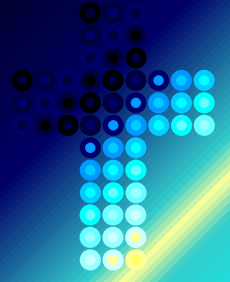


# JESUS DISCOVERY PROJECT



TEACHING MATERIAL FOR 5-11 YEARS

SERIES 1:

JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE

Exploring the gospel according to Matthew

Author: Eleanor Delport

Jesus the Righteous Judge by Eleanor Delport

First e-book edition 2022

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# JESUS DISCOVERY PROJECT



## BIBLE STUDY SERIES AGE 5-11 YEARS

### JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE

11 sessions

Author Eleanor Delport

This series journeys through the gospel according Matthew, picking up the theme of Jesus being righteous and judge. Key topics covered include final judgement, repentance, grace, righteousness, rewards, forgiveness, forgiving others, the Lord's supper, the pouring out of the Holy Spirit and the Great Commission.

Having explored what it means for Jesus to be both righteous and judge, the series culminates in 4 sessions focussing on the last supper, Jesus' arrest and trial, His atoning sacrifice and the subsequent availability of the Holy Spirit for each of His followers and the Great Commission.

From session 4 onwards, in each prayer time, the children are invited to pray for the same friend who does not know Jesus every week. In the penultimate session, there is opportunity to pray to be filled with and empowered by the Holy Spirit and in the last session, opportunity to discuss ways in which to share the good news with your friends and pray for opportunities. Hopefully you will have some testimonies of answered prayer in the coming weeks!

Each session includes a starter discussion question, multiple-choice word definition question, story, game, craft, prayer activity and memory verse. Most also have discussions following the story. Some have suggested worship songs and opportunity to share the bread and wine together as part of your prayer or worship time.

# JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE

## CONTENTS

SESSION 1	PAGE 5
Matthew 3:1-17 · Winnowing Fork · Repentance	
SESSION 2	PAGE 10
Matthew 4:1-11 · Jesus is tested · Jesus' Righteousness	
SESSION 3	PAGE 13
Matthew 5:1-16 · True blessing · Rewards	
SESSION 4	PAGE 18
Matthew 5:20-26 · True righteousness · Atonement	
SESSION 5	PAGE 21
Matthew 7:1-5 · Judging others · Hypocrisy	
SESSION 6	PAGE 24
Matthew 18:21-35 · Forgiveness · Forgiving Others	
SESSION 7	PAGE 29
Matthew 25:31-46 · Sheep and goats · True Disciples	
SESSION 8	PAGE 34
Matthew 26:1-5, 26-30, 33-39 · Cup of covenant and judgement · The Lord's Supper	
SESSION 9	PAGE 39
Matthew 26:57-68 · Judge on trial · Persecution	
SESSION 10	PAGE 42
Matthew 27:50-54 · Penalty paid · Holy Spirit	
SESSION 11	PAGE 45
Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20 · All authority · Great Commission	
EXTRA GAMES	PAGE 49



# JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE

SESSION 1: MATTHEW 3:1-17, WINNOWING FORK

## MAIN POINT

Jesus will judge everyone. Those who have repented and been forgiven will be gathered to Jesus, those who have not repented and received forgiveness will be punished



## WELCOME

Share news and take register

## STARTER QUESTION

A judge is someone who decides what is right and wrong. They reward someone who does good and punish someone who does bad. What do you think you would need to be like, to be a good judge? (E.g. wise, trustworthy, etc.)



## MULTIPLE CHOICE

Q. What is a **winnowing fork**?

1. A special fork used to eat spaghetti with
2. A tool for turning over soil in the garden
3. A farm tool used to separate the part of wheat you can eat, the grain, from the part that you can't, the straw or "chaff"

(Share resource 1 to help the kids picture it)

## INTRODUCTION

Over the next few weeks, we are going to be looking at what it means for Jesus to be the Righteous Judge. Righteous means being right in God's eyes. If Jesus says something is bad, it is bad, if He says it is good, it is good. His judgement is always true. We are going to look through the story of Jesus' life in the gospel of Matthew and find out why it is good news that Jesus is our Judge.



## STORY

Read **Matthew 3:1-3** John the Baptist had a special job to do. He had to call all the people to repent, which means to turn away from their sin and turn back to God. He was calling them to get ready for Jesus. Why do you think they needed to repent? (They had sinned)



Read **Matthew 3:4-6** Many people came and said sorry for what they had done wrong. John then baptised them with water. What do you think being baptised with water is a picture of? (Their sins are washed away)

Read **Matthew 3:7-10** Some religious rulers came and John was very annoyed with them. They looked good on the outside, but he knew their hearts were full of greed and pride and not filled with love. What kind of "good fruit" do you think God is looking for in our lives? (kindness, love, gentleness, etc.)

Read **Matthew 3:11-12** Who do you think John is talking about? Jesus! Jesus will judge every person's heart and will sort those who love Him from those who do not. What will happen to those who do not repent and love Him? (like a tree chopped down and like chaff thrown into fire, they will be destroyed)

Read **Matthew 3:13-17** Jesus was baptised to fulfil all righteousness. It was a picture of what He would do on the cross when He would go down into the grave with all of our sin and our sin would be washed away. When He comes out of the water, it is a picture of new life. When we repent and say sorry for the things we have done wrong, God speaks over us what He spoke over Jesus: "You are my child, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

## GAME—TIME TO REPENT!

This game is based on what's the time Mr Wolf.



The children line up on one wall and one nominated caller (John the Baptist for this session) sits or stands the other end of the room with his/her back to the rest of the class. The children shout to the caller "What's the time John?" the caller shouts a number and all the children step forward that many paces. Then they repeat until John says "time to repent!", at which they run to the starting wall trying not to get caught by the caller. Any that are caught become catchers for the next round.

## CRAFT

You will need A4 work sheets printed, straws, coloured paper or tissue paper, glue, pens



Ask the children to stick straws on one side of the paper. This is the chaff. Then tear and roll up little bits of coloured paper to make little balls. This is the grain. Stick the grain on the other side of the paper. Col-

our in the picture.



## DISCUSSION

Jesus is the righteous judge. Everyone has sinned and done bad things. We each have a choice whether to hold onto our sin or let Jesus wash it away.

If someone says sorry for their sins and asks Jesus to forgive them, what happens? Their sins are washed away, they become a child of God and God tells them that He loves them and is pleased with them. They are like the grain gathered into the barn.

If someone pretends that they have nothing to say sorry for and never turns to Jesus for forgiveness, what happens? Jesus will judge them and they will be punished for their sins. They are like the chaff thrown into the fire.

Holding onto our wrong doing leads to hurt and eventually death. Owing up to our sin leads to life, joy and forgiveness.



## PRAYER ACTIVITY - SORRY STONES

You will need some pebbles, a bowl of water and a tea towel

Invite the children to take a pebble and say sorry for something they have done wrong. Then put the pebble in the water, wash it clean and thank God that He has washed you clean and that you are His child and He loves you.

If anyone wants to repent for the first time, then as they pick up the stone, lead them in a prayer of repentance and rejoice with them as they wash the stone that they are washed clean by Jesus.

(This is an example prayer: Father God, I am sorry for all the wrong things I have said, thought and done. I am sorry for not loving You. Please forgive me. Jesus, I want You to come into my heart. Thank you that You are washing me clean and making me new. Amen. )

## MEMORY VERSE

*"But remember that they will have to face God, who stands ready to judge everyone, both the living and the dead." 1 Peter 4:5*



# RIGHTEOUS JUDGE SESSION 1: MATTHEW 3:1-17

## RESOURCE 1—WINNOWING FORK

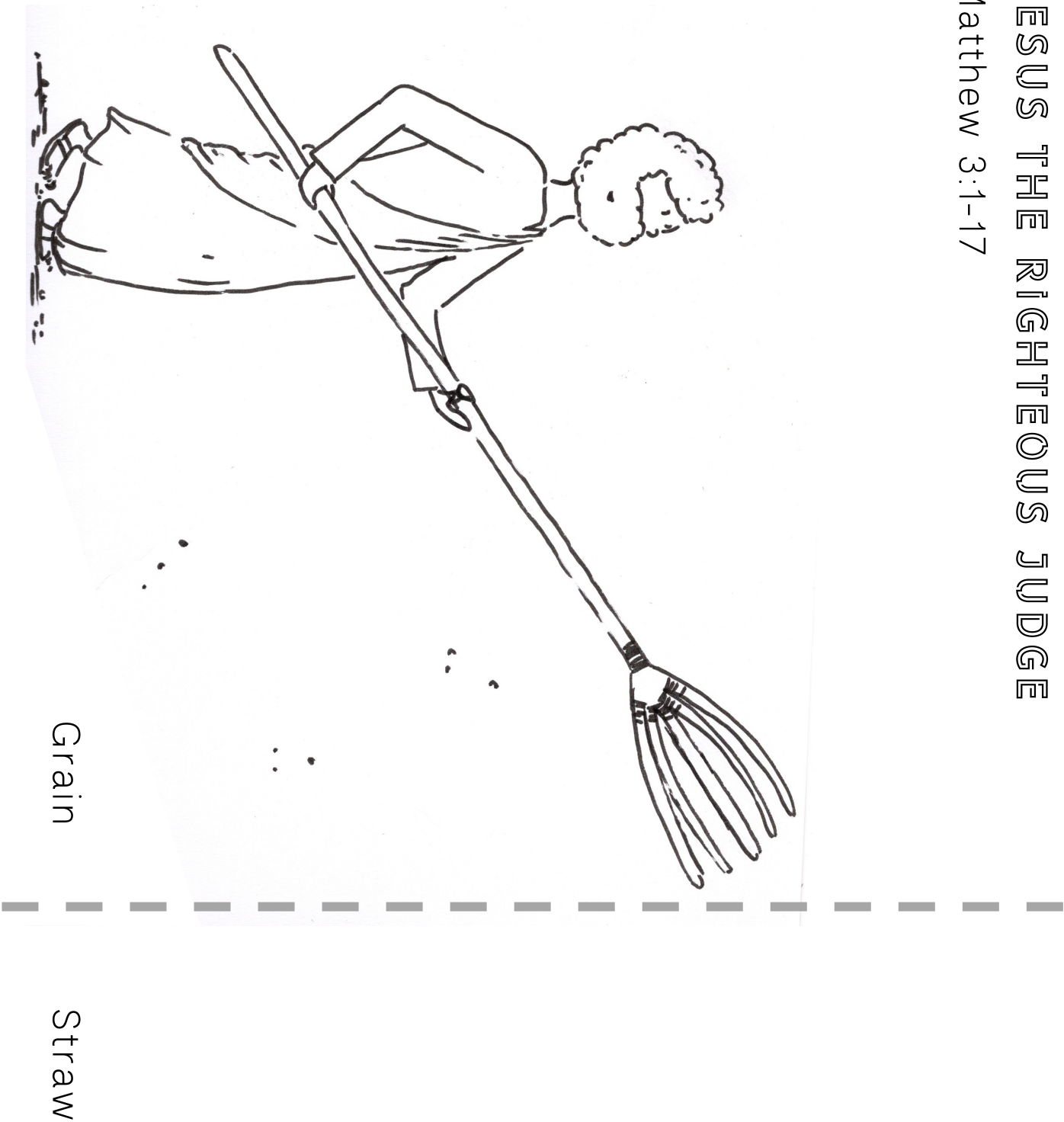


A winnowing fork is used to throw wheat or other grains into the air. The straw or “chaff” is blown away by the wind. The grain falls down on the ground by the winnowers feet. It is a way of sorting the useful grain from the rest of the plant.



# JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE

Matthew 3:1-17



# JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE

SESSION 2: MATTHEW 4:1-  
11, JESUS IS TESTED

## MAIN POINT

Jesus was tested and proven completely righteous.



## WELCOME

Share news and take register

## STARTER QUESTION

What did we learn about Jesus last week? Jesus is the righteous judge who will judge every person for what they have done.



## MULTIPLE CHOICE

Q. What does the word righteous mean?

1. It means you have perfect spelling
2. It means you are judged to be right or good before God
3. It means that you are right-handed



## STORY

Read **Matthew 4:1-2** How do you think Jesus would have felt after 40 days of not eating? Do you think He would feel strong or weak? Satan came to Jesus when He was at His weakest to see if Jesus really was as righteous as He said He was.

Read **Matthew 4:3-10** Satan tempts Jesus three times and each time, he is testing whether Jesus will fully trust and obey His Father. What was the first temptation? (To make bread for Himself). Satan was testing whether Jesus would rely on God to sustain Him or whether He would fix the problem Himself. Would He use His power to look after Himself or would He do only what the Father told Him.

What was the second temptation? To prove that the Father really loved Him enough to catch His fall. To arrive with a big show in Jerusalem.

What was the third temptation? To have wealth and power by doing things Satan's way instead of the Father's way.



Each time Jesus used the word of God to fight Satan. This is one of the reasons we learn the Bible! So that we can resist the tempter.

Jesus passed the test, because He knew that His Father loved Him and He did not need to prove it.

Read **Matthew 4:11** What happened when Jesus resisted the devil? The devil left Him and angels ministered to Him.



### GAME—WHAT IS IT?

You will need ~4 different flavours of crisp and their packets.

Before the game, swap the flavours and packets over and label which is in which. For example, the salt and vinegar might be in the prawn cocktail pack, the cheese and onion in the ready salted, the ready salted in the salt and vinegar and the prawn cocktail in the cheese and onion packet. Check allergies before playing.

Jesus was tested to find out what was in His heart. Psalm 34:8 says “Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him.” In this game you will use your sense of taste to test which crisp flavour is which.

Offer a crisp to all the children and let them guess which flavour it is. Score a team point for every person who guesses correctly. Do the same with all but one of the packets. They are taste testing to see what the crisp really is.

For the last round, split the children into two teams, choose one representative from each team and let them taste test the last packet. Whoever says the right flavour first wins on behalf of their team. Encourage the team to give a big cheer!



### DISCUSSION

When Jesus was tested, it showed what was in His heart and whether He had any sin. What did it show Jesus’ heart to be like? He fully trusts and obeys God. He is completely righteous and good.

When you played the crisp game, if the person from your team won, then your whole team won and you all cheered. When Jesus passed the test, he passed for all of us. When we put our trust in Jesus, it’s like we join His team. Because He was tested and found righteous, we are righteous too! He did it for us!

### CRAFT—JESUS’ HEART

Draw or make a heart and in it write words that describe Jesus’ heart



**PRAYER ACTIVITY**

You may wish to split into three groups to pray. Think about Jesus' heart. Go around the circle, praying "Thank you Jesus that Your heart is...[good, righteous, pure, sinless, perfect, kind, loving, trusting, etc.]."



Then pray this repeat after me prayer:

Thank you Jesus that you passed the test.

When my heart is tested, help me to love like Jesus.

Thank you that because Jesus is righteous, I am righteous too. Amen

**MEMORY VERSE**

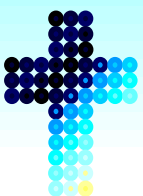
*"But remember that they will have to face God, who stands ready to judge everyone, both the living and the dead." 1 Peter 4:5*

**EXTRA GAME**

If your group needs an extra running around game, you could use "Time to repent!" or one of the games listed in "Extra Games" (resource 10, Page 49-50) .

**EXTRA DISCUSSION**

If you have time, you could think through what kind of tests and temptations your group faces and how Jesus can help you in those.





# JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE

SESSION 3: MATTHEW 5:1-16, TRUE BLESSING

3

## MAIN POINT

When we love, even though it is hard, we will receive a reward from God. Jesus calls this blessed



## WELCOME

Share news and take register

## STARTER QUESTION

Can anyone remember the story from last week? (Jesus was tested by Satan and He fully trusted and obeyed God the Father)

Who do you think the happiest people on earth are?



## MULTIPLE CHOICE

Q. What are blessings?

1. God's gifts, favour and protection
2. Nice thoughts
3. A type of pudding



## INTRODUCTION

*After Jesus had been tested in the wilderness, He started telling people about the kingdom of God. Lots of people listened to Him. There were rich people, lots of poor people, lots of hungry people, a few well fed people, people who were being badly treated by Roman soldiers and Jesus wanted to tell them what true blessing looks like.*

## GAME—IS IT BETTER TO BE...

Ask all the children to stand up. Ask the following questions and if they think the answer is A then they run to one side of the room, if B they run to the other (point at which side is which each time)



JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE: MATTHEW 5:1-16



so they know).

1. Is it better to be (A) happy or (B) sad?
2. Is it better to be (A) hungry or (B) full?
3. Is it better to be (A) rich or (B) poor?
4. Is it better to be (A) hurt for telling the truth or (B) not hurt but you don't tell the truth?



## STORY

Read **Matthew 5:1-16**

*How do you think the crowd would have felt hearing what Jesus said? Would they have been surprised? Confused? Encouraged? Upset?*



## DISCUSSION

The blessings that we just read describe people in difficult situations, who chose to trust God and love people even when it hurts. Jesus said that each of them would have a reward. For example, Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, because they will be called sons of God". It's not easy when people are arguing, to bring peace, but when we do this, God is pleased with us and says we are acting like Him! He will reward us for loving people even when it is difficult.

## ACTIVITY— PEACE-MAKING AND REWARDS

*You will need a bucket marked with a cross. A bag of black (or grey/red) duplo blocks, a bag of yellow duplo blocks, a bag of blue duplo blocks. (You could use lego bricks, number blocks or something else that has different colours that join to make a tower.) When you read "+Blue" add a Blue block to a tower. "+ yellow", add a yellow "+Black" add a black or grey/red if you are using these instead.*

*See Resource 3 for the script and instructions*

## CRAFT

*As the righteous judge, Jesus not only decides whether or not we get to be with Him in the New Heavens and New Earth, but He also gives us rewards for how we live our life. Every time we love, even though it is hard, we are storing up treasures in Heaven. We are going to make medals to remind us that there is a reward waiting for us, when we keep loving people, even when it is difficult.*

You will need card, string or ribbon, pens, scissors, gem stickers, stapler or selotape. (You may prefer to pre-cut some circles and hole punch the tops to thread string through, depending on your group)



Draw and cut out a card circle. Decorate it with gems and colour it in as a medal. Tape or staple string or ribbon to the top of the circle to make a neck band.



### GAME—WHACKY RACES

Set up a start and finish line and try these races and any others you think of. If you have a lot of children, relay races might be better to stop collisions. Whenever anyone crosses the finish line, even if they are in last place, encourage everyone to cheer.

Hopping race

Jumping race

Skipping race

Bunny hops race

*When we cross the finish line at the end of our life, Jesus will give us a big cheer and reward us for how we have loved people and followed Him.*



### PRAYER ACTIVITY

Ask the children if there are any times when they struggle to love people. Ask God to help us love people even when it's hard.

Thank God that He sees every time we are kind and He will reward us for it.

### MEMORY VERSE

*"But remember that they will have to face God, who stands ready to judge everyone, both the living and the dead." 1 Peter 4:5*



### RESOURCE 3 — PEACE-MAKING AND REWARDS

You will need a bucket marked with a cross. A bag of black (or grey/red) duplo blocks, a bag of yellow duplo blocks, a bag of blue duplo blocks. (You could use lego bricks, number blocks or something else that has different colours that join to make a tower.) When you read “+Blue Y” add a Blue block to Your tower. “+ yellow A”, add a yellow to Alex’s tower; “+Black Both” add a black or grey/red if you are using these to both towers.

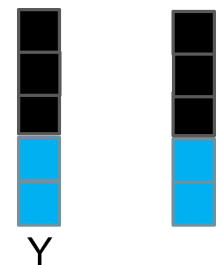
See Resource 3 for the script and instructions

I am going to tell you a story and whenever someone does something bad, we will add a black (/grey/red) block to their tower, when they do something kind even though it is difficult, we will add a yellow block and when they do normal things we will add blue blocks.

Your friend Alex came over for a sleepover. You had a lovely sleep and woke up in the morning to make breakfast. (Add a blue block to begin two towers, one for “You” one for Alex).



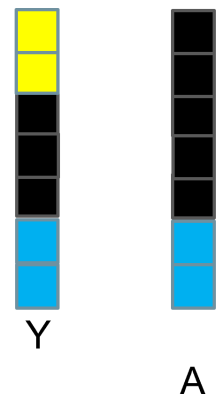
You got your bowls and cereal (+Blue Both), but Alex liked the look of your favourite chair and took it even though he knew it would upset you (+black A). You are angry and try to snatch it back (+black Y). Alex calls you a name (+black A). You call Alex a name (+black Y). You push Alex (+black Y). He pushed you (+black A).



If you keep being mean to each other, what colour do you think these towers are going to be? (Black)

What could you do to bring peace between you and Alex? (Listen to their ideas)

You decide to forgive Alex and say he can have the chair this morning. Now we will put on a yellow block, because you loved him even though it was difficult. (+Yellow Y) However, Alex still calls you a name! (+Black A) Do you think you should forgive him again? (Yes) (+yellow Y). But what if he is still mean? (+Black A) How many times do you think you should forgive him?



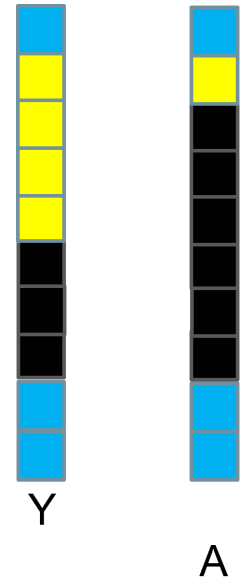
Peter asked Jesus that exact question. He said “Lord, how many times will my brother sin against me and I forgive him? As many as seven times?”

Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven times.” (Matthew 18:21-22) That’s 490 times!!! In other words, keep on forgiving as many times as he hurts you.



So shall we forgive Alex? (+yellow Y). Even if Alex keeps being mean (+black A), we are going to keep forgiving (+yellow Y) and eventually Alex stops being mean and, even though it's hard, he says sorry (+yellow A). After breakfast you play lego together (+blues Both).

At what point did you act like a peacemaker in this situation? When you forgave and chose to love even though it was hard.

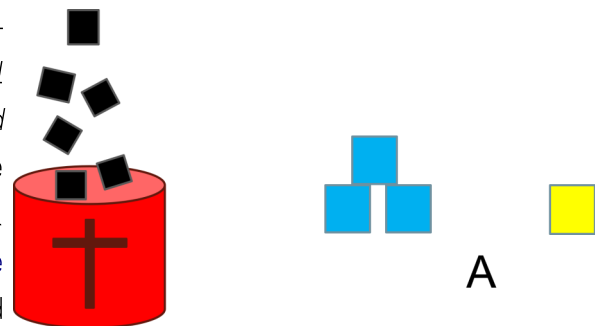


At the end of your lives, both you and Alex will come before Jesus. He will look at everything you have done.

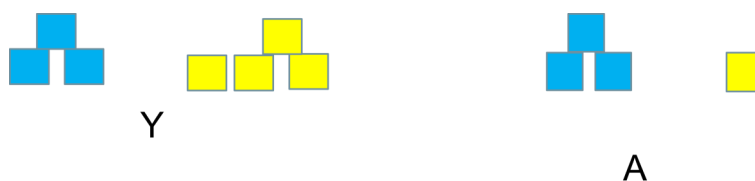
(Pick up "Your" tower) If you have asked Jesus to forgive your sins, then all of the bad stuff you have done, has already been paid for at the cross. (Take all the black blocks and throw them in the bucket marked with the cross). Then Jesus will look at every time you have loved people and trusted God, especially when you have loved even when it hurts. (Sort the blue and yellow blocks) You will get a reward according to what you have done.



Alex also will be judged by Jesus, the righteous judge. If he has put his trust in Jesus, all of his sin is already paid for, so where should we put his black blocks? In the bucket with the cross. They are taken away. Then Jesus will look at how Alex has loved people. (Sort the yellow and blue blocks). He will get a reward according to how much he has done.



Who would get the bigger reward from these two piles? (point to "Your" and Alex's pile of yellow blocks) You would, because you loved more often, even though it hurt. Well done!



# JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE

SESSION 4: MATTHEW 5:20  
-26, TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS

## MAIN POINT

Our own righteousness is not enough to enter God's kingdom, but Jesus offers us His righteousness

## WELCOME

Share news and take register



## STARTER QUESTION

What did we learn last week? (We looked at true blessing. When we love, even though it's hard, God will reward us)

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

What were the ten commandments?

1. A ten step recipe for making a birthday cake
2. Ten commands God gave the Israelites, His chosen people, so that they would know how to live in a way that was good
3. Ten exercises for keeping fit in the wilderness



## STORY

You will need white paper and some pens

Jesus has been baptised, tested and gathered 12 disciples to follow Him. These twelve are like a new 12 tribes of Israel, He is bringing in a new kingdom. Last week we looked at some of Jesus' teachings about how He wants His people to act in this new kingdom. This week we will learn some more about what He wants for us.

Everyone will need a white sheet of paper and a pen as they listen to the story

*Read Matthew 5:20 Jesus has just been saying that He is not going to scrub out any of the Old Testament, like the ten commandments, but He will fulfil it all. Then He*



says if you want to enter the kingdom of heaven, you need to be more righteous than the scribes and pharisees! How good at following rules do you think they were? (very!) So how righteous do you think we will need to be? (Very!) Uh oh! That is tough!

The Pharisees tried hard to follow all the rules. They still messed up sometimes and their hearts were not always filled with love, but they tried really, really hard to be good. They are a bit like this sheet of paper (show them a piece of paper that is mainly white but has a few scribbles on it.) They tried to be perfect and they might have thought they almost were, maybe with a few smudges and mistakes, but Jesus is going to show them what He thinks real righteousness looks like.

Jesus starts talking about the ten commandments, which the Pharisees tried to follow, but He made them even harder!!

Read **Matthew 5:21-22** If you have ever been angry with someone and wanted to hurt them, draw some scribbles on your paper. Oh dear I am drawing on mine! If you have ever called anyone a bad name or said something nasty to someone, draw some scribbles. If you have ever hurt anyone, draw some scribbles. Let's have a look at our paper. Uh oh! We have all sinned and our own righteousness isn't any better than the scribes and Pharisees. This isn't looking good!

Read **Matthew 5:23-24** Before you bring your worship to God, if your brother is upset with you, what should you do? (Make it right)

Read **Matthew 5:25-26** If you have done something wrong, before you come before the judge, what should you do? (Try and sort out the matter before you get to the judge)



## DISCUSSION

When Jesus came to earth as a human, He became our big brother. When we sin, we sin against Him as well as against other people. Who should we say sorry to when we sin do you think? (God and whoever we have hurt)

Who is the righteous judge? (Jesus) Before we come before Jesus at the end of our life and have to pay for everything we have done wrong, how can we sort out the matter before we come face to face with the judge? (Repentance)

When Jesus forgives us, He gives us His righteousness. Do you think His righteousness is better than the scribes and Pharisees? Yes! (Take in their pens and papers and give them all a clean white paper) Phew! We can all breathe a sigh of relief! Jesus gives us His righteousness, so we can be a part of His kingdom.

*If you have an outdoor space available, you could get the kids to stick their pieces of paper to a cross, march the cross outside and tell them that Jesus took our sin on*



the cross and marched it out of Jerusalem. Then put the messy papers in a metal bucket and set the papers alight until all the sin is burnt up. Tell the children that their sin is completely gone at the cross.



### GAME—TIME TO REPENT!

This game is based on what's the time Mr Wolf.

The children line up on one wall and one nominated caller (John the Baptist for this session) sits or stands the other end of the room with his/her back to the rest of the class. The children shout to the caller "What's the time John?" the caller shouts a number and all the children step forward that many paces. Then they repeat until John says "time to repent!", at which they run to the starting wall trying not to get caught by the caller. Any that are caught become catchers for the next round.

### CRAFT

You will need card, pens, stickers



Everyone needs Jesus' forgiveness and Jesus loves and is available to everyone, but not everyone has heard of Jesus or asked Him to forgive them. On two pieces of card, write down the name of one of your friends who does not know Jesus yet. Decorate the cards.

We will use these to help us pray over the next few weeks, so one card can go home with the child for them to remind them to pray at home and the other can stay with the group for future prayer times.

### PRAYER ACTIVITY—BREAD AND WINE

Share the bread and wine together, asking the children what the bread and the wine represents and thanking Jesus that He gave us His righteousness when He died on the cross and He made a way for us to come into His kingdom.



Pray for the person written on your card, that they would come into Jesus' kingdom too.

### MEMORY VERSE

*"But remember that they will have to face God, who stands ready to judge everyone, both the living and the dead." 1 Peter 4:5*





# JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE

SESSION 5: MATTHEW 7:1-5, JUDGING OTHERS

5

JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE: MATTHEW 7:1-5

## MAIN POINT

When helping others not to sin, we remember that we too have been forgiven and need help not sinning.



## WELCOME

Share news and take register

## STARTER QUESTION

What did we learn last week? (We need righteousness more than the scribes and Pharisees to enter God's kingdom. None of us has that, except that Jesus gives us His righteousness)

Can you think of any story in the Bible where God helps people understand what is right and wrong? (E.g. Exodus ten commandments, prophets warning and guiding the people, Jonah warning the Ninevites, Jesus' teachings)

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

What is a hypocrite?

1. A person who tells other people to do one thing, but does a different thing themselves
2. A magical creature that looks like a hippo
3. A type of squirrel



## STORY

*You will need a big stick (you could also use a foam swimming noodle or some other large cylinder).. Ask a child or leader to stand up and hold the stick to their eye..*

*Read Matthew 7:1-3 Ask the person with the stick by their eye to say to someone else "Hey you have dust in your eye! Let me help you with that!"*

*Read Matthew 7:4-5*



## DISCUSSION

God has shown us how to tell the difference between right and wrong in lots of stories in the Bible. One way we can love each other is by helping each other not sin, but how we do that is really important.

The Pharisees would often tell people they were sinning and make them feel bad and guilty, but the Pharisees did not realise that they too were sinners and needed God's forgiveness. Who do you think the Pharisees were like in the story? The person with a log or a speck in their eye? (A log) Until they realised they needed help and asked Jesus to forgive them, they were not able to help others.

Sometimes we spot someone else doing something wrong and can think that they are a very bad person, much worse than us, but we forget that we too do bad things sometimes and need to be forgiven.

What do you think we should do before we tell someone else what they are doing wrong? (Ask God to show us if we need help too and ask God to help us speak with love)

When you do try and help your friend, should you have the attitude of "you're bad, I'm good"? No, we remember that we have both sinned and both need God's help, so we treat them with love.

## GAME—FINDING FRIENDS

Two children hold hands and make an arch. The rest of the children form a ring and pass under the raised hands. The two in the middle call out...

*"We're seeking a...(choose a word from the list and ask the children for ideas)...we've found one here!"*

At the end of the chant, the children bring the arch down around whoever is under the arch and the person who is caught switches places with one of the catchers and goes again. Go around until everyone has had a turn.

*We're seeking a...kind friend, kind friend, kind friend...we've found one here!*

*We're seeking a...loving friend, loving friend, loving friend...we've found one here!*

Ask the children for ideas on what type of friend they would like to be. (E.g. ...truthful...caring...gentle...etc.)

## ROLE PLAY

This is a worked example of how the children might help another child not to sin, while remembering that they also have needed forgiveness. You could do this in smaller groups or a big group and either



play it out using teddies, get two leaders to act it out or get the kids to act it out.

### Sammy hits Charlie

Charlie says to Sammy “That hurt! You are bad. You are always bad and do bad things. You will never be good like me.”

*What is good and what is not so good about Charlie’s response? (Good—Charlie didn’t hit Sammy back, but tried to talk instead. Not so good—Charlie called Sammy bad, but Charlie good, forgetting that Charlie does bad things and needs forgiveness too sometimes)*

*How could Charlie talk to Sammy a better way?*

After listening to their ideas, try out their ideas or try this example:

Charlie tells Sammy “That hurt! Please say sorry.”

Sammy says sorry.

Charlie says, “I forgive you. We all do bad things some times, but Jesus can help us love each other better. Let’s ask Him to help us.”

*How do you think Sammy and Charlie feel now?*

(You could get the kids to practise how they could speak to their brothers and sisters)

Jesus teaches us right and wrong and we can help teach each other, but we need to remember that we all need forgiveness and we need Jesus’ help, so let’s be kind when we talk to others, even when we think they don’t deserve it. Jesus was kind to us when we didn’t deserve it too.

### CRAFT—LOGS

You will need: card, tape, pens, stickers.

Roll up card, fasten with tape and decorate it to make a log. Write on it “Help me see and love people like you do.” (Leaders will have to write for the younger children)

### PRAYER ACTIVITY

Ask Jesus to help us to use kind words when talking to each other. Use your prayer cards from last week to pray for your friend who does not know Jesus yet, to know Jesus. If anyone has not got a card, they can make a new one (see session 4 craft activity).

### MEMORY VERSE

*“But remember that they will have to face God, who stands ready to judge everyone, both the living and the dead.” 1 Peter 4:5*



# JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE

SESSION 6: MATTHEW  
18:21-35, FORGIVENESS

## MAIN POINT

Because we have been forgiven, we should forgive others

## WELCOME

Share news and take register



## STARTER QUESTION

What did we learn last week? (When helping others not to sin, we need to remember that we too need help not to sin, so we speak with love.)

Why is Jesus the only person who can truly judge people's hearts and actions? (Because He is completely good or "righteous" and He knows what is in each person's heart)

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

When God forgives you, what does that mean?

1. You never did anything wrong
2. You did wrong, but God has chosen not to hold your sin against you.
3. You did wrong, but it does not matter



## STORY

*God is just, which means that He punishes bad things and rewards good things. We each have sinned and deserve punishment, but Jesus chose to take that punishment on Himself when He died on the cross. When we put our trust in Jesus, our sins are forgiven, which means they are completely scrubbed out, all punishment paid for by Jesus. Jesus expects us then to forgive others and He tells a story to help us understand why this is so important.*



*This is a great story to act out. You might want to act it out with the children or just with the leaders. You could use a visual aid like a big 10000 TALENTS or millions of pounds written on a piece of paper that the Master can dramatically cross out in*





front of everyone for verse 27 and then a 100 denarii or £100 on another piece of paper that the wicked servant refuses to cross out.

Read **Matthew 18:21-35**

## DISCUSSION

Who do you think the Master is supposed to be in the story?  
(God) Who are the servants? (people)

Why was the Master so angry with the servant who threw the other servant in jail? (The servant had been forgiven but refused to forgive others)

How does God feel when we refuse to forgive others?

If you forgive someone, does that mean that they will never be judged or punished? (Not necessarily. Everyone will be judged by God. If they have asked Jesus to forgive them, then Jesus has taken their punishment. If not, they will be punished, but it is God who will decide and not us.)

## GAME—CLEAR THE DEBT

You will need two buckets and at least twenty small balls or bean bags suitable for throwing into the bucket.

Split the group into two teams and draw a line from which they need to throw the ball. (You can decide how far this is from the bucket depending on your groups ability. If you have a big range of ages, you could have a young team who can stand closer and an older team who stand further away)

Each team owes the Master of the buckets 10 balls. If they do not pay, they will be thrown in jail. Team mates line up behind the throwing line and take it in turn like a relay to try and throw the balls into the bucket. Set a time limit of 1 or 2 minutes (longer if it is very difficult). At the end see how many balls are in the bucket for each team.

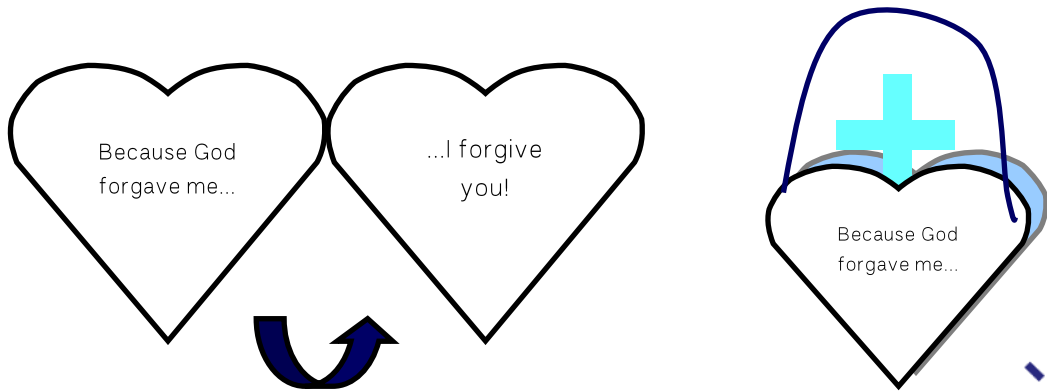
If a team has less than 10 balls in the bucket say “uh-oh! You still owe me \_\_\_\_ balls! Shall I throw you in jail?” Hopefully someone will say “No!” The Master replies “Ok, I forgive you. I will pay your debt myself.” (Puts balls from his own supply in the bucket) “You can go free.”

## CRAFT

You will need: paper, pens, stickers, ribbon string or wool, selotape or glue

Decorate and cut out the heart. Fold it in half and glue or tape down the long edge. Make a cross and put it in the top of the heart. Stick/tie/staple string to the top to make a hanging decoration.





### WORSHIP

Use songs suggested in Resource 5 or others that your children are familiar with to praise God for His forgiveness and grace to us.

(See Resource 5 for youtube videos with lyrics and actions)

### PRAYER ACTIVITY

Have you ever needed to forgive someone? Did you find it easy or difficult?

Sometimes it can be very difficult to forgive people, but God will help us by His Holy Spirit. Even when we do not feel like forgiving, we can pray. Sometimes we need to keep on forgiving people like Jesus said to Peter and sometimes when you have forgiven with your words, it takes a while for you to forgive with your heart, but God will help you.

Think of someone you need to forgive and pray this repeat after me prayer

*Father God,*

*I want to forgive (name of person you want to forgive), but it is hard*

*I need Your help. I cannot do this on my own*

*Thank you that you have forgiven all of my sins*

*I forgive (name) in the name of Jesus*

*Help me to love (name) like you love them*

*Amen*

Using your prayer cards (see session 4 craft), pray for your friend that you are praying for each week to become a Christian.

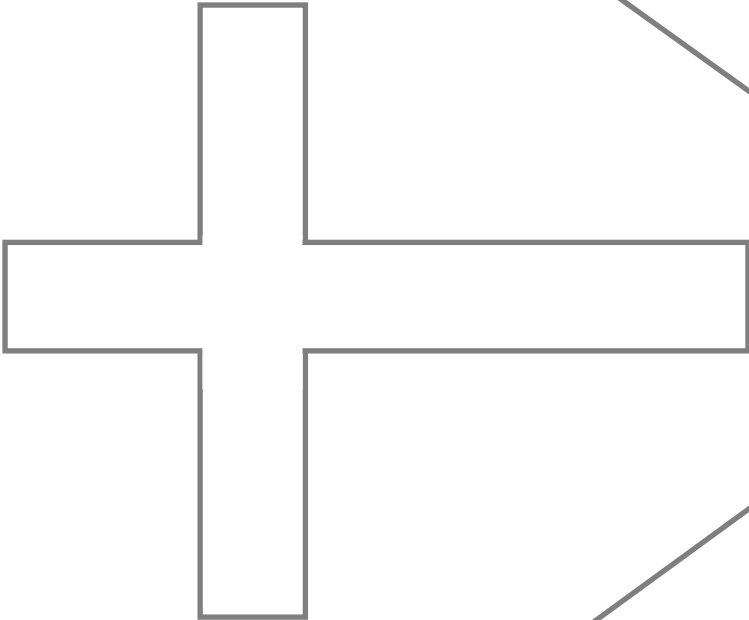
### MEMORY VERSE

*"But remember that they will have to face God, who stands ready to judge everyone, both the living and the dead." 1Peter 4:5*



Because God  
forgave me...

...I forgive you!



## RESOURCE 5

### WORSHIP SESSIONS 6 AND 8

<https://youtu.be/BBCB0--ynGg>

Saved by Grace by Go Fish—video with dance moves

[www.gofishkidsmusic.com](http://www.gofishkidsmusic.com)

<https://youtu.be/g7nTxjR00II> - Official Go Fish video

<https://youtu.be/C80e5wIEs1A>

Jesus loves me REMIX by C J and friends—lyrics and dance video

[www.patreon.com/cjandfriends](http://www.patreon.com/cjandfriends)

<https://youtu.be/Sjyd36-B1K0>

King of love by Doug Horley—lyrics and actions

[www.duggiedugdug.com](http://www.duggiedugdug.com)

<https://youtu.be/rjXjkbODrro>

This is amazing grace by Phil Wickham—lyrics, but no dance moves

<http://www.philwickham.com/>





# JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE

SESSION 7: MATTHEW 25:31-46, SHEEP AND GOATS



JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE: MATTHEW 25:31-46

## MAIN POINT

Jesus will judge everyone when He comes back and how we have treated people demonstrates whether we are His true disciples

## WELCOME

Share news and take register



## STARTER QUESTION

What did we learn last week? (Because Jesus has forgiven us, we should forgive others.)

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

What is a parable?

1. A story that Jesus used to help Him teach
2. An umbrella that blocks out the sun
3. A safety device to help you if you fall out of an aeroplane



## GAME—ANIMAL SORT

You will need animal cards from resource 6 (page 32-33) cut out enough for one per child from the first set and one per child from the second set.

Give each child a card from set one, which will have either a picture of a horse or a cow on it. The children must not show anyone else their cards. When you say “Go!” the children must make the noise of the animal on their cards and try and group up with others who are making the same noise. At the end, reveal the cards. Hopefully you will have a group of horses and a group of cows.

Do the same again with set two. The children will either have a picture of a goat or a sheep. Goats make a “maa-maa” and sheep a “baa-baa” sound. When you say “Go!” the children are to make the sound of their animal and



try to group up with other children making the same sound. Reveal the cards and see if you managed to sort the sheep and goats. Keep hold of the cards for the story time.

*Which set was easier to sort, the horses and cows or the sheep and goats? Why?* (Horses and cows are very different. Sheep and goats are very similar and harder to sort)



## STORY

*In our story today, Jesus is telling a parable to teach about what will happen when He comes back to judge the living and the dead. Many people say that they follow Jesus and they look okay from the outside, but we will find out one way that Jesus can tell who His true followers are.*

*You will need a chair for the leader reading the story and the children to have a card with a sheep or goat on it from the previous game.*

*Read Matthew 25:31 (Narrator sit down on the chair)*

*Read Matthew 25:32-33 (Sit the children in front of the narrator with the sheep on the narrator's right and the goats on the narrators left)*

*Read Matthew 25:34-39 (Ask the sheep to say "When did we do these things?")*

*Read Matthew 25:40-44 (Ask the goats to ask "When did we NOT do these things?")*

*Read Matthew 25:45-46*



## DISCUSSION

The sheep and goats sound very similar and look very similar, but it was what they did and did not do that helped Jesus to know who were His real disciples. What did the sheep do that the goats did not do? (Clothed the naked, fed the hungry and thirsty, visited the sick and in prison, welcomed the stranger)

Why do you think Jesus expects His true disciples to do these things?

When we ask Jesus to be our King, He comes to live in our hearts by His Holy Spirit. His Holy Spirit changes us to become more and more like God. Because we have been loved by God, the Holy Spirit helps us want to love others. Because God takes care of us, we want to take care of others. Because God is kind to us, we want to be kind to others. Jesus said when we do these things for the very smallest, least important person, we are actually doing it for Jesus!



## GAME—SHEEP, SHEEP, GOAT!

(Duck, Duck, Goose)



All children sit in a circle. One is chosen to walk around the outside and tap each person's head saying "sheep". On one head the child says "goat" and the "goat" has to jump up and chase the other child around the circle before they sit back in the "goats" place.

### CRAFT

Who can you care for, visit or look after? Draw some ideas. (E.g. Are there people in the playground at school who no one else plays with? Do you see lonely people who would like a chat? Have you got an elderly neighbour you could visit? Is there outreach that your church is involved with such as food banks or ministry to the poor?)



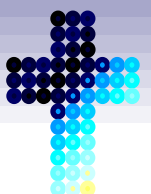
### PRAYER

Share your drawings with each other and pray for your ideas. Encourage the children to share these ideas with their parents, so that they can do them together. Pray also for your friend that you would like to come to know Jesus on your card (see Session 4 craft)



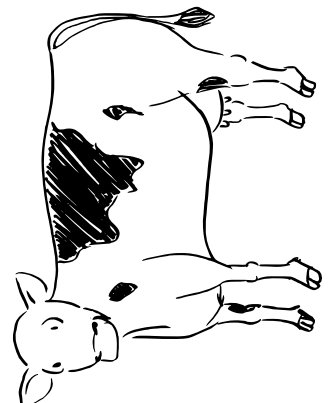
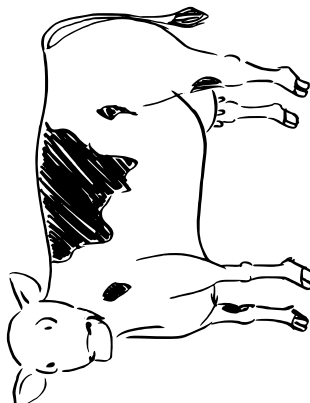
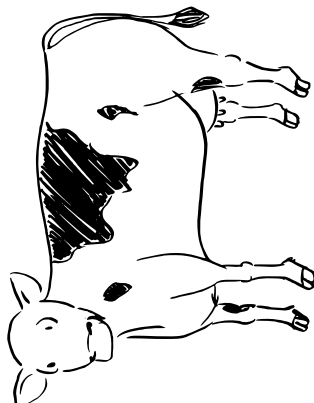
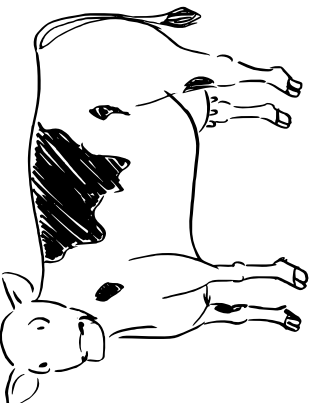
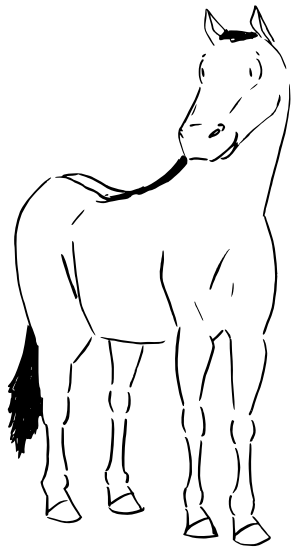
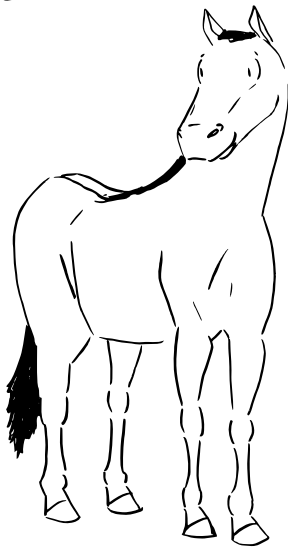
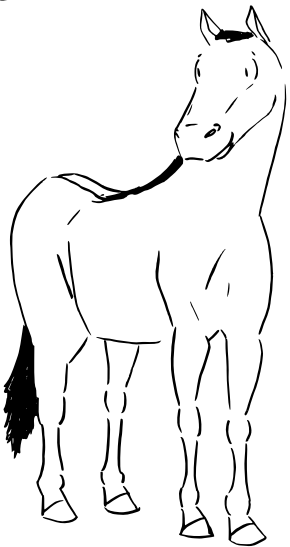
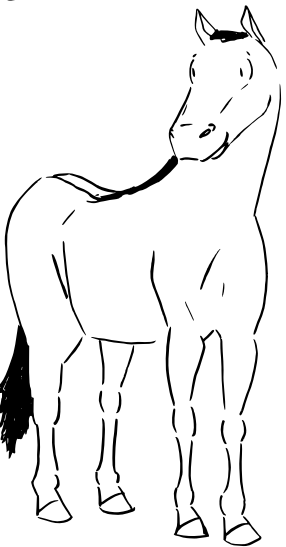
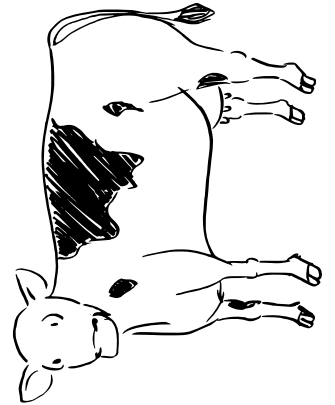
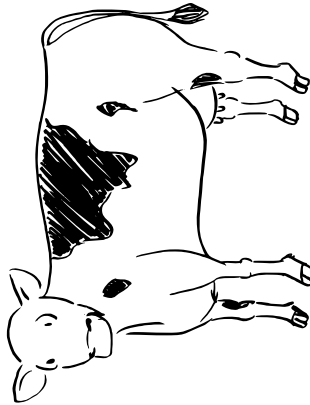
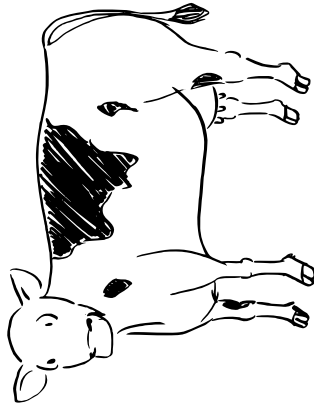
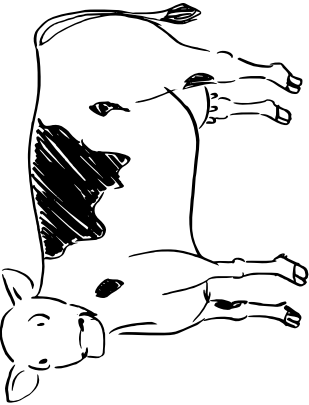
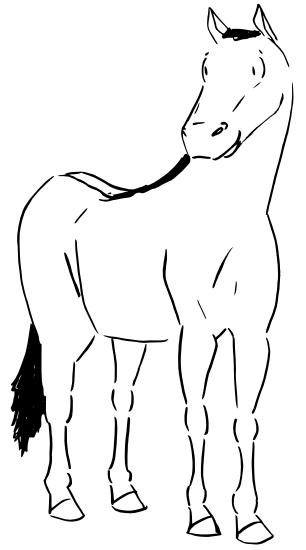
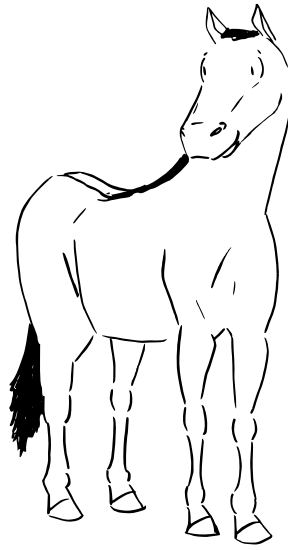
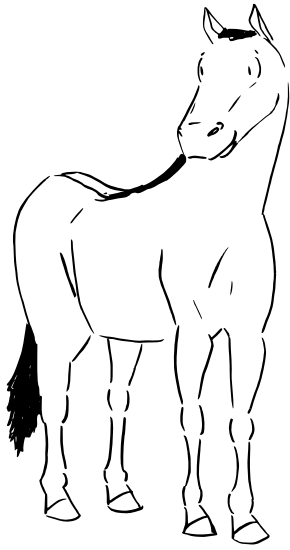
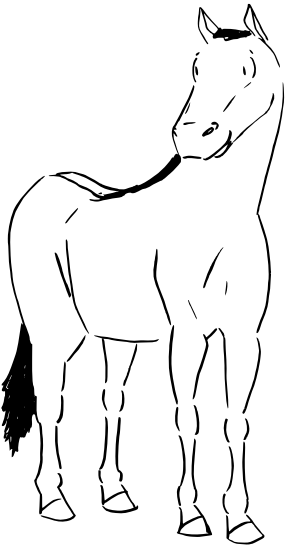
### MEMORY VERSE

*"But remember that they will have to face God, who stands ready to judge everyone, both the living and the dead." 1 Peter 4:5*



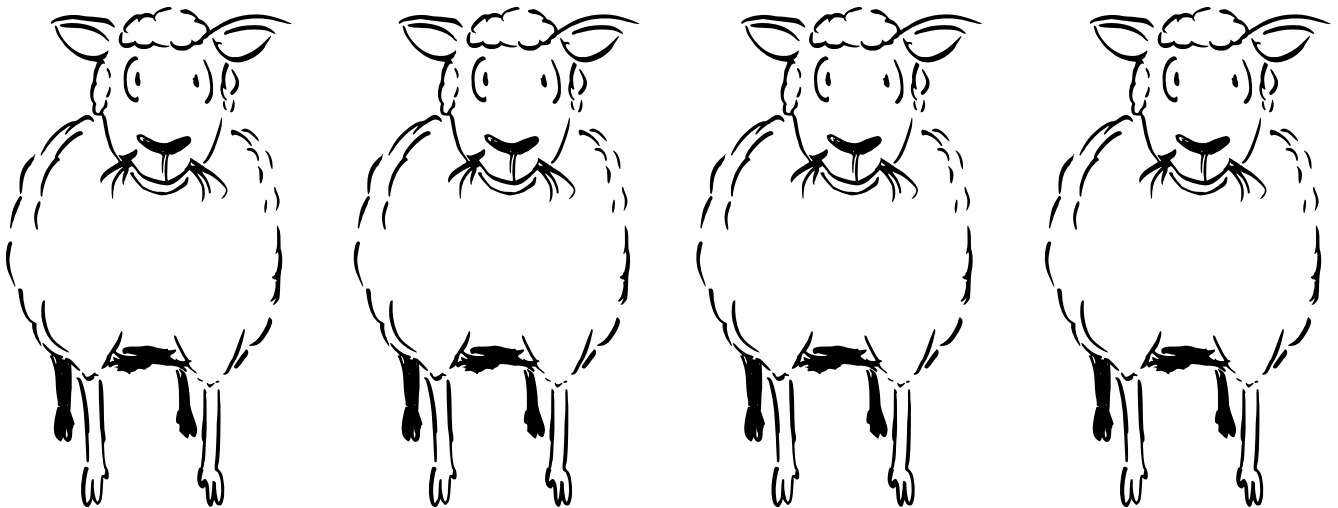
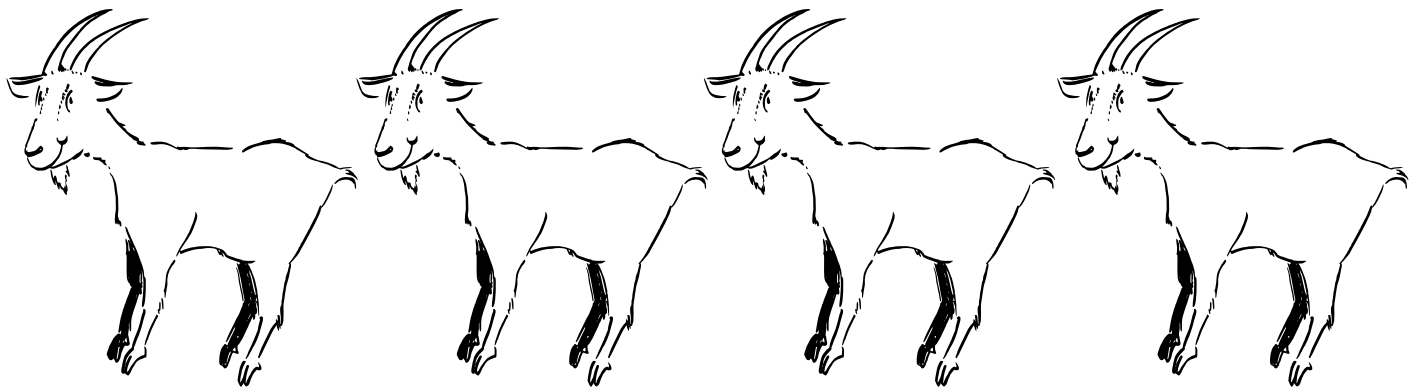
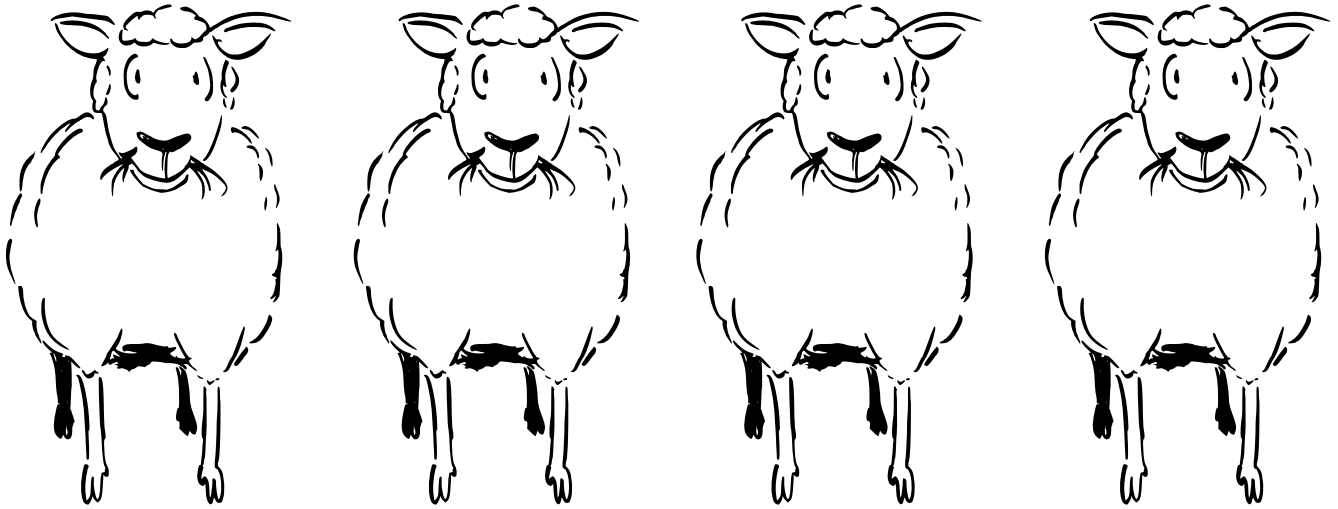
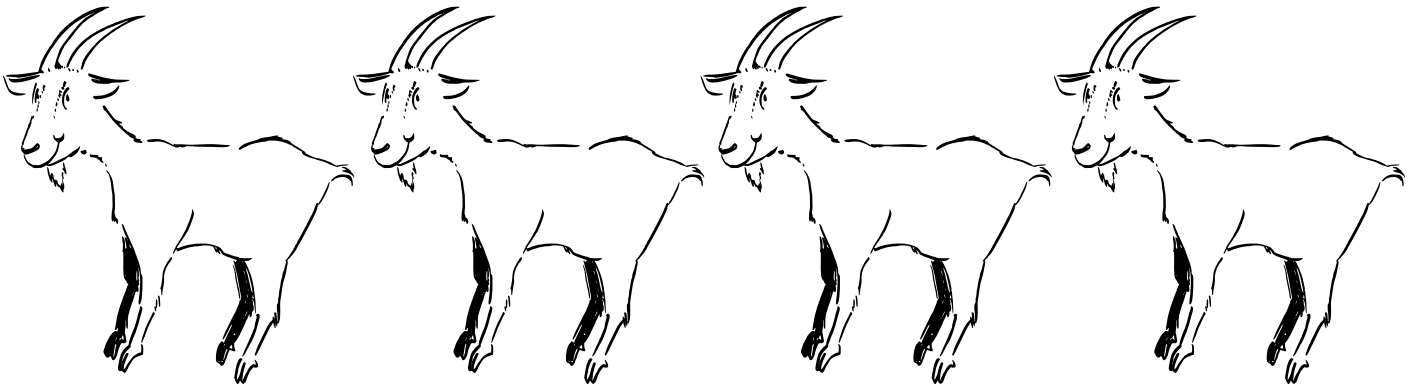
RESOURCE 6

SESSION 7 GAME—ANIMAL SORT SET 1





RESOURCE 6  
SESSION 7 GAME—ANIMAL SORT SET 2





# JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE

SESSION 8: MATTHEW 26:1-5, 26-30 AND 36-39, CUP OF COVENANT AND JUDGEMENT

## MAIN POINT

Jesus drank the cup of judgement on our behalf, so that we might escape death and have a relationship with God

## WELCOME

Share news and take register



## STARTER QUESTION

What did we learn last week? (Jesus will come back and judge everyone according to what they have done.)

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

What is Passover?

1. A cross-field kick in football
2. A rainbow
3. A feast when Jews and Christians remember how God brought the Israelites out of Egypt



Can anyone tell us the story of the Passover? (The Israelites were slaves in Egypt. God heard their prayers and sent Moses to bring them out. God sent ten plagues on Egypt. The final plague was the plague of death. Every firstborn son would die, but if the Israelites sacrificed a spotless lamb and painted its blood on the doorposts of their houses, then the angel of death would Passover them and they would be spared.)

## STORY

*We are going to pick up Jesus' story when He has been teaching for about 3 years. Many people are believing in Him, that He is the Messiah, the anointed leader sent by God, and His words are true, but some religious leaders do not like Je-*





sus. They judge Jesus to be evil and want to kill Him.

Read **Matthew 26:1-3** Jesus knew that He was about to be crucified, but He had one last special meal with His disciples. Which special meal did they eat together? (Passover meal) In this story there are going to be two cups talked about. See if you can spot the first one.

Read **Matthew 26:26-30**

What cup does Jesus talk about? (The wine of the Passover meal) Jesus says this is the blood of the covenant. As the Israelites came out of Egypt at the first Passover, what did the lamb's blood do for them? (Save them from death) What does covenant mean? (Binding agreement, like a marriage) When God saved the Israelites from death, He also made a covenant with them that they would be His people and He would be their God forever. Somehow the blood of the lamb allowed them to come into this covenant and become His people.



### GAME—UNDER COVER

You will need a parachute/large sheet/drape. (If no parachute, see alternative/additional game in Resource 7, page 37.)

God is holy. He never sins and nothing sinful or unholy can come near Him. In order to become friends with God, who is completely holy and sinless, our sin needs to be covered over.

(Everyone hold the outside of the parachute.) It's like this: We are standing outside the parachute, it's like our sin is not covered. If God came near without our sin covered, we would be destroyed, not because He does not love us, but because He is so holy that anything unholy, or sinful, that comes near Him will be destroyed.

After three we are going to lift the parachute high into the air and sit under it. 1...2...3... (Lift the parachute so it makes a mushroom shape with everyone sitting inside underneath). Now we are covered. This is like Jesus' blood that covers our sin. Now God can come near and we can enjoy friendship with God, because our sin is covered by Jesus' blood just as the Israelites' sin was covered by the lamb's blood at Passover. The fancy word for this is "atonement". Now our sin is covered, we can be friends with God. (Repeat so they get the idea)

Other games with parachute—(1) put a ball in the middle and shake the parachute but try to keep the ball on the parachute. (2) Cat and mouse, one child (mouse) goes underneath the parachute and one child (cat) goes on top of the parachute. Everyone shakes the parachute. Cat catches mouse.

## STORY

*The first cup was the Passover cup of covenant. The Israelite's sin was covered by the blood of the lamb and they were able to come into a covenant relationship with God. Is this a happy or sad cup, would you say? (Happy for those becoming friends of God) Now let's look for the next cup.*



Read **Matthew 26:36-39**

*Does Jesus seem happy to "drink this cup"? (No, He is troubled and full of sorrow) Why might that be? (This cup is the cup of judgement. He knows His blood must pour out like the lamb's blood in order to save people from death.)*

*Jesus is the one person who never deserved to experience pain, death and judgement. He is the righteous judge. Yet He chose to receive our punishment and drink our cup, so that we could come into a covenant relationship with God, friends with God.*

## WORSHIP

Sing *Saved by Grace* by GoFish and *King of Love* by Doug Horley (See Resource 5, Page 28)



During *King of Love*, you might like to ask the children to ask God to speak to them and draw any pictures they receive or write a thank you prayer.

## BREAD AND WINE AND PRAYER

*You will need bread to share and red/pink juice/squash to share*

Ask the children what the bread and wine represent. Then encourage them to thank Jesus for His love, that He took our punishment so we can be friends with God. Share the bread and wine together.

Using the cards you created in session 4, pray for your friends..

## CRAFT

*You will need colouring sheets (resource 8), pens, stickers*

Colour in, decorate and draw clothes on the person, remembering that Jesus clothes us and covers our sin.



## MEMORY VERSE

*"But remember that they will have to face God, who stands ready to judge everyone, both the living and the dead." 1Peter 4:5*



## RESOURCE 7

### SESSION 8 ALTERNATIVE GAME—CLOTHES RELAY

*You will need two scarves, two pairs of gloves and two hats.*

In order to become friends with God, who is completely holy and sinless, our sin needs to be “atoned for” or covered over. At Passover, the lambs blood covered the Israelites so they could come into a covenant relationship with God.

If God came near without our sin covered, we would be destroyed, not because He does not love us, but because He is so holy that anything unholy, or sinful, that comes near Him will be destroyed.

When we put our trust in Jesus, His’ blood covers over our sin, He clothes us in His own righteousness. The fancy word for this is “atonement”. Now our sin is covered, we can be close to God and friends with God.

We are going to play a clothes relay game, remembering that Jesus clothes us in righteousness and covers over our sin with His blood shed for us at the cross.

Line up two teams at one end of the room behind a line and put one hat, one scarf and a pair of gloves at the other end of the room opposite each team.

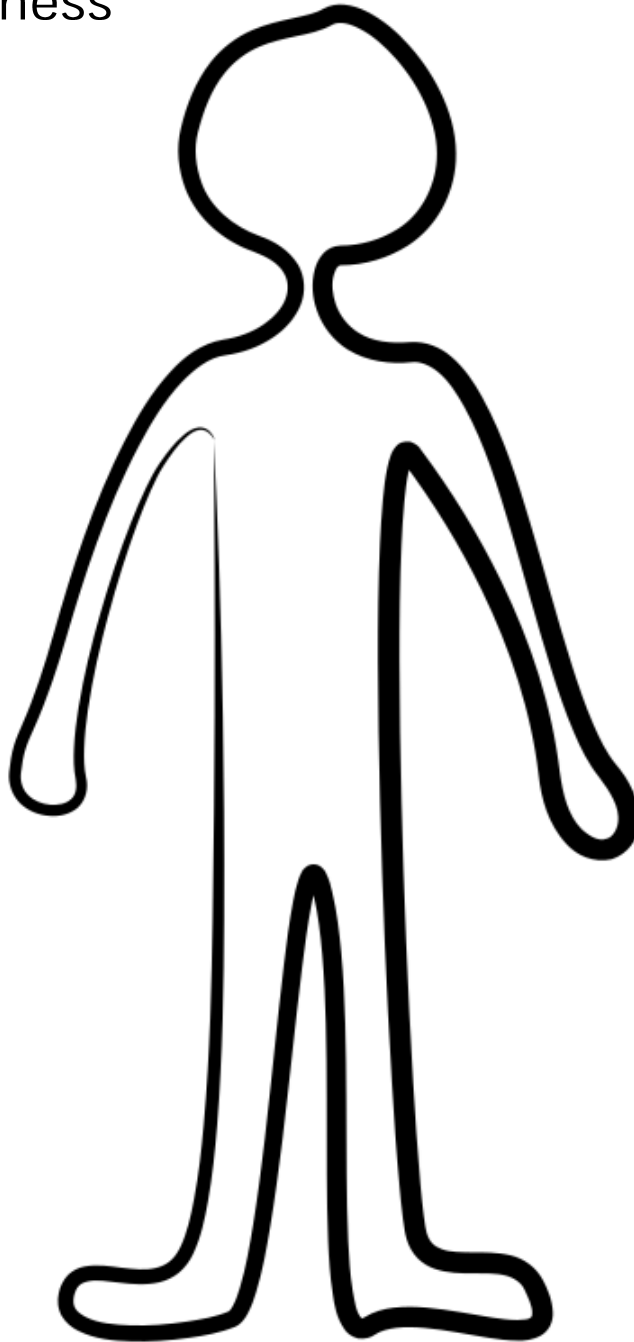
When you say “Go!” The first person runs to the clothes and puts them on, then runs back to the team line and takes them off. Then the next person puts them on and runs to the other end of the room to take them off. When they run back to the team line, the next person goes until everyone has put on and taken off the scarf, hat and gloves once. The first team to be finished and sat by their team line again wins.

# JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE

Matthew 26:1-5, 26-30 and 36-39

Jesus clothes me in  
His righteousness

His blood covers  
my sin...



...so I can be friends with God



# JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE

SESSION 9: MATTHEW  
26:57-68, TRIAL



JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE: MATTHEW 26:57-68

## MAIN POINT

People lied about Jesus to get Him killed, but He was in charge the whole time. When people are mean to you, remember you are a royal son/daughter and your Heavenly Father is in charge

## WELCOME

Share news and take register



## STARTER QUESTION

What did we learn last week? (Jesus' blood covers our sin, so we can come into a covenant relationship, friends forever, with God)



## MULTIPLE CHOICE

Who was the high priest in Jesus' day?

1. The tallest Jew in Jerusalem
2. The most powerful religious leader of the temple, who would judge whether people were keeping God's laws
3. The most loving worshipper of God



## GAME—TRUE OR FALSE

The leaders take it in turns to think up a true statement about themselves and a false statement about themselves. They point to one end of the room which will represent their first statement and the other end of the room which will represent their second statement. They shout 1...2...3...GO! The children then run to the end of the room that represents the statement they think is true. Once you have done this a few times, some of the older kids might like a turn at coming up with a truth and a lie.

## STORY

*Last week we read how Jesus knew He was going to be killed and He*





spent His last evening with His disciples celebrating the Passover meal together. Then He went to the Mount of Olives to pray. There He was arrested by a crowd sent by the religious leaders of the temple. Now the religious leaders are going to question Jesus, this is called a trial.

Read **Matthew 26:57-62** Imagine this crowd of people saying nasty things about Jesus. Why were they questioning Jesus? Were they looking for truth? (No they wanted people to lie about Him so they could kill Him) The priests should have acted on behalf of God, but do you think God was pleased with these religious people? (No!) Can you think of someone else in the Bible that people wanted to kill, but couldn't find an excuse to kill him? (Give them a clue...lion's den...Daniel) Like Daniel, people hated Him for being good, not for being bad! Jesus is the true judge and He could have destroyed the whole crowd for treating Him this way, but. let's see what He chooses to do.

Read **Matthew 26:63a** He was silent! Why did Jesus not speak and defend Himself? (He was choosing to die) Like Daniel went down into the lion's den and the Lord lifted Him out again, Jesus was choosing to go into the tomb, knowing that God would bring Him out.

Read **Matthew 26:63-68**

When Jesus said that He was the Son of Man, He was talking about a vision that Daniel had had. God had shown Daniel one who looked like a human being, who came on clouds to stand before God. Satan was defeated and the Son of Man was given a kingdom that will never end. The religious leaders understood that the Son of Man was the Messiah, the true King and that He would be equal with God, sitting on a throne with Him. Why do you think the religious leaders were angry that Jesus said that this vision was about Himself? (Jesus was claiming to be God and saying that He would be raised up to rule over them and judge them) What was their judgement about Jesus? What did they decide to do to Him? (Kill him)



#### GAME—CAT AND MOUSE

The chief priests were trying to catch Jesus out. We are going to play a catching game now called Cat and Mouse.

One child is chosen as the cat and one child is the mouse. Everyone else holds hands in a circle with the cat outside the circle and the mouse inside the circle. The children in the ring walk around holding hands and calling out this chant. "What time is it? Just struck nine. Is the cat home? He's about to dine!" Then the children stop and the cat has to chase the mouse by weaving in and out of the children. The cat must follow the mouse's path and cannot take a short cut.



## DISCUSSION

The chief priests and religious leaders thought they were in charge, judging Jesus. They thought that they were the powerful cat and Jesus just a little mouse, but who was the true Judge and King? (Jesus) God was in charge the whole time. Jesus was and is far more powerful than His enemies. He chose to give up His life and He knew His Father would lift Him up, just like Daniel trusted God could save Him from the lions' mouths.

Have you ever had people say nasty things about you or be mean to you? Was it difficult to love and forgive them? God promises that those who wait for His help, He will lift up and help, like He lifted up Jesus. When people are mean, remember that You are a royal son/daughter and that your Heavenly Father is really in charge.

## CRAFT

*You will need: Coloured card (metallic if you have some), stickers, pens, glue scissors, stapler.*

Make and decorate crowns, remembering that even when He was arrested and lied about, Jesus was the true King. Even when people are mean to us, we are still sons and daughters of the King of Kings.

## PRAYER

If anyone has any situations where people are being mean to them or lying about them, pray for that situation that God would help you forgive those people and that they would stop doing those things. Pray that God would lift you up and help you, like He helped Daniel and Jesus.

Thank Jesus that He chose to die for us and, using your cards from Session 4, pray for your friend that they would know Jesus too.

## MEMORY VERSE

*"But remember that they will have to face God, who stands ready to judge everyone, both the living and the dead." 1 Peter 4:5*





# JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE

SESSION 10: MATTHEW  
27:50-54, PENALTY PAID

## MAIN POINT

Jesus paid the complete price for our sins, so that we can become friends with God and be filled with His Holy Spirit.

## WELCOME

Share news and take register



## STARTER QUESTION

What did we learn last week? (Jesus went through a false trial, but He was in charge and chose to give up His life. God will help us when we trust in Him when people hurt us.)

Have you had any times this week when you needed to trust God and ask for His help, because people were being mean to you? How did it go?

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

What is the Holy of Holies?

1. A very old pair of socks
2. A particularly holey Swiss cheese
3. The part of the temple where God's Spirit was most powerfully present



The Holy of Holies was the part of the temple where only one priest could go once a year on the day that all of Israel's sins were covered over, or "atoned for". Before the priest went in to be near God, He would have to sacrifice an animal to pay for His sins. Then He could be close to God's presence. The Holy of Holies had a big curtain in front of it that was 60 feet tall (as tall as ten tall men standing on top of each other) and 4 inches thick (wider than your hand).



## STORY

*You will need: a pair of sheets/curtains*

*Stand one person behind the pair of curtains (you might need some children to hold up the curtains). This person is representing the Holy Spirit, God's Holy Presence. Have them wait behind the curtain until they hear that the curtain was torn in to, then have the curtains separate and the child pretending to be the Holy Spirit leap out.*

*Last week we read about how Jesus was lied about and sentenced to death even though He had done nothing wrong. Before the romans crucified Jesus, they whipped Him and mocked Him. They put a red robe on his back, a crown of thorns on His head and a reed in His hand and said "Hail King of the Jews!" Do you think the soldiers were really worshipping Him? (No they were making fun of Him)*

*Then they made Him carry His cross up a hill, but He was so weak He couldn't do it, so they got someone called Simon to carry it for Him. For three hours in the morning the sky went dark. Why do you think that happened? (It was like the whole of creation was weeping for their King)*

*Read **Matthew 27:50-54** (Curtains separating and child leaping out in verse 51)*

## DISCUSSION

What happened when Jesus died? (The curtain of the temple tore in two, rocks split, the earth shook, dead people raised to life) Why do you think dead people were raised to life? (Jesus had undone death)

Why do you think the curtain tore in two? To go into the Holy of Holies, the priests had to make an animal sacrifice each year to cover over their sins, but when Jesus died, He completely paid for everyone's sins. They did not need to make any more sacrifices. Now the Holy Spirit could live, not just inside a temple building, but inside each of us!

## GAME

When Jesus died, it went dark for three hours. We are going to play a game where it will go dark for one person. This is blind man's buff.

*You will need: one blindfold. Remove any obvious hazards before play.*

One child is blindfolded while the others spread out in the room. The person who is blind folded has to try and catch the other children. When someone is caught, they switch places with the person blindfolded.



**CRAFT**

*You will need: tissue paper, coloured paper, pens, glue, scissors.*



On the coloured paper, draw the inside of a temple, cut out a square of tissue paper and tear it down the middle. Stick the top edge of the two halves over the middle part of the picture, the Holy of Holies.

**PRAYER**

Jesus paid the complete price for our sins. There is nothing else left to pay. When we stand before the judge, we are declared not guilty, but that is not all. He did it so that we could receive the free gift of His Holy Spirit and friendship with God.



Thank Jesus that He paid the full price for our sins, so that His Holy Spirit can now live in us. Pray for each other to be filled with the Holy Spirit and to know His power and love more and more.

One of the gifts that God often gives people when they are filled with His Spirit, is the gift of tongues. You might wish to talk about what this gift is and pray for each other to receive it. Then play some worship music and encourage the children to praise God in English or in tongues. (Playing worship music in the background can help people feel less self-conscious) Pray for your friend who does not know Jesus yet.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*"But remember that they will have to face God, who stands ready to judge everyone, both the living and the dead." 1 Peter 4:5*



# JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE

SESSION 11: MATTHEW 28:1  
-10; 16-20, ALL AUTHORITY



JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE. MATTHEW 28:1-10, 16-20

## MAIN POINT

Jesus has been lifted up high above everything else in Heaven and earth and He has been given authority to reign over all of creation. He commands us to go and make disciples and He promises to be with us

## WELCOME

Share news and take register



## STARTER QUESTION

What did we learn last week? (Jesus paid the complete price for our sins, so that we can be friends with God and filled with the Holy Spirit)



## MULTIPLE CHOICE

What does the word **authority** mean?

1. Power to command and rule
2. Ability to write stories
3. A type of tractor



## STORY

*Last week we read how Jesus died and the sky went dark for three hours. Then He was laid in a tomb and on the third day, let's find out what happened.*

*Read **Matthew 28:1-10** How do you think those women would have felt walking to the tomb? (Weeping, full of sorrow) How do you think they felt having seen the angel and Jesus alive again? (Overwhelmed, joyful, bewildered)*

*Read **Matthew 28:16-20** What did Jesus say had been given to Him? (All authority in Heaven and on Earth) What do you think that means?*

*Do you remember what Jesus said about Himself when He was on trial before the chief priests? He said He was the Son of Man coming on the clouds of Heaven. In the prophecy from Daniel that He was talking about, it says that God gave the Son of Man*





*all power and glory and a kingdom that will never end and that all peoples, nations and languages should serve Him. Now that He has died and been raised from the dead, He is seated above every other power in earth or Heaven and has all authority and power. His kingdom will never end!*



### ACTIVITY

*You will need: Duplo, lego or other construction bricks and at least two duplo/lego/other toy people*

Leaving one of the duplo people at floor level, make a tower as high as you can with the other duplo person on top. See how high you can make the tower without it falling over. The person on the floor represents all the people, kings, powers in earth and Heaven and the person on top of the tower represents Jesus who is raised high above every other name and has been given all authority, rule and kingship over everything in all of creation.



### DISCUSSION

*Read Matthew 28:18-20 again*

Now that Jesus has defeated death and is seated above everything else, ruling over creation, what has He asked us to go and do? (Make disciples, baptise and teach them) Do you think you can do this by yourself? Who will be with you and help you? (Jesus, He who has all power and authority, promises to be with us to the end of the age and He sent his Holy Spirit to help us.)

This should give us courage! Jesus promises to be with us.



### GAME—BEAN GAME

When Jesus rose from the dead, He gave His disciples a very important command. He told them to go and make disciples. Do you think we should obey this command? We are going to play a game where we will call out a command and you will see how quickly you can obey.

Children stand up in front of the game leader. The leader calls out beans and the children have to do the action as fast as they can.

Chilli bean—shiver; French bean—shout “bonjour!”; String bean—stand tall and thin; Broad bean—stretch out wide; Baked bean—lie on floor; Runner bean—run on spot; Jumping bean—jump on spot; Jelly bean—wobble.

## PRAYER

Think of the person that you have been praying for to become a Christian over the last few weeks using your prayer card. How could you share Jesus with them? Perhaps you could talk to them about one of your favourite Bible stories or a prayer that the Lord answered. Maybe you could invite them to church or to meet some of your church friends? Thank God that He is with you always and ask Him to help you do one of the things you thought of, Pray again that your friend would respond to Jesus.



## MEMORY VERSE

This is the last week in the series! See who has learnt the memory verse and practice remembering it together. (You might want to give out prizes!)

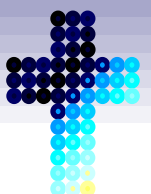
*"But remember that they will have to face God, who stands ready to judge everyone, both the living and the dead." 1 Peter 4:5*



## CRAFT

You will need: Posters (Resource 9), pencils, (laminator)

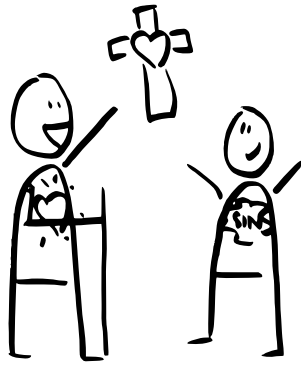
This poster recaps some of the things we have learnt over this 11 week series. You might want to discuss the learning points with the kids as they colour in the worksheet. Encourage the kids to laminate the poster (if you have time to do it in the session, even better) and have it at home as a reminder of the truths we have learnt.



# JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE



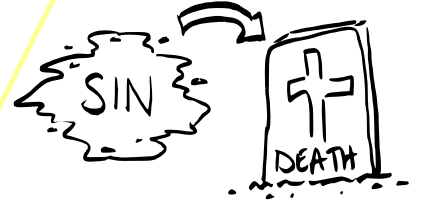
When we love people and trust God, even though it hurts, we are storing up treasure in Heaven



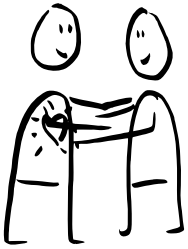
Jesus has all power and authority and promises to be with us as we share the good news



Jesus is the righteous judge, who will judge the living and the dead



The punishment for sin is death



We have been forgiven, therefore we forgive others

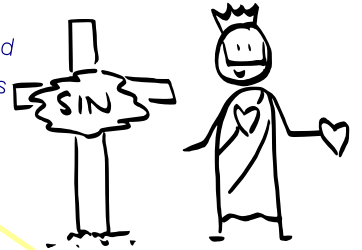


We have all sinned



Jesus knows who His disciples are, because His Holy Spirit changes our hearts and actions

Jesus paid for our sins at the cross

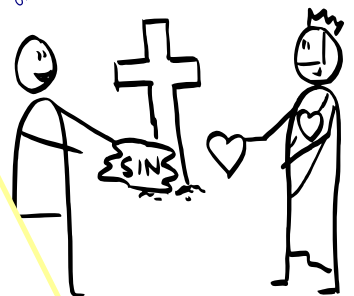
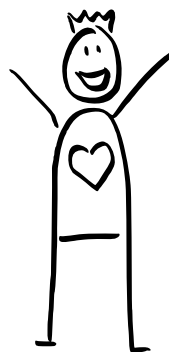
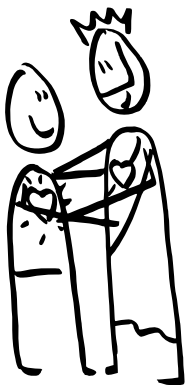


None of us are righteous enough to enter God's Kingdom, but Jesus offers us His righteousness

Jesus made us righteous before God, so we can be friends with God and His Holy Spirit can live in us

Those who do not accept Jesus' forgiveness, will have to pay for their wrongdoing themselves

Those who ask Jesus for forgiveness will enter His Kingdom





## EXTRA GAMES (RESOURCE 10)

### A GREAT WIND BLOWS

You will need: One chair or cushion per child

Make a circle of chairs facing and have all the children sit down, facing the middle. An adult calls out "A great wind blows for everyone who..." and ends the sentence with something along the lines of the examples below. Everyone to whom the statement applies stands up and swaps places with someone else in the circle.

If most children stand up, remove one chair and whoever cannot find a seat comes outside the circle and helps the adult choose a sentence.

*For example:*

*A great wind blows for ...*

*...everyone who has a brother*

*...everyone who has been camping*

*...everyone who has a little sister*

*...everyone who has brown hair*

*...everyone who has blue eyes*

*...everyone who has eaten toast for breakfast*

*...everyone who has a pet cat*

*...everyone who likes to ride a scooter*

*...etc.*

### BLIND MAN'S BLUFF / MARCO POLO

You will need: A blind fold

One child wears the blind fold and has to try and tag the other children.

In Marco Polo, whenever the blind-folded child calls out "Marco", everyone else calls out "Polo", thereby giving away their position.

### CAT AND MOUSE

One child is chosen as the cat and one child is the mouse. Everyone else holds hands in a circle with the cat outside the circle and the mouse inside the circle. The children in the ring walk around holding hands and calling out this chant. "What time is it? Just struck nine. Is the cat home? He's about to dine!" Then the children stop and the cat has to chase the mouse by weaving in and out of the children. The cat must follow the mouse's path and cannot take a short cut.

## EXTRA GAMES (RESOURCE 10)

### DUCK, DUCK, GOOSE / NAME CHASE

All children sit in a circle. One is chosen to walk around the outside and tap each person's head saying "duck". On one head the child says "goose" and the "goose" has to jump up and chase the other child around the circle before they sit back in the "gooses" place.

Name chase is a similar idea, but instead of saying "duck", you say each child's name and instead of saying "goose", you say the name of your children's group or church. This is a good way of learning names.

### BALANCE CHALLENGE

Children stand back to back in pairs and link arms. Child A leans forward so Child B is flat on their back with legs in the air. Then return to the middle. Then Child B leans forward so Child A is flat on their back with legs in the air. Then, return to middle and, still linking arms. Try to sit down.

### MEMORY GAME

Sit children in a circle and ask them to think of one thing they like doing. Then choose someone to start. For example, Katie might say "I like to swim." The person next to her will say "Katie likes to swim, I like to dance." The next person, "Katie likes to swim, Fred likes to Dance, I like to cycle"...and so on.

### CREATE A STORY

Sit the children in a circle. One starts off "Once upon a time..." The next adds a bit of the sentence "an octopus swallowed a..." then the next adds a bit more and so on until you are all the way round the circle.

### MAN DIDDY WATCHER

One person sits in the middle of the circle, blindfolded, with keys in front of them. Another person from the circle quietly takes the keys and walks around the outside of the circle back to their place. The person in the middle has three attempts to point at the person with their keys. If the stealer gets back to their place unnoticed, the group chants "Man diddy watcher, whose got your keys?" Then the person in the middle opens their eyes and has three guesses as to who has their keys.

### BEAN GAME

When bean is called, children do action. Baked bean—lie on the floor. String bean—stretch up tall and thin. Runner bean—run on the spot. Jelly bean—wobble. Jumping bean—jump. Broad bean—stretch wide. French bean—"Bonjour!". Chilli bean—shiver.



