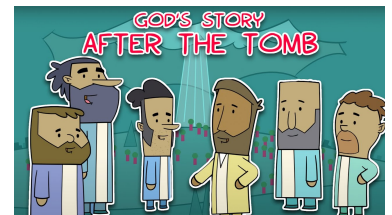
Jesus made something that was difficult to understand, easy. He explained about how the whole of the Old Testament is about Him, too. He was the Saviour that God had been promising to send all along.

Just like Jesus helped those followers to understand more about God and His Word, He can help us too.

Let's Listen Activity 4 (All)

Need:
YouTube video
Multi-media

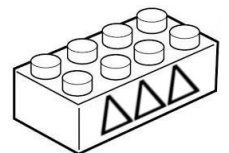
Do: Find the video on YouTube called After the Tomb by Crossroads Kids. Have it ready to play. Today's story ends at minute 2.



Say: Let's watch this video together to find out what happened after Jesus came alive again.

**** I recommend using this video with another Let's Listen activity of your choice.

Let's Do



Let's Do Activity 1 (Younger)

Need:
Worksheets
Pencil crayons
Scissors

Do: Print the worksheets onto card. Consider cutting them out for younger children. Use a craft knife to cut the dashed line for everyone.

Say: We are going to make a picture of today's story. I am going to give you two worksheets to colour in. The one is the road where Jesus and the followers were walking, and the other one is Jesus and the followers. Once you have coloured them in, you need to cut around the people and the two

long rectangles. You can cut on the line, but make sure that both rectangles are on your page. Once you have cut, fold the bottom rectangle to the back, to make a handle. Carefully put the handle through the slit in the first picture. The people should now be standing on the road. Gently pull the handle to make the people walk on the road.

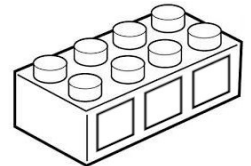
Let's Do Activity 2 (Older)

Need:
Bibles
Bible references

Do: Print out the Bible verse references and cut them up. Hand them out to the children.

Say: When Jesus was speaking to the followers on the road He explained to them that there are many places in the Old Testament that speak about Jesus. I am going to give each of you a Bible verse. I want you to look up the verse, read it to yourself, and then think about what it says about Jesus. I'll give you 5 minutes to do that. Then each person will read their verse to the class, tell us what you think it says about Jesus, and we will discuss it together.

Let's Chat



Let's Chat Activity 1

Need:
Quiet
instrumental
music

Do: Have the music ready to play softly.

Say: We are going to spend some time with Jesus. I want everyone to find a space where they can be alone. You may sit or lie down, as long as you don't disturb anyone else. This is your special time to be with Jesus. *(Wait for everyone to find a space and settle down.)* Take a deep breath and hold it while I count to 5. *(Count to 5)*. Now slowly let your breath out. Let's do that again. Breath in and hold it while I count to

5. Slowly let it out. Close your eyes.

In today's story the people didn't know that it was Jesus walking with them. They were very sad because they did not understand what had happened. Jesus helped them understand. That made them happy. They realised that Jesus had been with them all the time! Even when they didn't know that it was Him!

Jesus is with us all the time too. He can help us understand things that are difficult for us.

(Older children) Think of something that you are struggling to understand at the moment. Maybe it is school work, maybe it is something going on in your family, maybe it is a prayer that you expected Jesus to answer, and He hasn't yet. Tell Jesus about it. Ask Him to help you understand.

(Younger) Let's say thank you to Jesus for always being with us. Say after me:

Thank You Jesus
for always being
with me.

Thank You
for helping me
to understand
difficult things.

Amen.

Let's Chat Activity 2 (Older)

| |
|-----------------|
| Need: Bibles |
|-----------------|

Do: Hand out Bibles to those who do not have.

Say: Who of you like watching a mystery movie? Throughout the movie there are lots of clues, and eventually at the end of the movie everything comes together and falls into place, and you finally understand why everything has happened.

That's a bit what it was like for the people in today's story. After spending time with Jesus a whole lot of things that they hadn't understood previously fell into place. It's as if their eyes were opened and suddenly they 'got it'!

Sometimes our life can feel like a mystery story too! Things happen and we don't understand why. Life can sometimes be very confusing. It can feel as if you are all alone. But just like in today's story, Jesus is with us in those times, even when we don't recognise Him. We can ask Him to open our eyes and help us understand.

Please look up Romans 8:28. Who would like to read it for us?

"We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love Him."

God didn't promise us a perfect life, but He did promise to always be with us. He promises to take everything that happens to us, even the bad stuff, and turn it into something good.

When you go through something difficult, and you don't understand what is happening, look to Jesus. He promises to always be with us.

Let's pray. *(You may want to find out if anyone is struggling with anything and pray into that, or otherwise just pray for everyone)*

Let's Chat Activity 3 (All)

Need:
Picture cut into 8
pieces

Do: Find a picture and cut it into 8 pieces. Put the pieces upside down. Invite children one at a time to turn over a piece of the picture and guess what the whole picture is. Children may join their piece to another piece if it fits.

Say: I have a picture that has been cut into pieces. You will each get a chance to turn over 1 piece of the picture and guess what the whole picture is. If you think that your piece of the picture can be joined to another piece, you may do so.

(Continue until all the pieces make the picture)

Just like each little piece of the picture gives us a little idea of what the big picture looks like, so the Old Testament of the Bible gives us little pictures of what Jesus is like. Jesus, Father God and Holy Spirit have always been around. Jesus was always God's plan to save people. Throughout the Old Testament God kept promising that He was going to send Someone to save the people, and He kept His promise when He sent Jesus.

Several of the ideas in this lesson were adapted from:

<https://www.faithinkids.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/8.Lesson-8-On-the-Road-to-Emmaus-Meals-with-Jesus.pdf>

<https://truewaykids.com/road-to-emmaus/>

The Road to Emmaus Craft



What you need:

Template pages
Colouring equipment
Scissors

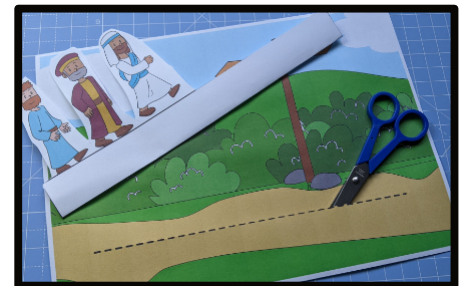
What to do:



Colour the template pages.

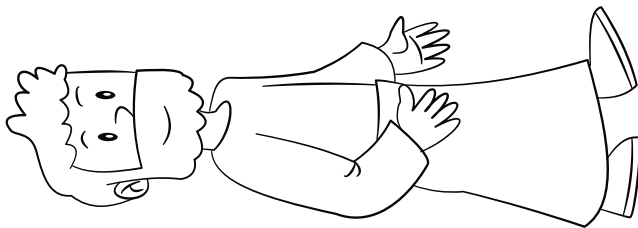
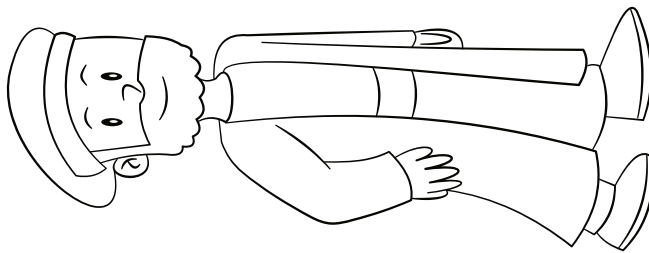
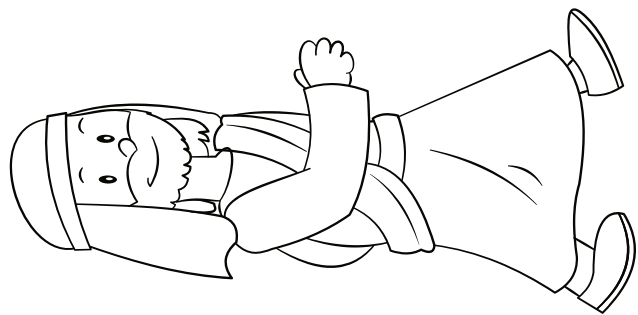


Cut out the people and fold the strip to make a handle.

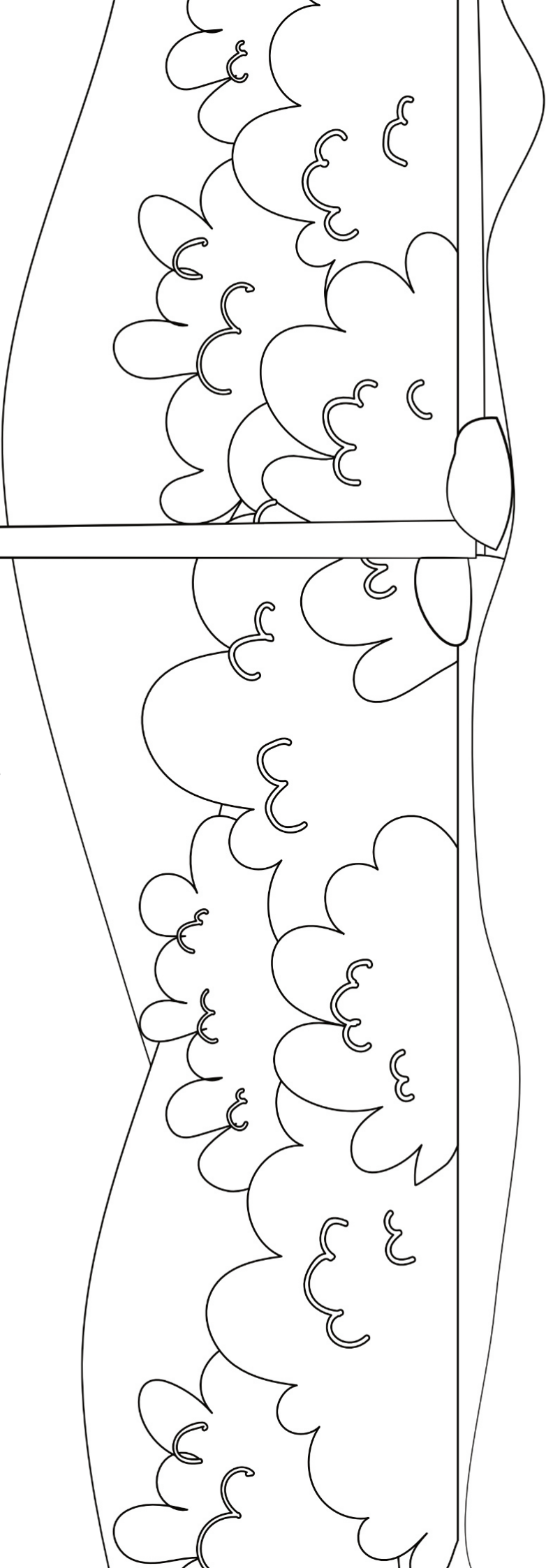
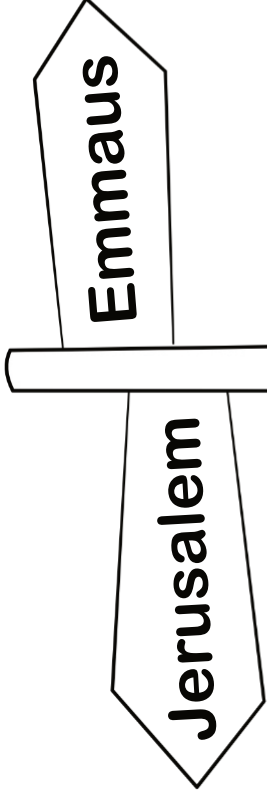


Carefully cut the dashed line on the background.

Insert strip with people.



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Genesis 3:15

Isaiah 7:14

Isaiah 53:5

Psalms 22:16-18

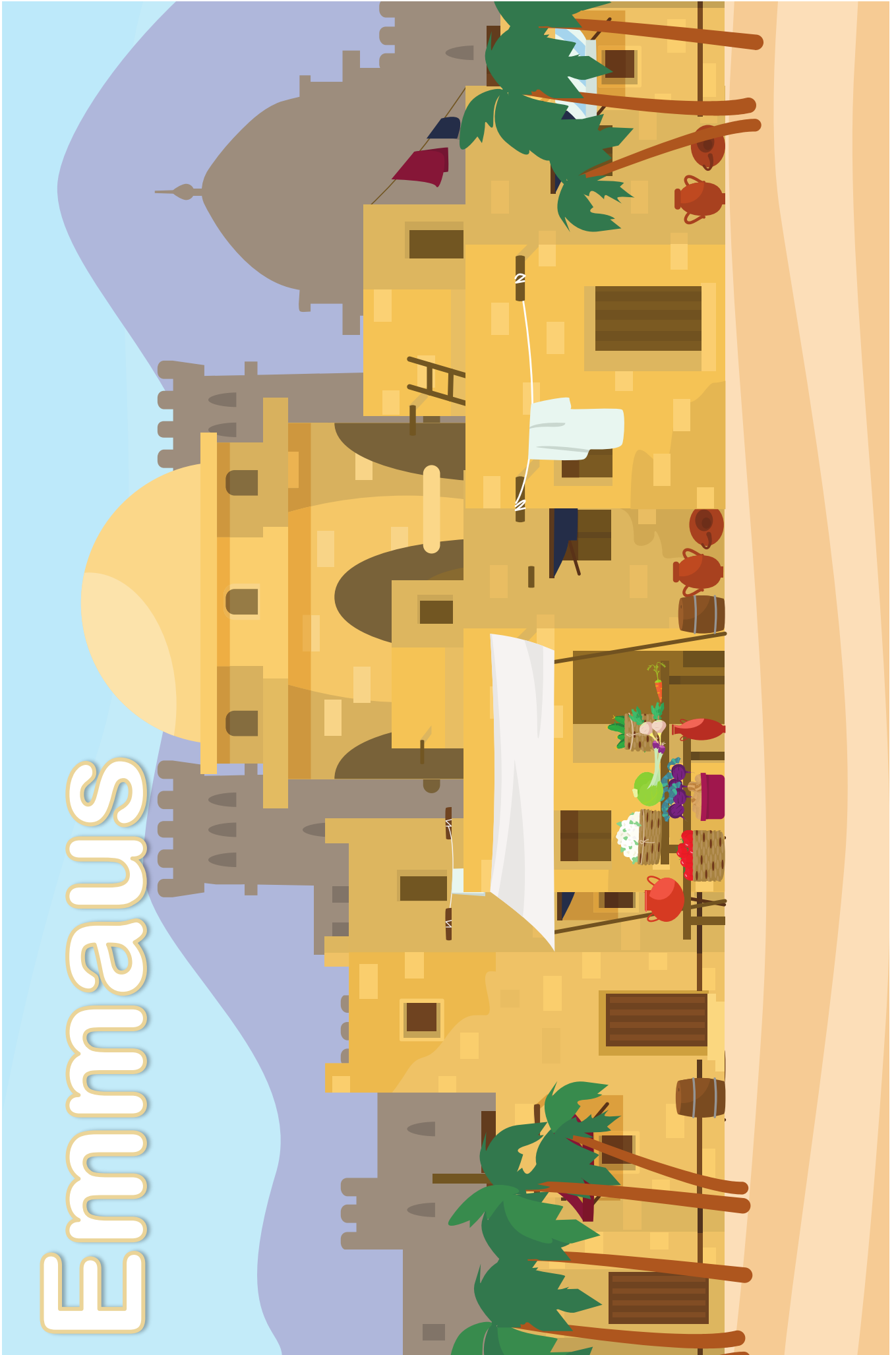
Micah 5:2

Zechariah 9:9

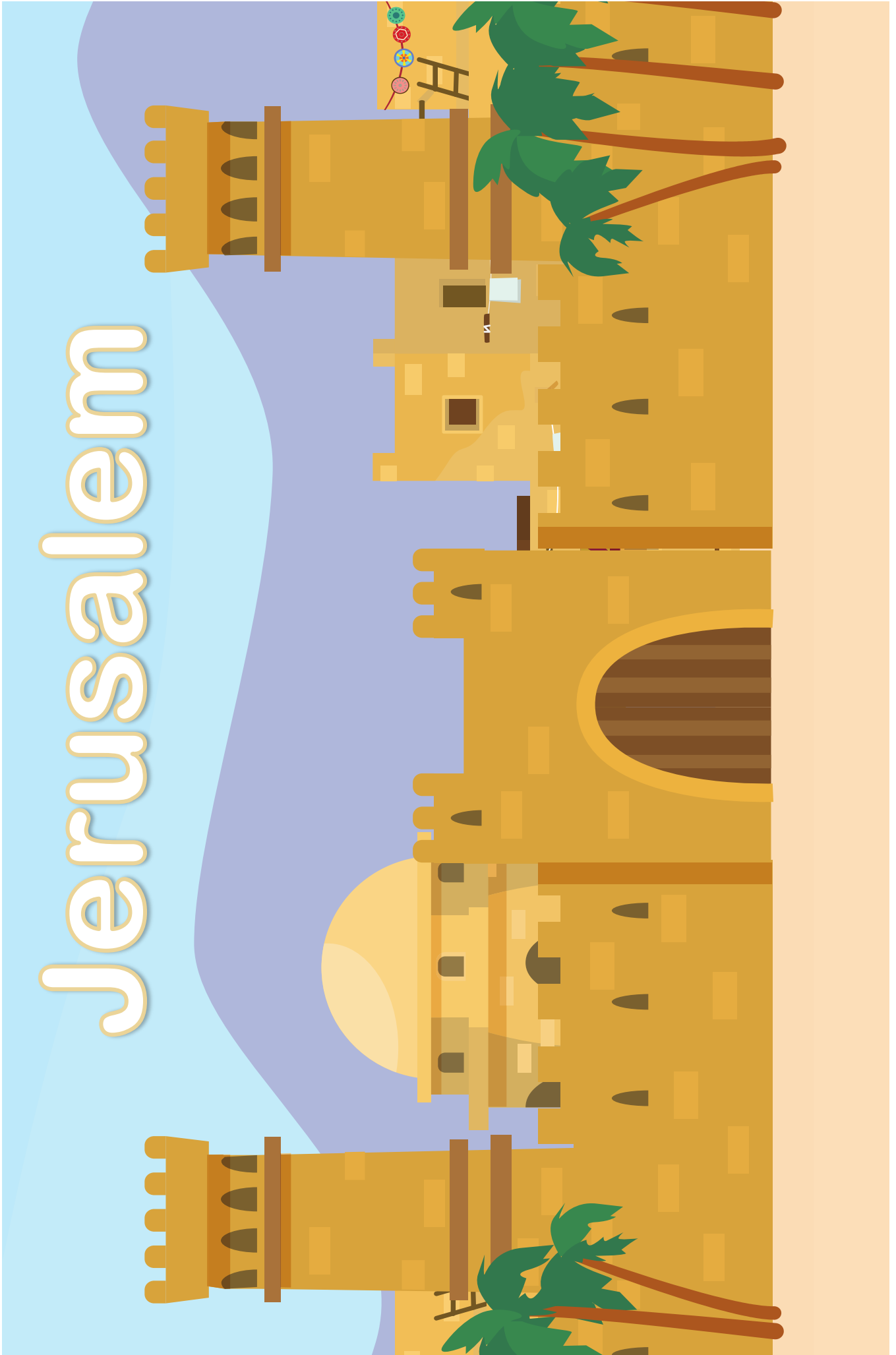
Isaiah 9:6

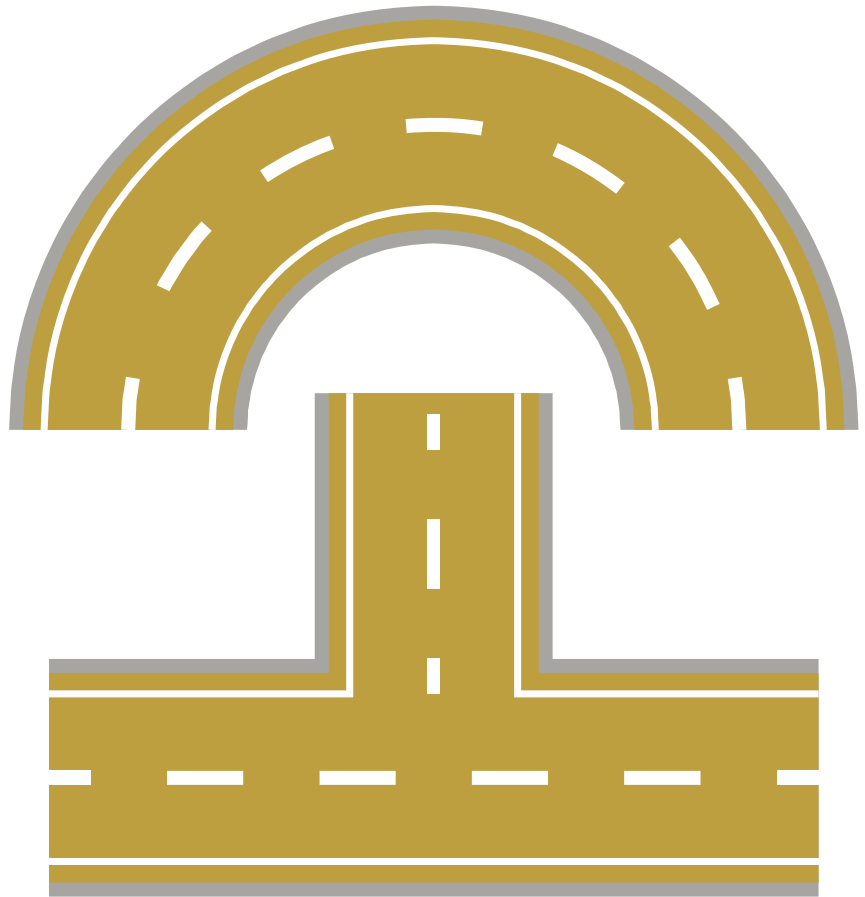
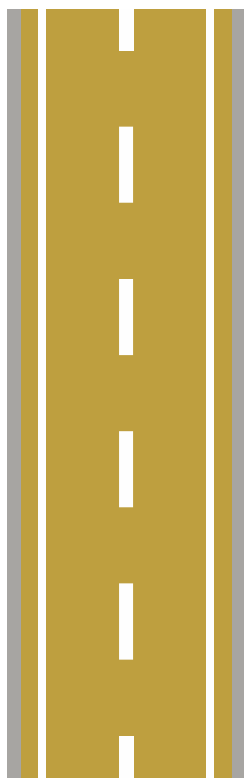
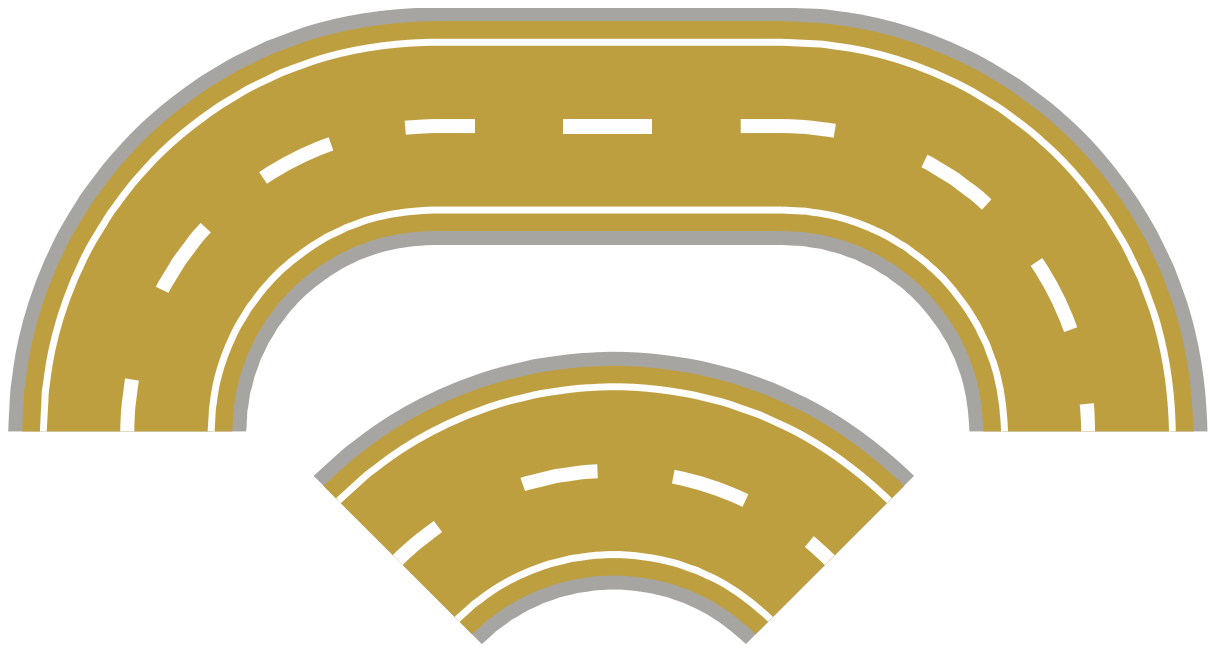
Daniel 7:13-14

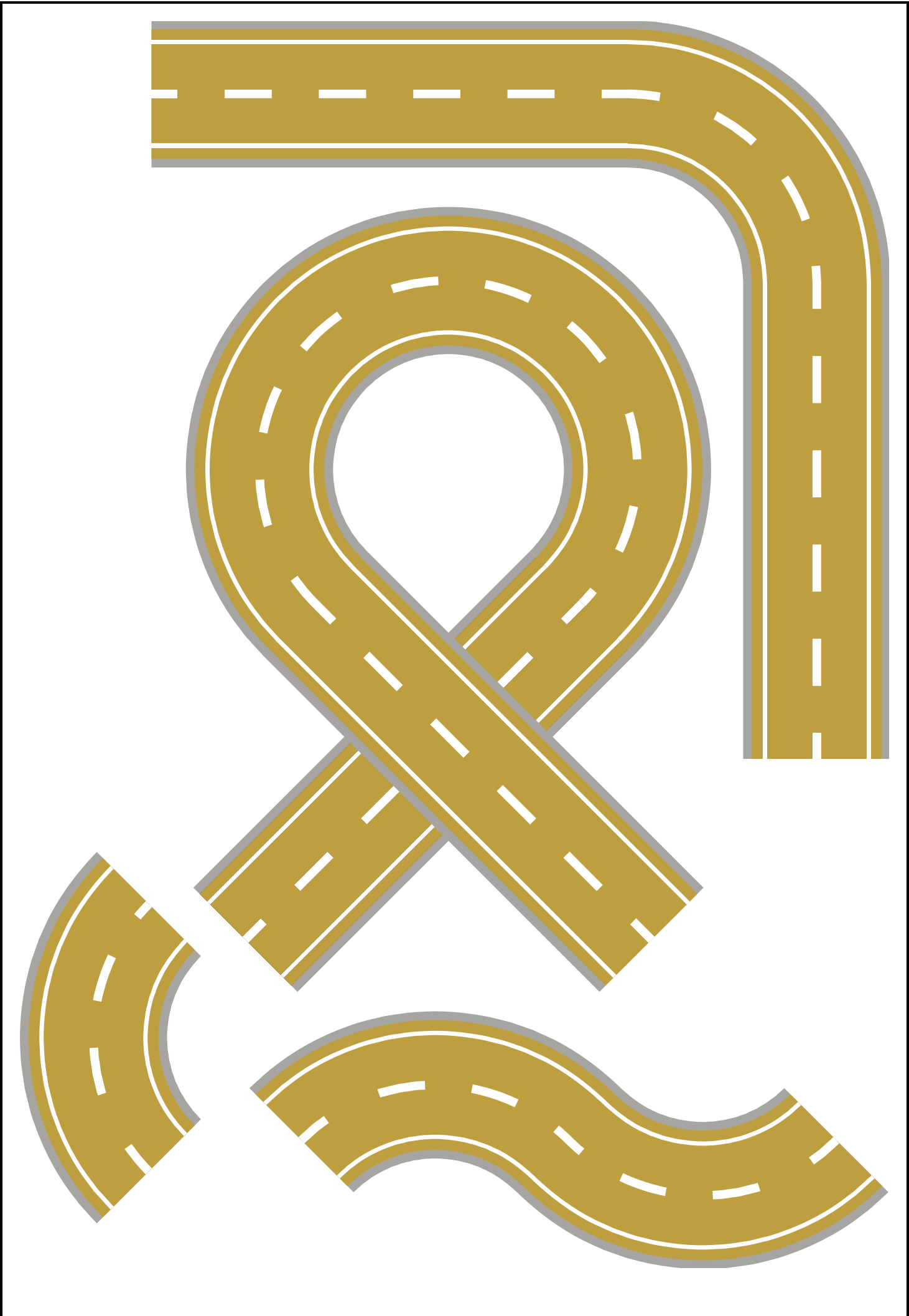
Emmaus



Jerusalem







Answer the following questions in your group.

Be ready to share your answers with the others.

***How did the followers feel? Why?**

***What did they know/learn about Jesus?**

***Did anything change for them?**

Easter Lessons

Jesus visits Thomas

Lesson 7

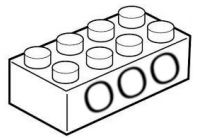
All Ages

Aim: To teach the children the story of Thomas seeing Jesus and that Jesus meets us and helps us in our doubt, just like He helped Thomas.

Bible: Mark 16:9-18 Luke 24:33-49 John 20:19-31

Several of the activities in this lesson were inspired by www.truewaykids.com and www.freebibleimages.com

Let's Move



Let's Move Activity 1 (All)

Need:
List of
statements

Do: In this game someone will stand in the front and make a statement. If the children think it is true, they will stand. If they think it is false, they will sit down. Either get leaders to be in the front and make a statement, or prepare statements for the children to read out.

Say: We are going to play a game. Someone in front is going to make a statement. If you think what they say is true, then you need to stand up. If you think it is false, then you stay sitting down.

Possible statements:

- Statements from the Bible - right and wrong, like Moses built the ark.
- Statements about your church - name of pastor etc
- Statements about general knowledge - the earth is round

Let's Move Activity 2 (Older)

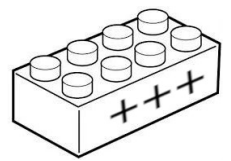
Need:
Prepare truths
and lie

Do: Before the time ask a few of your leaders to prepare three statements about themselves. Two of them have to be true, and one has to be a lie. They

need to say all three statements as if they are all the truth. Children will vote to guess which statement is the lie. When you ask the children, use the following language: "Which statements do you **believe**. Which statement do you **doubt**?"

Say: We are going to play a game. Each of the leaders is going to tell you three things about themselves. Two of the things are true, but one is a lie. You need to guess which one is a lie. We will vote after each leader has given their three statements, and you will be able to put up your hand to show which statement you think was the lie.

Let's Listen



Let's Listen Activity 1 (Younger)

Need:
Story planner
Pictures of story

Do: Print the pictures in colour. Use the story planner and the pictures to tell the story of Thomas' meeting with Jesus. You may want to simplify the words that go with picture 7 and 8.

Say: Who can remember the special event that we celebrated two weeks ago? Easter! We remembered that Jesus died on the cross to take away our sins, so that we can be part of God's family. We celebrated that He didn't stay dead, but He rose again! Last week we spoke about how Jesus met with some of His followers, and they didn't even know who He was until He had supper with them and broke the bread! Today's story is one of Jesus' special friends, the disciple Thomas.

Let's Listen Activity 2 (Older)

Need:
Story planner
Slides on screen

Do: Print out the story planner (Let's Listen Activity 2 story) and modify if necessary. Learn it well enough to be able to tell the story, and not read it. Show the slides on the screen as you tell the story.

Say: Which important Christian event have we celebrated recently? Yes, Easter! We remembered how Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for our sins, so that those who believe in Him can be forgiven for their sins and become part of God's family. We also celebrated that Jesus is no longer dead! He rose again on the third day and showed Himself to Mary and told her to tell the rest of the disciples that He was alive! He had also walked with two of His other followers to a place called Emmaus, but they didn't recognise Him until supper time, when He broke the bread. Today we are going to talk about what happened after that.

(Use the story planner and the slides to tell the rest of the story in your own words.)

Let's Listen Activity 3(Older)

Need:
Bibles

Do: Hand out Bibles to those children who don't have their own. Help them to find the passage if necessary. Ask for volunteers to read the story rather than go around the circle and give everyone a chance to read. Don't put a child on the spot or force a child to read out loud.

Say: We are going to read today's story from the Bible. Please take out your Bible. If you don't have one, I will lend you one. Please look up John 20:19. We are going to read to verse 29. Who would like to read some of the verses?

Jesus showed Himself to His disciples on the evening of the day that He rose from the dead. To the Jews, Sunday is the first day of the week.

- * Where were the disciples when Jesus visited them?
- * Why were the doors locked?
- * Why do you think they were afraid?
- * Do you think they had reason to be afraid?
- * How did Jesus get into the room?
- * What did Thomas say when the others told him that they had seen Jesus?
- * Why do you think Thomas doubted?
- * Do you think that Jesus was angry with Thomas for doubting?
- * What did Thomas say to Jesus once He had seen His scars?

Let's Listen Activity 4

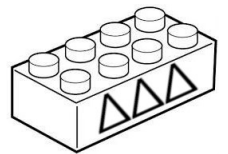
Need:
Trueway Bible
story

Do: Colour print the story from Trueway (Let's Listen Activity 4). Read the story to the children.

Say: Today's Bible story is about when Jesus visited His disciples after He had died on the cross and came alive again. (*Read the story.*)

Let's Do

Let's Do Activity 1



Need:
Spot the
difference
worksheet

Do: Make copies of either the 7 or 12 spot the difference worksheet. Help where necessary.

Say: I have a worksheet for you to do. The worksheet has two pictures on it. It looks as if the pictures are exactly the same, but there are 7/12 differences between the pictures. You have to find the difference, and then make a circle around it.

Let's Do Activity 2 (Older)

Need:
Nail/Screw
Blindfold
Chair

Do: For this activity you need a large, blunt nail, or a large screw. Face the chair away from where the rest of the children are sitting. Blindfold the child sitting on the chair. Don't give Thomas too much time to guess.

Say: What is the name of the disciple in today's story who needed to see Jesus' wounds for himself? That is right, Thomas. We are going to play a game to remind us about the story.

I am going to choose one of you to be Thomas. You will come and sit on this chair. I am going to put this nail under the chair.

Once Thomas is sitting blindfolded on the chair, I will choose someone to sneak up and take the nail and hide it somewhere on their body. Then everyone will say: "Doubting Thomas, where is the nail?"

Thomas then takes the blindfold off and stands up.

The teacher says: "Does _____ (name of a child in the class) have it? (They may or may not have it).

If Thomas believes the teacher, s/he will say: "I believe _____ (same name that teacher says) has it.

If Thomas does not believe the teacher, s/he must say the name of the person who s/he thinks has it.

Thomas will have 3 chances to guess.

Then I'll choose another person to be Thomas and we will play again.

Let's Do Activity 3 (All)

Need:
Worksheet
Dice
Pencils

Do: Make a copy of the worksheet for each group of 5 children. Hand out a dice and a pencil to each group
Younger children can each get a worksheet and join the dots without having to play the game

Say: Please get into groups of 5 and sit in a circle. Each group is going to get a worksheet, a pencil and a dice. To complete the worksheet, you have to join the dots. The catch is that you may only draw on the worksheet if you throw a 6. Pass the dice around the circle and make sure that each person gets a turn to throw it. The person who throws a 6 can connect a dot on the worksheet. The dice can carry on going around the circle while that person is busy. The first group to join all the dots is the winner.

Let's Do Activity 4 (All)

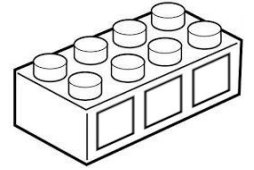
Need:
Worksheets
Glue
Scissors

Do: Make copies of the worksheet. The picture of the disciples gets cut out and pasted over the picture of Thomas, so that it can be lifted up and Thomas and Jesus can be seen. Complete one so that you have an example to show the children. Consider cutting it out for younger children. Help where necessary.

Say: We are going to make a picture of today's story. I am going to give you a worksheet and show you what to do.

Let's Chat

Let's Chat Activity 1 (All)



Need:

Glass bowl with
water

Paper clips

Paper towel

Do: It is not usually possible to float a paper clip on water, but if you do it carefully, it is. There are two ways to do it. Watch the videos and choose the way that you prefer. Fill your glass bowl with water. Have a stick to press paper towel down with, if you choose that demonstration.



Say: Who of you believe that this paper clip can float on water? Who of you doubt that it can?

What if I tell you that I can definitely make this paper clip float on water?

Who believes me? Who doubts me?

Let's see.

(Do whichever demonstration you have decided on.)

To those of you who doubted me, I don't blame you. I also thought it couldn't be done until I saw this trick/demonstration.

Some people find it easy to believe something just because someone has told them. Some people need whoever is telling the story to explain why they believe what they are saying - to provide some facts. Some people have to see something for themselves before they will believe it.

Thomas, the disciple in today's story, was someone who needed to see things for himself before he believed it. Especially something that seemed impossible, like Jesus being alive!

Jesus wasn't cross with Thomas for doubting what the disciples told him and needing to see for himself. But He did tell Thomas that people who believe in Him (Jesus) without actually seeing Him are blessed.

Older children

What does it mean to trust?

Trusting without seeing means having faith in someone or something even when we can't see it or touch it.

Can you think of something that we trust without even thinking about it?

We all trust that the sun is going to come up tomorrow. We trust that the food that we order in a restaurant is not going to make us sick.

When we decide to follow Jesus and become part of God's family, Jesus promises to always be with us. Even though we can't prove that Jesus is with us, or see Him with our eyes, we know that He is always with us.

Just like when Jesus showed Himself to Thomas, and Thomas realised that Jesus really was alive, and that He really was God's Son, each of us has a story of when we started believing that Jesus was God's Son, and started following Him.

Would any of you like to share your story about when and why you decided to follow Jesus?

(If appropriate, share about how you came to know Jesus and why you decided to follow Him.)

Let's pray. "Thank You Jesus that we can always trust what You say to be true. Thank You that You understand when we have doubt. Thank You that you are patient and kind to us, just like you were with Thomas. Lord, please help our faith in You to grow stronger and stronger. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

Let's Chat Activity 2 (Older)

Need:
Bibles

Do: Hand out Bibles to those who don't have. Help them to find the verse if necessary.

The aim here is to get the children to think about your questions and even debate answers. Keep asking questions that make them think, even if your questions are 'tricky'.

Say: Let's read John 20:24-29 again. Who would like to read it?

Do you think that it would have been fair for Jesus to be upset with Thomas for doubting Him?

How long had the disciples been with Jesus?

Can you think of some of the miracles that they had seen while they were together?

I think that I would have understood if Jesus was fed up with Thomas for doubting Him, after all that time, and after all he had seen.

But Jesus wasn't upset or angry with Thomas.

Jesus knew what Thomas needed in order to believe and have faith, and He gave it to him. He showed Thomas hands and His side. Jesus helped Thomas to have faith in Him.

Do you ever doubt Jesus? Do you ever wonder if He really is with you, or really is listening when you talk to Him?

When or what makes you doubt Him?

Jesus understands when we doubt. In fact, He wants us to bring our doubts to Him, just like Thomas did. Just like Thomas told Jesus what he needed in order to believe, Jesus wants us to tell Him what we need in order to believe. Jesus wants us to be honest with Him, and keep speaking to Him and asking Him questions. He wants to answer us and show Himself to us, just like He did for Thomas.

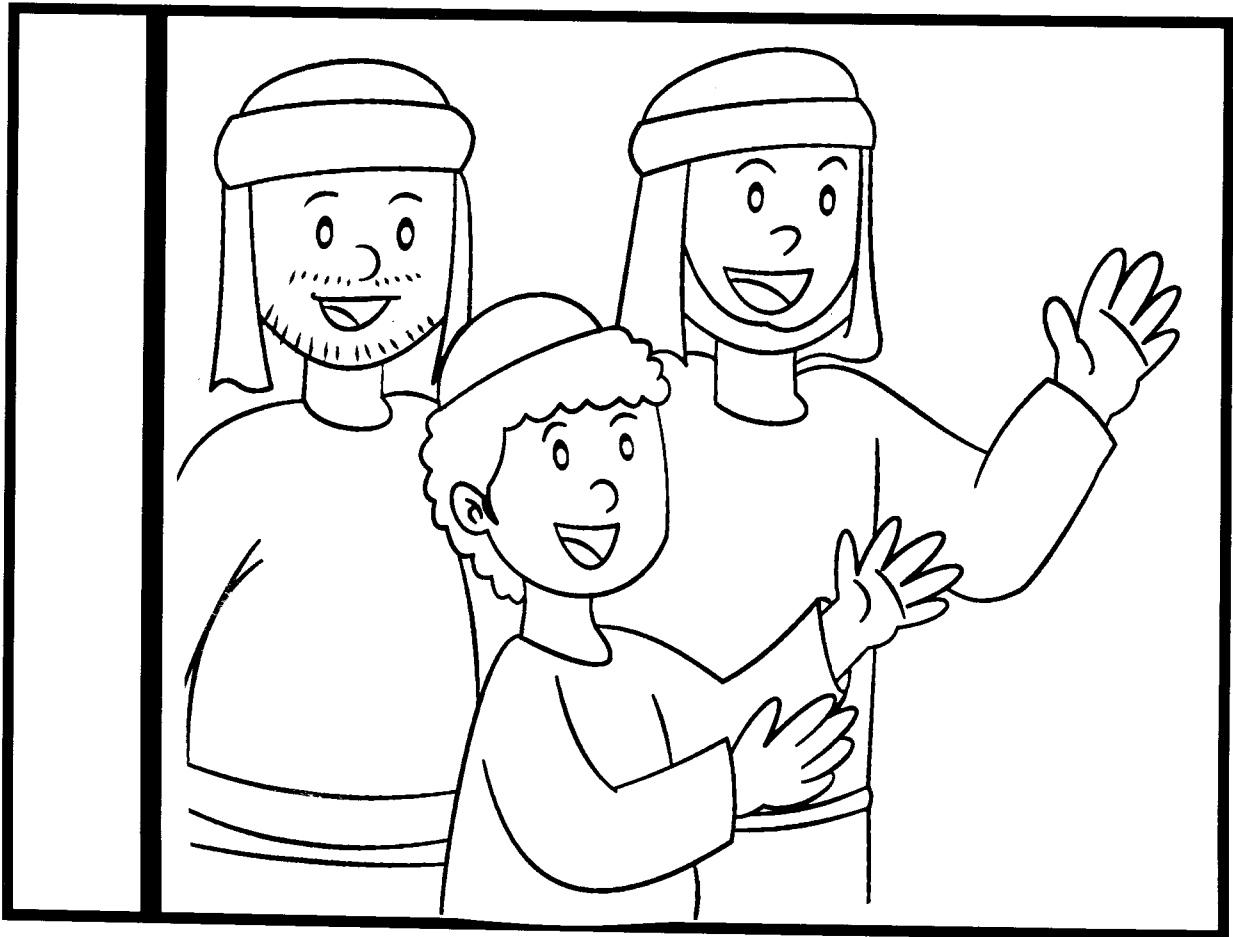
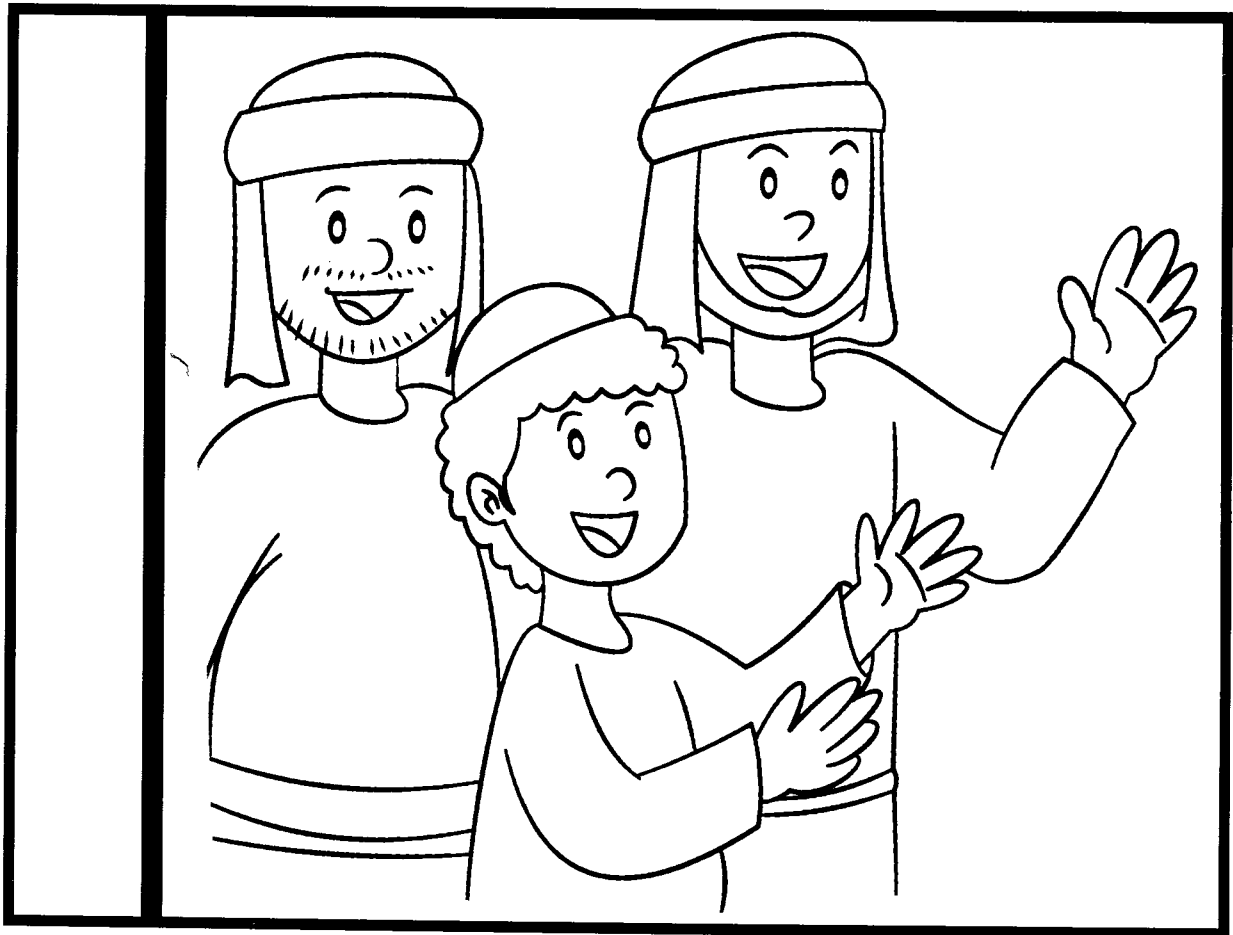
Find 7 differences



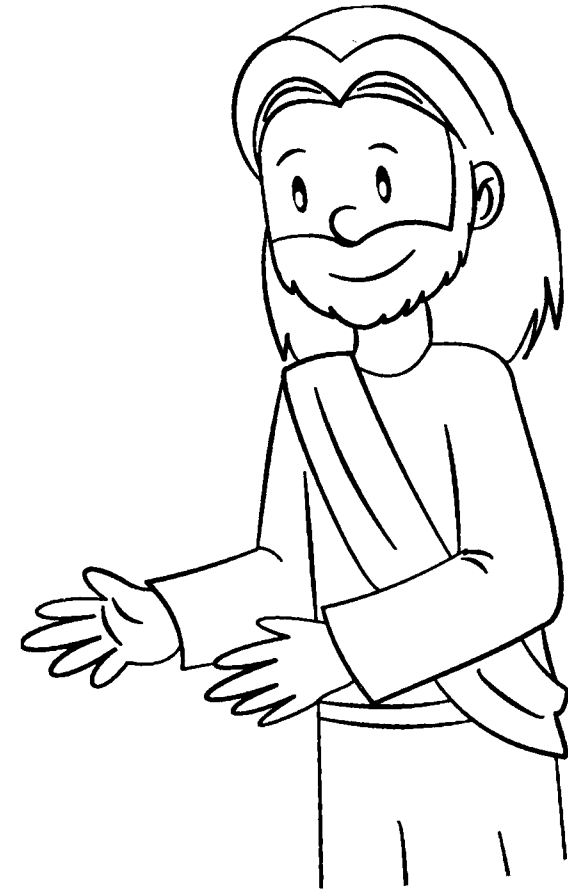
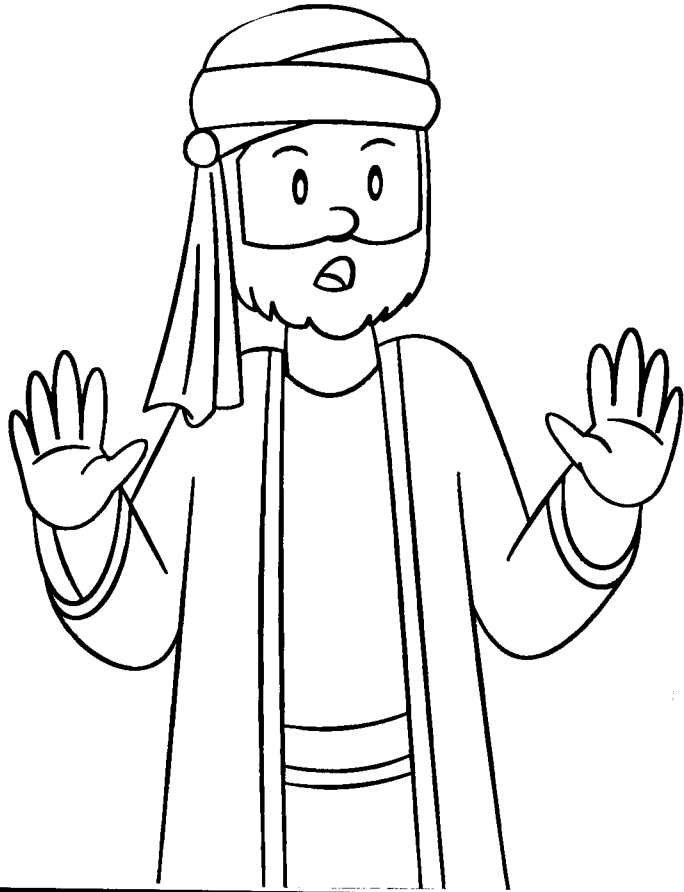


Connect the Dots

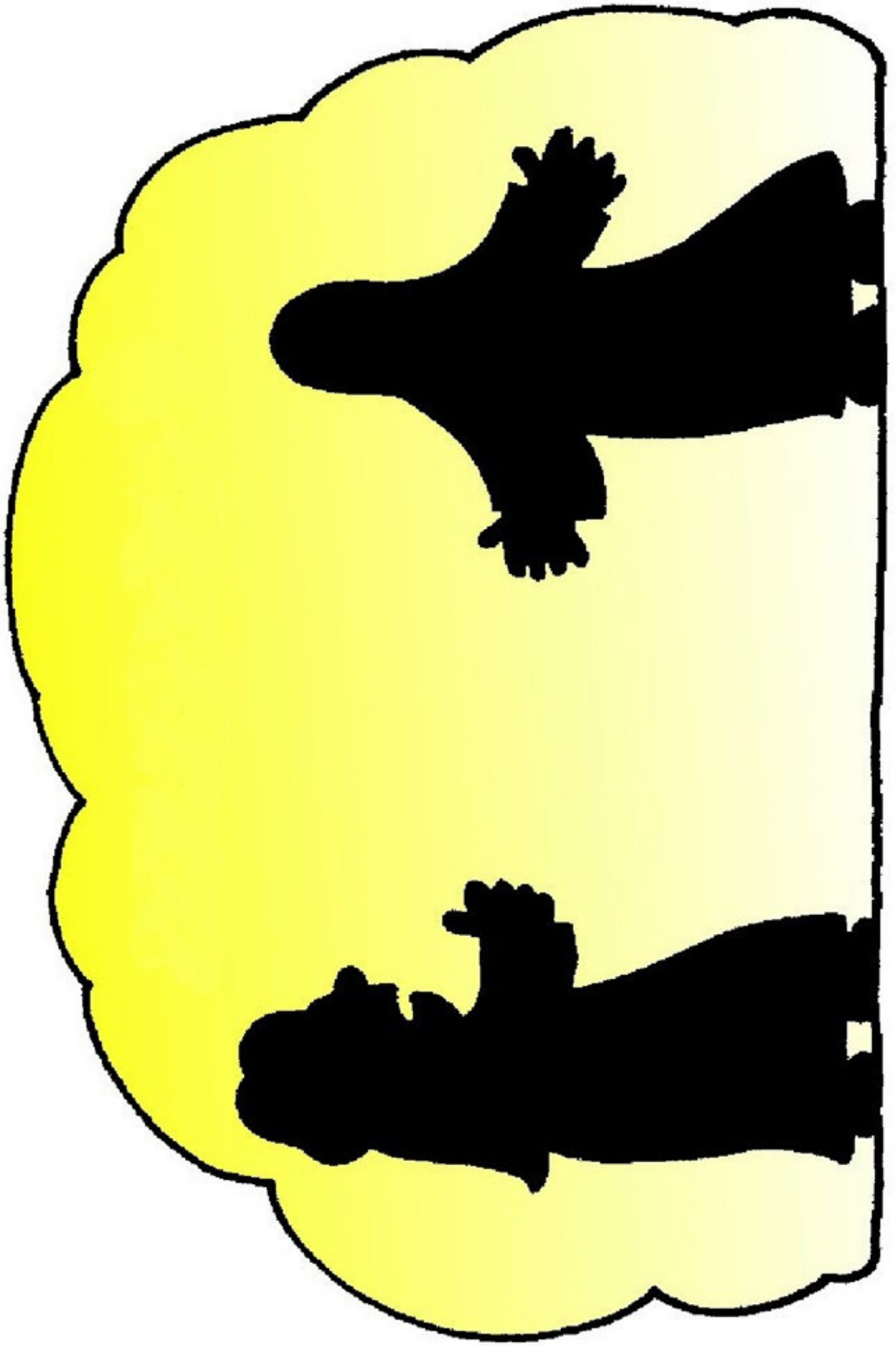
Let's Do Activity 3



Glue



**Blessed are those who have not seen
and yet have believed. John 20:29**













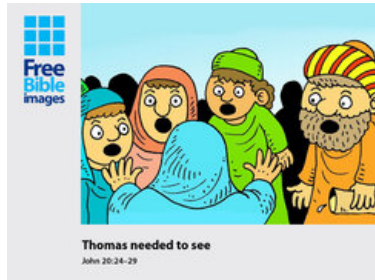






The images in this Bible story can be downloaded absolutely free from www.freebibleimages.org in PowerPoint, Keynote, JPEG or PDF formats. This Story Planner shows what is happening in each scene. Read the account from the Bible and then plan how you will tell the story. There is a space for your notes. You can delete any images/slides you don't require and add your own as needed.

| Description | Image | My notes |
|-------------|-------|----------|
|-------------|-------|----------|



- 1 When the disciples saw Jesus alive for the first time, one of them, Thomas, had not been there. The Bible tells us what happened next.



- 2 'Jesus is alive we saw Him!' Jesus' friends told Thomas. 'I won't believe you until I see Jesus with my own eyes,' he said.



- 3 When the friends met the next week, everyone was happy, except Thomas. 'How can anyone rise from the dead?' he argued. 'Unless I see His hands and feet I will not believe!'



-
- 4 Suddenly Jesus was standing right there in the room, even though the door was shut! Everyone was surprised to see Him, especially Thomas.



-
- 5 'Don't be frightened,' Jesus said, 'It really is me.' Thomas, touch my hands and see that I am alive.'



-
- 6 Then Thomas knew that Jesus had risen from the dead and he believed because he had seen Jesus himself.



-
- 7 'Thomas, you are glad now,' Jesus said, 'You believe I am alive only because you have seen Me with your very own eyes.'



-
- 8 'In days to come, God's favour will be on those who believe in Me, although they have never seen Me.'





CONTRIBUTED BY
JILL KEMP (story) & RICHARD GUNTHER (illustrations)

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Further free resources in support of this story and images can be found at www.lamblogic.co.nz



www.freebibleimages.org

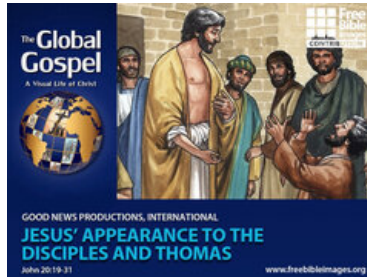
Jesus' Appearance to the Disciples and Thomas

John 20:19-31

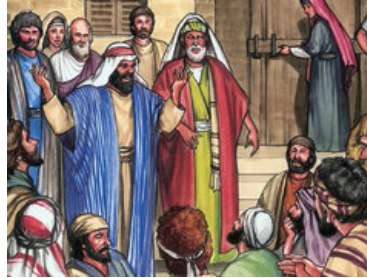


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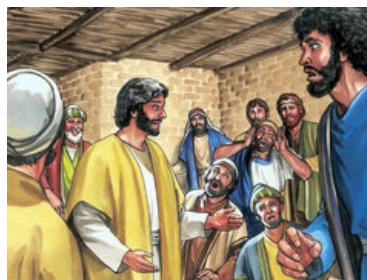
- 1 On the evening of the first day of the week, the disciples had gathered together ...



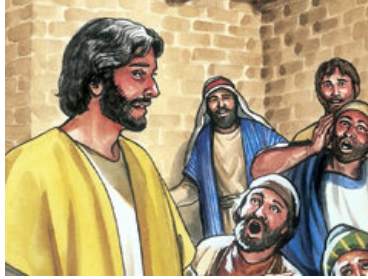
- 2 ... and locked the doors of the place because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders.



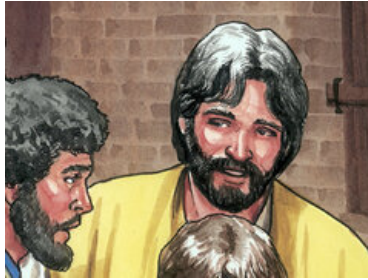
- 3 Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'



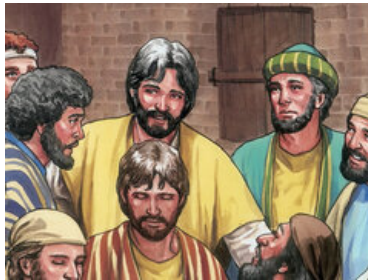
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- 4 When He had said this He showed them His hands and side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.



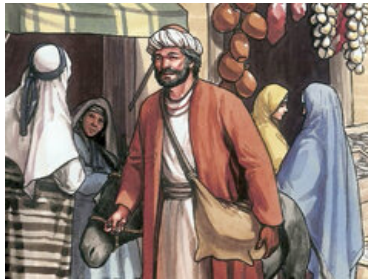
-
- 5 Then Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. Just as the Father has sent me, I also send you.' After He said this, He breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins they are forgiven. If you retain anyone's sins they are retained.'



-
- 6 Now Thomas, one of the twelve disciples, was not with them.



-
- 7 The other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' He replied, 'Unless I see the wounds from the nails in His hands and put my hand into His side, I will never believe it.'



-
- 8 Eight days later, the disciples were together in the house and Thomas was with them.



-
- 9 Although the doors were locked, Jesus stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'



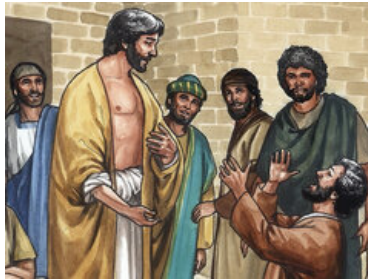
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- 10 Then He said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and examine my hands, Extend your hand and put it into my side. Do not continue in your unbelief but believe.'



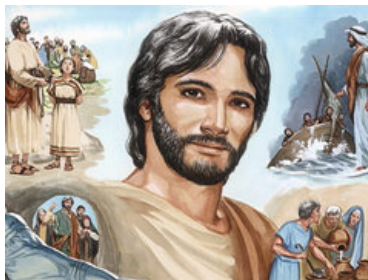
-
- 11 Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God.'



-
- 12 Jesus said to him, 'You believed because you have seen me. Blessed are the people who have not seen Me and yet have believed.'

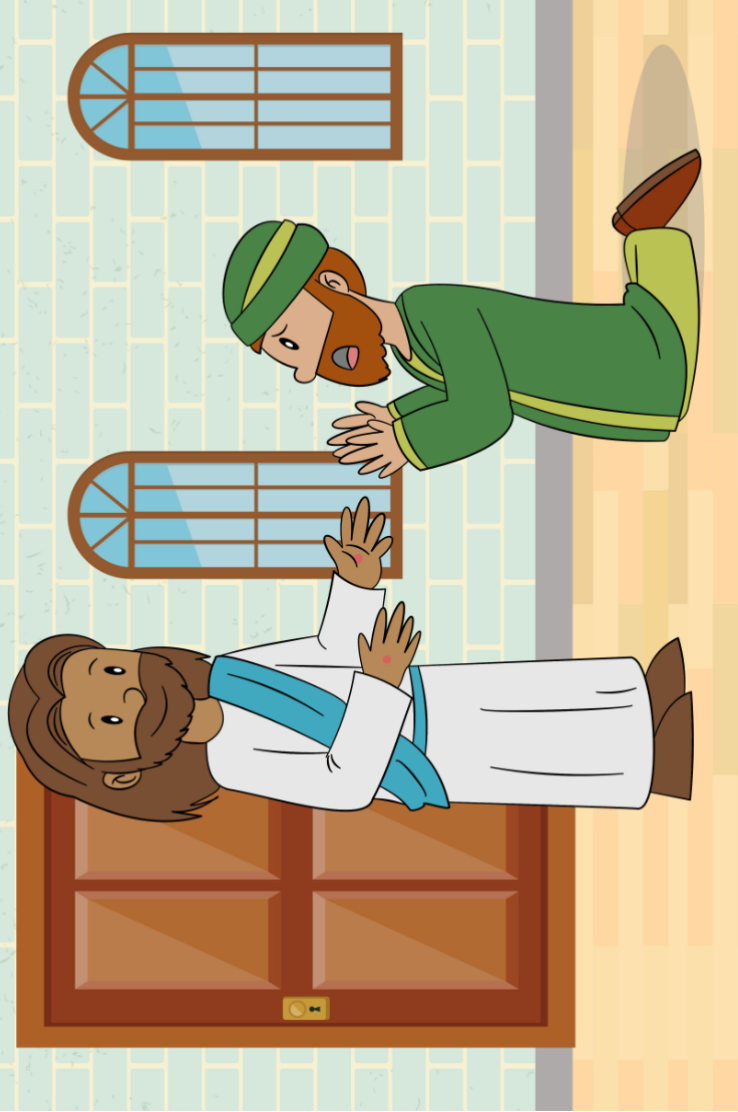


-
- 13 Now Jesus did many other miraculous signs which are not recorded in this book. But these are recorded so that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that by believing you might have life in His name.



-
- 14 A free downloadable video of this story is available in several resolutions and in many languages from www.gnpi.org/media/the-global-gospel.

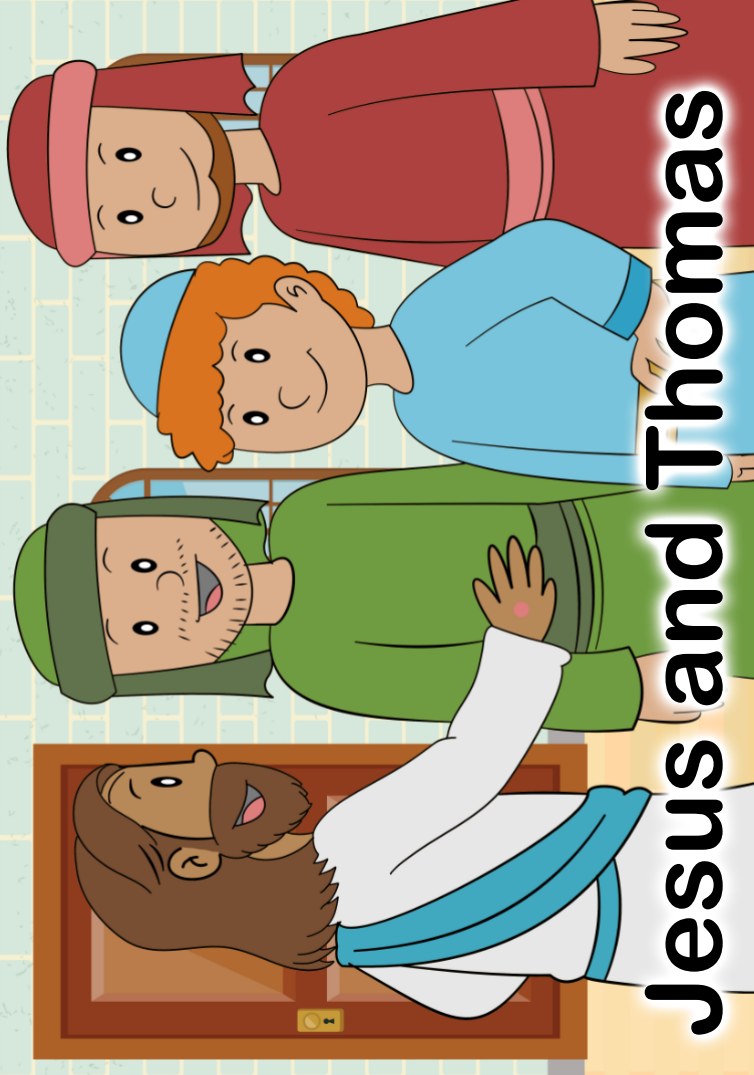




Thomas was amazed and declared, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to Thomas, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."

This means that even if we can't see Jesus with our eyes, we can still believe in Him.



Jesus and Thomas

After Jesus died, his disciples hid in a locked room because they were scared.

On the day Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to them. They were so happy to see Jesus alive.

Jesus showed them the wounds in His hands and side so that they would know it was really Him.



However, Thomas was not with the other disciples when Jesus appeared to them.

The disciples told Thomas that Jesus had risen from the dead and had seen Him.

But Thomas didn't believe them.



Thomas said, "I won't believe unless I see the nail wounds in His hands, put my fingers in them, and place my hand in the wound in His side."

Eight days later, Jesus appeared to the disciples again.

This time, Thomas was with them.

Jesus told Thomas to touch His wounds and see for himself.

Easter Lessons

Jesus and the fish braai

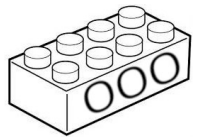
Lesson 8
All Ages

Aim: To teach the children that Jesus always cares for us, and wants us to care for others. He meets us where we are at, and gives us another chance, no matter how badly we have messed up.

Bible: John 13:36–38 John 18:15–27 John 21:1–19

Several of the activities in this lesson were inspired by www.truewaykids.com and www.freebibleimages.com and sundayschoolcenter.com

Let's Move



Let's Move Activity 1 (All)

Need:
Blankets/sheets
Lively music

Do: Have enough blankets for your whole group to be able to stand on comfortably. Spread the blankets around your space. While the music is playing, fold the blankets in half. Continue folding the blankets until they can't fold anymore. Play the music while the children move around.

Say: We are going to play a game. I am going to put out some blankets. These blankets are islands. The rest of the ground is the sea. When the music is playing, you have to run around in the sea. When the music stops, you have to run to an island. Make sure that everyone gets a spot on the island! Anyone who is still in the sea when the music stops will be eaten by the sharks!

Let's Move Activity 2 (All)

Need:
Blindfold

Do: In this activity one child is blindfolded and asked to recognise the voice of someone else in the room. If your children don't know each other well, choose someone who is well known to speak. You can make it

more challenging for older children. Choose new children for each round to give as many children as possible a chance to play.

Say: Who of you think that you are good at recognising someone's voice? In this game I am going to call one person to the front and put a blindfold over their eyes. Then I am going to point to one other person in the room. That person will say: "Jesus always gives us another chance". (*Younger children can say "Jesus loves me".*)

The blindfolded person will take off the blindfold and have 3 chances to guess who spoke.

Well done! Who would like to play next?

Let's Move Activity 3 (Younger)

Need:
Large sheet or
blanket

Do: Two or more teachers need to hold the blanket up above your heads. The children need to swim underneath you one at a time. Drop the blanket on them to catch them.

Say: We are going to play a game. In this game I am going to be a fisherman. (Name of your helper) is also going to be a fisherman. We have a big net that we are going to hold up above our heads. You are going to be the fish. Each of you will swim underneath our net. We will try to catch you by dropping the net onto you. If you get caught you need to come and help us hold the net/sit on the mat.

Let's Move Activity 4 (Older)

Need:
Sheets/Towels
Several soft
objects

Do: Collect a lot of soft objects such as ball-pond balls, beanbags, soft toys etc. Divide the group into teams of three. Two people will hold the net (sheet), and one person will try to throw the objects one by one so that they land in the net (sheet). The people holding the net may move it to try to catch the objects. Play for a set amount of time, or until one group has caught all their objects in their net. If you don't have the resources for several groups of 3, then

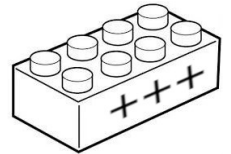
give each group 60 seconds to play, and see which group manages to 'catch' the most objects in that time.

Say: We are going to play a catching game. You need to be in groups of 3. Each group will get a sheet/towel and some ball-pond balls. Two of you have to hold the towel as a net. The other person has to throw the balls into the net. The people holding the towel may move it to try and catch the balls. The winning team is the one that has all their balls in their net.

Let's Listen

Let's Listen Activity 1 (Younger)

This activity pairs well with Let's Chat Activity 1



Need:
YouTube video
Multi-media
player

Do: Find the video called Breakfast on the Beach by Daniel England Ministries on YouTube. Show the video.



Say: Last week we heard about when Jesus visited His disciples to show Thomas, one of the disciples, that He really was alive again after dying on the cross. Today's story happened a little while after that. Jesus came to visit the disciples while they were fishing. They didn't know that it was Him until He did something very special. Let's watch the video together.

Let's Listen Activity 2 (All)

Need:
YouTube video
Multi-media
player

Do: Find the video called Jesus forgives Peter by Saddleback Kids on YouTube. Show the video.



Say: Last week we heard about when Jesus visited His disciples to show Thomas, one of the disciples, that He really was alive again after dying on the cross. Today's story happened a little while after that. Jesus came to

visit the disciples while they were fishing. They didn't know that it was Him until He did something that triggered a memory...

Let's watch the video together.

Let's Listen Activity 3 (Young)

Need:
Story

Do: Print the PDF of the story back to back to make a book, or enlarge so that each page is A4 size. Read the story to the children.

Say: Last week we heard about when Jesus visited His disciples to show Thomas, one of the disciples, that He really was alive again after dying on the cross. Today's story happened a little while after that. Let's read it together to find out what happened.

Let's Listen Activity 4

Need:
Bibles

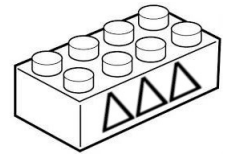
Do: Hand out Bibles to those who don't have one. Ask for volunteers to read.

Say: A few weeks ago we celebrated Easter, where Jesus died on the cross and rose again on the third day. He showed Himself to a number of people. Can anyone name some of those people?

- Mary and Mary
- Two men on way to Emmaus
- Disciples in the upper room
- Disciples and Thomas

Today's story is about another time that Jesus visited with His disciples. Let's read it together in John 21:1-17

Let's Do



Let's Do Activity 1 (All)

Need:
Word search
worksheets
Prizes (optional)

Do: Print a copy of the word search for each child.
Consider pairing younger children with older children.

Say: I am going to give you a worksheet. There is a list of words from today's Bible story on the right hand side of the page. You have to find the words in-between all the other letters in the block. When you find a word, circle it.

Older children (either separately or in pairs)

We are going to do a word search activity. You can either do it by yourself or find a partner to do it with. This is a competition. The first person or pair finished may or may not win a prize.

Let's Do Activity 2 (All)

Need:
Split pins
Worksheets
Scissors
Coloured pencils

Do: Print the worksheets. Consider cutting them out for younger children. Use a drawing pin to make a hole that the split pin will go through.

Say: We are going to make a story wheel of today's Bible story. When you get your worksheets, you need to cut along the solid black lines. Then colour in the pictures. Place the picture of Jesus and Peter on top, and use the split pin to combine the two pictures. Take it home and use it to tell your family today's Bible story.

Let's Do Activity 3

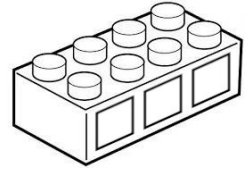
Need:
Bibles
Props and
costumes

Do: Provide simple props and costumes that the group could use to dress up and retell the story. Have

Bibles available to use.

Say: In groups of 4 or 5, you need to retell today's Bible story. You may use any of these props or costumes to help you. You have 5 minutes to prepare and then you should be ready to tell the story to the rest of us.

Let's Chat



Let's Chat Activity 1 (Younger)

This activity pairs well with Let's Listen Activity 1

Need:
Bible pictures

Do: Print some or all of the pictures that go with the video. Ask the question that goes with each picture. I have numbered the questions the same number as the picture. To make it easier, you could print the questions and glue them to the back of the correct picture.

Say: Let's see what you can remember from the video that we watched earlier.

1. What were the disciples going to do?
2. Did they fish for a long time or a short time?
3. Who told them to put their nets on the other side of the boat?
4. Did they catch lots of fish or just a few fish?
5. Who jumped into the water to see Jesus? Peter or Jayden?
6. What did Jesus make for them to eat?
11. What did Jesus ask Peter to do?

Jesus went and found the disciples. He knew where they would be. He gave Peter a special job to do - to tell people how much Jesus loved them. Jesus wants us to tell others how much He loves them too!

Let's Chat Activity 2 (Older)

Need:
Large sheet of
paper or a
whiteboard
Marker pen

Do: If you don't have a whiteboard, get large pieces of paper to write the children's responses on.

Say: As a Christian, a follower of Jesus, what are some of the things that Jesus asks us to do? I'm going to write them down as you say them.

- Love our neighbour
- Forgive our enemy
- Look after the poor and the widows
- Obey God
- Care for others
- Put God and His Kingdom first
- ...

You've thought of some good things that Jesus asks us to do as His followers.

In today's Bible story Jesus asked Peter to take care of His sheep and His lambs. What do you think Jesus meant? Who are Jesus' sheep?

What did Jesus ask Peter **before** He asked him to take care of the sheep? He asked Peter three times if he loved Jesus.

A way to show Jesus that we love Him is to take care of others.

Let's Chat Activity 3 (Older)

| |
|------------------|
| Need: Nothing |
|------------------|

Do: Try and get everyone in the group to take part in the discussion.

Say: In today's story Peter had decided to go back to doing what he had been doing before he met Jesus - fishing. He had done exactly what Jesus had said he would do, and lied about knowing Jesus just before Jesus was taken away to die on the cross.

- How do you think Peter was feeling about himself?
- How do you think Peter was feeling about his relationship with Jesus?
- Do you think that Jesus knew how Peter was feeling?
- How do you think Jesus felt about Peter? Do you think He was angry or disappointed in him?

Even though Peter had denied Jesus, after saying that he would die for Jesus!, Jesus was not angry with Peter. He didn't give up on him or write him off (ghost him). Instead He gave Peter a very big job to do.

Why do you think Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him?

- perhaps because Peter had denied Jesus three times?
 - perhaps because He really wanted to make sure of Peter's commitment
- Jesus always gives us another chance, even when we mess up. He loves us and He cared for us.

Let's pray.

Let's Chat Activity 4 (Older)

Need:
Journals
Pencils
Quiet
instrumental
music

Do: Hand out the journals and pencils. Have the music ready to play. Don't start with the instructions until everyone has settled down. Speak slowly, with pauses. Don't rush the activity.

Say: We are going to spend some time with God. Please find a space where you can be a bit alone, and not easily disturbed. You can lie down or sit up, as long as you are comfortable.

Pause while the children settle down.

Close your eyes. Take a deep breath in and blow three short, hard breaths out. Take another deep breath in and hold it. Now let it out slowly.

I want you to close your eyes and imagine yourself in today's story.

Imagine yourself as Peter, seeing Jesus for the first time after lying about knowing Him. Imagine how Peter must have felt. *Pause.*

Imagine Jesus looking at Peter. He isn't angry. He isn't disappointed. He is happy to see His friend. His eyes are kind. His face is smiling. *Pause.*

Imagine Jesus looking at you like that. *Pause.* Even when you mess up, even when you ignore Jesus or forget about Him or act as if you don't know Him, He still loves you. *Pause.* He will still come and find you. He will still wait for you. He loves you. *Pause.* Your behaviour towards Him doesn't change that. *Pause.*

I want you to pray after me. You may pray in your head or quietly to yourself or out loud.

Lord Jesus

Please come and show me
just how much You love me.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Write down or draw what Jesus shows you.

Pause.

Would anyone like to share what Jesus showed them?

Let's pray.



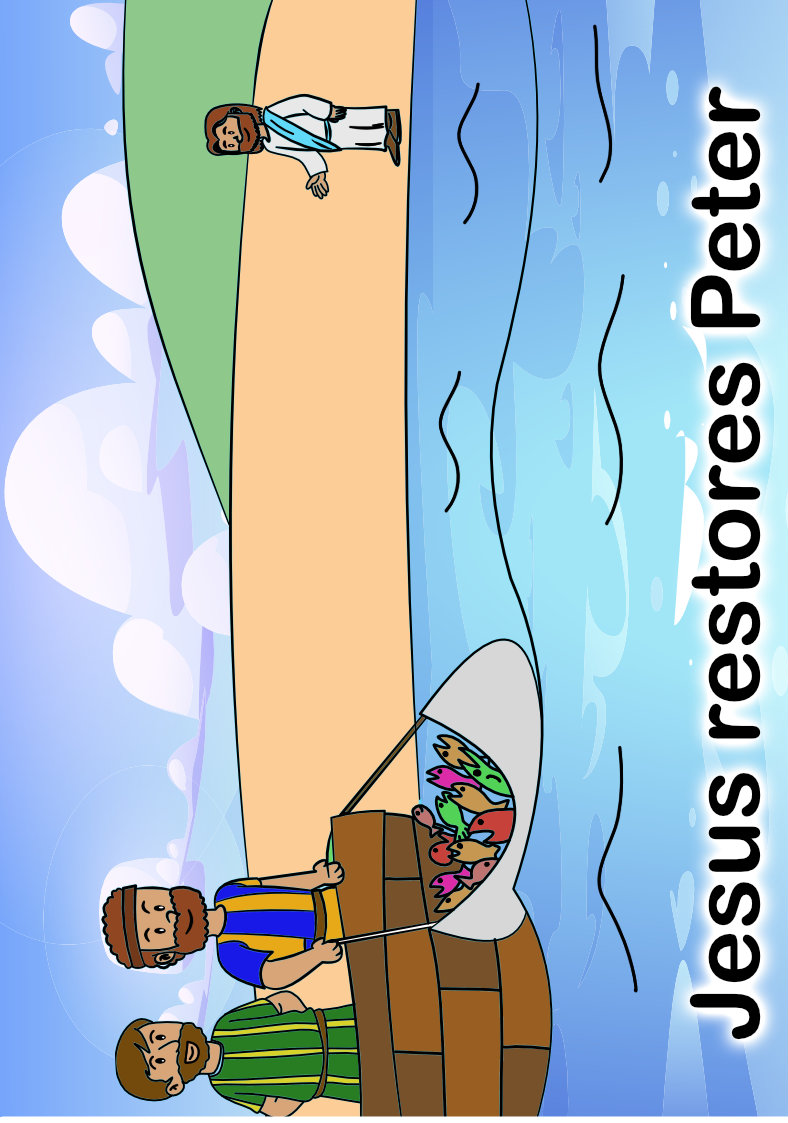
After breakfast, Jesus turned to Peter and asked him three times if he loved Him.

Peter answered each time, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus then told Peter to take care of His sheep and to follow Him.

Peter knew that Jesus had forgiven him for denying Him three times.

From that day on, Peter spread Jesus' message to all who would listen.



Jesus restores Peter

After Jesus had raised from the dead, He went to the beach where some of His disciples were fishing in a boat.

They had been trying to catch fish all night but had caught nothing.

Jesus called out to them and told them to cast their nets on the right side of the boat.

They didn't know it was Jesus but when they did, they caught so many fish that they could hardly pull the nets back into the boat!



The disciples saw this amazing catch of fish and one of them named Peter realized that it was Jesus who had helped them.

He was so happy to see Jesus that he jumped out of the boat and swam to shore to greet him.

The rest of the disciples followed in the boat, dragging the net full of fish behind them.



When Peter arrived on shore, he found that Jesus had already built a small fire and was cooking breakfast.

There were fish and bread, and the smell was delicious. Jesus invited his friends to come and sit down by the fire.

For the disciples, this was a special moment.

Jesus had been crucified and buried just a few days before. But now, He was alive again.

Word Search

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

BREAKFAST

FIRE

FISH

JESUS

LAMBS

LOVE

NET

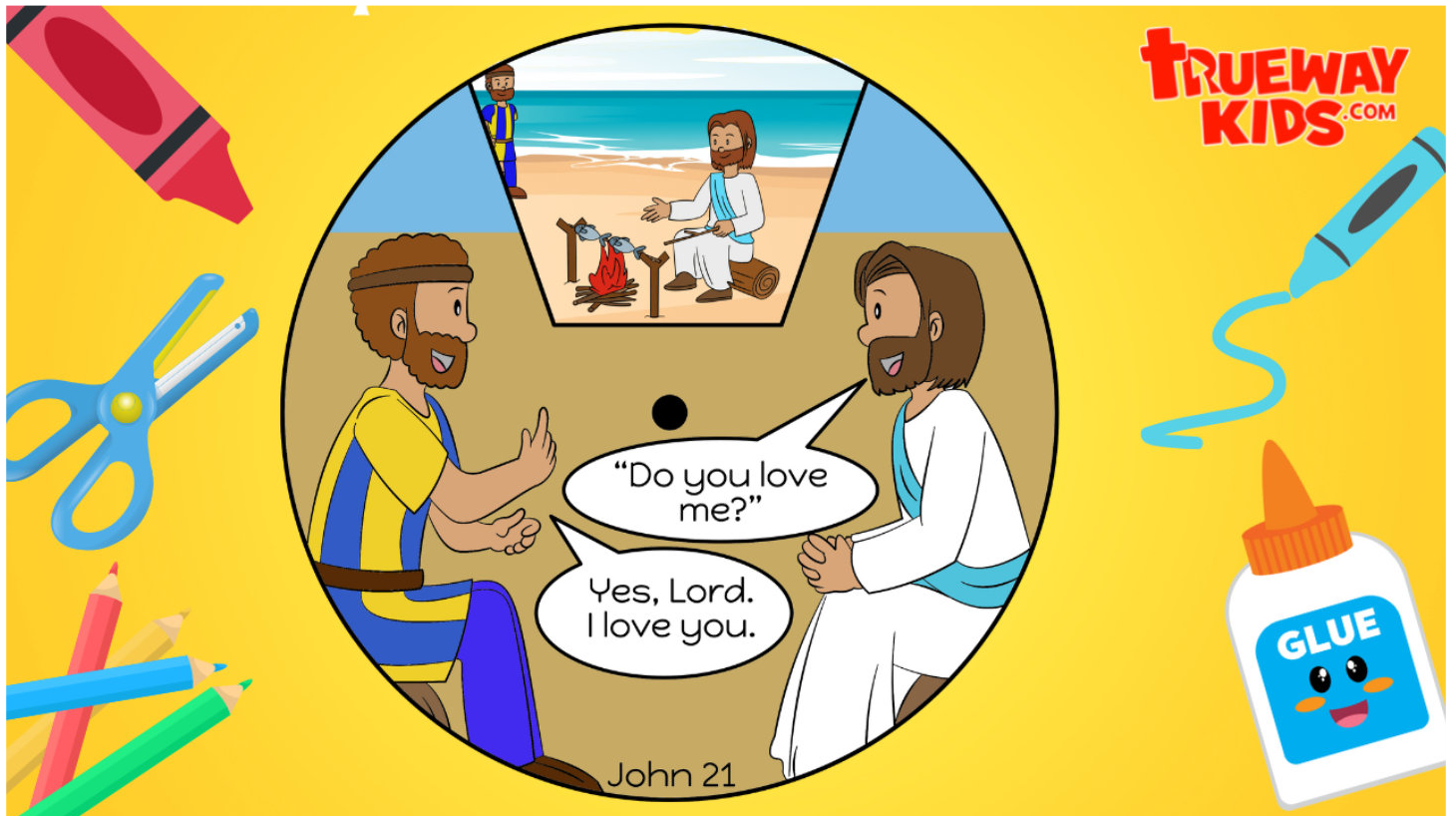
PETER

SWIM

THREE



Story Wheel Craft



What you need:

- Story wheel template pages
- Colouring equipment
- Scissors
- Split pin

What to do:



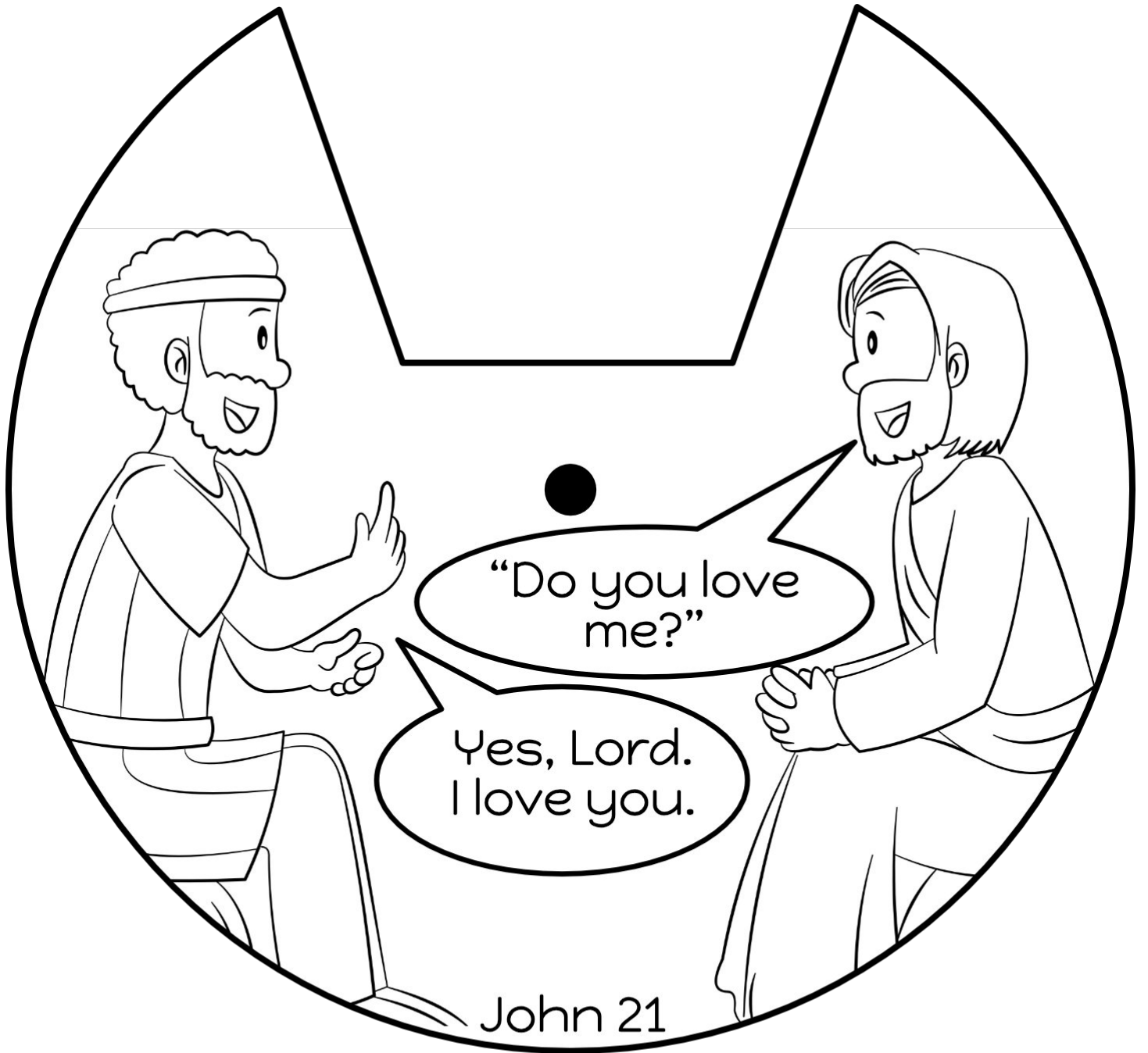
Colour the template pages.

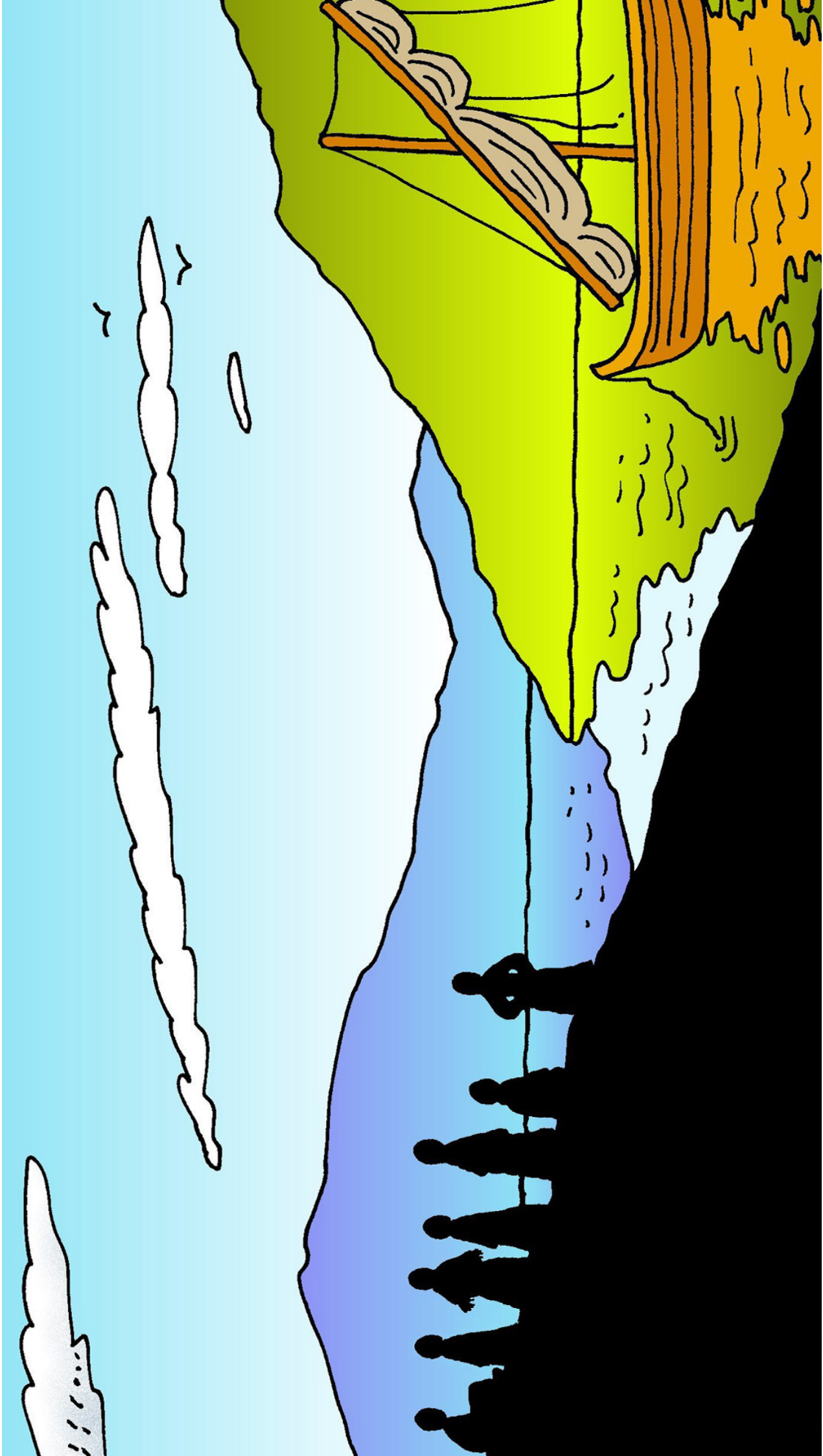


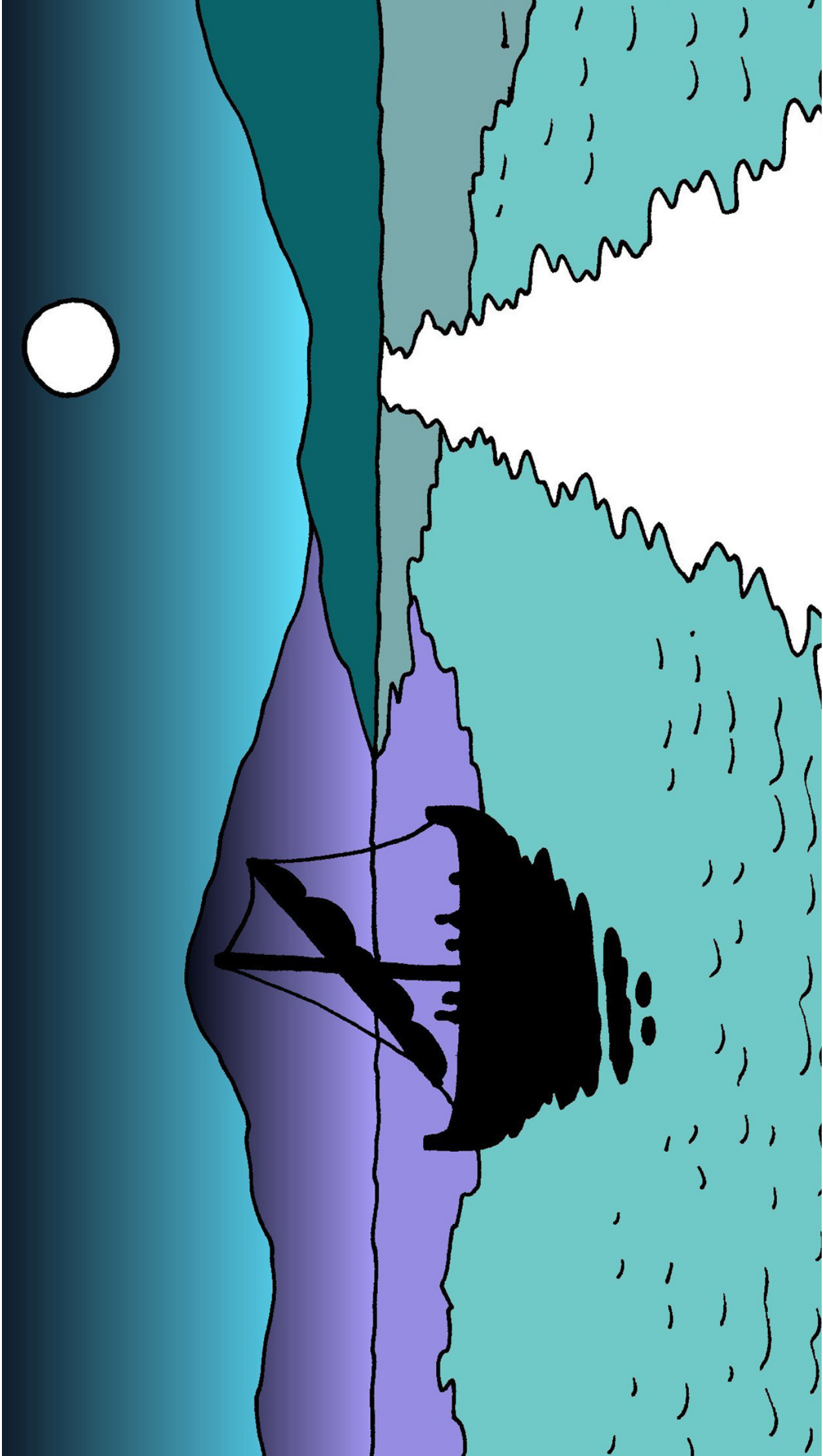
Cut out the circles.

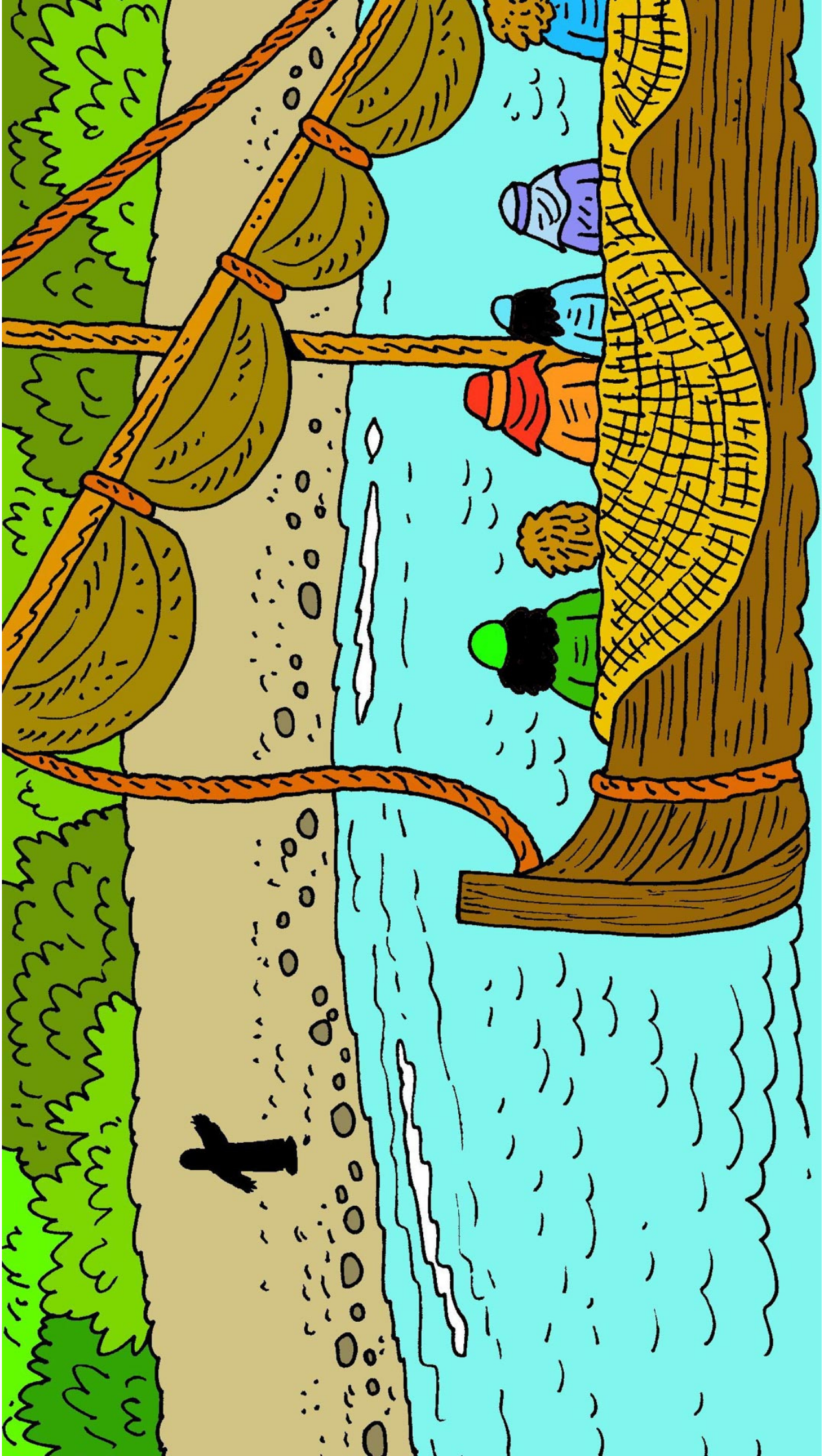


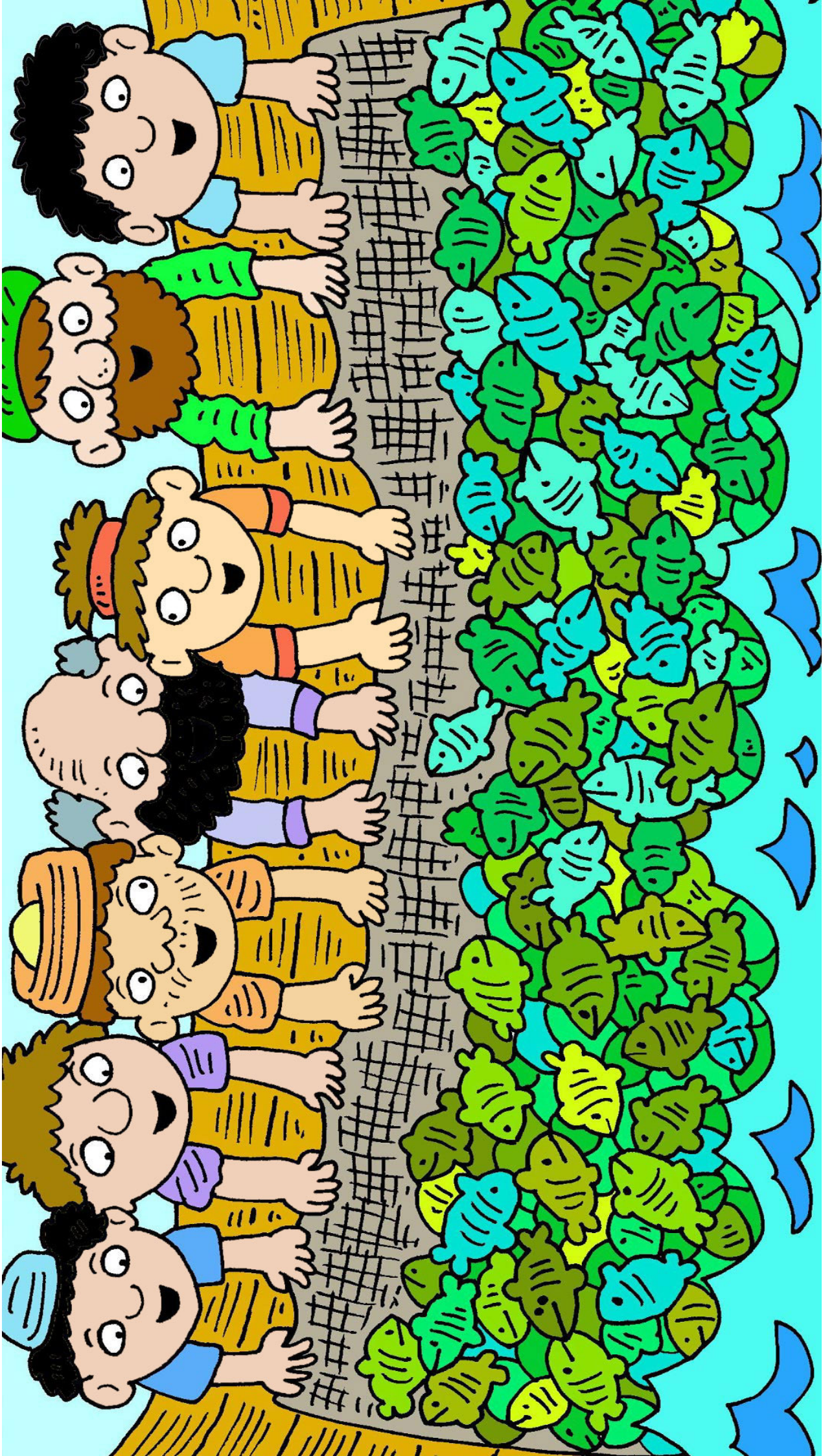
Fix together where shown with a split pin.

















Easter Lessons

Jesus goes to Heaven

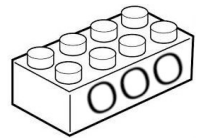
Lesson 9

All Ages

Aim: To teach the children that 40 days after His resurrection Jesus went up to Heaven to be at the right hand of Father God and intercede on our behalf.

Bible: Acts 1:1-11 Romans 8:34

Let's Move



Let's Move Activity 1 (All)

Need:
40 second timer

Do: Think of activities that the children can do 40 of. The number of activities that you choose depends on how long you want to spend on this activity, and the energy level of the children.

Say: Who thinks that they would be able to hold their breath for 40 seconds? Let's try. Watch the timer counting down the seconds. Take a deep breath in and hold.

- * Who thinks that they will be able to run on the spot for 40 seconds?
- * Who thinks that they can do 40 push-ups?
- * Who thinks that they can clap 40 times?
- * Who thinks that they can jump on the spot 40 times?
- * Who thinks that they can not smile for 40 seconds? (*While the children are doing this, make faces at them and try to get them to smile*)

The number 40 comes up in today's Bible story. Listen carefully and see if you can figure out where.

Let's Move Activity 2 (All)

Need:
Long rope or
tape to make a
starting line

Do: Use rope or tape to make a line for everyone to start behind. You are going to play KING, a stop and go game. You need a large area to play - preferably more than 6 meters. If you have a smaller space, make the movements that the children are allowed to do very small - eg move their feet from heel to toe instead of walking fast or running.

Say: We are going to play a game called KING (say the letter names Kay, Eye, En, Gee). I am going to choose one person to be the king. They will stand at one end of the hall. Everyone else will line up at the other end of the hall, behind the line. The King will face away from everyone else and say: "KING spells King" in a loud voice. While the king is speaking, everyone else moves towards him/her. When the king turns around everyone has to freeze. You may only move by taking short little steps. No running allowed! When the king is finished speaking, they will turn around and try to see who is moving. Anyone who is spotted moving by the king has to go back to the starting line.

Let's Move Activity 3 (All)

Need:
Object to hide

Do: Depending on the age of your group, and the size of your room, choose the size of your object to hide. Older children should be able to find something very small. Younger children will need something that is a bit easier to see. Give different children a chance to hide the object. Play for as long as your time allows.

Say: Who of you are good at finding things? I am going to ask all of you to close your eyes and then I am going to hide this object (show object) somewhere in this room. I will choose someone to try to find the object. (Depending on how many children you have, let all of them hunt to find the object, or choose a few to hunt. You could also give different children a chance to say where they think the object is, instead of moving around.)

Well done! Who would like to hide the object next?

Older children

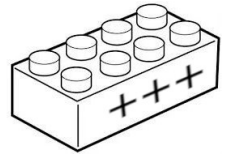
When the object was hidden, we could not see it. Was the object lost? No, just hidden.

Just because we couldn't see it, did it mean that it wasn't there? No. The object was still there.

In today's Bible story Jesus is with the disciples, and then He gets hidden by a cloud. Now Jesus is 'hidden' in Heaven. Just because we can't see Jesus with our eyes, it doesn't mean that He is not here.

Let's Listen

Let's Listen Activity 1 (Younger)



Need:
Pictures

Do: Print out the pictures and the story planner. Read through the story several times so that you can make lots of eye contact while telling/reading the story and showing the pictures.

Say: A few weeks ago was Easter. Who can remember what we celebrate at Easter? We remember that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and that He came back to life after three days. We heard stories about how He visited different disciples. Today's Bible story happened 40 days after Jesus came back to life. Let's listen carefully to the story.

Use the story planner and pictures to tell the story.

Let's Listen Activity 2 (Older)

Need:
PPT slides
Multi media

Do: Download the slides or print them out as pictures. Download at freebibleimages.org. Look for Jesus ascends to Heaven story. Read through the story several times so that you know the story well and can tell it instead of read it.

Say: What special holiday did we celebrate a few weeks ago? What do we celebrate at Easter time? We remember that Jesus died for our sins, and then rose again after three days. How do we know that He rose again? *Several people saw Him.* Can you remember the stories about people who

saw Him? How did they know that it was Jesus? How did they know that they were seeing a real person, and not a ghost?

Today's story happens 40 days after Jesus rose from the dead.

Use the story planner and slides/pictures to tell the story.

Let's Listen Activity 3 (Older)

| |
|---|
| Need: Bibles Whiteboard or notepaper and pens |
|---|

Do: Give different children a chance to read from the Bible.

You may have to ask questions to help the children think of things to put on the list of things that happened. If you need to explain anything in more detail, bibleref.com is a helpful resource..

Say: What special holiday did we celebrate a few weeks ago? What do we celebrate at Easter time? We remember that Jesus died for our sins, and then rose again after three days. How do we know that He rose again? *Several people saw Him.* Can you remember the stories about people who saw Him? How did they know that it was Jesus? How did they know that they were seeing a real person, and not a ghost? Today's story happens 40 days after Jesus rose from the dead. Open your Bibles at Acts 1. We are going to read Acts 1:3-12. Who would like to read?

There is a lot of information in those 9 verses! Let's make a list of all the things that happened.

- ▶ Jesus showed Himself to lots of people to prove that He was alive
- ▶ Jesus spent time teaching the disciples about the Kingdom of God.
- ▶ He told them to not leave Jerusalem, but wait to receive the Holy Spirit baptism.
- ▶ The disciples asked Jesus whether He was going to make the nation of Israel great again.
- ▶ Jesus explained that when they received the Holy Spirit they will receive power to tell everyone about Him.
- ▶ Then Jesus was lifted into the sky, and hidden by a cloud
- ▶ Two angels asked them why they were looking at the sky
- ▶ They told them that Jesus would come back again in the same way.
- ▶ The disciples walked back to Jerusalem

Let's Listen Activity 4 (All)

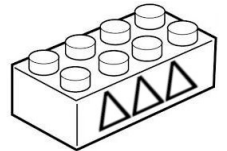
Need:
YouTube video
Multi-media

Do: Download the video Jesus goes to Heaven by Saddleback Kids from YouTube. Play the video for the children. Discuss the story afterwards.



Say: What special holiday did we celebrate a few weeks ago? What do we celebrate at Easter time? We remember that Jesus died for our sins, and then rose again after three days. How do we know that He rose again? *Several people saw Him.* Can you remember the stories about people who saw Him? How did they know that it was Jesus? How did they know that they were seeing a real person, and not a ghost? Today's story happens 40 days after Jesus rose from the dead.

Let's Do



Let's Do Activity 1 (Younger)

Need:
Worksheets
Pencil crayons

Do: Hand out the worksheets and help where necessary.

Say: I am going to give each of you a picture of today's story. You need to finish the picture by following the numbers and joining the dots. Then colour the picture in.

Let's Do Activity 2 (Younger)

Need:
Worksheets
Scissors
Pencil crayons

Do: Make copies of the worksheet for each child onto card. Consider cutting out the different pieces for younger children. Ask the children to colour the different pieces of the worksheet in. Help them to glue Jesus to the cloud, and fold the bottom clouds for

Jesus to stand in.

Say: We are going to make a picture of Jesus in the clouds. I am going to give you a worksheet. On the worksheet is Jesus. The other two shapes are clouds. I want you to colour it in. Then you need to cut the three pictures out. Glue Jesus to the big cloud. Fold the little cloud on the dotted lines. Cut along the short dotted lines (*younger children will need this done for them, or close supervision while they do it*). Place Jesus on the little cloud. The little picture at the bottom right hand corner shows you what your picture should look like when it is finished.

Let's Do Activity 3 (Grade 1- 4)

Need:
Worksheet
A6 white card
Scissors
Split pins

Do: Print worksheets for each child. Each child also needs an A6 piece of white card to cut into a cloud and a split pin (brad pin) to attach the cloud to the picture. If you want to, you can glue cotton wool to the clouds. It will be really helpful to make an example to show the children.

Say: We are going to make a picture of today's Bible story. I am going to give each of you a worksheet. Please colour the worksheet in. I'm also going to give you a small piece of white cardboard. You need to cut the cardboard into a cloud shape, BUT you need to make sure that your cloud will cover Jesus. Once you've cut out your cloud and coloured in the picture, you can use the split pin to attach your cloud to the picture. Use your picture to tell your family today's Bible story.

Let's Do Activity 4

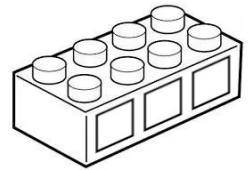
Need:
Helium balloon/s
A6 pieces of
paper
Stapler

Do: Bring one or more helium balloons on a long ribbon to class. Give each child a piece of paper to write a message on. Staple the messages to the ribbon on the balloon. Alternatively, if you have enough balloons, the children could write messages onto the balloons.

Say: I've brought a helium balloon for us to release up into the sky. We can watch it go up, but we won't know where it lands. I'm going to give you

each a piece of paper that will be attached to the ribbon of the balloon. You need to write an encouraging message about Jesus, or a Bible verse, on your piece of paper. Make sure that it is encouraging. Imagine what a lovely surprise it will be for the person finding the balloon.

Let's Chat



Let's Chat Activity 1 (Younger)

Need:
Picture from Let's
Listen activity 1

Do: If you didn't do Let's Listen Activity 1, just use a picture from a children's Bible to focus the children's attention. Then ask the questions and pray.

Say: In today's Bible story the disciples saw something impossible! Who can remember what they saw? They saw Jesus float up into the sky! Where was Jesus going? Does anyone know?

The Bible says in Romans 8:34 that Jesus is sitting at the right hand of Father God in Heaven.

What do you think they are doing in Heaven? The same verse tells us that Jesus is talking to God about us. Jesus is reminding God that His blood paid for all our sins so that we can be part of God's family. We have been forgiven. Nobody can tell us that we are not forgiven and that we can't be part of God's family.

Let's say thank you to Jesus. Repeat after me.

Lord Jesus

Thank You

for loving me.

Thank You

for forgiving me

and making me

Your child.

Amen.

Let's Chat Activity 2 (Older)

Need:
Bibles
YouTube clip

Do: Download the YouTube short called Hero Dog saves child in daring rescue. Alternatively, find something more suitable, showing animals watching over or rescuing children. Hand out the Bibles.

Say: What do you think that Jesus is doing in Heaven right now? Would anyone like to have a guess? Let's see what the Bible has to say.

Let's look up Hebrews 10:12. (*But after Christ offered one sacrifice for sins, forever, he sat down at the right side of God.*)

What does it say about where Jesus is now? Yes, Jesus is seated at the right hand of God.

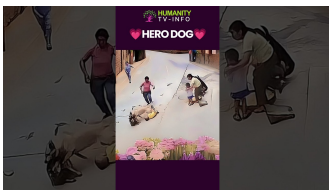
What do you think Jesus is doing? How does He spend His time? Let's see what the Bible has to say.

Let's look up Romans 8:34 (*Who can say God's people are guilty? No one, because Christ Jesus died, but he was also raised from the dead, and now he is on God's right side, appealing to God for us.*)

What is Jesus doing while He is sitting next to God?

Yes, He is speaking to God about us. If anyone tells God that we are not good enough because of our sin, Jesus reminds God that He died for that sin.

Jesus watches over us, not in a creepy way, waiting to catch us out doing something wrong, but watching out for us so that He can take care of us. Let's watch this YouTube short together.



How did the second dog know that the little child was in trouble? He was obviously watching her, or watching the first dog. In the same way Jesus is watching over us, making sure that we are safe and kept from harm.

Let's spend some time thanking Jesus for watching over us. We will go around the circle and everyone will have a chance to pray. If you don't want to pray, tap the person next to you on their shoulder.



The images in this Bible story can be downloaded absolutely free from www.freebibleimages.org in PowerPoint, Keynote, JPEG or PDF formats. This Story Planner shows what is happening in each scene. Read the account from the Bible and then plan how you will tell the story. There is a space for your notes. You can delete any images/slides you don't require and add your own as needed.

| Description | Image | My notes |
|-------------|-------|----------|
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- 1 In the Bible, in the book of Acts, we are told what happened to Jesus after God had raised Him from the dead.



- 2 Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead it was time for Him to go back to His Father in heaven.



- 3 He and His disciples climbed up the Mount of Olives.



-
- 4 Jesus told them to go to Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit to come and give them power. Then they were to tell other people, everywhere, all they had seen Him do.



-
- 5 And while His friends were standing there, on top of the hill, Jesus went straight up into heaven, in a cloud.



-
- 6 The disciples were so surprised and stood looking up into the sky. They had seen Jesus go up into heaven with their very own eyes!



-
- 7 Then two angels appeared and said, 'One day Jesus will come back again exactly the same way you have just seen Him go up to heaven.'



-
- 8 The disciples went straight back to Jerusalem, to wait for the Holy Spirit to come. Then they began to tell people everywhere the good news about Jesus.



9 The Bible tells us that one day Jesus will come back and His kingdom will be on this earth. I believe in Jesus too!



10



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Jesus went back to heaven

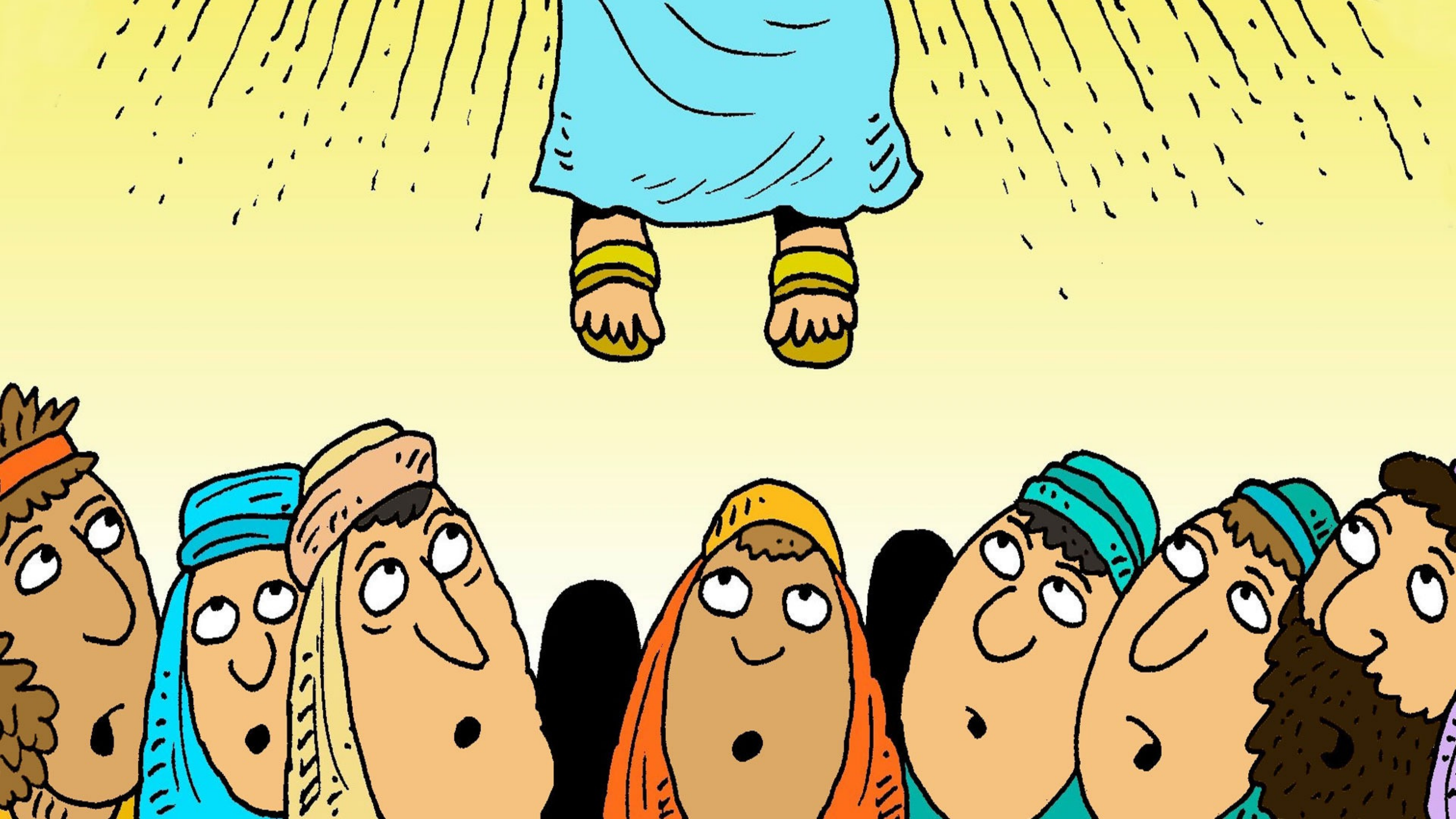
Acts 1:3-12









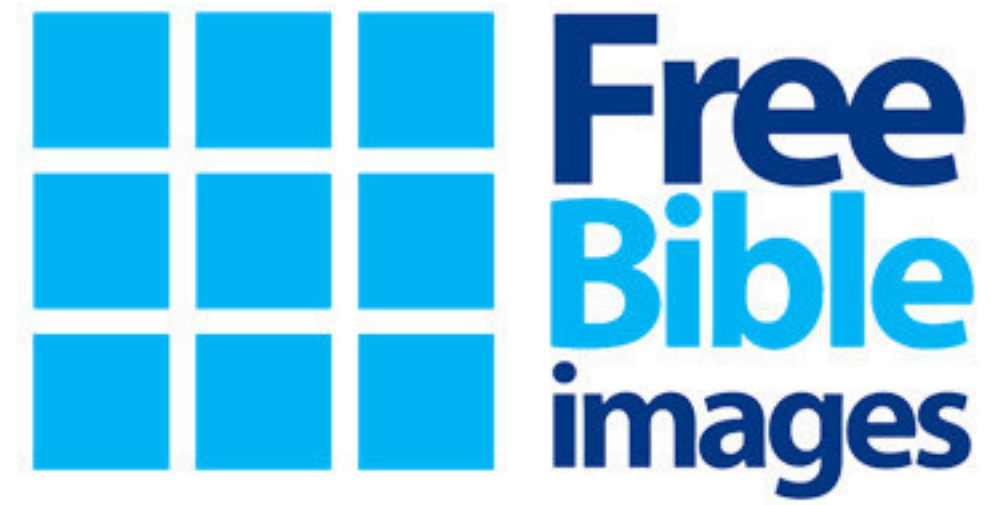












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| Description | Image | My notes |
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- 1 Most people believe it was Luke who wrote the book of Acts. It was a letter to his friend Theophilus. He writes, 'In my first letter I told you about Jesus' life and teachings and how he returned to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions from the Holy Spirit.'



- 2 After Jesus was crucified, He rose from the dead.



- 3 For 40 days He appeared from time to time to the apostles.



-
- 4 Jesus proved to them in many ways that it really was Him they were seeing and He was alive.



-
- 5 On these occasions He talked to them about the Kingdom of God.



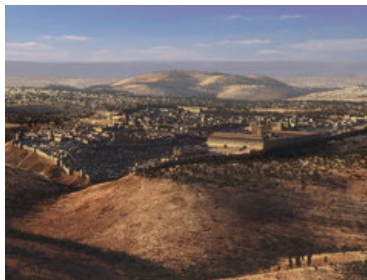
-
- 6 During one of these meetings He told them not to leave Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came upon them. This was to fulfil God's promise, a matter He had previously discussed with them.



-
- 7 'John baptised you with water,' Jesus reminded them, 'but you shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit in just a few days.'



-
- 8 One day Jesus and His disciples travelled to the Mount of Olives, just outside Jerusalem.



-
- 9 They asked him, 'Lord, are you going to free Israel from Rome now and restore us as an independent nation?'



-
- 10 The Father sets those dates,' Jesus replied, 'and they are not for you to know.'



-
- 11 But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power to testify about me with great effect, to the people in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth, about my death and resurrection."



-
- 12 Soon afterwards, Jesus rose into the sky and disappeared into a cloud, leaving them staring after him.



-
- 13 As they were straining their eyes for another glimpse, suddenly two white-robed men were standing there among them.



14 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why are you standing here staring at the sky? Jesus has gone away to heaven, and some day, just as He went, He will return!'



15 The disciples walked the short journey back to Jerusalem and held a prayer meeting in an upstairs room of the house where they were staying.



16 At the prayer meeting were Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon the zealot, Judas (son of James), and the brothers of Jesus. Several women, including Jesus' mother, were also there.



17

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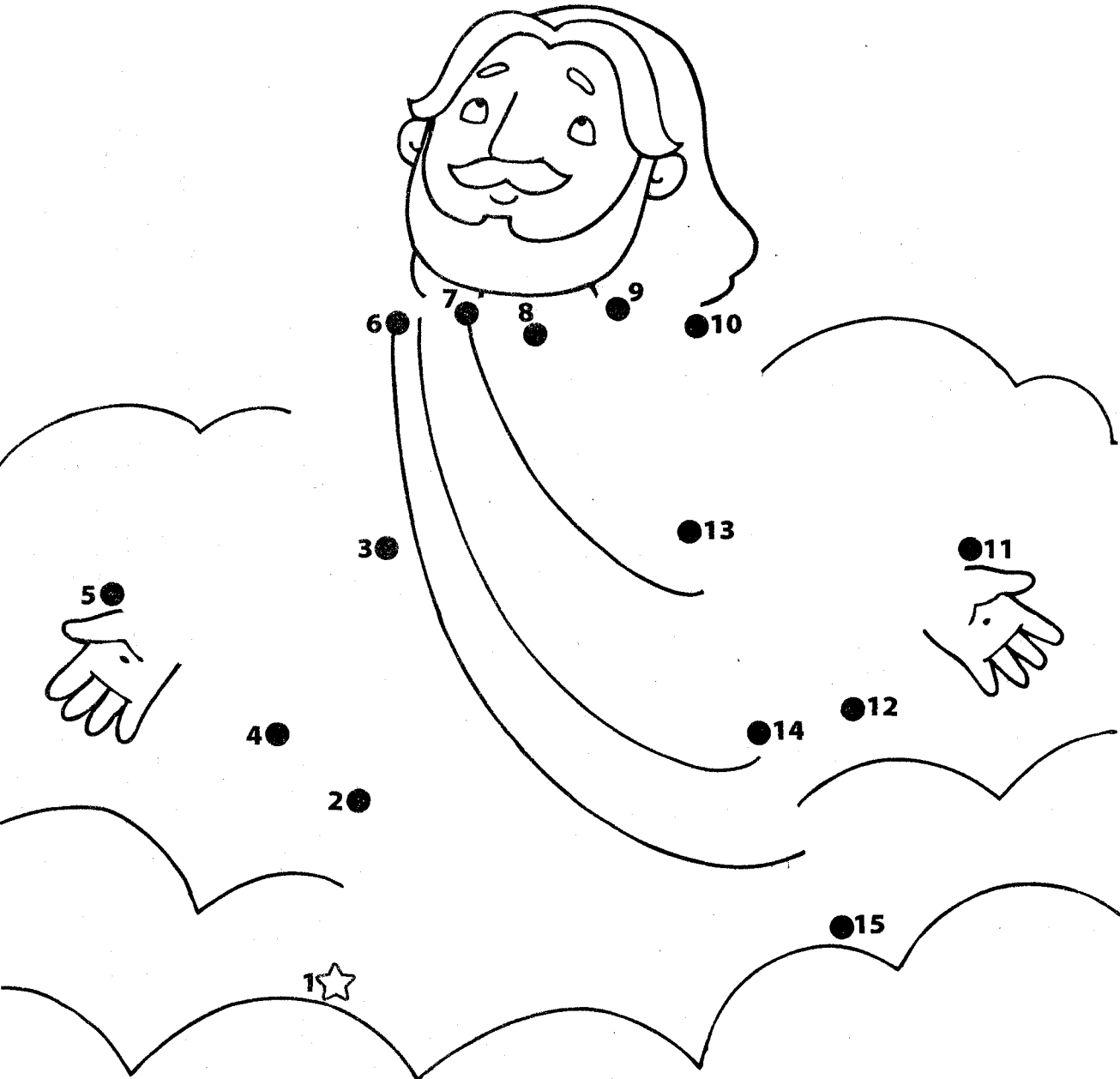
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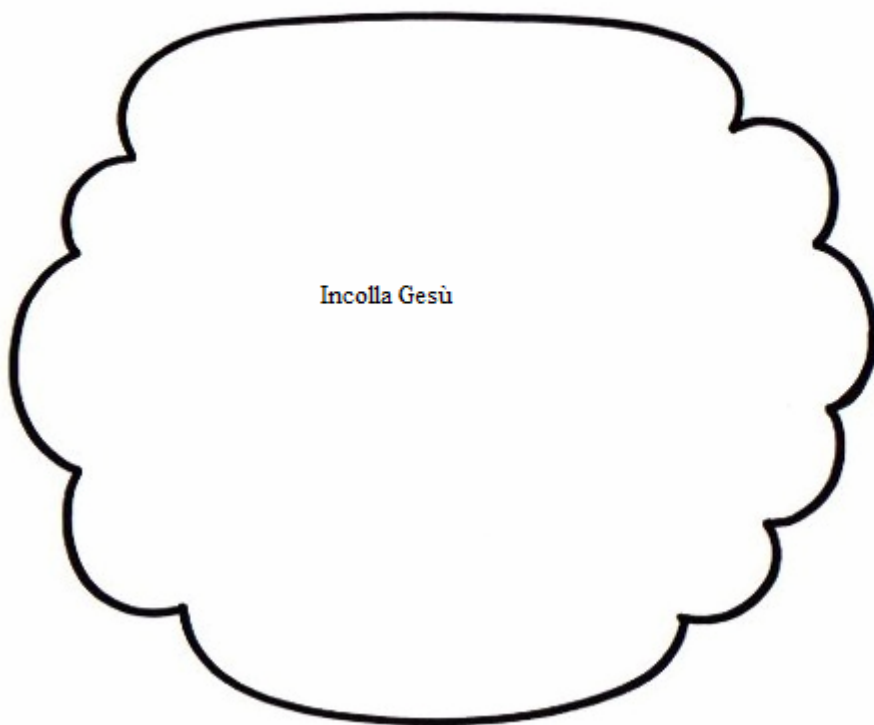
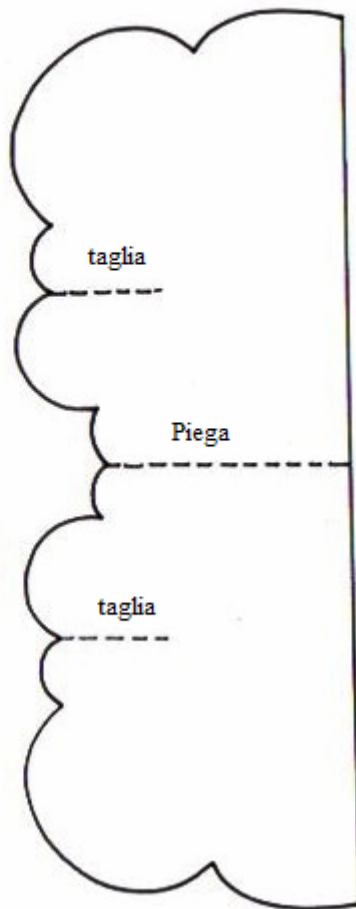
MATTHEW MARK LUKE JOHN

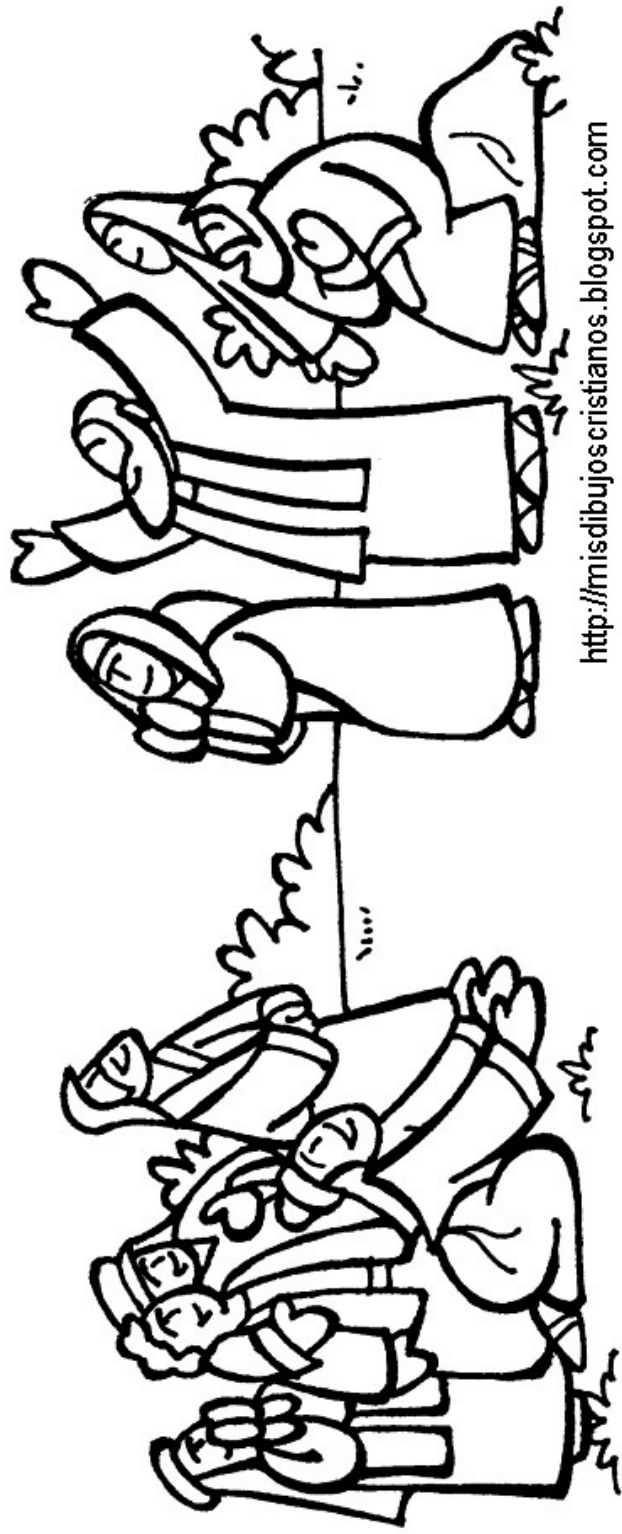
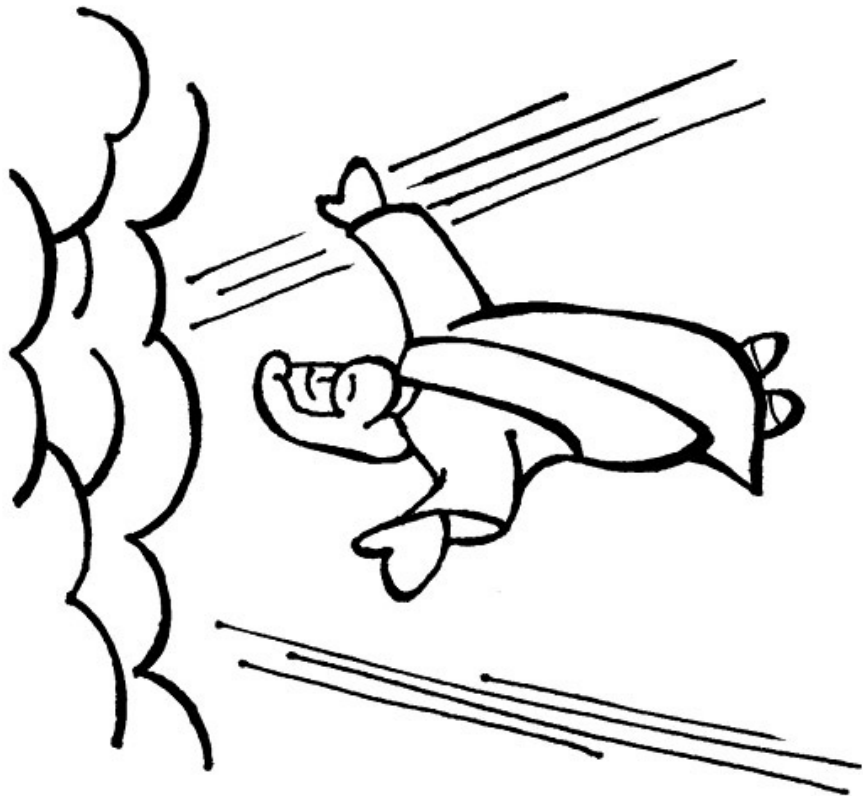
Going to Heaven

Who was taken up to heaven
in Luke 24:51?

Connect the dots ● 1-15. Color  the picture.







Easter Lessons

Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost

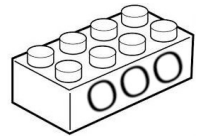
Lesson 10

All Ages

Aim: To teach the children why we celebrate Pentecost. Jesus gave the disciples the great commission, and He promised them that God would send Holy Spirit to give them power and be their Helper.

Bible: Matthew 28:19-20 Luke 24:44-53 John 15:26-27 John 16:7
Acts 1:1-5,8-14 Acts 2

Let's Move



Let's Move Activity 1 (All)

Need:
A few different
colour balloons

Do: Decide how many teams you'll divide your group into, and have a different colour balloon for each team. Have an extra balloon for emergencies. Blow up the balloons before the time. The children need to keep the balloons in the air only by blowing.

Say: In today's Bible story there is a big wind that blows. I wonder how hard you can blow? I am going to divide you into teams. Each team will get a different colour balloon. You need to work together to keep the balloon in the air, using only your breath. No hands or feet! Only blowing. Let's see which team manages to keep their balloon in the air for the longest time.

Let's Move Activity 2 (Older)

Need:
Balloon for each
child
Tape for starting
line

Do: Use the tape to make a starting line and a finishing line. Have a balloon for each child and a few extra. The children have to be able to blow up the balloon themselves.

Say: We are going to play a game. Each of you will get a balloon. The aim is to see who can get their balloon from the starting line to the finishing line first. You need to stand behind the starting line, blow up your balloon, and then let it go. Watch for where it lands, and then go and stand there. Blow up your balloon again, let it go, and see where it lands. Repeat until you get your balloon over the line. Let's see who can get their balloon over the line first.

Let's Move Activity 3 (Grade 1-7)

Need:
Whiteboard or
large paper
Pictures printed

Do: This game is based on 'Hangman'. Before the time, print the pictures of the ladder, cell phone and a glass of water. Colour the glass in blue, as if it has water in it. Cut them out and place the ladder above the glass and the cell phone above the ladder. For every wrong answer, move the cell phone one step down the ladder, closer to the water. Prepare a large piece of paper or a whiteboard, and draw 5 lines next to each other. The lines are for the letters P O W E R. Make sure there is space on the whiteboard/paper to write down all the incorrect letters that they guess.

Say: What happens when a cell phone gets wet? Can it still work? We are going to play a game. You need to make sure that this cell phone (*point to picture*) does not land up in this water (*point to picture*).

I am thinking of a word that has five letters. If you guess a letter that is correct, I will write it on one of these lines. If the letter that you guess is not correct, then the cell phone moves one step closer to the water. You need to guess all five letters before the cell phone hits the water.

Answer: POWER.

Well done everyone! Today we are going to be talking about power. What does the word power mean?

Electricity – most of us know what it feels like when the power goes off! We have to use batteries or gas. That is one kind of power.

Muscles – having a powerful body that can push or lift heavy things is another sort of power,

Influence – when you are in charge of something or someone you have power – your parents or principal can tell you what to do and you have to obey them. Today we are going to talk about God's power.

Let's Move Activity 4 (All)

Need:
Large table
(trestle works
well)
Cotton wool balls

Do: Two children at a time will compete with each other. They need to blow the cotton wool ball to the other side of the table. Put the cotton wool balls at one end of the table, in front of where the child is standing. Explain that they may walk down the side of the table to blow the cotton wool ball. Show each child which side is theirs. Continue to play until everyone has had a chance.

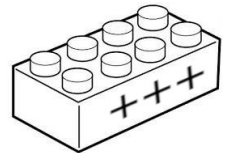
Say: In today's Bible story there is a big wind that blows. I wonder how hard you can blow? We are going to have a cotton ball race. Two of you will stand at one end of the table. I am going to put a cottonwool ball in front of each of you. When I say "GO" you need to blow the cotton wool ball as hard as you can. Keep blowing until it falls off the other end of the table (not the side of the table). You may move down the side of the table to blow your cotton wool ball. The first one to get their cotton wool ball off the other end of the table is the winner.

Let's Listen

Let's Listen Activity 1 (All)

Need:
Disciple dress up
clothes
Children's Bible
or pictures

Do: Dress up as a disciple to tell this story. Make sure that you know the story well. If you want to, you could use pictures from a children's Bible or source pictures from freebibleimages.org and tell the children that it is 'photos' from the day. If you're going to be the disciple, get someone else to do the first few lines of the lesson and then 'introduce' you.



Say: Last week we heard about how Jesus went to Heaven on a cloud. Just before He went to Heaven, He gave the disciples a very important job to do. It is called the Great Commission, which is just a fancy name for important job. Let's read it from Matthew 28:19-20

"So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am

always with you, to the very end.” Today I want to introduce you to someone who was actually there!

Hello everyone. My name is James. My brother’s name is Peter. We were both followers of Jesus. People called us His disciples. We spent three years with Jesus. It was awesome! We saw so many amazing things. Sometimes I felt as if my eyes would pop out of my head with all the miracles that Jesus did!

We were so sad when Jesus told us that He was leaving us to go back to Heaven to be with Father God. But then He told us that He would send us a Helper, who would be with us always. The Helper is called Holy Spirit, and He would also give us power. It is kind of cool, because Holy Spirit can be everywhere at once! Even different sides of the world. Jesus couldn’t do that when He was here on earth!

Sjoe, the disciples were so sad when Jesus left. He told us to go to Jerusalem and wait there for the gift that was coming. All of us were staying together in a house. There was a big room upstairs, where lots of us would get together and pray and sing and wait on God.

It was a special holiday in Jerusalem, so there were lots and lots of Jewish people from all over, visiting the Temple, which is what they called their special church building. Many people spoke different languages, because they were from different countries.

We had been waiting for quite a few days, spending lots of time praying and worshipping and waiting on God. One morning, as we were praying, all of a sudden there was the sound of a very strong wind. The noise filled the whole house. It was so loud that the people visiting Jerusalem came to see what was going on.

Then we saw the strangest thing – it looked as if flames of fire standing on top of each other’s heads. It didn’t burn us or anything. We knew that this must be the special gift that God had been talking about. God was sending His Holy Spirit down from Heaven to live inside of each one of us. It was so cool.

After that, all of us started talking in different languages, even though we had never learnt how to speak the language! The Holy Spirit was giving us power to speak new languages!

The people in Jerusalem who had come to see what the noise was about were amazed, because they could understand what we were saying. We were speaking their languages and telling about all the great things that Jesus had done!

Holy Spirit gave us power to tell others about Jesus, and He made us brave enough to do it! My brother, Peter, the one who said three times that He didn't know Jesus, was the bravest of all. He got up to speak in front of thousands of people, and told them all about Jesus, and why Jesus had to die, and how they can choose to follow Him and be forgiven of their sins. It was amazing! That day, 3 000 people became followers of Jesus!

Children, I need to go now, but I want you to remember that Holy Spirit wasn't just for us who lived back when the Bible was written. The Bible says that Holy Spirit comes and lives with every single person who decides to follow Jesus and become part of God's family. So if you're a Jesus follower, you have Holy Spirit living inside of you, and He will help you and teach you and give you power to do the things that Jesus wants you to do. He will give you power to tell others about Jesus, not only with your words, but with the way you live your life too.

See you in heaven!

Let's Listen Activity 2 (ALL)

| |
|----------------------|
| Need: Noise maker |
|----------------------|

Do: Use the noise maker to get the children's attention if necessary.

Say: Pentecost is a special day for Christians. It is the day that we remember when God sent Holy Spirit to live with people for the first time. It is celebrated 50 days after Jesus rose from the dead.

It was ten days since Jesus had left on a cloud to go to Heaven. Before Jesus left, He told the disciples that their job was to tell everyone, in all the earth, all about Jesus and how to follow Him.

In Matthew 28:19-20 it says: "So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end."

Jesus had promised that when He left, God would send the Helper, who would give them power to do what He was asking them to do.

The disciples were waiting together in Jerusalem, just as Jesus had told them to. They were praying and worshipping God. All of a sudden they

heard something that sounded like a strong, powerful wind. It filled the place where they were sitting.

For younger children:

I want everyone to get up as quickly as you can and pretend to be the strong, powerful wind. Run around the room as if you were that wind. Make wind sounds as you run. When you hear me clap/blow the whistle/play the tambourine I want you to come and sit in your place again.

For older children:

How do you think the disciples felt when they heard the sound?

How would you have felt?

Then Holy Spirit's power made it look like bits of fire were hovering over each person's head.

For younger children:

Find a friend as quickly as you can. Use your hands to make a 'flame' over your friend's head.

For older children:

If you had been one of the disciples, what would be going through your head right now? How would you have felt?

Then Holy Spirit filled each one of them and gave them the power to speak in languages that they had never been taught or even spoken before.

For younger and older children:

Can you say any words in a different language?

When or why do you have to be able to speak a different language? When there are people from a different country, or people who speak a different language to you.

In Jerusalem, where the disciples were, there were people from many different places, who spoke many different languages. They were there to worship in the temple for a special Jewish festival.

Between the loud wind and the disciples speaking in all the different languages, there must have been quite a lot of noise, because the Bible says that the people in the street went to see what was going on. They realised that they could understand what the disciples were saying, because they were speaking in their own language. Lots of different disciples were speaking, all in a different language. They were speaking about the great things that God had done. Holy Spirit was giving them power to do that!

Then Holy Spirit gave Peter power and he started speaking to the crowd, and telling them about how Jesus died to take away their sins. He told them that they needed to change their hearts, say sorry for their sins, and follow Jesus. Then they would also get the gift of Holy Spirit to be with them.

Holy Spirit gave the disciples power to share the good news about Jesus. The Bible says that on that day over 3 000 people started following Jesus. When we decide to follow Jesus, Holy Spirit comes to live in us and gives us power to do the things that Jesus asks us to.

Let's Listen Activity 3 (Younger)

Need:
Story planner
Pictures

Do: Download the pictures and story planner from Free Bible Images. Look for the story called The Holy Spirit Comes. Here is the link <https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/Is-pentecost/>. Use the story planner and pictures to tell the story.

Say: Before Jesus went back to Heaven, He gave His disciples a very special job to do. He said that they had to go all over the world and tell everyone that they met all about Jesus. They had to teach the people how much Jesus loved them and how He had died to take away their sins so that they could be part of God's family again. But He also promised His friends/disciples that He would ask God to send a special Gift. It would be Someone who would always be with them, and would help them to be brave and do what Jesus told them to do.

Jesus' friends were very sad when He left to go to Heaven, but they were very excited to get the special Gift.

Let's listen to this story from the Bible to hear what happened next.

Let's Listen Activity 4 (Preschool and older) It would be a great idea to use this activity as a recap of one of the other activities in this section. In other words, use this activity and another one in the Let's Listen section.

Need:
YouTube video
Multi-media
player

Do: Download the video from YouTube. Look for Crossroads Kids' Club

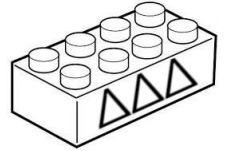


Pentecost Storytellers.

This is a great overview of the story of Pentecost.

Say: Earlier I told you about Pentecost. Let's listen to how this man explains it.

Let's Do



Let's Do Activity 1 (All)

You can find this worksheet at Trueway.com

Need:
Drawing pins
Sticks
Worksheets
Scissors
Pencil crayons

Do: The children are making a windmill. Print the worksheets. Give each child a worksheet. Help them to cut on the solid white lines. Then help them to put the drawing pin through the holes and pin it onto the stick. Use chopsticks, or buy long thin sticks from the hardware and cut them. Make a windmill to demonstrate.

Say: In today's Bible story there was the sound of a very loud wind! What happened next? Yes, there were little flames on top of everyone's heads, and they started speaking in languages they had never spoken before, telling everyone there all about Jesus!

Who of you have ever blown on a windmill? As you blow on it, it turns. The harder you blow, the faster it turns.

I am going to give each of you a worksheet. Colour in each triangle a different colour. (They can colour on the front and the back). Then cut along the dark lines. I will help you to pin your paper to the wooden stick to make the windmill.

Let's Do Activity 2

You can find this worksheet at Trueway.com

Need:
Worksheets
String/ribbon
Scissors
Pencil crayons
Stapler
Tape

Do: The children are making a Tongues of Fire mobile. Give them each the two worksheets and ask them to colour it in and cut it out. Glue the two strips together to make a ring. You could make the ring big enough to fit on their head, and then they can wear the craft

like a crown, with the flames falling down. While they are doing that, give each child nine pieces of wool. They need to tape one side of a piece of wool to a flame, and the other side to the inside of the ring. If you don't have a lot of time, consider giving the children two strips of paper to staple together for the ring, instead of having to cut it out.

Say: We are going to make a mobile of today's story. I am going to give each of you two worksheets. You need to cut out the two rectangles, and tape/staple them together to make a ring. Then you need to cut out the nine flames. Each of the flames says the name Jesus in a different language. There is a blank one for you to fill in. (*Teachers, find out which languages the children in your group speak. Add "Jesus" in any missing language to the blank flame. Jesus in isiXhosa is UYesu*) Tape the flame to one end of a piece of string, and tape the other end of the string to the inside of the ring. Now you have a mobile.

Let's Do Activity 3

You can find this worksheet at Trueway.com

Need:
Worksheets
Bibles

Do: Print the worksheet for each child, or group of children. They can do the activity alone or in pairs. You can decide whether everyone does all the questions, or whether to divide the questions up between different children/partners.

Say: I want you to find a partner. Make sure that you have a Bible between you. I'm going to give each pair a worksheet. Look up the Bible verses together, discuss the answer to the question, and then write it down. Work together. You have ten minutes to do this, and then we will discuss your answers. If you need help, put your hand up.

Let's Do Activity 4 (Grade 3-6)

You can find this worksheet at Trueway.com

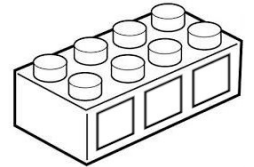
Need:
Worksheets
Pencils
Eraser

Do: Hand out the worksheets and help where necessary. Once the children have finished the word search, ask them the questions.

Say: I am going to give you a word search to do. You need to find the words as quickly as possible. You may work alone or with a partner. Now that everyone is finished, let's talk about what these words have to do with today's story.

- * Why do you think that it was important for Holy Spirit to come on the disciples in Jerusalem? (Because of the Jewish festival, Jerusalem was full of Jews from all over the world)
- * How did the Holy Spirit 'show' Himself?
- * What does repent mean? (To turn away from. To do a 180degree turn and walk in the opposite direction, away from what you were doing wrong).
- * What does the word 'baptised' have to do with the story? (Jesus said that the disciples would be baptised with the Holy Spirit.)
- * What is the Gospel? (The story of what Jesus did for us.)

Let's Chat



Let's Chat Activity 1 (Younger)

Need:
Phrases in
different
languages

Do: Prepare a few phrases that you can say in different languages.

Say: Earlier I told you a story. Let's see if you can answer my questions.

- What sound did the friends waiting in the room **hear**? (Point to ears)
- What did they **see** above each other's heads? (Point to eyes)
- What did they **feel** in their hearts? (Cover heart with hands)

In the story Holy Spirit helped Jesus' friends speak in different languages so that everyone could hear about Jesus and what He had done for them so that they could be part of God's family. Do you know any words in a language different to English? Can you say them? Who taught you to say that?

In today's story Holy Spirit gave Jesus' friends power to speak in languages that everyone in the crowd could understand. Holy Spirit wanted everyone

to know about Jesus and how much He loved them. That day many people started following Jesus.

Jesus wants us to tell others about Him too. Holy Spirit inside of us will give us power and make us brave so that we can do that.

Let's Chat Activity 2 (Older)

Need:
Beanbag

Do: Ask the question, then throw the beanbag to someone in the group. Once they have answered the question, they throw it to someone else to answer. Decide when to ask the next question. Not everyone has to answer every question. If you don't have a beanbag, use a soft toy.

Say: I have some questions that I'd like us to discuss. I'm going to ask the question, and then throw the beanbag to someone. Once you've answered, throw the beanbag to someone else so that they can answer.

- * How would you have felt if you were a disciple in the room that day?
- * Of all the things that happened, which would you have enjoyed the most, and why?
- * Of all the things that happened, which would you have enjoyed the least, and why?
- * If you could ask God a question about this story, what would it be?
- * Have you ever felt or just known that Holy Spirit is with you? Are you willing to tell us about it?

Jesus promises that everyone who believes in Him and chooses to follow Him will receive the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit comes to live inside of you the moment that you decide to follow Jesus, and He help you to do it.

Let's Chat Activity 3 (All)

Need
Quiet
instrumental
music
Journals/paper
Pens

Do: Think of a story that you can share with the children about a time where you had chose to do what Holy Spirit was telling you to do, instead of what you felt like doing. Speak about how Holy Spirit gave you the POWER to do what He was telling you to do, even though you didn't feel like doing it, or perhaps think you could do it.

Say: It is not always easy to follow Jesus. Sometimes you just want to do what you feel like doing, instead of what you know Jesus would like you to do. *(Share a story of a time when you had to choose to do what Holy Spirit was telling you to do, instead of what you wanted to do.)*

We are going to spend some time with Jesus now. I want you to fetch your journal and something to write with, and find a space where you can be alone with God and away from anybody who may distract you. *(Give the children a few minutes to settle.)* I am going to play some music. I want you to listen to the music and calm your body and your mind. Take a deep breath in, and breathe out slowly. Close your eyes and listen to my voice. *(Pause)*

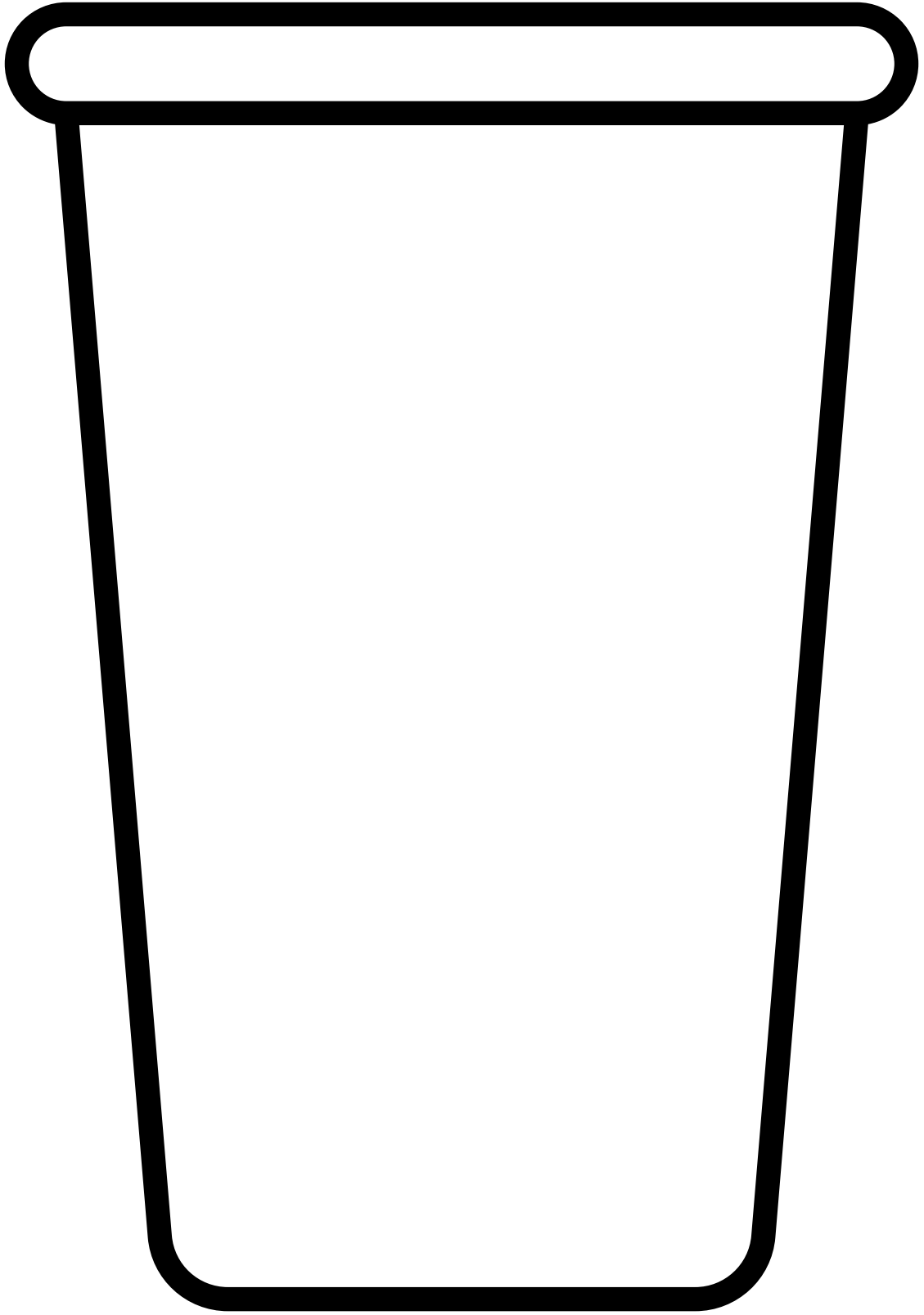
If you have decided to follow Jesus, it means that Holy Spirit lives inside of you. He gives you the power to follow Jesus and do what Jesus would do. I want you to think of a part of your life where it is difficult for you to follow Jesus. Maybe you struggle to tell the truth. Maybe you struggle to be kind to people who are unkind to you. Maybe you struggle to be self-controlled. Maybe you struggle to respect your parents. *(Pause)*.

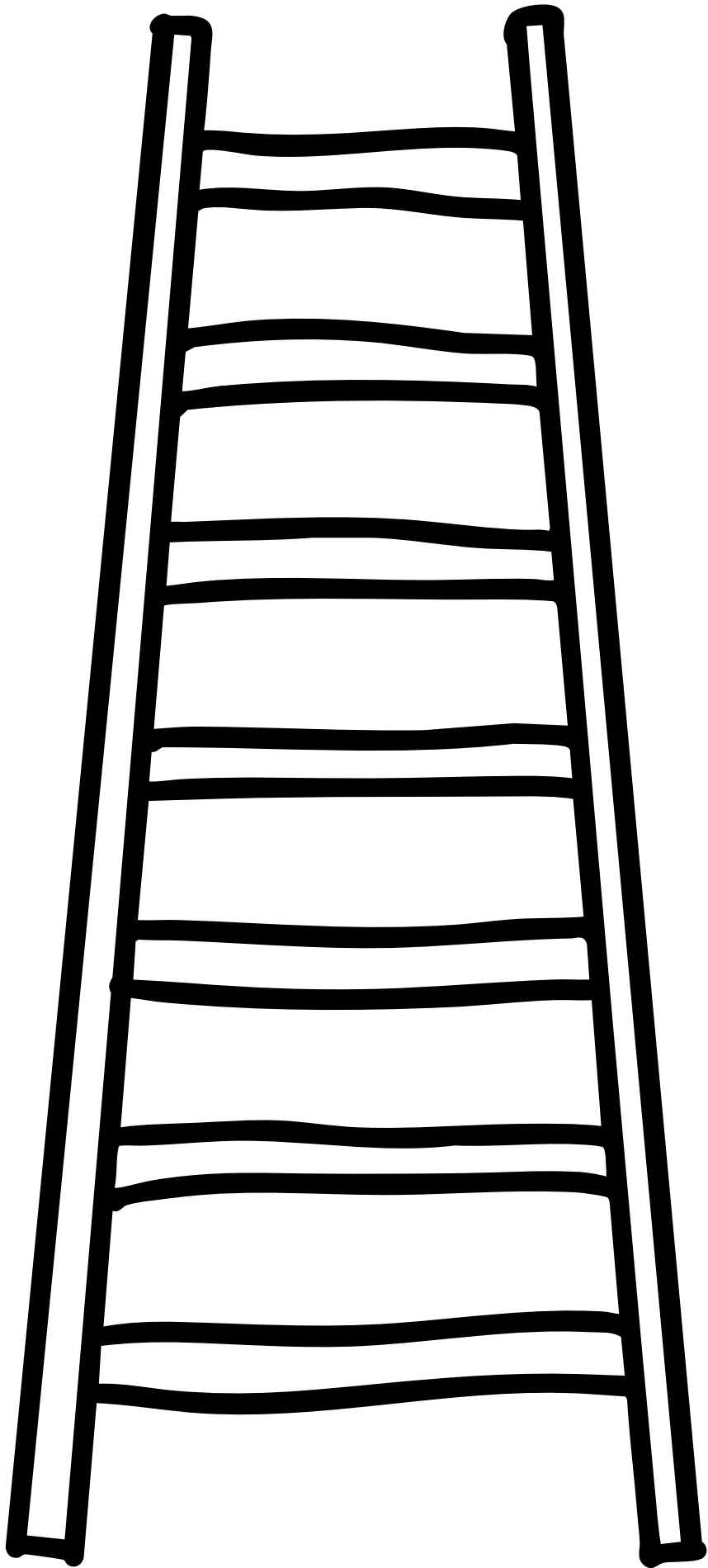
I want you to tell Jesus what you are struggling with. *(Pause)*

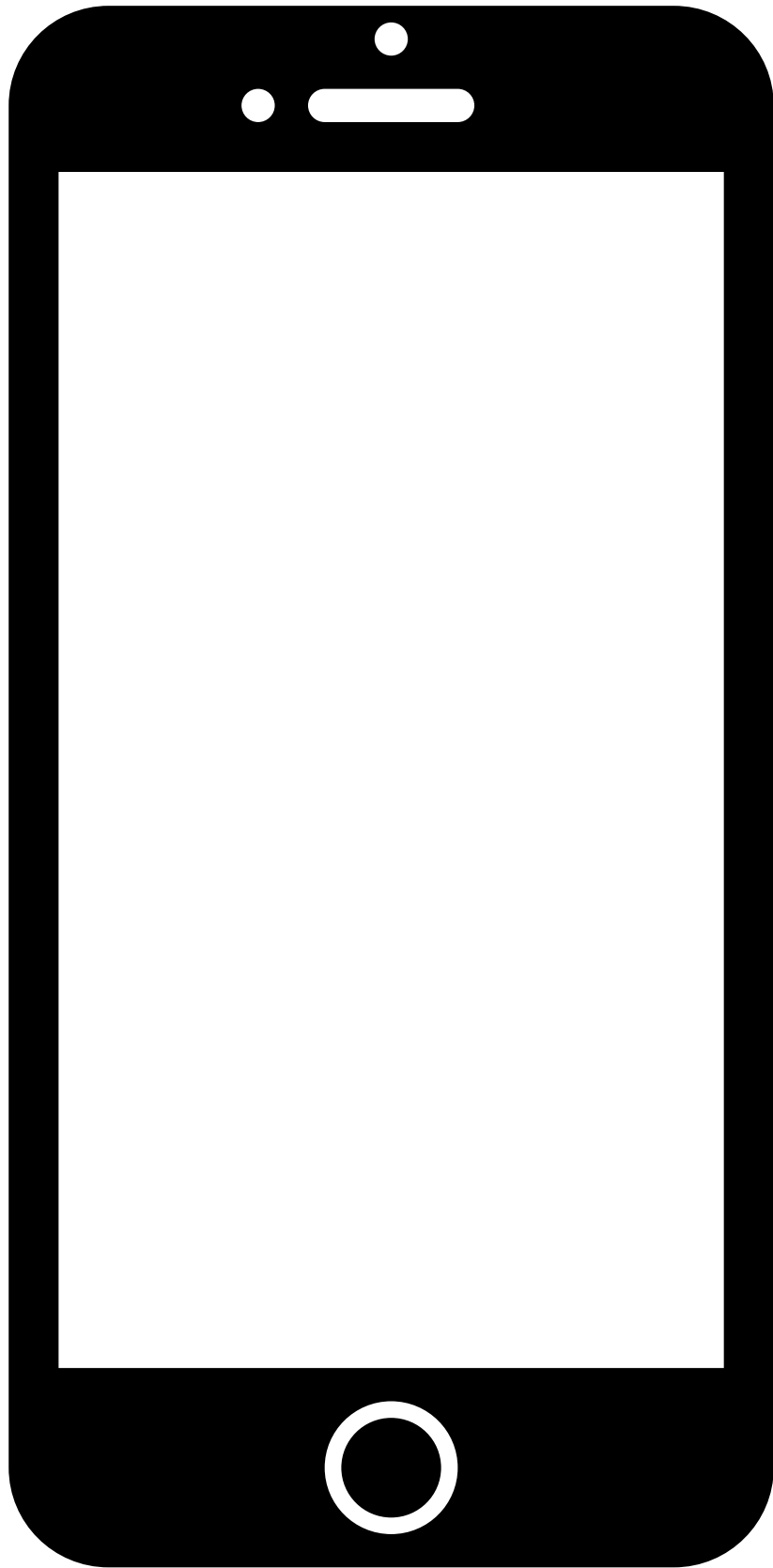
Now I want you to ask Holy Spirit to give you His power in the area that you are struggling in. Ask Holy Spirit to give you a picture of how He is filling you with His power. *(Pause)* Draw the picture or write down what He says in your journal.

Let's pray: "Holy Spirit, thank You that You are always with us. Thank You that You give us power to follow Jesus and do the things that He would do. Thank You that even when it is difficult, You are with us. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Would anyone like to share what Holy Spirit showed you about His power?





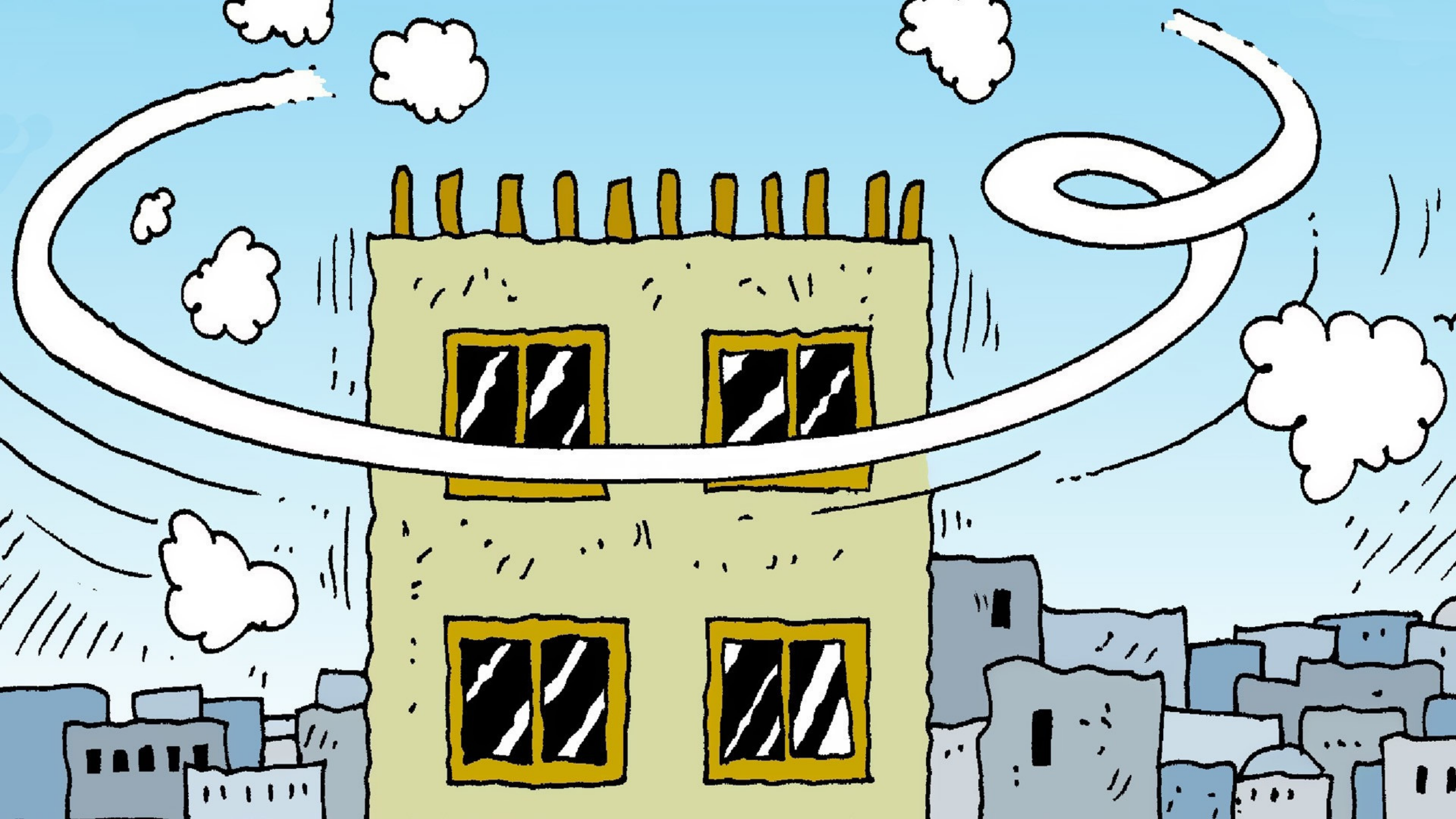




The Holy Spirit comes

Acts 2:1-13





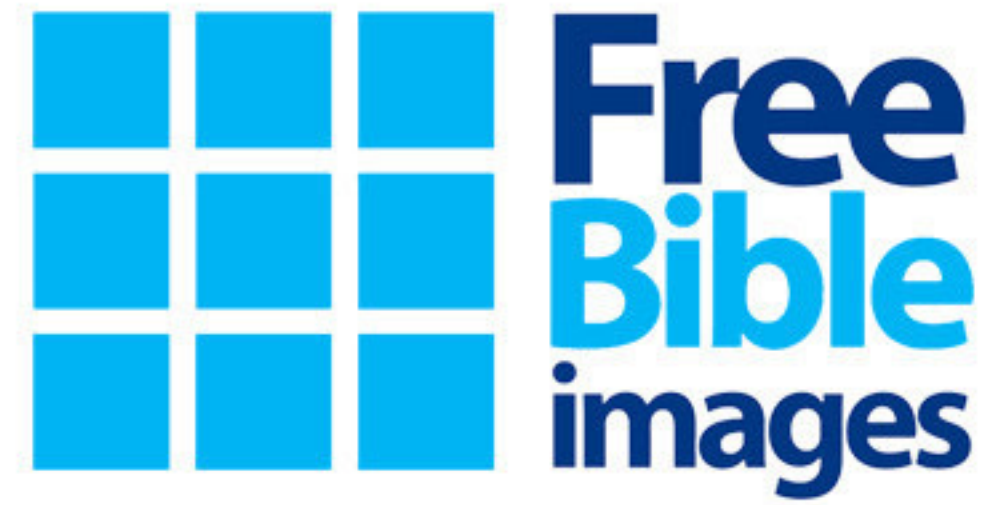












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JILL KEMP (story) & **RICHARD GUNTHER** (Illustrations)

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www.lambsongs.co.nz







The Holy Spirit comes

Acts 2:1-13



The images in this Bible story can be downloaded absolutely free from www.freebibleimages.org in PowerPoint, Keynote, JPEG or PDF formats. This Story Planner shows what is happening in each scene. Read the account from the Bible and then plan how you will tell the story. There is a space for your notes. You can delete any images/slides you don't require and add your own as needed.

| Description | Image | My notes |
|--|--|----------|
| |  <p>The Holy Spirit comes Acts 2:1-13</p> | |
| 1 After Jesus had gone up into heaven, some of His friends met together in an upstairs room of a house in Jerusalem and waited just as Jesus had said to do. |  | |
| 2 Suddenly they heard a strong wind. It shook the house where they were waiting. It was the Holy Spirit sent from God. |  | |
| 3 The power of the Holy Spirit filled them all. They saw what looked like flames flickering over their heads and it felt that God was right there with them. |  | |

-
- 4 The flames were bright and danced in the air, but did not burn them. Their hearts were full of God's love and they praised God.



-
- 5 Now Jesus' friends could speak in any language without learning it! The Holy Spirit's power made them brave too! They wanted everyone to know about Jesus!



-
- 6 They went outside and spoke to people from other countries in their own language, telling them that Jesus had risen from the dead and everyone in the crowd understood!



-
- 7 The Holy Spirit coming into their lives was the beginning of something brand new. Many people believed in Jesus and followed Him because of that day.



8



CONTINUED TO BY
JILL KEMP (story) & RICHARD GUNTHER (illustrations)

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www.freebibleimages.org

Pinwheel

The wind blew and the apostles knew that the Holy Spirit was coming.

Materials needed:

A paper pin, crayons, a wooden stick

Steps:

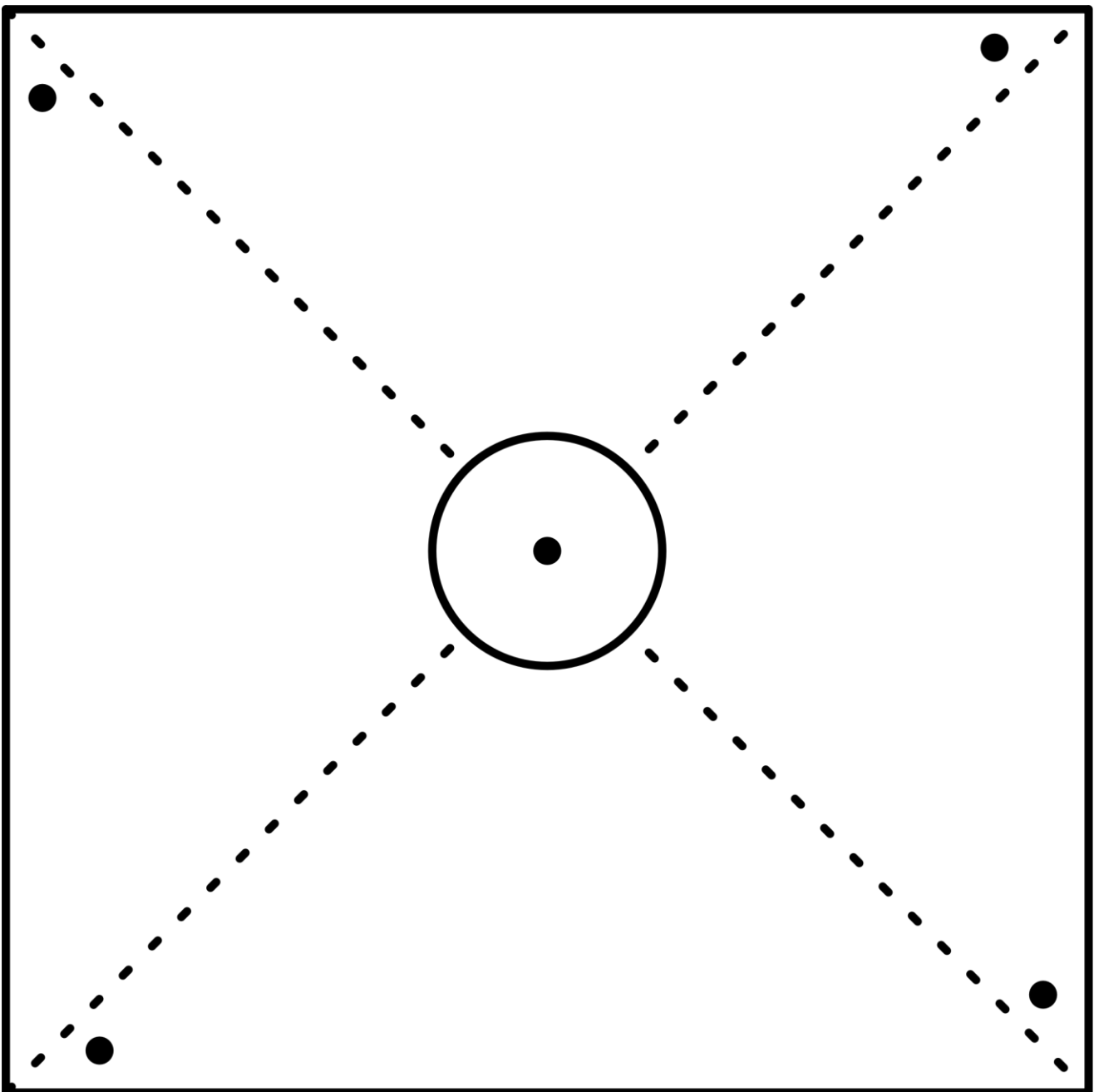
For Toddlers:

Colour both sides of the template.

Cut around outside and along dotted lines

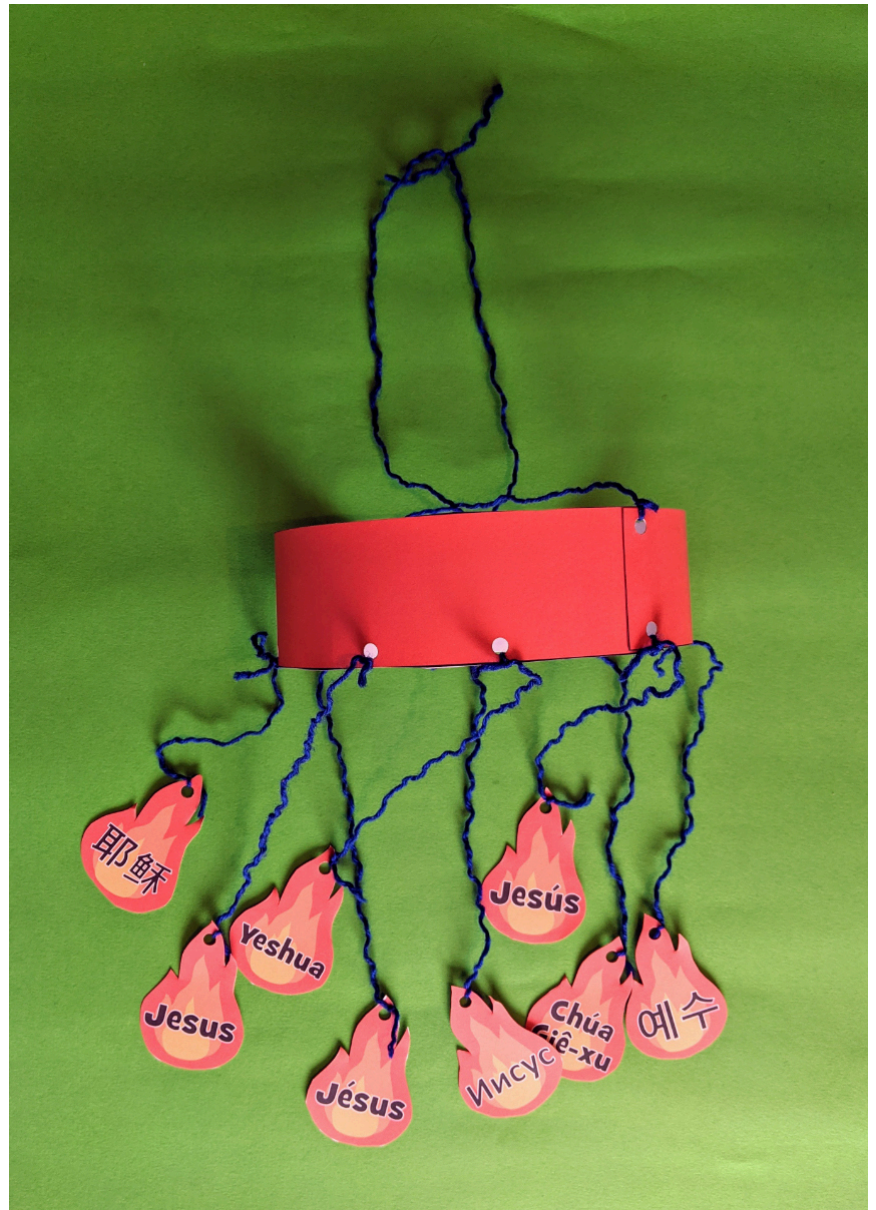
Pin the black circles together

Pin into wooden stick



Tongues of fire mobile

This mobile will blow around in the wind while reminding children how the Holy Spirit enabled the Apostles to share the Good News about Jesus. Flames include Jesus name in many languages and a blank flame for you to fill in.



What you need:

Template page (black and white or coloured),
Colouring pencils,
Scissors,
Hole punch
Wool or string.

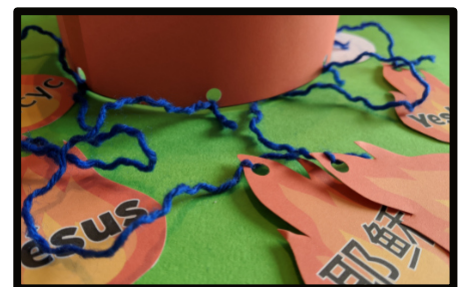
What to do



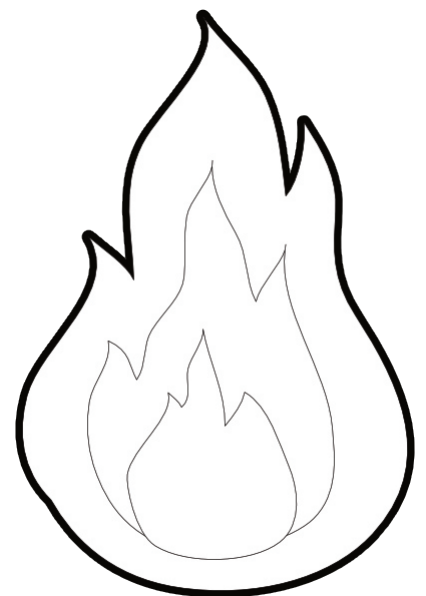
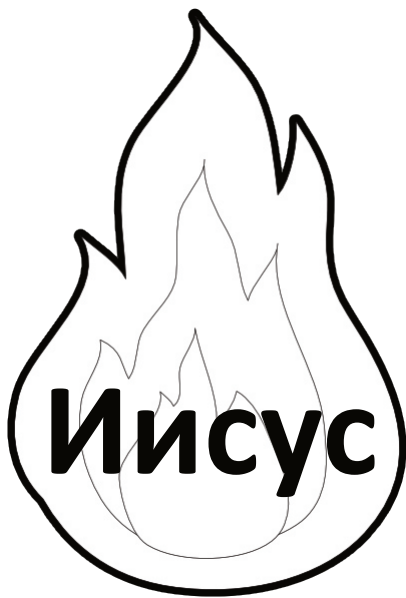
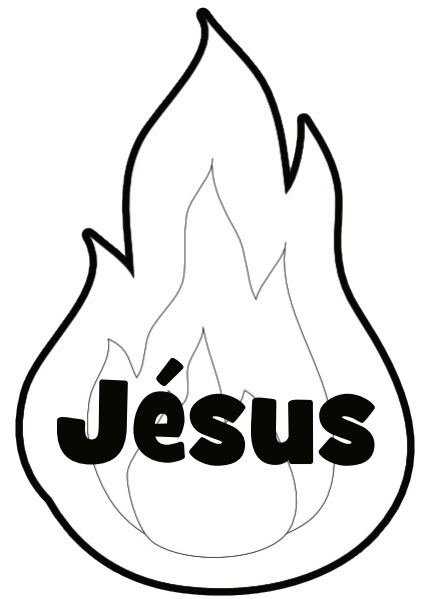
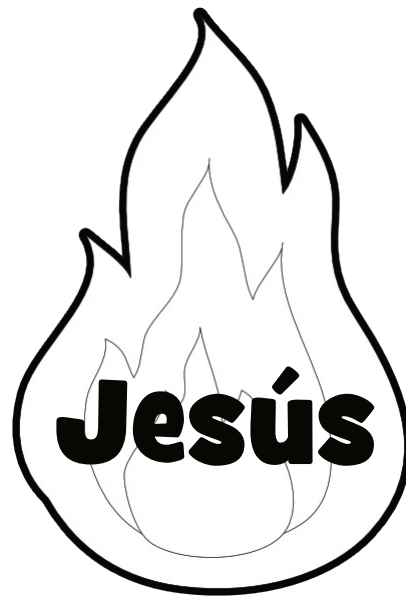
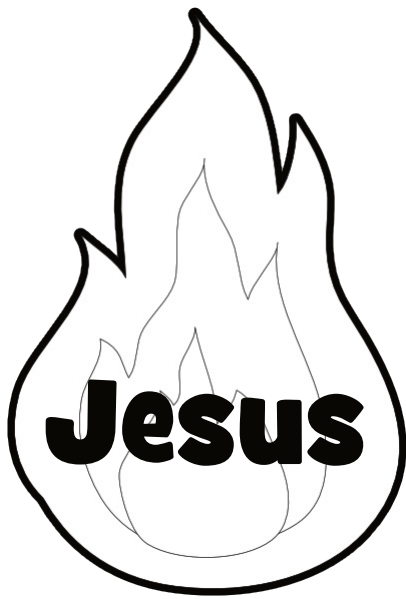
Cut out the template page.
Colour the pages first if
using the black and white
version.



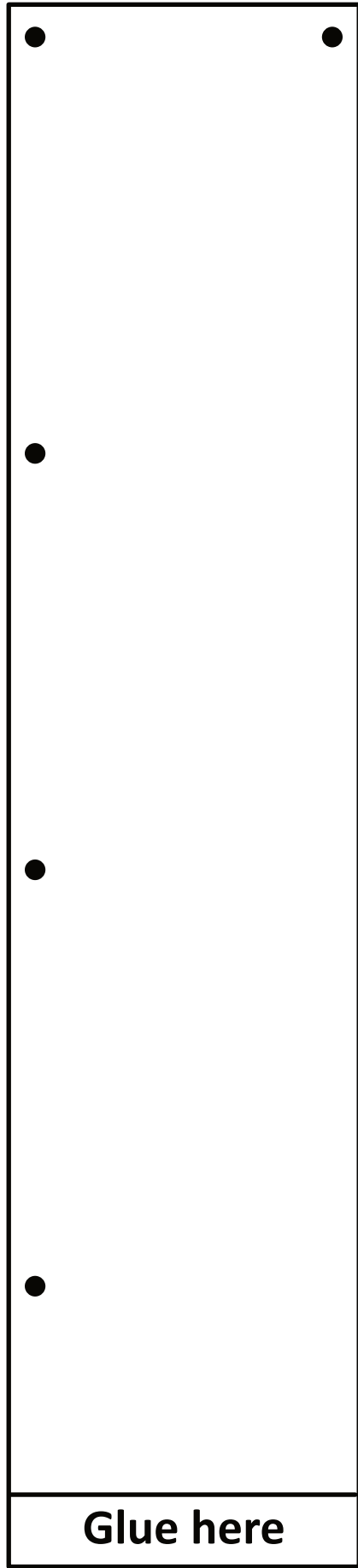
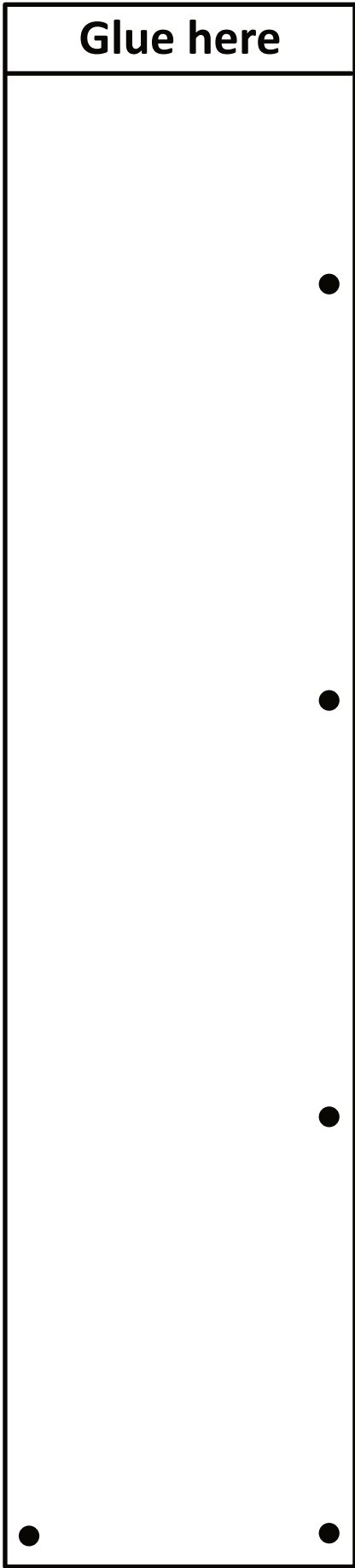
Glue strips together to
form a ring.



Punch holes and tie flames
to ring. Add string to hang.



Write your language here if missing



THE HOLY SPIRIT

What do these Bible passages teach about how the Holy Spirit works in the lives of believers?

John 14:26

Acts 1:8

John 16:13-15

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Ephesians 1:13

Romans 8:26-27

WORD SEARCH

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

JERUSALEM

HOLY-SPIRIT

FIRE

WIND

TOGETHER

BELIEVERS

REPENT

BAPTISED

LANGUAGE

GOSPEL



Easter Lessons

The Early Church

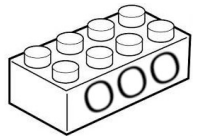
Lesson 11

All Ages

Aim: To teach the children that the church is not the building, but the people. What we do together as the church is important.

Bible: Acts 2:42-47

Let's Move



Let's Move Activity 1 (All)

Need:
Tape

Do: The aim of this game is for the 'free' person to rescue the rest of the team from 'jail', which is the space behind the tape line. They have to run up and down rescuing team members, but all rescued team members have to be holding hands, so they are all running each time.

Use the tape to make a line for teams to stand behind. Divide your group into teams of about 6 children. The 'free' person stands at one side of your space, and the rest of the team stands opposite them at the other side of your space, in 'jail' behind the line. The 'free' person has to rescue person 1, hold hands and run back and touch the wall, then both of them have to run back and rescue person 2, all holding hands and run back and touch the wall, all three have to hold hands and rescue person 3, run back and touch the wall... etc, until all the team members have been rescued. Winning team is the team who has rescued all the people and are sitting in a line at the wall opposite to the tape (the wall where the runner started from).

Say: We are going to play a game. I want you to get into 2 (or more) teams. Team members need to line up behind one another in your team. All teams need to stand behind this line (show line).

Who of you love to run? That person against the wall opposite us. (Show them where to stand).

We are going to pretend that everyone behind the line is in jail. The only way that you can get out of jail is if the person on your team who is free comes to rescue you. But there is a catch. Anyone who is not holding on to the free person is not free... and only one person may be rescued at a time. So that means that the first person who is rescued has to hold the hand of the free person, run to the other side of the space and touch the wall, and then run back and rescue the next person. You have to touch the wall in-between each person rescued, and everyone who is free has to hold each other's hands all the time.

The first team to have all their people out of jail, and sitting against the wall opposite to the jail, in a line behind each other, is the winner.

Let's Move Activity 2 (older)

Need:
Letters on cards

Do: Divide your group into teams of no more than 8 children. The aim of the activity is to eventually use their individual letters to make the word "children" together so that they can see that working together is better than working alone. Write the letters for the word **children** onto a piece of card the size of a matchbox. One letter per card. Have enough copies so that each child will get a letter or two.

Say: We are going to work in groups of 8. (Let them get into their groups before you give the instructions). I am going to give each of you a letter. I want you to think of something that starts with that letter. (Go around the circle and let everyone show their letter and say their thing). Now I want you to get together with one or two other people and see if you can make a word with your letters. (Red, hen, den, in, lid, chin, nerd). Let's see if we can use all the letters to make one word.

Let's Move Activity 3 (younger)

Need:
Puzzle

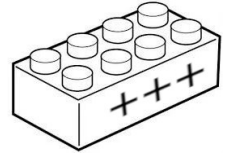
Do: The aim of this activity is to show that when we work together and each give what we have, then we can make something beautiful. Give each child 2 pieces of the puzzle. Make sure that

all the puzzle pieces have been handed out.

Say: I am going to give each of you 2 puzzle pieces. I want you to see if you can put the pieces together (No). Can you guess what the picture is? How about if we all share our pieces with each other. Do you think that we will be able to build the puzzle together and be able to see the picture?

Let's Listen

Let's Listen Activity 1 (Younger)



Need:
Video
Multi-media

Do: Download the video
4/30/23 Preschool Lesson - Early
Church, Acts 2:42-47 by FBC
Dyersburg from YouTube.



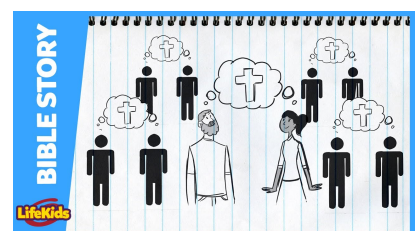
Say: Last week we learnt about how Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, when many of Jesus' followers were waiting in the upstairs room in Jerusalem. They were waiting for the special Helper that Jesus had promised to send. There was a loud wind, and then they saw little flames on each other's heads. Holy Spirit gave them power to speak in other languages that they had never learnt before, and all the people visiting Jerusalem from all over the world heard the message of Jesus in their own language! The Bible says that 3000 people decided to follow Jesus that day!
Let's watch the video together.

What did the people in today's story do? They loved each other.
How did they show that they loved each other? They spend time together and they shared what they had with each other.
How can you show that you love to someone else today?

Let's Listen Activity 2 (All)

Need:
Video
Multi-media

Do: Download the video
What is the Church by
LifeKids from YouTube.
Watch it beforehand.



Say: Last week we learnt about how Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, when many of Jesus' followers were waiting in the upstairs room in Jerusalem. They were waiting for the special Helper that Jesus had promised to send. There was a loud wind, and then they saw little flames on each other's heads. Holy Spirit gave them power to speak in other languages that they had never learnt before, and all the people visiting Jerusalem from all over the world heard the message of Jesus in their own language! The Bible says that 3000 people decided to follow Jesus that day!

Today we are going to learn about how the church that we know today was started, and what types of things they did.

Before we watch the video, can anyone tell me what they think of when they hear the word "church"?

Let's watch the video together.

Let's Listen Activity 3 (Older)

Need:
Video
Multi-media
Bibles

Do: Download the video Kid Bible Story by Crossroads from YouTube. You'll introduce the video, watch it and then teach.



Say: Last week we learnt about Pentecost, when Holy Spirit filled the disciples with power, and they spoke in languages that they had never learnt before, and many people heard all about Jesus in their own language! The Bible says that on that day 3000 people decided to follow Jesus and became part of God's family! Let's watch the video.

Let's see what the Bible says happened after that.

Look up Acts 2:42-47. My Bible says: "The believers studied what the apostles taught. They shared their lives together. They ate and prayed together. Everyone was amazed at what God was doing. They were amazed when the apostles performed many wonders and signs. All the believers were together. They shared everything they had. They sold property and other things they owned. They gave to anyone who needed something. Every day they met together in the temple courtyard. They ate meals together in their homes. Their hearts were glad and sincere. They

praised God. They were respected by all the people. Every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.”

The believers were the new Christians. This passage tells us about 4 main things that they were doing.

- 1) v42 - They were listening to what the disciples were teaching them about Jesus. They saw the miracles that Holy Spirit was giving the disciples the power to do. So the new Christians were LEARNING.
- 2) v44/46 - The believers met together every day. They stayed together and invited each other to their homes for meals. They spent time together. We call this FELLOWSHIP - hanging out with other Christians.
- 3) v45/46 - They shared everything with each other. Some of them even sold things so that they could give the money to those who needed it. They were GENEROUS.
- 4) v42/47 - They prayed together and worshipped together. The new Christians SPENT TIME WITH GOD together.

How does that compare with how we spend our time when we meet together?

- 1) Do we LEARN when we meet together?
- 2) Do we have FELLOWSHIP or hang out with other people who believe in Jesus when we meet together?
- 3) Are we GENEROUS when we meet together?
- 4) Do we SPEND TIME WITH GOD when we meet together?

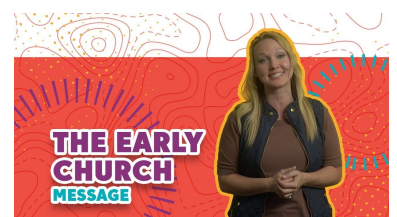
Most of the time we meet together on a Sunday, but there are other times when we meet together too. The children in high school meet together on a Friday night. Some people meet on a Wednesday night in their homes. Some people go on hikes together.

Whenever we are together we can LEARN from each other, we can have FELLOWSHIP with each other and be encouraged by each other, we can be GENEROUS to each other, and we can SPEND TIME WITH GOD together.

Let's Listen Activity 4 (Older)

Need:
Video
Multi-media
Bibles

Do: Download the video Early Church Life message by Kids on the Move from YouTube. Watch the video beforehand.



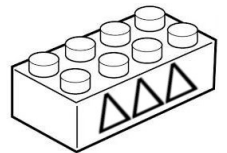
Say: Last week we learnt about Pentecost, when Holy Spirit filled the disciples with power, and they spoke in languages that they had never learnt before, and many people heard all about Jesus in their own language! The Bible says that on that day 3000 people decided to follow Jesus and became part of God's family! Let's watch the video.

Let's look up Acts 2:42. Who would like to read it? In my Bible it says: "They spent their time learning the apostles' teaching, sharing, breaking bread, and praying together." Does anyone's Bible say it differently?

What are the four things that the believers did together?

- They learnt from their teachers, the apostles or disciples.
- They shared everything that they had.
- They broke bread together, which is another way to say that they ate together in each other's homes. They spent time together.
- They prayed together. They prayed about everything.

Let's Do



Let's Do Activity 1 (All)

| |
|--|
| Need: Worksheets Pencil crayons Pencils |
|--|

Do: Print the worksheets. Help younger children to think of things that we find in the church building, and things that we do together as the church. Highlight the question at the bottom of the page... which one is the church. Let them circle the correct picture (top right hand corner in each square).

Say: I am going to give you a worksheet. (Hand out the worksheets) On the worksheet are two squares. In the one square there is a church building. Can you think of the things that you would find in a church building? Choose some of those to draw or write down.

In the other square are the people. Can you think of some of the ways that people learn about God, share, pray and be together when we meet? Look at the picture in the top right hand corner of the blocks. Which picture shows the real church?

Let's Do Activity 2 (All)

Need:
Nothing

Do: Spend some time praying for each other. Ask children to share prayer requests, and then pray for one another. You could also find out some prayer requests from the church, and ask the children to pray for that.

Say: One of the things that the early church did together, was spend time praying. Praying is just talking to Jesus. When you pray for someone else, it is just asking Jesus to help that person. You don't need fancy words. You just tell Jesus what is wrong, and ask Him to help.

I thought that it would be a good idea if we spend some time today praying for each other. Let's go around the circle and share one thing that we would like prayer for. Then I am going to ask someone to be very brave, and pray for that thing. Then the next person will get a chance to share something that they need prayer for, and someone else will get a chance to pray.

(You can decide whether to stay sitting in a circle, or whether to ask the person being prayed for to stand in the middle, and the rest of the group can come around them and lay hands on them. Continue until everyone has had a chance to be prayed for.)

Let's Do Activity 3

Need:
Cardboard
Stickers
Pencils
Pencil crayons

Do: Children are going to write out a prayer for someone and give it to them. Give each child a piece of cardboard, A5 or A6 size. Give them things to decorate it with.

Say: Today you are going to get a chance to remind someone else in the church how much God loves them. I am going to give you each a piece of cardboard. You are going to write a prayer for someone, even someone that you don't know, and then give it to them after the service. You can also decorate the prayer once you have written it.

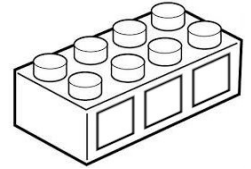
What do you think would be a good prayer to pray for someone, if they haven't asked you for prayer? Do you think you could pray that:

- God would protect them
- God would give them everything they need

- God would show them how much He loves them
- Etc (Depending on the age of your children, you may have to give them more or less examples.)

Ask God to tell you what to write on your prayer, and ask God to show you who your prayer is for. It can't be for someone in your family.

Let's Chat



Let's Chat Activity 1

For the original activity, please visit <https://missionbibleclass.org/2017/08/16/teaching-children-about-the-church/>

Need:
Large piece of paper
Pencil crayons
Scissors

Do: The point that you are making is that the church is the people, not the building. Draw the outline of the church building, then ask the children to draw all the people inside. Cut the 'building' off so that only the people are left. Explain that the church is the people, not the building.

Say: We are going to work together to draw a picture of the church. Here is the church building (draw a 'house' on the edges of the paper). I want all of you to draw the people inside the building. (If you have lots of children, give them sticky notes to draw on and then come and stick on your piece of paper, inside the church).

Here we have the church. (Cut away the outline of the church and wait to get a reaction).

Why have I cut off the 'building' part of the picture? The building isn't the church. The people inside the church are the church. If a few of us get together at someone's house for supper, we are still the church. The church is the people, not the building. Jesus wants us to love the people, not the building.



Let's Chat Activity 2

This activity goes well with Let's Listen Activity 3 and 4

Need:
Nothing

Do: Use these questions to spark conversation. Try to engage as many people as possible.

Say: The Bible says that the believers in the early church spent their time learning, sharing, being together and praying for each other. Holy Spirit helped them to do this.

- ◆ Do you think that it is important to learn about God? Why?
- ◆ Do you find it easy or difficult to share?
 - ◆ Imagine if you had to sell something of yours to help a friend.
 - ◆ Would you be willing to do that?
 - ◆ What would you sell?
- ◆ Do you enjoy coming to church on a Sunday?
 - ◆ What do you enjoy?
 - ◆ What don't you enjoy?
 - ◆ What one thing would you change if you could?
 - ◆ What would you do differently?
- ◆ How often do you think people should pray?
 - ◆ When do you pray?
 - ◆ How weird do you feel about prayer?
- ◆ Which area do you need Holy Spirit to help you with?

Let's Chat Activity 3

Need:
Journals + pens
Quiet
instrumental
music

Do: Choose one of the options to do with your class. Hand out the journals/paper and pens. Let everyone find a space where they can be 'alone' and focussed on God. Start the music once everyone has settled. PAUSE between sentences to give the children time to think and respond.

Say: I want everyone to fetch their journal and something to draw or write with. I want you to find your own space, where you won't be bothered by

anyone around you. You may lie down if you want to. You have 90 seconds to do that.

I am going to ask you to talk to God about something, and then write down or draw what He says to you.

Option 1

In today's story the believers learnt about God together. I want you to ask God what He would like to teach you about Himself today. He may give you a picture or a feeling or remind you of a Bible story. Write it down or draw it. Let's ask God together. You can pray quietly to yourself, or in your head.

Father God,

Please teach me

something about Yourself.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Option 2

In today's story the believers learnt about God, prayed, shared and spent time together. Ask the Lord what He would like you to spend more time on. Write down or draw what He says to you.

Let's ask God together. You can pray quietly to yourself, or in your head.

Father God,

Please show me which area

You'd like me to spend more time on.

In Jesus' name

Amen.

Option 3 (younger)

In today's story the people showed each other love by sharing what they had and spending time together and praying together.

Ask Jesus to show you what to do to show love to others. Draw what He says.

Pray after me.

Jesus

Please show me

how I can

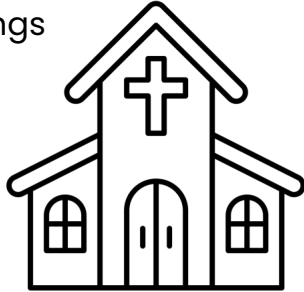
love others

Amen.

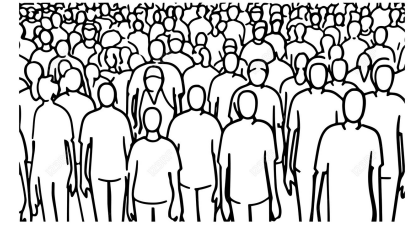
The Early Church

Acts 2:42-47

Draw or write down the things that you find in a church building.



Draw or write about people sharing, learning about God, praying and being together.



Which of these is the church?

Let's Do Activity 1