



MARK SESSION 1




MAIN POINT

Jesus calls us to **follow Him**.

We are to learn what He does and who He is so that we might **become like Him**.

MEMORY VERSE


Mark 1:17 **Jesus said to them, "Come and follow me. I will make you fishers of people."**



BIBLE STORY

Our Bible story is found in **Mark 1:14-20**

Jesus calls Simon, Andrew, James and John to follow Him



ACTIVITIES

Game - follow the leader





Craft - fishing rod

Activity - learning by copying

Prayer - Teach me to fish



LEARNING

- We will learn that following Jesus is more than walking down the road with Him! It means to watch, learn from and copy Him. As we follow Jesus, we become like Him.
 - This session also introduces the idea of "fishing for people", i.e. helping rescue people from sin and death by sharing the good news of Jesus with them. This concept will be explored and we will observe how Jesus does this more as the series goes on.
- 
- 
- 
- 

STORY

BIBLE STORY

Our Bible story is found in Mark
1:14-20

Jesus calls Simon, Andrew, James
and John to follow Him

EQUIPMENT

Felt board

Pictures

INSTRUCTIONS

This story can be told using the script and the pictures of...

- Jesus calling
- the fishermen in the boat
- 2x a pair of disciples walking
- the twelve disciples

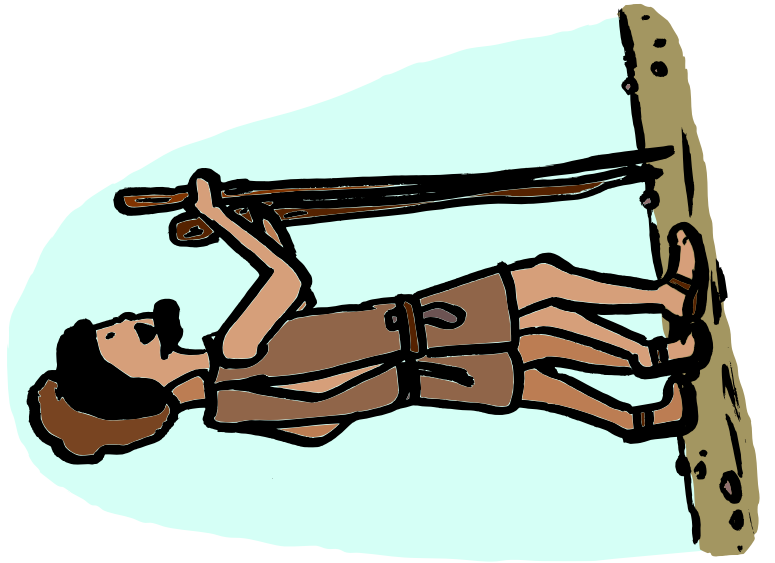
Alternatively, you could tell or act out the story with props of your own choosing. If you do use the felt board pictures, you could also get the kids to retell the story to you afterwards with the pictures.

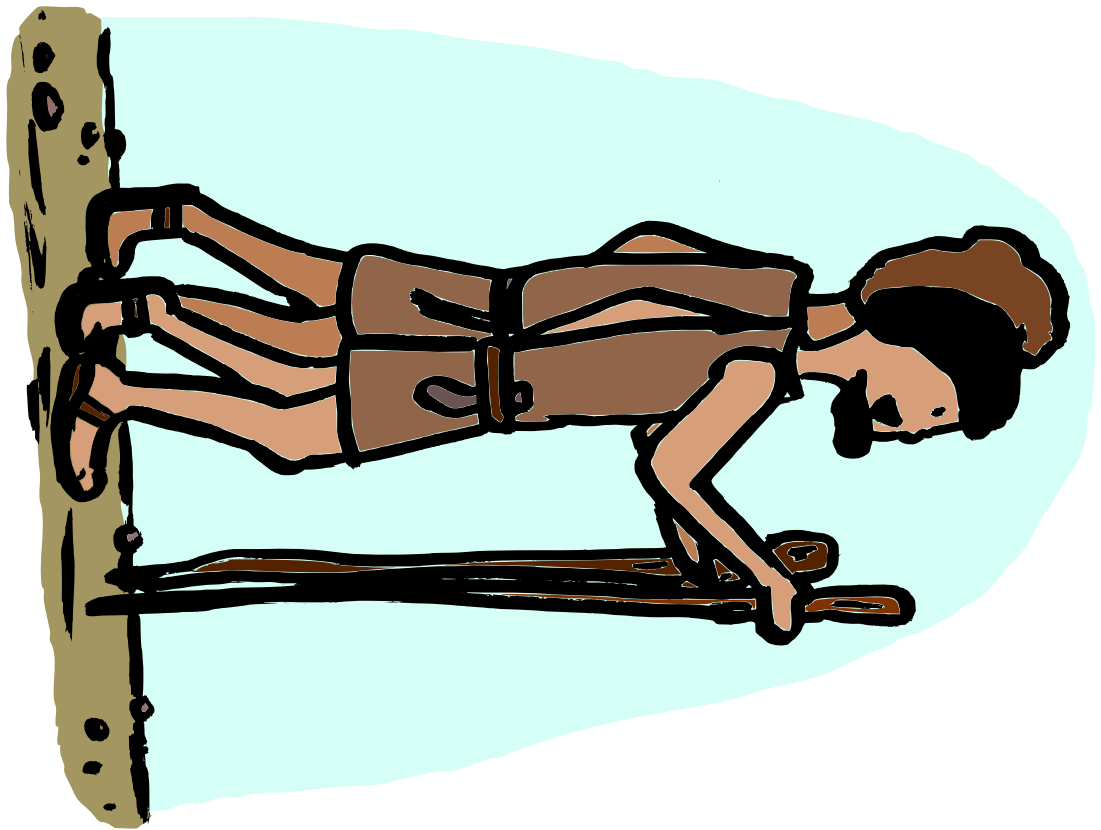
QUESTIONS

1. Who and what did the disciples leave behind to follow Jesus?
2. What did Jesus mean by "follow me"?
3. What did Jesus mean when He said "I will make you into fishers of people"?

RESPONSE

Have you chosen to follow Jesus? If you want to and you want Jesus to make you into a fisher of people, then tell Jesus about it in prayer.







SESSION 1 STORY



The Bible tells us about God's rescue plan for the world. God created people to know Him and love Him and love each other, but right from the very beginning, people kept getting it wrong. They kept choosing sin (which is the bad things we do) and forgetting who they were made for. But God had a marvellous plan to come to earth and show people the way back to God. God came in the form of a human being called...? Jesus!

When Jesus was a grown up, His cousin John told everyone to get ready, because God's Messiah (that means God's true anointed King... in other words, Jesus!) was coming to bring God's kingdom to earth. John baptised people, calling them to turn from their sin and trust in Jesus and he even baptised Jesus!

Some people didn't like John's message. They did not want to be told that they were doing bad things. So, they locked John in prison, thinking that that would put a stop to all this kingdom of God stuff. They were wrong of course! God's special plan was just getting started...

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee. [Picture of Jesus] He preached the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Turn away from your sins and believe the good news!"

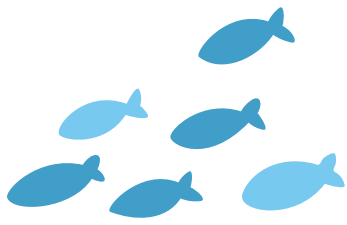
One day Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee. [Picture of the disciples in the fishing boat] There he saw Simon and his brother Andrew. They were throwing a net into the lake. They were fishermen. "Come and follow me," Jesus said. "I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. [Take the fishing boat picture down and replace with the picture of two disciples walking]

Then Jesus walked a little farther. As he did, he saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat preparing their nets. [Place the fishermen in the boat picture up again]

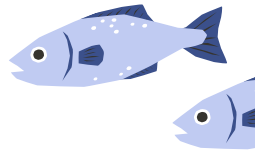
Right away he called out to them. They left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men. Then they followed Jesus. [Add another pair of disciples walking to the picture]. (Mark 1v14-20 NIrV)

Jesus eventually chose twelve disciples to be His special helpers. [Picture of the 12 disciples] Each of them responded to Jesus' call to "Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of people." He also called many other men, women and children to follow Him and learn about the Kingdom of God. While they were not the 12 disciples, they too journeyed with Him and learnt from Him and we see later in the Bible, that God made them fishers of people as well!





ACTIVITIES



ACTIVITIES

Game - follow the leader

Craft - fishing rod

Activity - following

Prayer - teach me to fish

FISHING RODS

You will need: paper straws, string, tape, paper or card fish, scissors and colouring pens or pencils

1. Each child colours and cuts out a fish
2. Stick the fish to the end of a length of string and the other end of the string to the end of a straw to create a fishing rod



FOLLOWING

Suggested props: a baby spoon, bowl and doll

We all learn by copying people. Think about babies. How do they learn that a spoon is used to take food from a bowl to their mouth? They watch and copy their parents and siblings.

What do you think the disciples might learn by watching and copying Jesus?

PRAYER

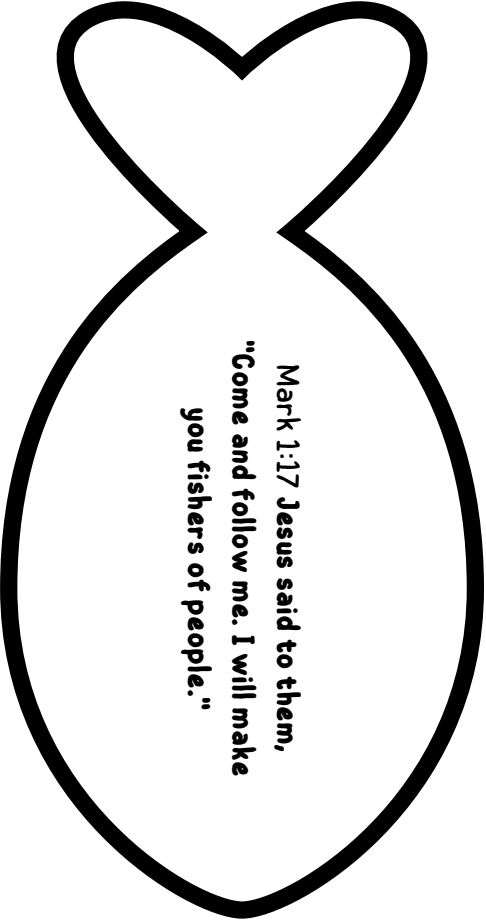
Hold the fishing rod you have made out in front of you and say this repeat-after-me prayer:

Father God, Thank You that You are calling me to follow You. I want to learn from Jesus. Please teach me to fish for people. Amen.

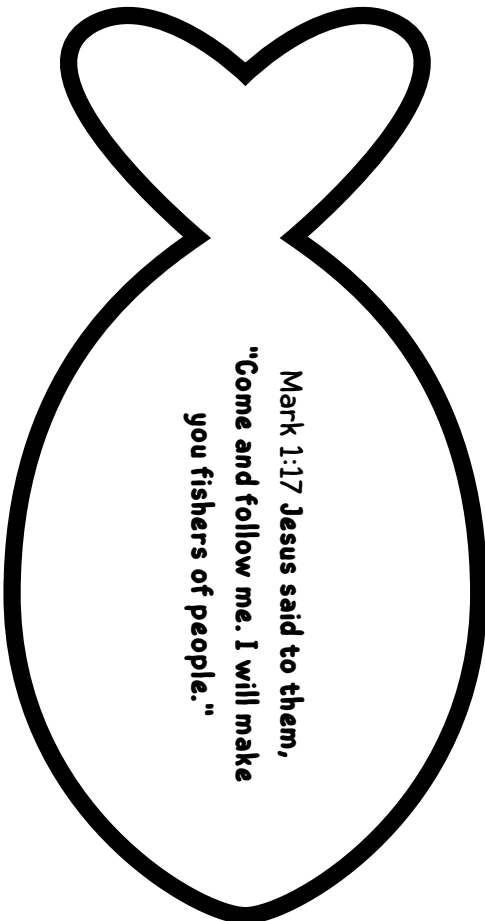
FOLLOW THE LEADER

1. Have all the children sit in a circle and one go out the room
2. Choose one child in the circle to be the "leader". They will start an action and the rest of the children follow. Whenever the leader changes their action, the other children change too
3. Call the child outside back in. They must stand in the middle of the circle and try to work out who the leader is. They have three guesses
4. Then switch over and have another child go outside

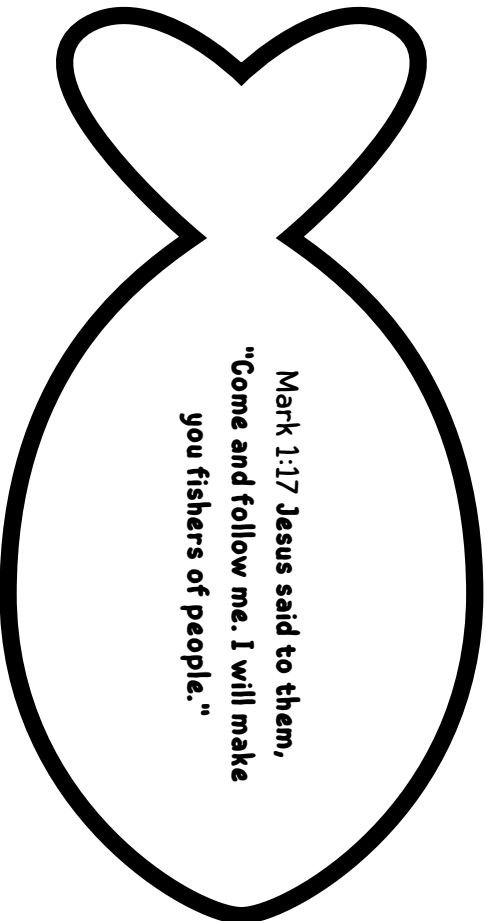




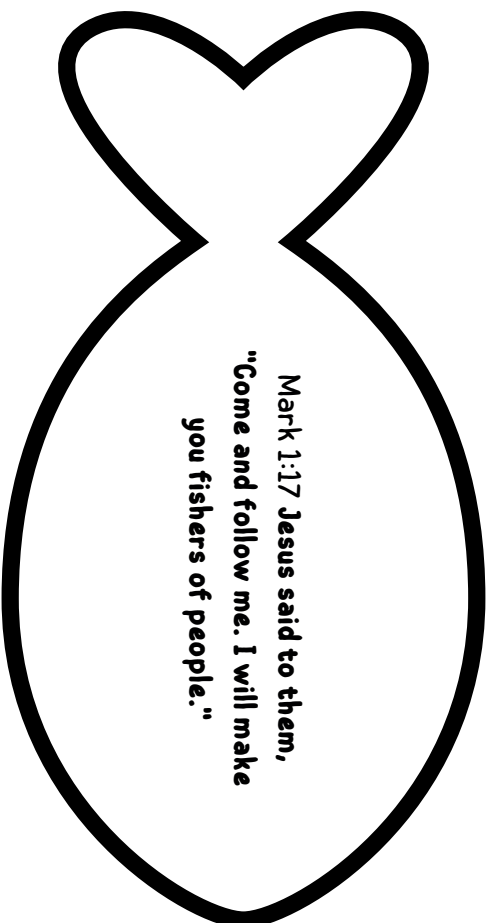
Mark 1:17 Jesus said to them,
"Come and follow me. I will make
you fishers of people."



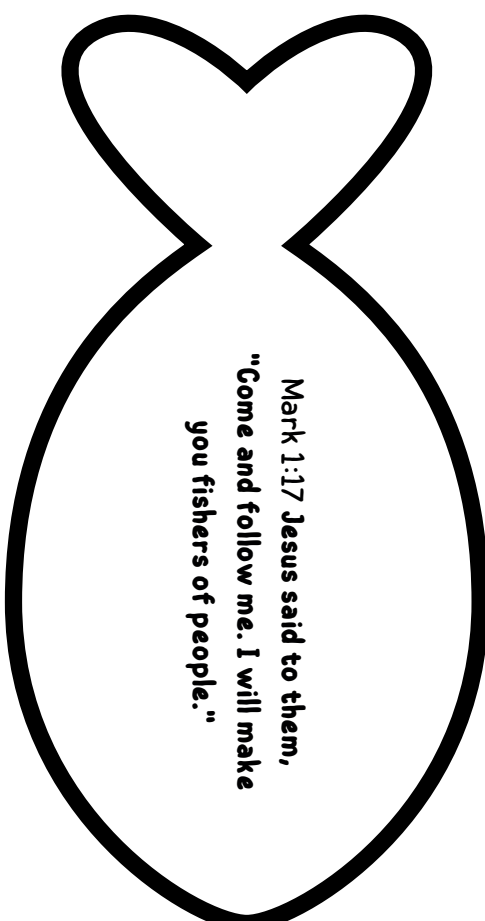
Mark 1:17 Jesus said to them,
"Come and follow me. I will make
you fishers of people."



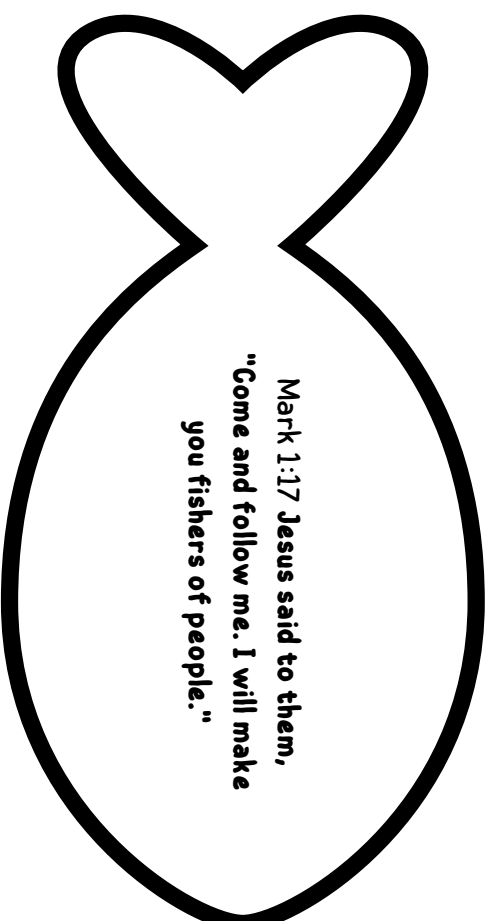
Mark 1:17 Jesus said to them,
"Come and follow me. I will make
you fishers of people."



Mark 1:17 Jesus said to them,
"Come and follow me. I will make
you fishers of people."

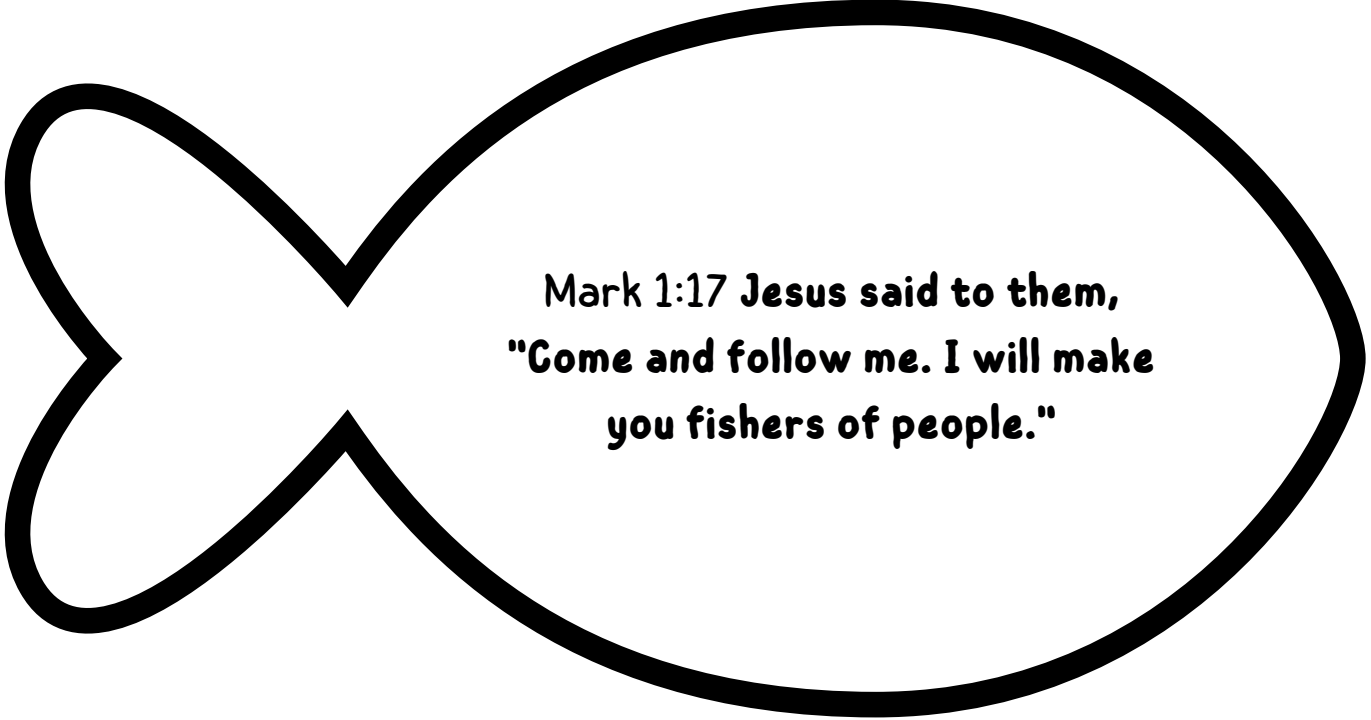


Mark 1:17 Jesus said to them,
"Come and follow me. I will make
you fishers of people."

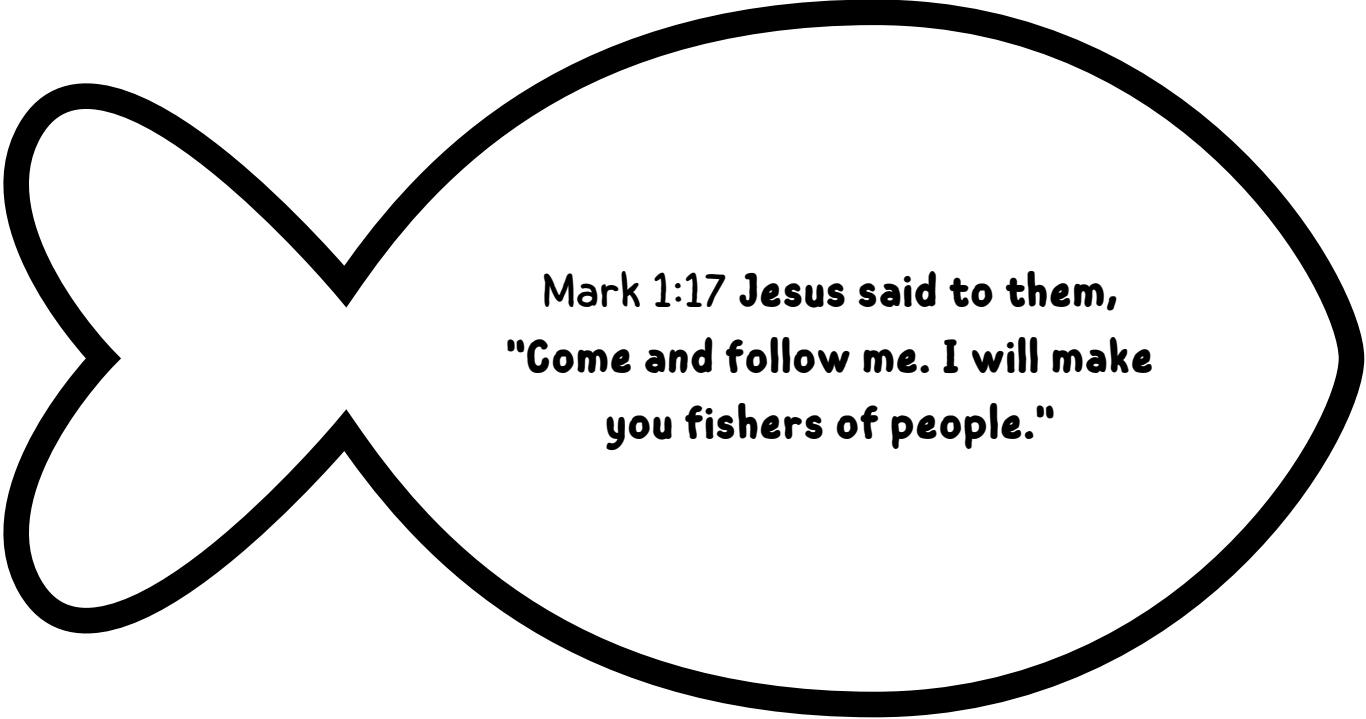


Mark 1:17 Jesus said to them,
"Come and follow me. I will make
you fishers of people."

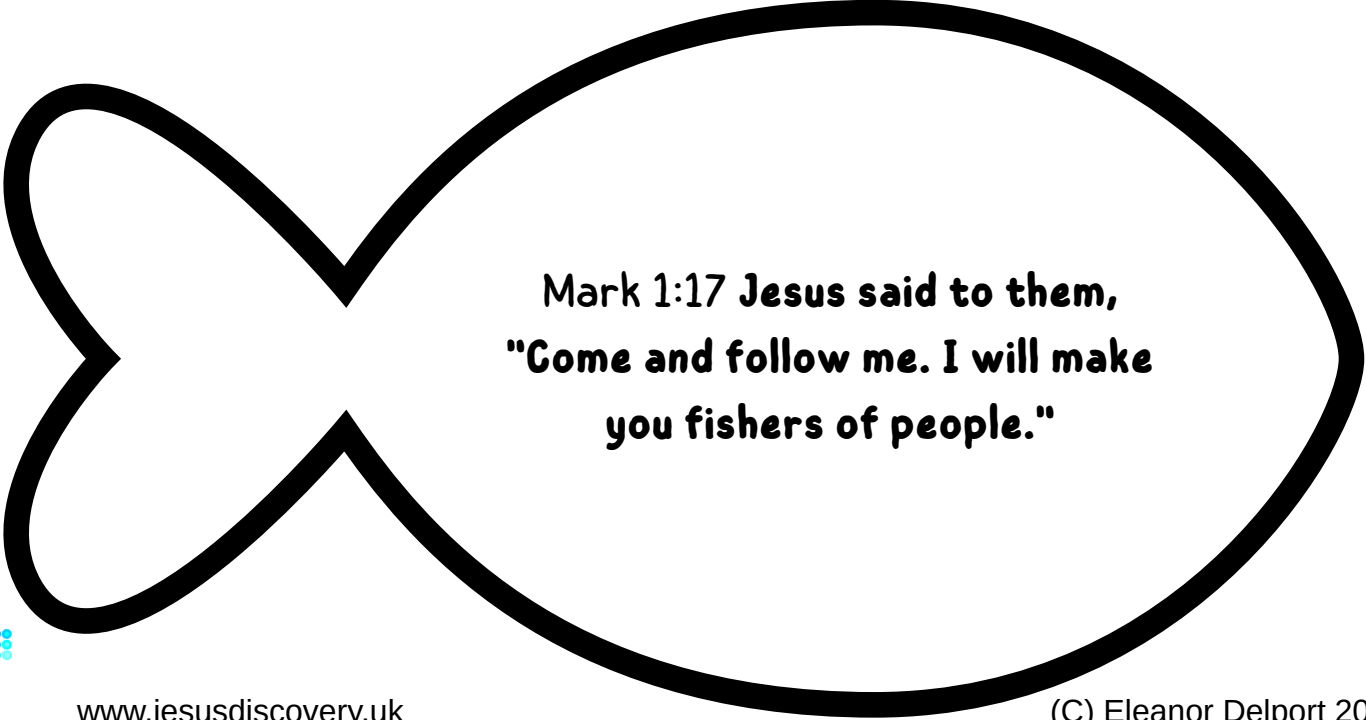




**Mark 1:17 Jesus said to them,
"Come and follow me. I will make
you fishers of people."**



**Mark 1:17 Jesus said to them,
"Come and follow me. I will make
you fishers of people."**



**Mark 1:17 Jesus said to them,
"Come and follow me. I will make
you fishers of people."**





MARK SESSION 2

MAIN POINT

Jesus fished for people by teaching and demonstrating the Kingdom of God.
He demonstrated the kingdom by healing the sick and delivering people from demons

MEMORY VERSE

Mark 1:17 **Jesus said to them, "Come and follow me. I will make you fishers of people."**



BIBLE STORY

Our Bible story is found in. Mark 1:21-39

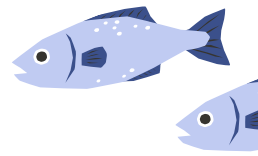
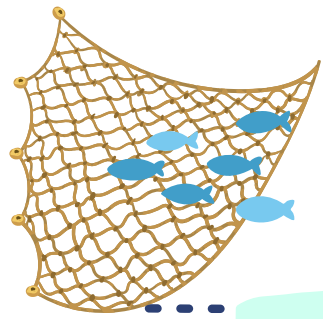
Jesus delivered people from demons and healed the sick. The news about Jesus spread quickly and He went from village to village spreading the news of the Kingdom of God and fishing for people.

ACTIVITIES

Game - Fishing relay
Craft - maps
Activity - show me
Prayer

LEARNING

- Jesus went place to place telling people about the Kingdom of God.
- Jesus did not just tell them with words. He showed them with power.
- Jesus healed the sick and cast out demons and the news about Him spread quickly.
- Jesus' methods for fishing for people were very effective!



STORY

BIBLE STORY

Our Bible story is found in Mark
1:21-39

Jesus travels about demonstrating
the Kingdom of God with power

EQUIPMENT

Felt board

Pictures

INSTRUCTIONS

This story can be told using the script and the pictures of...

- Jesus calling
- the twelve disciples
- 2x villages
- 3x hearts
- the girl/woman in the bed
- a pair of disciples

Alternatively, you could tell or act out the story with props of your own choosing. If you do use the felt board pictures, you could also get the kids to retell the story to you afterwards with the pictures.





SESSION 2 STORY



Jesus and those with him went to Capernaum. [Place a picture of a town on the board and Jesus and the twelve next to it] When the Sabbath day came, he went into the synagogue. There he began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching. That's because he taught them like one who had authority. He did not talk like the teachers of the law. Just then a man in their synagogue cried out. He was controlled by an evil spirit. He said, ²⁴ "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the Holy One of God!"

"Be quiet!" said Jesus firmly. "Come out of him!" The evil spirit shook the man wildly. Then it came out of him with a scream. Jesus had set the man free. [Place a heart on the board]

All the people were amazed. So they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching! And with so much authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits, and they obey him." News about Jesus spread quickly all over Galilee.

Jesus and those with him left the synagogue. Right away they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was lying in bed with a fever. [Use the picture of the girl/woman lying in bed] They told Jesus about her right away. So he went to her. He took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her. [Place another heart on the board] Then she began to serve them.

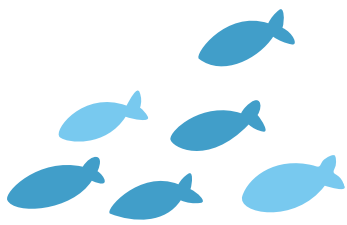
That evening after sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who were sick. [Place a picture of the crowd on the board] They also brought all who were controlled by demons. All the people in town gathered at the door. Jesus healed many of them. [Place another heart on the board] They had all kinds of sicknesses. He also drove out many demons. But he would not let the demons speak, because they knew who he was.

It was very early in the morning and still dark. Jesus got up and left the house. He went to a place where he could be alone. There he prayed. Simon and his friends went to look for Jesus. [Move Jesus away from the town and then use a picture of a pair of disciples to go over to Jesus] When they found him, they called out, "Everyone is looking for you!"

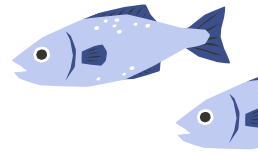
Jesus replied, "Let's go somewhere else. I want to go to the nearby towns. I must preach there also. That is why I have come." So he travelled all around Galilee. [Place another village on the board and move the twelve and Jesus to it] He preached in their synagogues. He also drove out demons. [Add a heart to it] (Mark 1v21-39 NIrV)

Soon Jesus had healed so many people and the news about Him had travelled so far that He could not go into towns anymore, because the crowds were too big. What a big catch of fish! Jesus was very good at fishing for people!





ACTIVITIES



ACTIVITIES

Game - Fishing relay

Craft - maps

Activity - show me

Prayer - marching

MAPS

You will need: villages, nets and arrows from the work sheet, glue, colouring pens and maps

1. Give each child a map to colour in
2. The children can colour in and cut out the villages, nets and arrows and stick them on their map to demonstrate how Jesus moved from village to village fishing for people



SHOW ME

Jesus didn't simply talk about the Kingdom of God, He showed people it.

I am going to ask you to show me something and you will tell me how you might do that.

Is lego fun? Show me!

Is kindness good? Show me!

Are cakes tasty? Show me!

Is ice cold? Show me!

Jesus told people that the kingdom of God was near. How did He show them the Kingdom?

Standing the children in a circle, begin marching on the spot and ask the children to copy you. Then rhythmically pray this repeat-after-me prayer

Wherever we go... (Wherever we go)

Whoever we see... (Whoever we see)

Help us share Jesus...(Help us share Jesus)

With those that we meet...(With those that we meet)

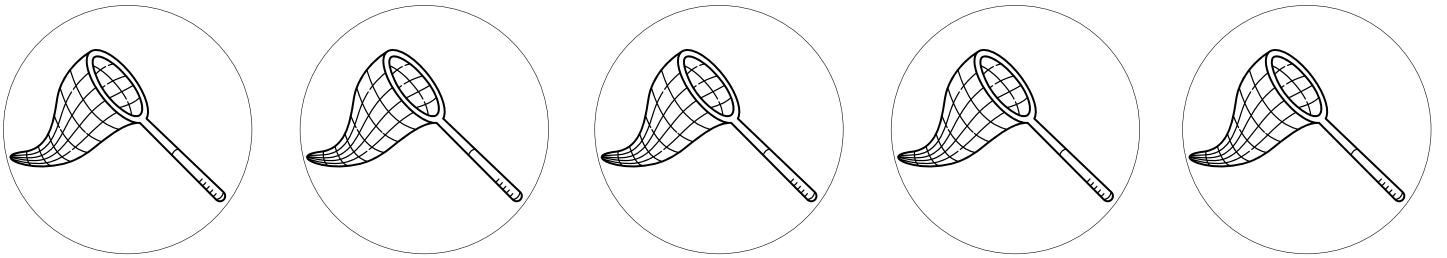
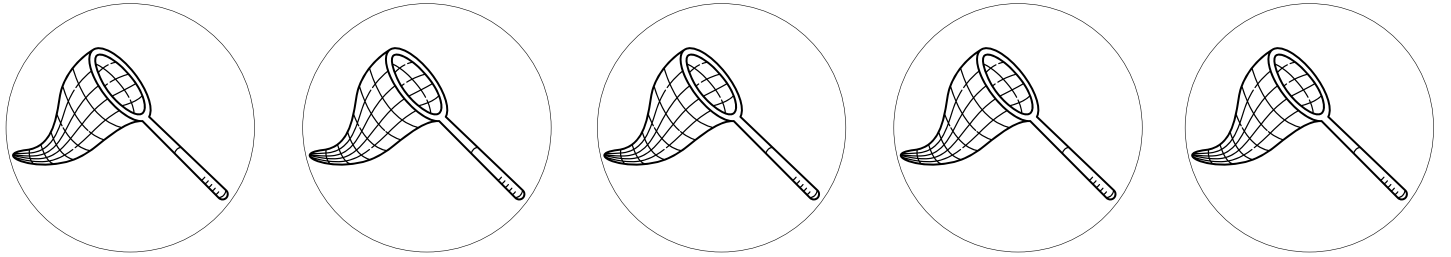
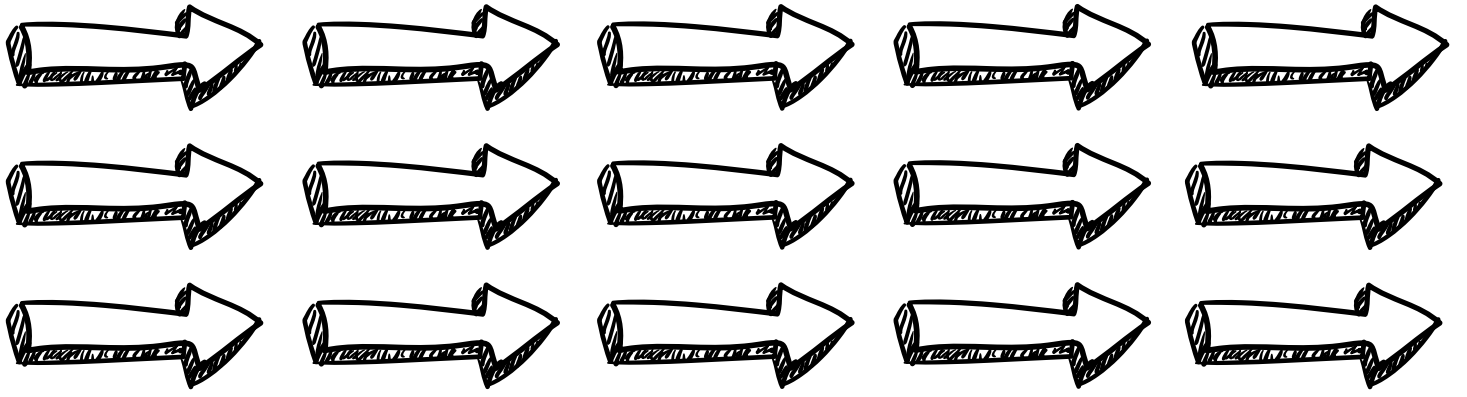
...AMEN!

FISHING RELAY

You will need: two fishing rods with magnets on the end, 2 buckets, a hoop or small paddling pool, several card fish with paperclips attached to their noses, 2 starting cones

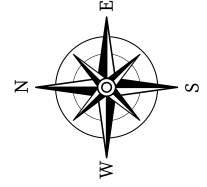
1. Line the children up in two teams behind their starting cones and put all the fish in the hoop/pool at the other end of the room with the rods and buckets next to the pool
2. The first child runs to the pool, uses a rod to fish out a fish, puts the fish in the bucket and runs back to the starting cone
3. The next child does likewise until all have had a go. Celebrate the fish and everyone for taking part (you may wish to reward participants with a biscuit!)







"Jesus answered, "We should go somewhere else, to other towns around here. Then I can preach there too.
That is the reason I came." Mark 1:38





MARK SESSION 3

MAIN POINT

We want our hearts to be "good soil" for the seed of the gospel and to live a life that multiplies and spreads this good news

MEMORY VERSE

Mark 1:17 **Jesus said to them, "Come and follow me. I will make you fishers of people."**

BIBLE STORY

Our Bible story is found in Mark 4v1-20

Jesus had been healing the sick and setting people free from demons. The good news that Jesus was bringing the kingdom of God was travelling quickly and many people were listening. However, not everyone would go on to live out and share this good news for themselves. Jesus told a parable called the parable of the sower to explain.

ACTIVITIES

Game - fruit salad

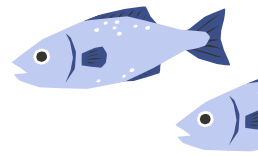
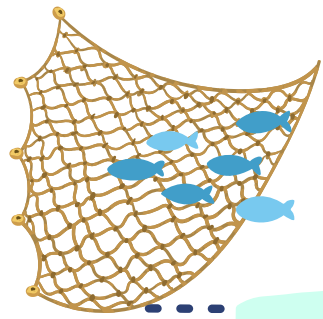
Craft - 3 ideas

Activity - fruit and grain

Prayer fruitful

LEARNING

- The truth of the gospel is like a seed that can produce good fruit in our life if we have "good soil" and we can spread the seeds of the gospel to others
- An example of someone who has "good soil" might be someone who thinks carefully about what they have heard, believes Jesus' words and puts them into action and doesn't get distracted by worries and wealth, but keeps their focus on following Jesus



STORY

BIBLE STORY

Our Bible story is found in Mark 4:1-20

Jesus teaches using the parable of the sower

EQUIPMENT

Felt board

Pictures

INSTRUCTIONS

This story can be told using the script and the pictures of...

- Jesus calling
- the twelve disciples
- the crowd
- the fishermen in the boat
- the sower
- path and birds
- rocks
- wheat in weeds
- healthy wheat

Alternatively, you could tell or act out the story with props of your own choosing. If you do use the felt board pictures, you could also get the kids to retell the story to you afterwards with the pictures.





SESSION 3 STORY



Again Jesus began to teach by the Sea of Galilee. [Place Jesus, the fishermen in the boat and the crowd onto the board] The crowd that gathered around him was very large. So he got into a boat. He sat down in it out on the lake. All the people were along the shore at the water's edge. He taught them many things using stories. In his teaching he said, "Listen! A farmer went out to plant his seed. [Place the picture of the sower on the board] He scattered the seed on the ground. Some fell on a path. [Place the picture of the path and birds on the board] Birds came and ate it up. Some seed fell on rocky places, where there wasn't much soil. [Place the picture of the rocks on the board] The plants came up quickly, because the soil wasn't deep. When the sun came up, it burned the plants. They dried up because they had no roots. Other seed fell among thorns. [Place the picture of the weeds on the board] The thorns grew up and crowded out the plants. So the plants did not bear grain. Still other seed fell on good soil. [Place the healthy wheat picture on the board] It grew up and produced a crop 30, 60, or even 100 times more than the farmer planted."

Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears should listen."

Later Jesus was alone. The 12 disciples asked him about the stories. [Replace the crowd with the picture of the twelve disciples] So did the others around him. He told them, "The secret of God's kingdom has been given to you. But to outsiders everything is told using stories. In that way,

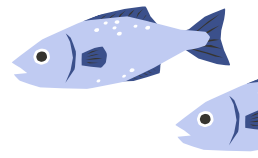
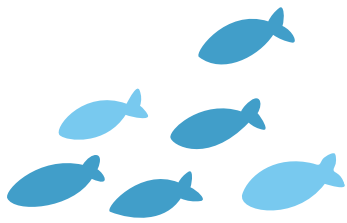
"They will see but never know what they are seeing.

They will hear but never understand.

Otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!" (Isaiah 6:9,10)

Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this story? Then how will you understand any stories of this kind? The seed the farmer plants is God's message. What is seed scattered on a path like? The message is planted. The people hear the message. Then Satan comes. He takes away the message that was planted in them. And what is seed scattered on rocky places like? The people hear the message. At once they receive it with joy. But they have no roots. So they last only a short time. They quickly fall away from the faith when trouble or suffering comes because of the message. And what is seed scattered among thorns like? The people hear the message. But then the worries of this life come to them. Wealth comes with its false promises. The people also long for other things. All of these are the kinds of things that crowd out the message. They keep it from producing fruit. And what is seed scattered on good soil like? The people hear the message. They accept it. They produce a good crop 30, 60, or even 100 times more than the farmer planted." {Mark 4v1-20 NIrV}





ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES

Game - fruit salad

Craft - 3 ideas

Activity - fruit and grain

Prayer - fruitful

FRUIT SALAD

This game can be played in an open space inside or outside or using a parachute for the children to run under.

Stand the children in a circle and walking around the circle, give each child the name of a fruit...apple...orange...banana...pear...apple...orange...banana...pear...etc.

Then call out a fruit, e.g. "apple!" and all the "apples" run across the circle and find another space to stand in. Call another fruit and the next group of children run. When you call "fruit salad!" everyone runs.



PRAYER

Hold a piece of fruit in your hand and look at the seeds.

Pray that you would receive the good news of Jesus like seed falling on good soil and that your life would be fruitful and would spread more gospel seeds to people around you.



CRAFT

Depending on the time of year and what you have available to you, you might like to...

...Create a picture using seeds and leaves that you can collect or even take the kids outside to collect things and then glue them to a paper plate.

... Alternatively, print a picture of a grain field and colour them in

...Or use a long roll of paper and work together to draw the 4 different areas from the parable



ACTIVITY

You will need a variety of fruit and grain

Cut open the fruit and explore the fruit and grain with the children. Observe how many seeds each plant contains and talk about how they are spread.

Each plant grows from one tiny seed. Jesus said that the gospel is like these tiny seeds. In what way do you think the good news of Jesus is like a seed? What is the fruit of the gospel and how does it spread? What do you think someone who's life has "good soil" might be like?





MARK SESSION 4




MAIN POINT

Jesus has the power to heal and raise the dead. God can help us become more aware of what He is doing.

MEMORY VERSE

Mark 1:17 Jesus said to them, "Come and follow me. I will make you fishers of people."




BIBLE STORY



Our Bible story is found in Mark 5:21-43

Jesus heals a woman who was bleeding for twelve years and raised a twelve year old girl back to life. Despite the noise and hustle and bustle around Him, Jesus kept His focus on what the Holy Spirit was doing.



ACTIVITIES



Game - get up!


Craft - woman healed

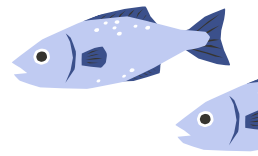
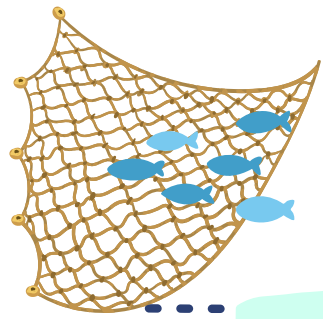
Activity - senses

Prayer - cloth



LEARNING

- How did Jesus know that someone had been healed? He had learned to discern when the Holy Spirit was working.
 - Why do you think Jesus shut the mourners out of the house? He wanted to hear what God had to say, not what those who lacked faith had to say
 - How do you think the parents felt when they received back their daughter?
- 



STORY

BIBLE STORY

Our Bible story is found in Mark 5:21-43

Jesus heals a woman who was bleeding for twelve years and raised a twelve year old girl back to life. Despite the noise and hustle and bustle around Him, Jesus kept His focus on what the Holy Spirit was doing.

EQUIPMENT

Felt board

Pictures



INSTRUCTIONS

This story can be told using the script and the pictures of...

- Jesus calling
- the twelve disciples
- the crowd
- the empty boat
- Jairus
- the woman kneeling
- the little girl in bed
- 2x pair of disciples
- a healing heart

Alternatively, you could tell or act out the story with props of your own choosing. If you do use the felt board pictures, you could also get the kids to retell the story to you afterwards with the pictures.





SESSION 4 STORY



Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee in a boat. [Use the pictures of Jesus, the twelve and the empty boat to demonstrate Jesus crossing the lake] It landed at the other side. There a large crowd gathered around him. [Add the picture of the crowd] Then a man named Jairus came. He was a synagogue leader. [Add Jairus] When he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. He begged Jesus, "Please come. My little daughter is dying. Place your hands on her to heal her. Then she will live." So Jesus went with him.

A large group of people followed. They crowded around him. A woman was there who had a sickness that made her bleed. [Add the picture of the woman kneeling] It had lasted for 12 years. She had suffered a great deal, even though she had gone to many doctors. She had spent all the money she had. But she was getting worse, not better. Then she heard about Jesus. She came up behind him in the crowd and touched his clothes. She thought, "I just need to touch his clothes. Then I will be healed." Right away her bleeding stopped. She felt in her body that her suffering was over.

At once Jesus knew that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd. He asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

"You see the people," his disciples answered. "They are crowding against you. And you still ask, 'Who touched me?'"

But Jesus kept looking around. He wanted to see who had touched him. Then the woman came and fell at his feet. [Bring the woman kneeling close to Jesus] She knew what had happened to her. She was shaking with fear. But she told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Dear woman, your faith has healed you. Go in peace. You are free from your suffering."

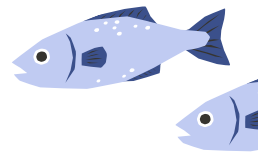
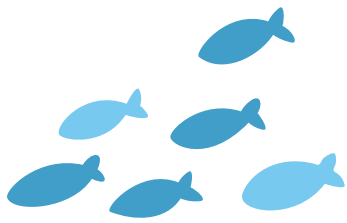
While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus. He was the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?"

Jesus heard what they were saying. He told the synagogue leader, "Don't be afraid. Just believe."

He let only Peter, James, and John, the brother of James, follow him. [Move Jesus, two pairs of disciples, Jairus and the crowd together] They came to the home of the synagogue leader. There Jesus saw a lot of confusion. People were crying and sobbing loudly. He went inside. Then he said to them, "Why all this confusion and sobbing? The child is not dead. She is only sleeping." But they laughed at him.

He made them all go outside. [Remove the crowd] He took only the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him. And he went in where the child was. [Add the girl in the bed] He took her by the hand. Then he said to her, "Talitha kum!" This means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!" The girl was 12 years old. Right away she stood up and began to walk around. [Add a healing heart] They were totally amazed at this. Jesus gave strict orders not to let anyone know what had happened. And he told them to give her something to eat. (Mark 5v21-43 NIrV)





ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES

Game - Get up!

Craft - Woman healed

Activity - senses

Prayer

GAME

This is a variant of stuck in the mud. Choose a catcher and have them chase the other children. When they tag a child, that child lies on the floor until another child runs to them, takes them by the hand and says "get up!"



CRAFT

You will need: craft sheets, scissors, pens and glue
Cut out the flap and stick it to the part marked "glue here". Colour in the picture

PRAYER

Take a piece of cloth or all hold the edge of a blanket and imagine it is Jesus' robe. Imagine what it may have felt like when the power of God came from Jesus to the woman. Pray that you would know God's power working through your life and that you would learn to sense when God is moving and what He is doing.



SENSES

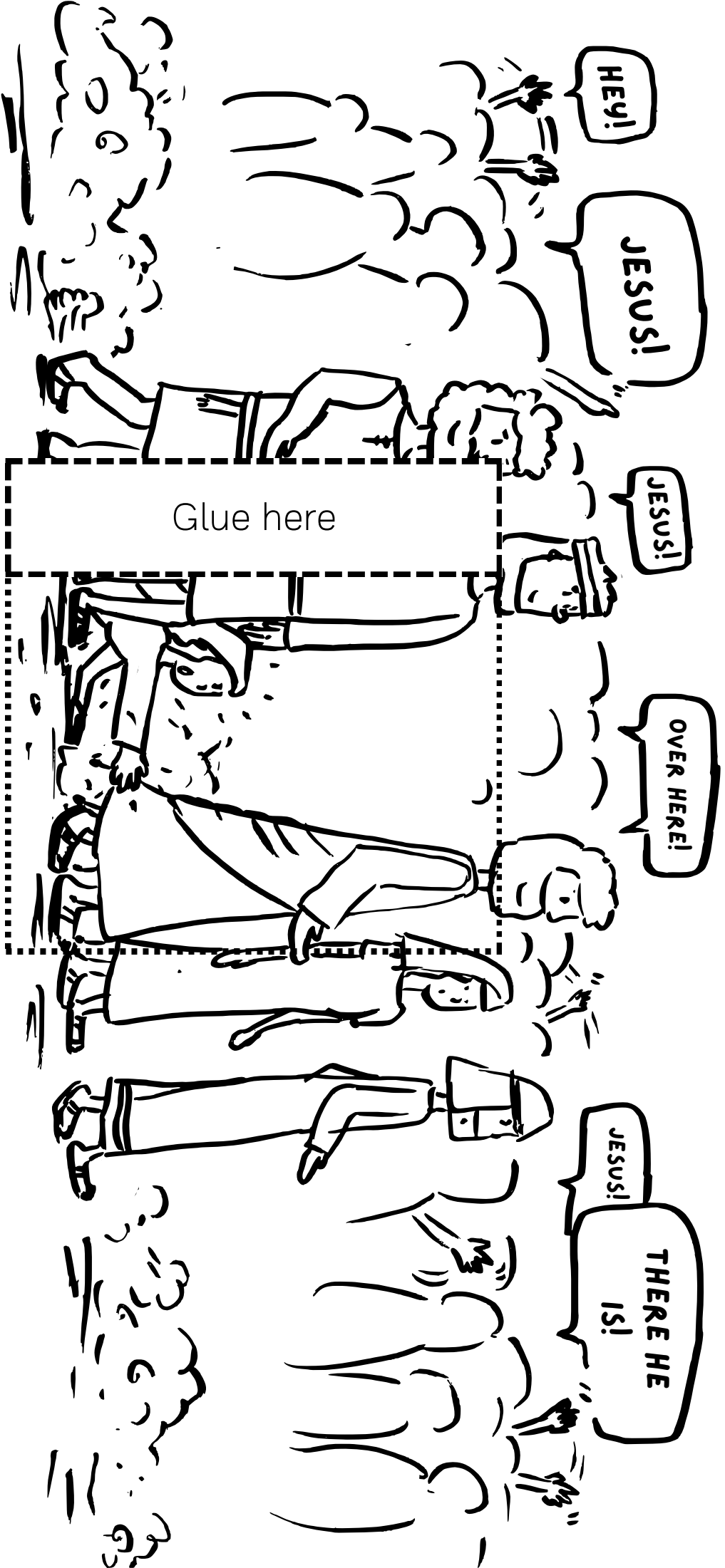
You will need a number of objects/food that stimulate different senses. It might be a bell, flowers, a biscuit, a picture and a fluffy pillow for example.

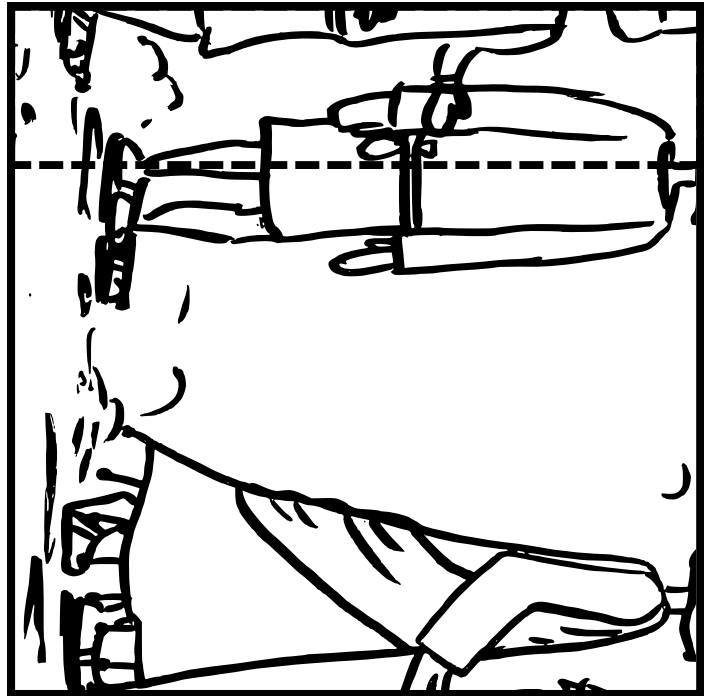
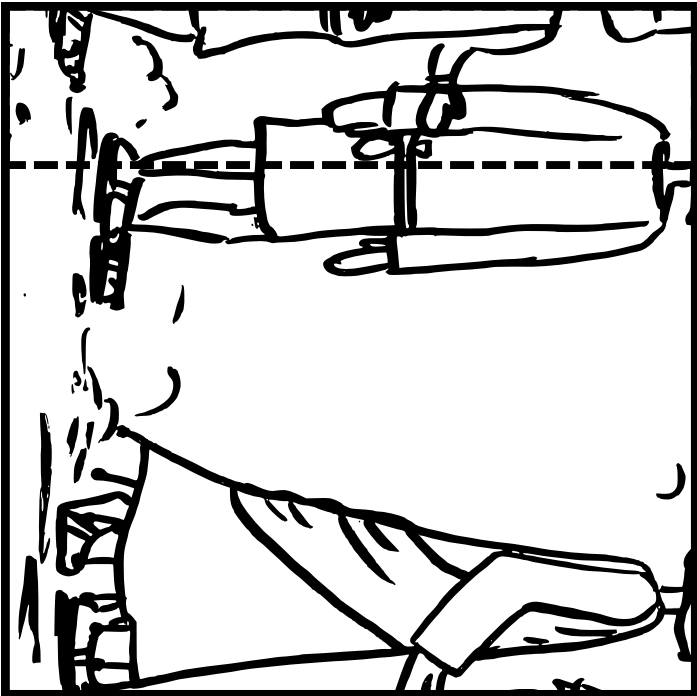
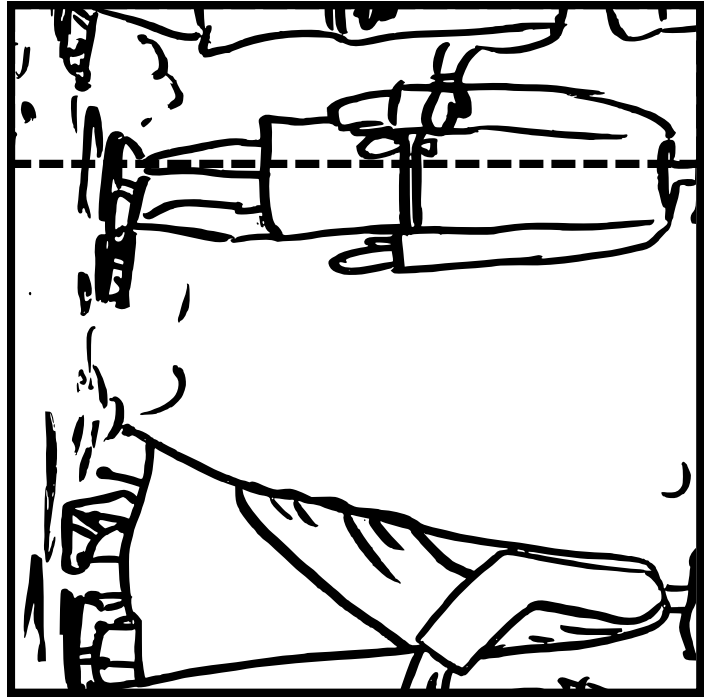
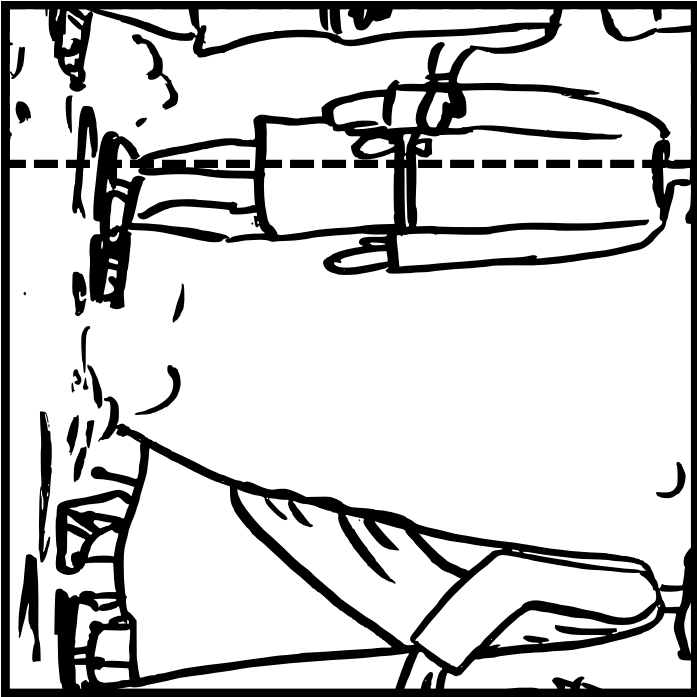
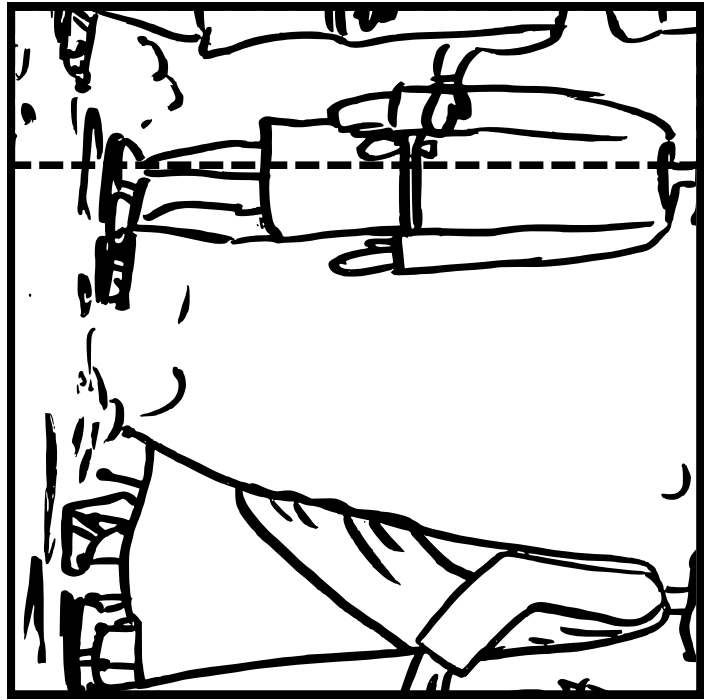
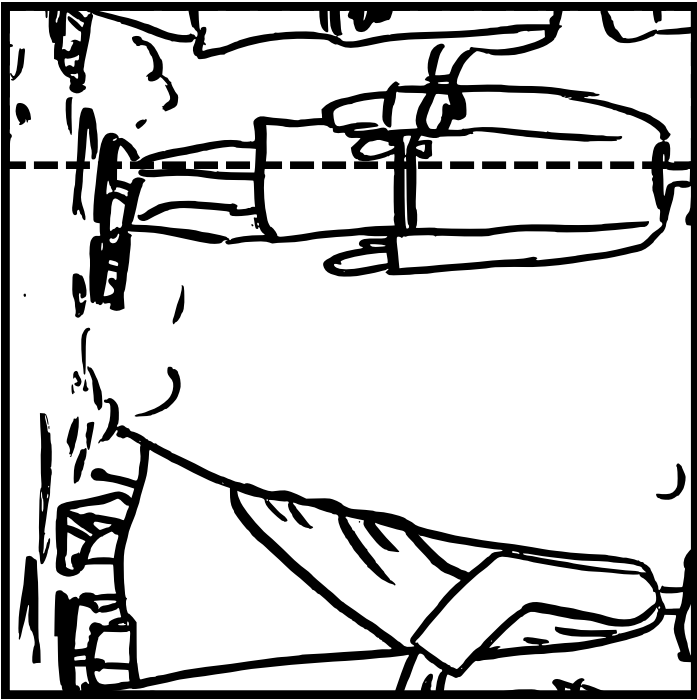
How many senses do we have?

How do you think Jesus sensed that power had left Him?

We can know things in our heart and sense things in our spirit. Share examples. Use the next page for suggestions if you need. There are many things that distract us in life, but Jesus kept His focus on what His Heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit were doing.









MARK SESSION 5




MAIN POINT

As we follow Jesus, Father God will supply our needs

MEMORY VERSE

Mark 1:17 Jesus said to them, "Come and follow me. I will make you fishers of people."




BIBLE STORY




Our Bible story is found in Mark 6:6-13 and Mark 6:30-44

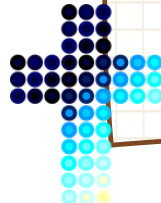
The disciples are sent out to practice fishing for people and find that God supplies their needs on the way.

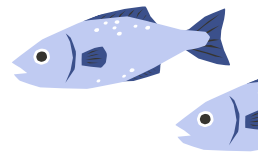
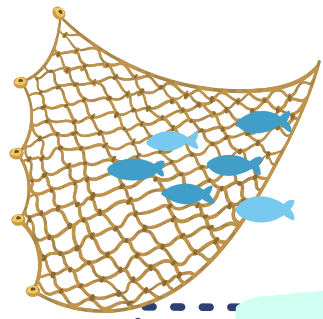


ACTIVITIES

- Game - follow the leader or 2 by 2 races
 - Craft - daily bread
 - Activity - daily needs
 - Prayer - needs
- 

LEARNING

- The disciples went out in pairs to do what Jesus had been doing
 - They found that Father God gave them power to heal and deliver people and provided for all their needs!
 - When they were tired and hungry and a crowd needed feeding, Father God provided for them again!
 - Father God provides for us as we follow Jesus and practice fishing for people
- 



STORY

BIBLE STORY

Our Bible story is found in Mark 6:6-13 and Mark 6:30-44. (This is told entirely in a paraphrase)

The disciples are sent out to practice fishing for people and find that God supplies their needs on the way.

EQUIPMENT

Felt board

Felt pieces: 12 disciples; pairs; boat; crowd; healing heart; Jesus; 5 loaves and 2 fish; baskets

INSTRUCTIONS

Use the story script and the felt board to tell the story.

You will need the pictures of...

- Jesus
- the twelve
- 3x pairs of disciples
- 2x villages
- 2x healing hearts

After you have told the story, ask the following reflection questions:

While the disciples were fishing for people, in what ways did Father God supply their needs?

Father God will supply your needs as well as you follow Jesus.

What needs do you or your family have?

This can lead into the prayer activity, asking God to supply your or your family's needs and thanking God that He always cares for us.



SESSION 5 STORY

Jesus had been doing wonderful miracles. He was telling people that the Kingdom of God was close at hand and that they should turn from their sins and trust in God. When he met people who were sick, He healed them. When He met people who were troubled by demons, He delivered them from evil. The news of the Kingdom of God was travelling far and wide and His disciples were amazed at what Jesus was doing.

One day, Jesus called them together and said it was their turn now. **[Add Jesus and the twelve to the board]**

"Our turn Jesus?" said the disciples.

"Your turn," repeated Jesus. "I called you to follow me and promised that I would teach you how to fish for people. You've been watching me work for a while now. It is your turn. Go in pairs. Warn people to turn away from their sins, heal the sick and cast out demons. Don't take a rucksack. Don't take food or spare clothing and don't take any money. Your heavenly Father will look after you."

So off they went into the towns and villages. **[Add 2 villages and 2 or 3 pairs of disciples to the board]**

They carried nothing except a staff in their hands. Everywhere they went, they healed the sick in the name of Jesus, they delivered people from unclean spirits and they told their fellow Jews that God's kingdom was close at hand. **[Add a healing hearts to each village]** Father God supplied them with food when they needed it and places to stay and water to drink. Father God took care of them all the while they were out fishing for people.

Well, what a wonderful experience! Scary at times, but wonderful! When they all got back to Jesus, they were tired and excited. They wanted to tell Him all about what had happened and rest together, so they went out in a boat **[Add the empty boat and remove the villages]** and sailed to somewhere quiet....somewhere peaceful...somewhere...

Oh no! What's this?! A crowd! **[Add the crowd]** That's not what they wanted. They needed a nap! Jesus was teaching the disciples to fish for people and here before them was a big catch of fish! Jesus looked at the crowd and had pity on them. They were like sheep wandering over the hillside without a shepherd to help them. So Jesus taught them and began to fill their hungry hearts. As He taught them, the hours grew long and their tummies grew rumbly.

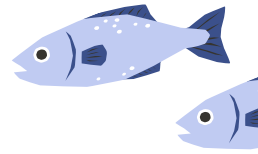
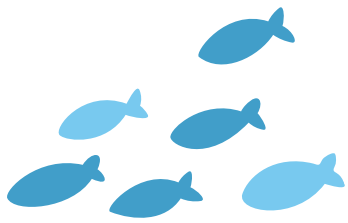
"Jesus!" Said one of the disciples. "Don't you think you should send the people home to eat?"

"You feed them," Jesus replied.

Well, that wasn't very helpful! They had next to nothing to feed them with! Only 5 small loaves and 2 fish which a little boy kindly offered them. **[Add the basket of bread and fish]**

Jesus accepted the offering. He told the disciples to sit the people down in groups of 50s and 100s. Then Jesus gave thanks to Father God. Jesus knew that Father God always provides, He always looks after us and He cared for all the people. Then Jesus broke the bread and got the disciples to hand it out. They did. They handed a piece here and a piece there and there and there... and well! It just kept going and going! Everyone ate and were satisfied. In fact, there were 12 basketfuls leftover.

Father God had supplied all their needs....AGAIN! What an adventure this life with Jesus was proving to be!



ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES

Game - follow the leader or 2 by 2 races

Craft - daily bread

Activity - daily needs

Prayer - needs

GAME

Either: follow the leader as in session 1 - see session 1 for instructions

Or: 2 by 2 races - see next page for instructions



CRAFT

Daily Bread

Cut out the daily bread templates and then write or draw on them things that you need each day.

PRAYER

As a group, share your daily bread drawings and ideas or use the objects from the activity to help you think of daily needs to pray for.

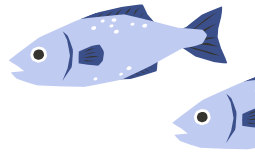
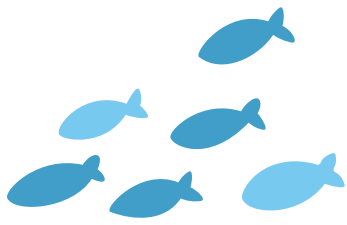
Ask God to supply your and your family's needs and thank God that He always cares for us.



ACTIVITY

Bring a few objects that represent things that we need to live healthy happy lives and ask the children what each object might represent. E.g. a bottle (water), vegetable (food), a picture of friends or birthday card from someone (friends and family), a piece of clothing, a toy house (shelter), a purse (money), a Bible, anything else you can think of. Explain that God knows that you need these things. As we follow Jesus, He will take care of us.





TWO BY TWO RACES

The disciples moved around working in pairs. These games are challenges for the kids to complete in pairs. Choose a couple of races depending on your groups size and space available

Chair crossing:

In pairs, use 3 chairs to cross the room. You have to remain standing on the chairs at all times, work together to move the chairs, step across, move the last chair to the front and so on until you have crossed the room

Stuck together:

Working in pairs, stand side by side and place a ping pong ball or other object between the elbows of each person so that it is squeezed between the right elbow of the person on the left and the left elbow of the person on the right. Without dropping the object or touching it with any other part of your body, race across the room. Then try holding it between your knees, hips, wrists, shoulders

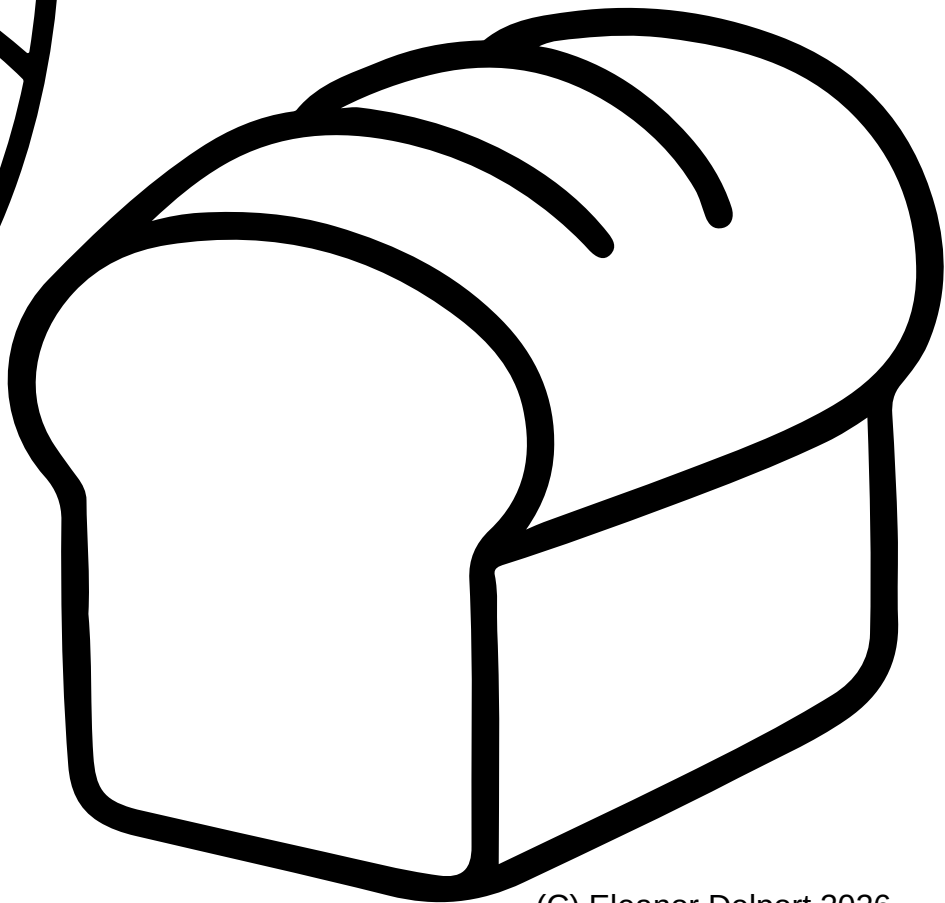
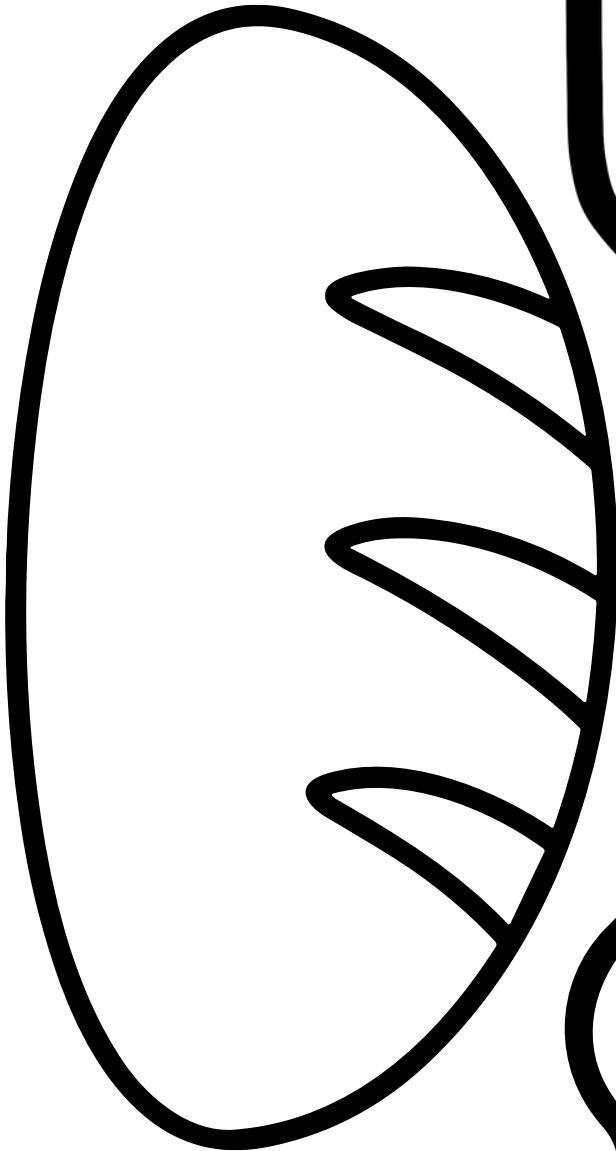
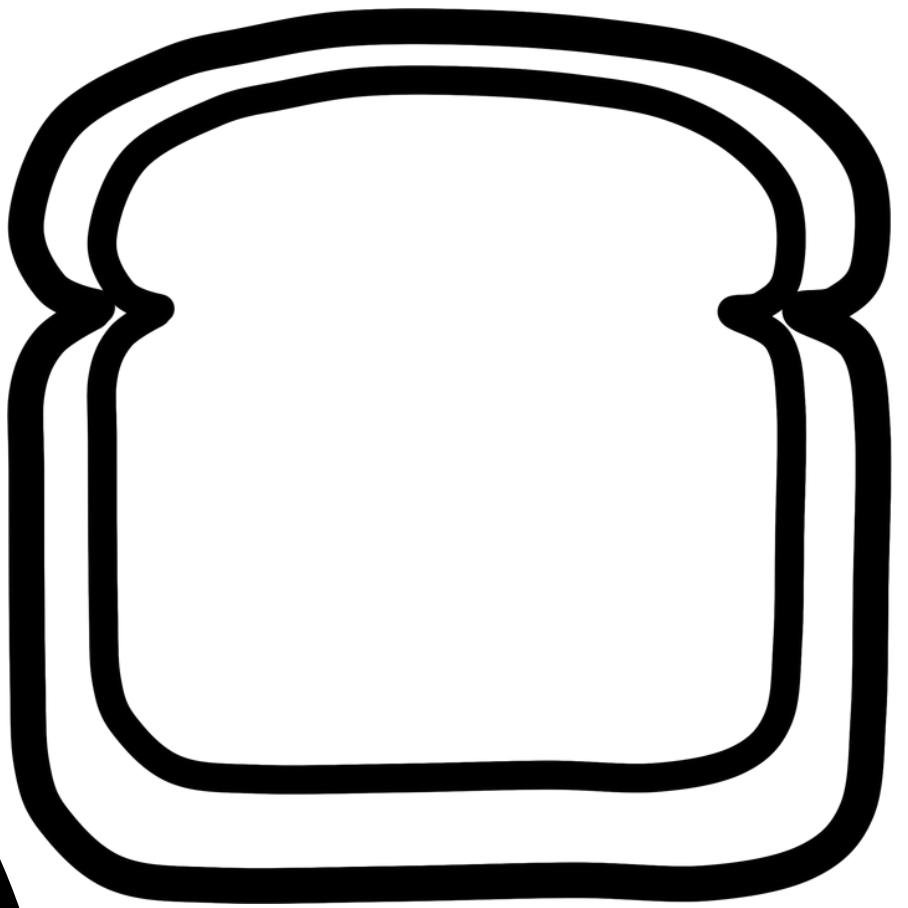
Ping pong balance:

Give each pair a Bible and a ping pong ball, one person using one hand must hold the Bible flat from one end and the other using one hand must hold the Bible from the other. Then they must place a ping pong ball on the Bible and walk together from one side of the room to the other without the ping pong ball falling off. If it falls off, pick it up and start again.



Daily Bread Craft

Cut out the daily bread templates and then write or draw on them things that you need each day.





MARK SESSION 6




MAIN POINT

We are to share Jesus' good news with people all around the world

MEMORY VERSE

Mark 1:17 Jesus said to them, "Come and follow me. I will make you fishers of people."




BIBLE STORY



Our Bible story is found in Mark 7 and 8

Jesus takes His message of the kingdom of God to people that many did not think deserved to hear it! People of every nation.



ACTIVITIES




Game - North, South, East West or Around the World

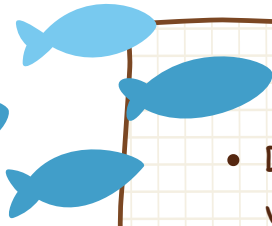
Craft - Feed the whole world

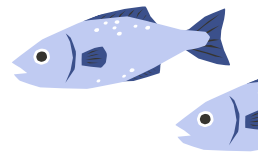
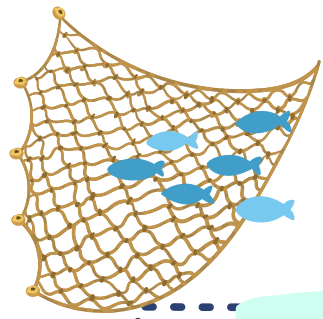
Activity - food around the world

Prayer - world



LEARNING

- Despite differences in culture, food, language, likes and dislikes around the world, God's heart is that the church will be made up of people from every nation brought together in Jesus.
 - Jesus' good news is going all around the world and we can take part in sharing it!
- 



STORY

BIBLE STORY

Our Bible story is found in Mark 7 and 8

Jesus takes His message of the kingdom of God to people that many did not think deserved to hear it! People of every nation.

EQUIPMENT

Felt board

Felt pieces: 12 disciples; woman; girl in bed; crowd; healing heart; Jesus; basket with bread and fish

INSTRUCTIONS

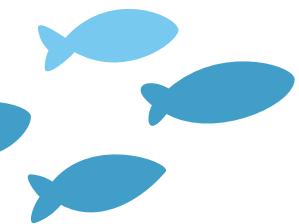
Use the story script and the felt board to tell the story. After you have told the story, ask the following reflection question:

How do you think the disciples might have felt when they realised that Jesus was teaching them to fish for people of every nation, not just Jews?

Are there any people that you think it would be difficult to share Jesus with?

Have you ever shared Jesus with someone from a different country?

This can lead into the prayer activity, asking God to give you His heart for the world.





SESSION 6 STORY

Jesus and His disciples had been travelling around Samaria and Judea, those are the places where most of the people from the 12 tribes of Israel, the Jews and Samaritans were living. It was through the 12 tribes of Israel that God had said blessing would come to the world, but the Jews had strict rules about not mixing with non-Jews, sometimes called Gentiles. Many Jews in Jesus' day, did not want to befriend Gentiles and certainly would not have them in the same house as them. The Gentiles lived by different rules, ate the wrong kinds of food and were considered "unclean" by the Jews. Jesus, however, said something very surprising...

He said that what goes into a person is not what makes them unclean, but what comes out of a person. Sin comes out of a person from a person's heart and that is what makes them unclean. Many Jewish leaders were upset about this teaching. They thought that washing their hands and eating the right kind of food and not mixing with the wrong kind of people kept them clean. What Jesus did next was even more surprising...

He left Israel altogether and went to Tyre, a non-Jewish land, where lots of "unclean" Gentile people lived. He went into a house and a Greek woman came to Him. She fell at His feet and begged Him to free her daughter from an unclean spirit. Instead of saying yes or no, Jesus answered in a kind of riddle.

He said, "let the children eat all they want first. Is it right to throw the children's bread to the dogs?" By the children He meant, the children of Israel. He was saying that He had healed many Jews, but should He heal non-Jews too?

What do you think children?

This Greek woman was very brave. She answered Jesus, "Even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs!"

Jesus was amazed at how strong her faith was! "For this reply, you may go. The demon has left your daughter," He declared.

When the woman got home, she found her daughter completely healed!

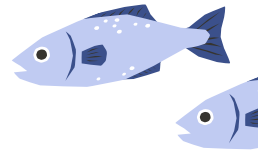
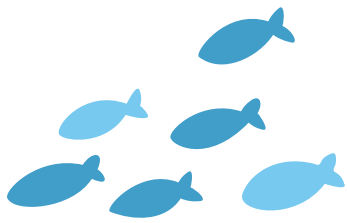
After this, Jesus travelled through more of the non-Jewish regions of Tyre and Sidon. He spoke to many people who were not Jewish. He opened the ears of the deaf and gave the voice back to a man who could not speak. When Jesus met more than 4000 people on a hillside who were hungry to hear Him, Jesus took pity on them, just as He had done with the Jews. He fed them with His words until their hearts were full, but their tummies were empty.

Jesus called His disciples together and asked them to feed the people.

"How can we find enough food to feed all these people?" they asked.

They only had seven loaves of bread and a few fish. Jesus instructed His disciples to sit the people down in groups, like they had done before. Jesus gave thanks to Father God, who cares for people from every nation. He broke the bread and fish and the disciples handed it out. Everyone ate and there were seven basketfuls left over. The "crumbs from the children's table" must have tasted very good that day!





ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES

Game - North, South, East West or Around the World

Craft - Feed the whole world

Activity - Food around the world

Prayer - World

GAME

Either: Around the world

Or: North South East West

See next page for instructions

CRAFT

Feed the whole world!

You will need: paper plates, tissue paper, glue, pens or pencils

On a paper plate, draw a picture of the world and then stick pieces of crunched up tissue paper all over it like bread from Heaven, being given to people all over the world.

PRAYER

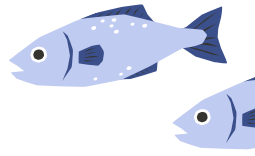
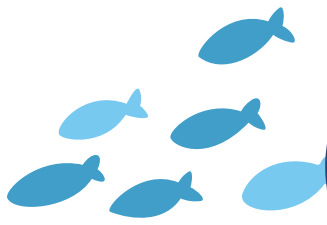
Pray for God's good news to reach people all around the world. Ask the children if there is a nation that they particularly want to pray for and pray for that place.

FOOD AROUND THE WORLD

You will need: either a globe, world map or pictures of flags of a few different countries.

Name a country that you are reasonably familiar with. Ask the children to find it on the globe or find its flag. Ask them what food they think they might eat there. If you have kids from different nations in your group, ask them what foods are eaten in the nation they come from.

Explain that although people eat different things all around the world, God wants to feed them all with His Bible and His love.

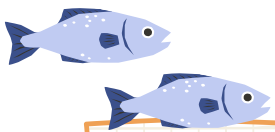
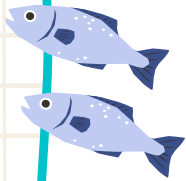


WORLD GAMES

NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, WEST

Label each corner of the room with a point on the compass. Shout "North" and they all run to the corner labelled North. Shout "South" and they run to the South corner. And so on.

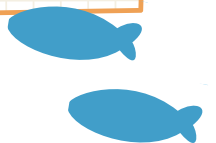
Then close your eyes and turn around and ask the kids to choose a corner. Announce a point of the compass (e.g. "North!") and turn around. Depending on how you want to play it, either all the children in the North corner get 1 point ; or all the children in the North corner are out; or all the children in the North corner have to stand on one leg for ten seconds or another simple forfeit.

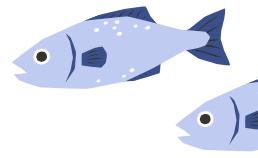
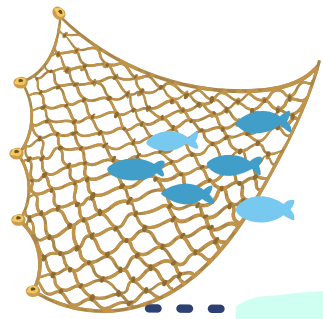


AROUND THE WORLD

Label the corners of the room with "The Americas", "Africa", "Asia" (or Asia and Australasia). "Europe"

Read out the name of a country and the children have to run to whichever continent they think that country is in. Either those that get it right get a point or those that get it wrong have to do a simple forfeit.





STORY

BIBLE STORY

Our Bible story is found in Mark 10v13-31

Jesus invites children to be near hear and says that we should all receive the kingdom of God like little children. The rich man, on the other hand, went away sad. He had lots and it stopped His heart from loving God fully.

EQUIPMENT

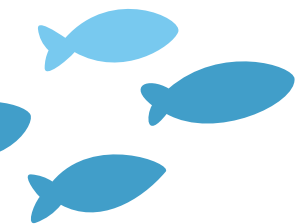
Felt board

Felt pieces: little children, Jesus, bag of money, twelve disciples, Jesus and the children

INSTRUCTIONS

Use the story script and the felt board to tell the story. After you have told the story, this can lead into the activity looking at the two hearts. After you have completed the activity, thinking about the hearts of the little children and the hearts of the rich man, you may like to ask the additional question:

What then do you think Jesus meant, when He said that many who are first will be last and the last will be first?





SESSION 7 STORY



Jesus had been travelling around telling Jews and non-Jews the good news about the Kingdom of God. He had performed signs and wonders and miraculously fed thousands of people. Then He went back to Judea, which is part of the land that God promised to Abraham, where places like Jerusalem and Bethlehem are.

People were bringing little children to Jesus. They wanted him to place his hands on them to bless them. But the disciples told them to stop. When Jesus saw this, he was angry. He said to his disciples, "Let the little children come to me. Don't keep them away. God's kingdom belongs to people like them. What I'm about to tell you is true. Anyone who will not receive God's kingdom like a little child will never enter it." Then he took the children in his arms. He placed his hands on them to bless them.

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him. He fell on his knees before Jesus. "Good teacher," he said, "what must I do to receive eternal life?"

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good except God. You know what the commandments say. 'Do not murder. Be faithful. Do not steal. Do not be a false witness. Do not cheat. Honour your father and mother.'"

"Teacher," he said, "I have obeyed all those commandments since I was a boy."

Jesus looked at him and loved him. "You are missing one thing," he said. "Go and sell everything you have. Give the money to those who are poor. You will have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me."

The man's face fell. He went away sad, because he was very rich.

Jesus looked around. He said to his disciples, "How hard it is for rich people to enter God's kingdom!"

The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter God's kingdom! Is it hard for a camel to go through the eye of a needle? It is even harder for someone who is rich to enter God's kingdom!"

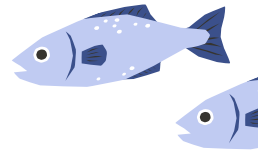
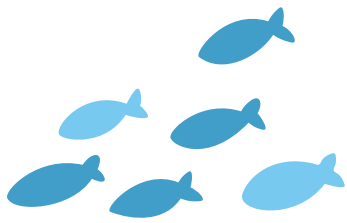
The disciples were even more amazed. They said to each other, "Then who can be saved?"

Jesus looked at them and said, "With people, this is impossible. But not with God. All things are possible with God."

Then Peter spoke up, "We have left everything to follow you!"

"What I'm about to tell you is true," Jesus replied. "Has anyone left home or family or fields for me and the good news? They will receive 100 times as much in this world. They will have homes and families and fields. But they will also be treated badly by others. In the world to come they will live forever. But many who are first will be last. And the last will be first."





ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES

Game - back to front games

Craft - child's heart

Activity - hearts

Prayer - which heart?

HEARTS

Print off the two heart illustrations.

Ask the children which heart they think belongs to the rich and which one belongs to the child? What sorts of things are in their hearts?

People look at the outside of a person, but God looks at the heart. Why do you think the little child found it easier to enter the kingdom of God than the rich man did?

GAME

Front to back games:
following page for
explanation

PRAYER

Look again at the two hearts. Ask the children to point to the heart that they would want to have. Pray together that you would have hearts of love that enjoy being with Jesus.

CRAFT

Use a worksheet and colour it in to create a drawing of yourself, colouring in your heart. Then cut out a rectangle flap, fold it along the dotted line and glue it to the page in the place shown. It will create a flap over the heart.



FRONT TO BACK GAMES

Jesus said many of the first shall be last and the last shall be first. These are some fun front to back games. Pick the ones that will work best for your age and group size.



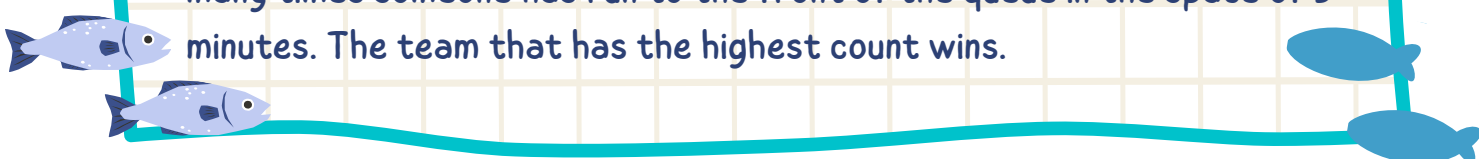
Tricky trains:

Line the group up one behind the other to form a train. Explain that the train will chug around the room with each person following the person in front. When you say "The first shall be last!", the person at the front will move to the back of the line and there will be a new leader at the front. When you say "The last shall be first!" The person at the back will move to the front of the train. Start the children moving around the room and call out the two phrases in a random pattern so that each child gets to move/lead at some point.

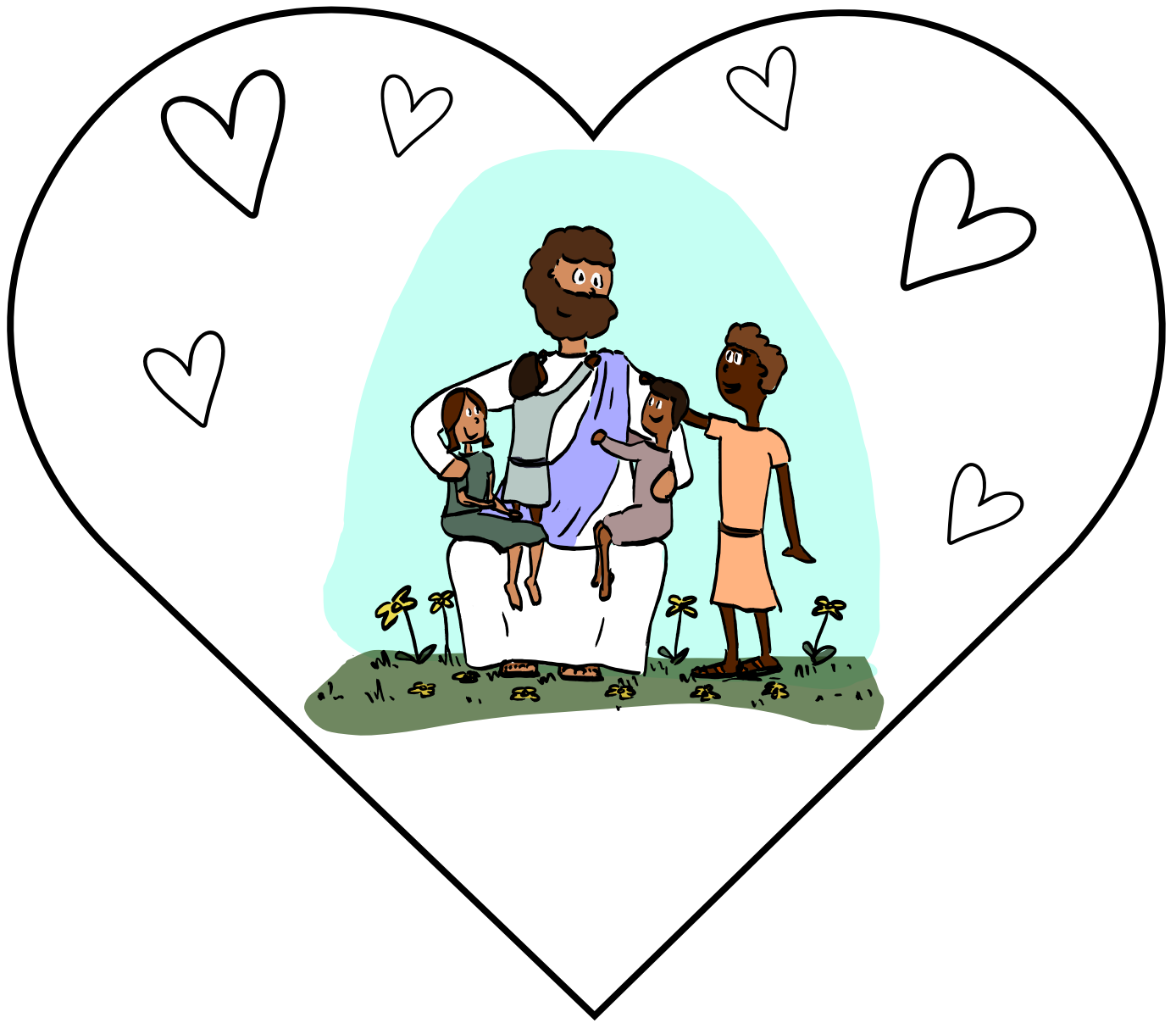
Tunnel rolling:

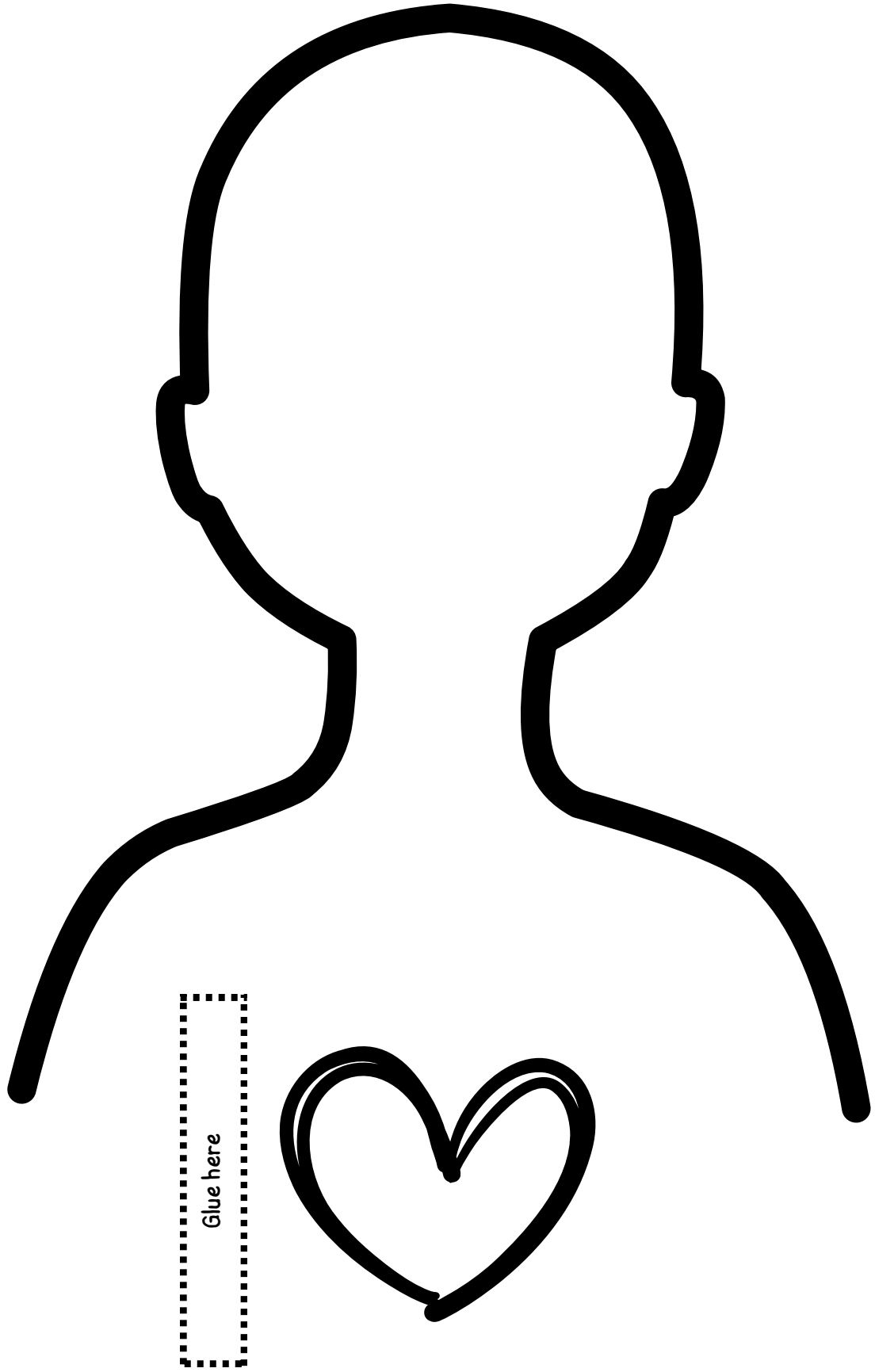
Play either as a time challenge against the clock trying to beat your previous score or in two teams if you have enough children.

Each team lines up one behind the other facing forwards with their legs apart to form a tunnel. When you say go, the person at the front of the queue rolls a ball backwards through his/her own legs and the legs of his/her teammates until it reaches the person at the back of the queue. That person then runs to the front and repeats the action. Count how many times someone has run to the front of the queue in the space of 5 minutes. The team that has the highest count wins.

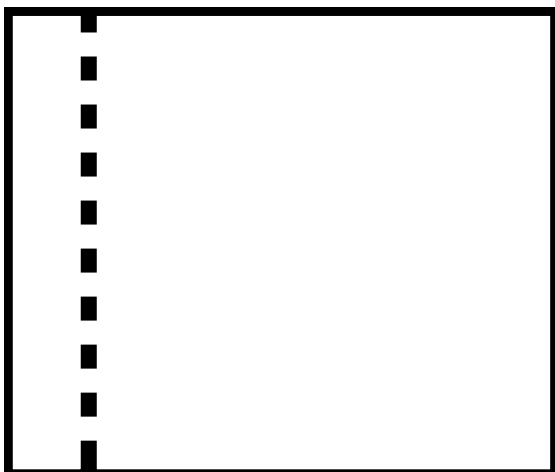
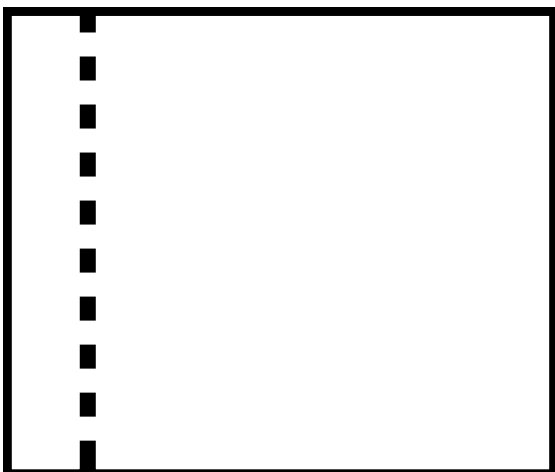
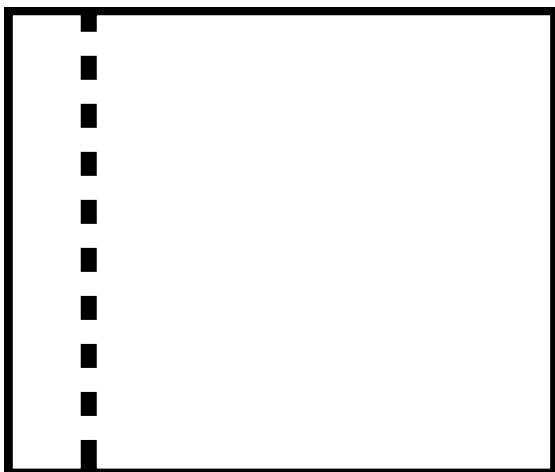
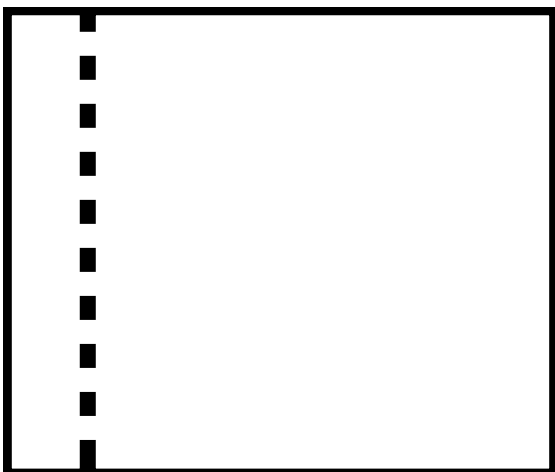
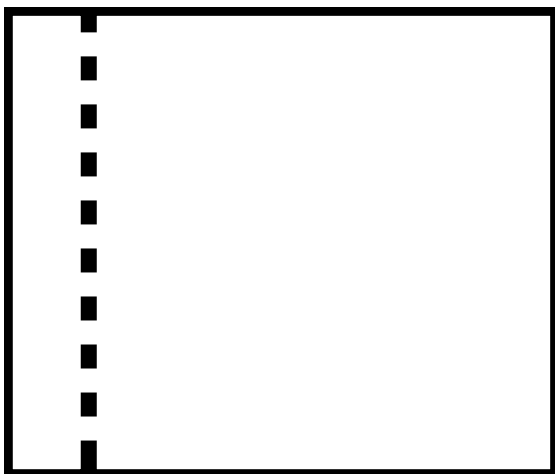
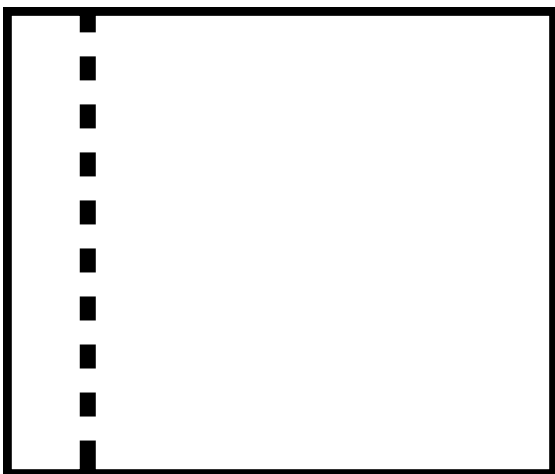
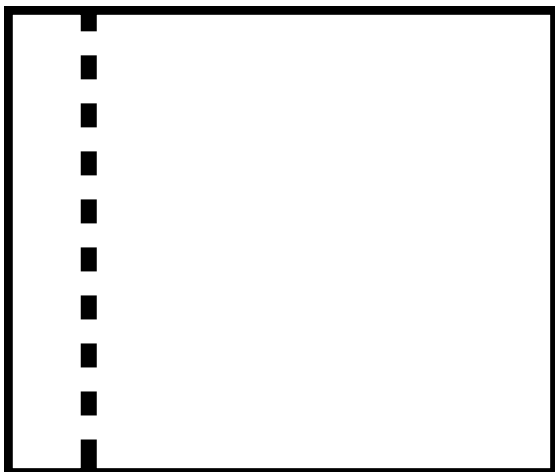
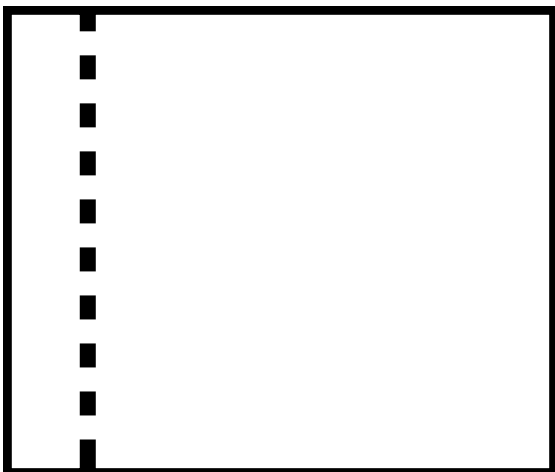


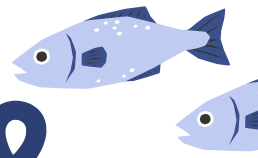
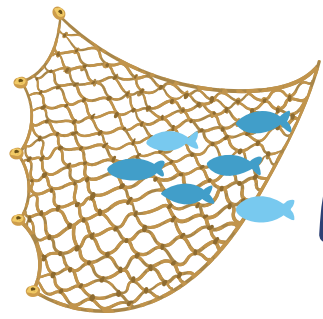






Glue here





MARK SESSION 8

MAIN POINT

Each of us are precious to God and can demonstrate to others that they are valuable to God as well

MEMORY VERSE

Mark 1:17 **Jesus said to them, "Come and follow me. I will make you fishers of people."**

BIBLE STORY

Our Bible story is found in Mark 10v46-11v10

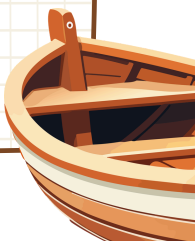
Other people did not value Bartimaeus, but Jesus did. Jesus' kingdom is for people like Bartimaeus, who other people overlook.

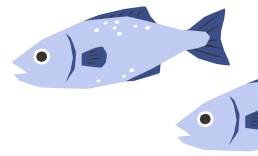
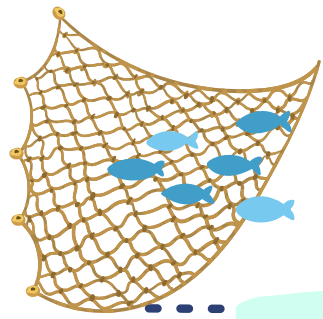
ACTIVITIES

- Game - blind man's buff
- Craft - Jewel
- Activity - Valuable
- Prayer - Precious post its

LEARNING

- Although Bartimaeus was overlooked by others and physically blind, He recognised that Jesus was the coming King, the Son of David
- Before Jesus went into Jerusalem where crowds awaited Him, He stopped and loved Bartimaeus
- Bartimaeus means "Precious Son" and Jesus showed him that he was precious to God
- We can do the same for others





STORY

BIBLE STORY

Our Bible story is found in Mark 10v46-11v10

Other people did not value Bartimæus, but Jesus did. Jesus' kingdom is for people like Bartimæus, who other people overlook.

EQUIPMENT

Felt board

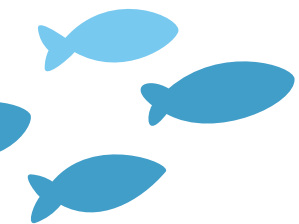
Felt pieces: Bartimæus blind, Bartimæus seeing, Jesus, crowd, donkey, palm branches

SCRIPT

Use the story script and the felt board to tell the story. After you have told the story, you could do the activity together about value. Later, you may like to ask these follow up questions:

Although Bartimæus was overlooked by others and physically blind, He recognised that Jesus was the coming King, the Son of David. Before Jesus went into Jerusalem where crowds awaited Him, He stopped and loved Bartimæus.

Are there people you know that others overlook? Do you ever feel overlooked? What does this story show us about how valuable we are to God? You are precious to God. How can you show others that they are valued by God too?





SESSION 8 STORY



We have been following Jesus' life and learning about what it means to follow Him and become fishers of people. Last week, did we learn that Jesus wanted just rich and older people in His kingdom? No! In fact, He said that we must become like little children to enter God's kingdom. The disciples tried to stop the children coming to Jesus, but Jesus wanted the children to come. As Jesus journeyed on, there was another person that many people did not think Jesus would be interested in. Let's meet him and see what happens!

Jesus and his disciples came to Jericho. They were leaving the city. A large crowd was with them. A blind man was sitting by the side of the road begging. His name was Bartimaeus. Bartimaeus means Son of Precious or Valuable one. He heard that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. So he began to shout, "Jesus! Son of David! Have mercy on me!"

Many people commanded him to stop. They told him to be quiet. But he shouted even louder, "Son of David! Have mercy on me!"

Jesus stopped and said, "Call for him."

So they called out to the blind man, "Cheer up! Get up on your feet! Jesus is calling for you." He threw his coat to one side. Then he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to be able to see."

"Go," said Jesus. "Your faith has healed you." Right away he could see. And he followed Jesus along the road.

As they all approached Jerusalem, they came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent out two of his disciples. He said to them, "Go to the village ahead of you. Just as you enter it, you will find a donkey's colt tied there. No one has ever ridden it. Untie it and bring it here. Someone may ask you, 'Why are you doing this?' If so, say, 'The Lord needs it. But he will send it back here soon.'"

So they left. They found a colt out in the street. It was tied at a doorway. They untied it. Some people standing there asked, "What are you doing? Why are you untying that colt?" They answered as Jesus had told them to. So the people let them go. They brought the colt to Jesus. They threw their coats over it. Then he sat on it. Many people spread their coats on the road. Others spread branches they had cut in the fields.

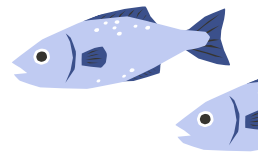
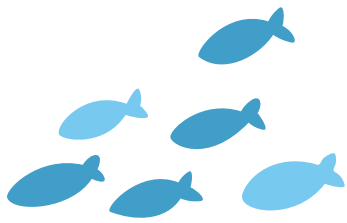
Those in front and those in back shouted, "Hosanna!"

"Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!"

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"





ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES

Game - blind man's buff

Craft - Jewel

Activity - Valuable

Prayer - Precious post its

BLIND MAN'S BUFF

You will need: a blindfold

Blindfold one child and have the others move about the room. The blindfolded child tries to tag another child. Once a child is tagged, swap over the child in the middle.



CRAFT

Decorate a jewel and write your name in the middle of it.

PRAYER

Think about how you can show others that they are precious to God. Write them on post it notes and stick them on a table in the middle of the group.

Take it in turns to pick a post it note and ask God that you would be able to show others they are precious in the way that is written on the post it. Thank God that we are precious to Him.

For older groups, try writing down an encouragement on a post it and then sticking it on another child.



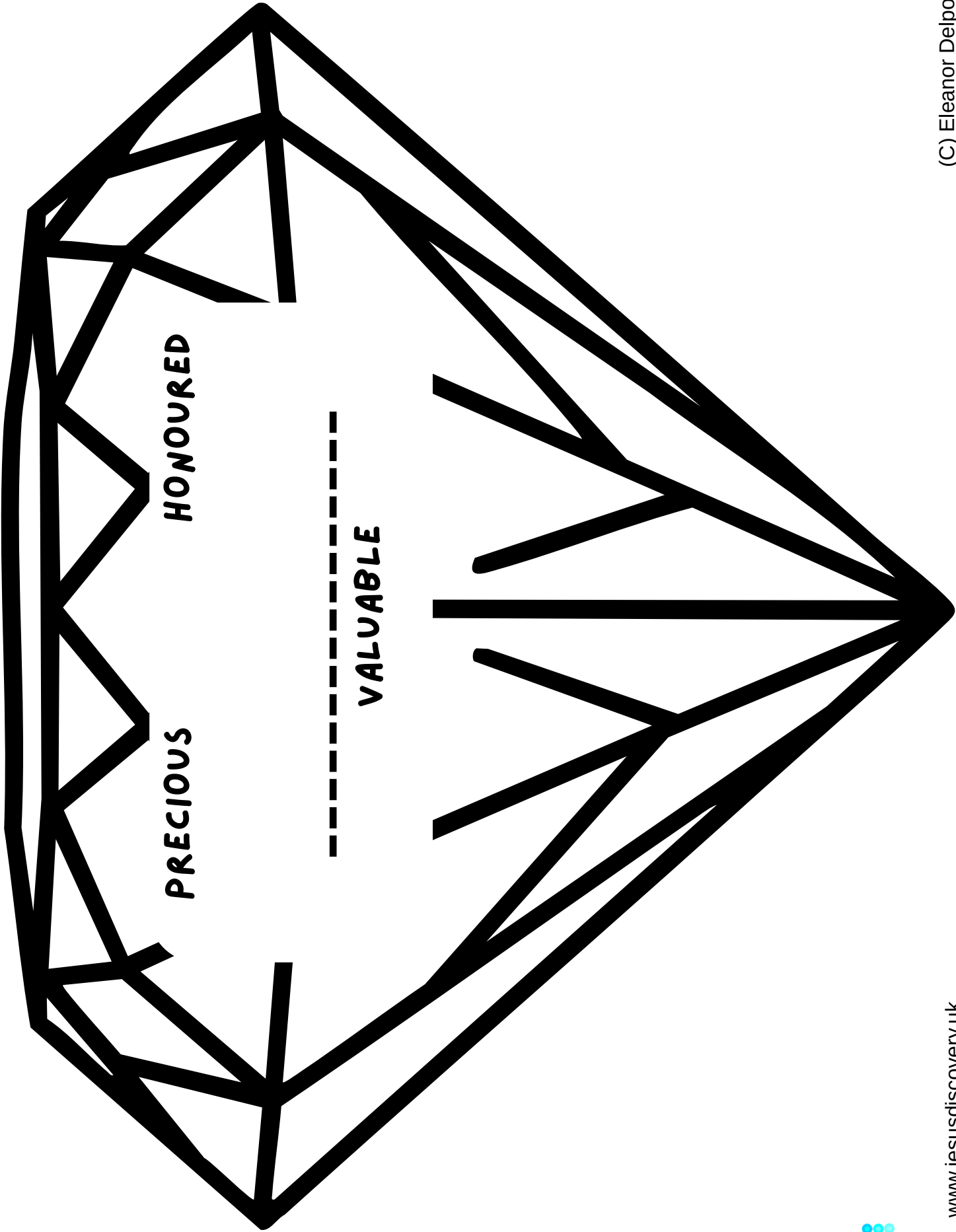
ACTIVITY - VALUABLE

Bring in something that is valuable to you, because it is yours and it has a special meaning to you, but the children in your group are unlikely to think it is valuable. (E.g. a favourite teddy, a photograph, a memento or gift that is significant to you)

Ask them how much they think the object would be worth in a shop (You could bring in some pretend or real coins to help them visualise it). Ask them how much they think it is worth to you. Explain that it is extremely valuable to you and say why.

Bartimaeus means "Son of the Valuable one" or another way of saying that might be "Precious Son". How did the people show that they thought Bartimaeus was of little value? How did Jesus show that He thought Bartimaeus was of great value?







MARK SESSION 9




MAIN POINT

Jesus wants everybody to pray
and pray with faith


MEMORY VERSE

Mark 1:17 Jesus
said to them,
"Come and
follow me. I will
make you fishers
of people."




BIBLE STORY

Our Bible story is found in Mark 11:12-25
Jesus was horrified that the temple,
where rich and poor, Jew and Gentile,
were supposed to be able to come and
worship God, was being used to steal
money from the poor and foreigners.
He wants everyone to be able to pray
to God and to pray with faith. Prayer
is essential, if we are going to be
fishers of people.



ACTIVITIES

Game - fruit salad
or fruit relay
Craft - fig tree
Activity - What is prayer?
Prayer - teach us to pray




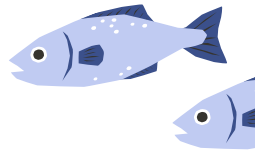
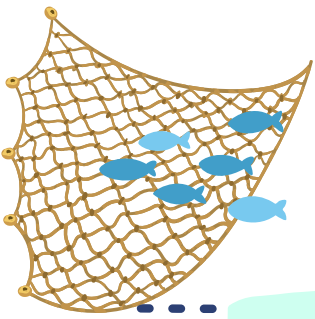
LEARNING

Jesus wants everybody to learn to pray and to pray with faith, knowing that
God has heard you

Prayer is our connection to God. We speak to God and we can learn to listen to
God speaking to us (prophecy)

Prayer is essential for us to be effective at fishing for people. We must
understand God's instruction and learn to pray for His kingdom to come





STORY

BIBLE STORY

Our Bible story is found in Mark 11:12-25
Jesus was horrified that the temple, where rich and poor, Jew and Gentile, were supposed to be able to come and worship God, was being used to steal money from the poor and foreigners. He wants everyone to be able to pray to God and to pray with faith. Prayer is essential, if we are going to be fishers of people.

EQUIPMENT

Felt pictures:

Fig tree

Money bag

Crowd

Doves

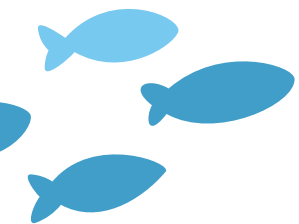
Jesus

12 Disciples



SCRIPT

Use the story script and the felt board to tell the story.





SESSION 9 STORY

Last week, we learnt about a blindman whom other people overlooked. Do you remember his name and what it means? Bartimaeus, "Precious son"! A crowd was about to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem as the Son of David, the King they were waiting for, but before Jesus met the crowd, He first took time to heal Bartimaeus.

After Jesus was welcomed by the crowd, He went to the temple in Jerusalem. He looked at everything that was happening in the temple courts. He saw people buying and selling doves for sacrifices, but they were charging people more money than they should have. The doves were supposed to be a cheap offering that even the poorest worshipper could afford. These sellers were stealing money from the poor, making the poor people poorer and stopping some of them from being able to worship at all! They were also telling people that they could not pay with foreign money, and charged people from different nations even more for changing their money to the temple money than they should have. They were using people's desire to pray and worship God to steal money, especially from the poor and the foreigners. This was against God's heart and Jesus was angry! However, it was late in the day, so Jesus went back out of Jerusalem to Bethany. He would prophesy against the temple in the morning.

The next morning, on the way to Jerusalem, Jesus and his disciples walked past a fig tree. In the Bible, the prophets had said that Israel was supposed to be a fruitful tree. Jesus saw that the fig tree had no signs of fruit, not even tiny early fruit that would ripen later. Like the temple in Israel, the tree was not doing what it was made to do, so Jesus cursed it. "May no one ever eat from you again!" Jesus said.

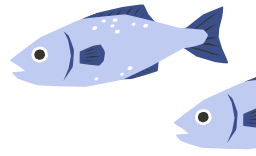
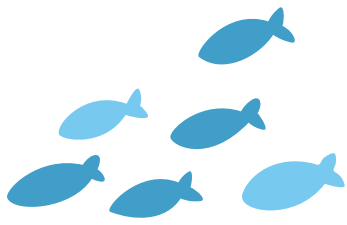
When Jesus reached Jerusalem, he entered the temple courtyard. He began to drive out those who were buying and selling there. He turned over the tables of the people who were exchanging money. He also turned over the benches of those who were selling doves. He would not allow anyone to carry items for sale through the temple courtyard. Then he taught them. He told them, "It is written that the Lord said, 'My house will be called a house where people from all nations can pray.' But you have made it a 'den for robbers.'"

The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard about this. They began looking for a way to kill Jesus. They were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching. When evening came, Jesus and his disciples left the city.

In the morning as Jesus and his disciples walked along, they saw the fig tree. It was dried up all the way down to the roots. Peter remembered. He said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you put a curse on has dried up!"

"Have faith in God," Jesus said. "What I'm about to tell you is true. Suppose someone says to this mountain, 'Go and throw yourself into the sea.' They must not doubt in their heart. They must believe that what they say will happen. Then it will be done for them. So I tell you, when you pray for something, believe that you have already received it. Then it will be yours. And when you stand praying, forgive anyone you have anything against. Then your Father in heaven will forgive your sins."





ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES

Game - fruit salad or fruit relay

Craft - fig tree

Activity - What is prayer?

Prayer - teach us to pray

DISCUSSION AND ACTIVITY

See the next page for a discussion and activity about prayer

FRUIT RELAY

You will need: 2 bananas, 2 oranges, 2 apples

In two teams, create a relay race, where you first balance a banana on your head, then an orange, then an apple

FRUIT SALAD

This game can be played in an open space inside or outside or using a parachute for the children to run under.

Stand the children in a circle and walking around the circle, give each child the name of a fruit...apple...orange...banana...pear...apple...orange...banana...pear...etc.

Then call out a fruit, e.g. "apple!" and all the "apples" run across the circle and find another space to stand in. Call another fruit and the next group of children run. When you call "fruit salad!" everyone runs.



PRAYER

Do you know that we can pray to pray?? We can ask God to teach us to pray and make us better at praying. We can ask God to help us to pray with faith and not to give up.

Ask God to teach you to pray!

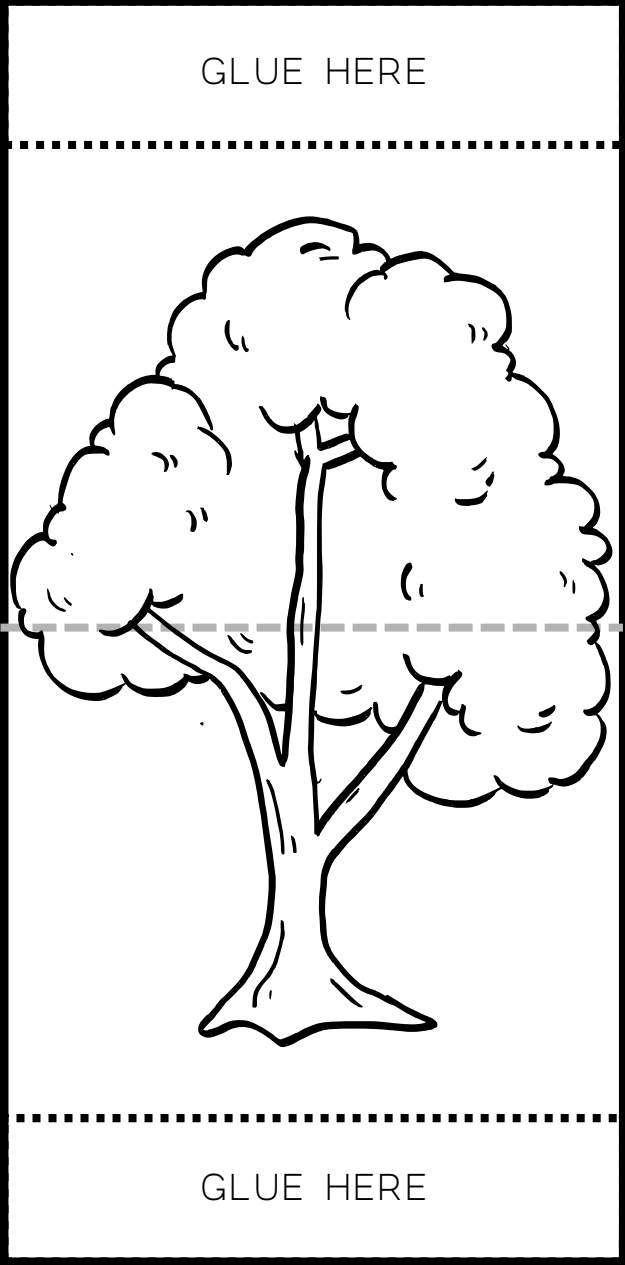


CRAFT

Print a craft sheet for each child. Cut along the solid black lines so that there is a rectangle containing a fruitless tree, a circle with a sapling and Bible verse and another larger rectangle that will form the background. Colour in the tree and sapling. Fold along the dotted lines and glue the fruitless tree to the rectangle so that when you open up the rectangle, the tree stands up and when you close it, the tree collapses. Then glue the tree sapling to the other side of the paper so that when the tree collapses down, you can see the new tree sapling facing upward



GLUE HERE



Fold here

GLUE HERE





DISCUSSION AND ACTIVITY: WHAT IS PRAYER?

What did Jesus say that the Temple was supposed to be? A house of prayer for all nations.

What is prayer? Prayer is talking to God.

What sorts of words can you use? Normal words! No fancy ones needed!

Either write these 4 words on a board or write them in large letters on 4 pieces of A4 paper: "**Adoration**"; "**Intercession**"; "**Confession**"; "**Prophetic**"

You can think of prayer in 4 big categories. (Show the children the 4 words) What do you think each of these words mean? Write the children's ideas around each of the names.

- **Adoration:** Worshipping God; thanking Him; and telling Him how much you love Him
- **Intercession:** Praying for other people; asking God to do something; blessing people/places
- **Confession:** Telling God about your sin and asking Him for forgiveness
- **Prophetic:** Listening to the Holy Spirit and praying as the Spirit leads us

We can also pray in tongues which is a prayer language that the Holy Spirit gives us.

Choose some of these questions to explore further with your group:

Why do you think each of these categories are important?

How do you think prayer will help us as we follow Jesus and fish for people?

When do you pray?





MARK SESSION 10




MAIN POINT

We need to learn to watch and pray so that we keep our eyes on Jesus and are able to keep following Him

MEMORY VERSE


Mark 1:17 Jesus said to them, "Come and follow me. I will make you fishers of people."



BIBLE STORY

Our Bible story is found in Mark 14:12-26 and 32-38

Jesus gives His disciples two instructions, to share the bread and wine together and to watch and pray. These practices help us to follow Jesus faithfully



ACTIVITIES

Game - Watchkeeper

Craft - binoculars (on next page)

Activity - watch and pray; Sharing the bread

Prayer - watch and pray



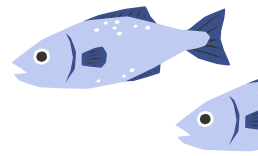
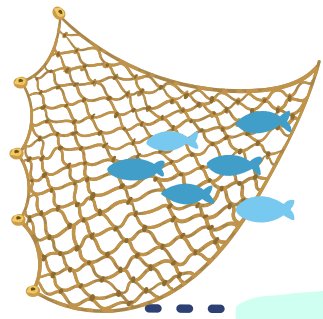
LEARNING

We will learn that Jesus gives us the Lord's supper to remember Him He instructed Peter, James and John and by extension, us, to watch and pray so that we do not fall into temptation

We have an enemy who does not want us to fish for people

If we are going to follow Jesus faithfully, we must watch and pray





STORY

BIBLE STORY

Our Bible story is found in Mark 14:12-26 and 32-38

Jesus gives His disciples two instructions, to share the bread and wine together and to watch and pray. These practices help us to follow Jesus faithfully

EQUIPMENT

You will need the following pictures:

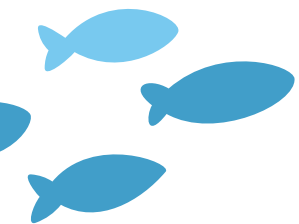
- Jesus
- 12 disciples
- A pair of disciples
- A town
- Bread and wine
- Tree



SCRIPT

Use the story script, the felt board and the pictures to tell the story.

There are two discussion activities suggested for this story. The main teaching point of the session is to watch and pray, but it is also important that the children understand what the Lord's supper is, so if you have time, you could consider doing both.





SESSION 10 STORY



We have followed Jesus' story from when He called His first disciples in Galilee to follow Him and become fishers of people right up to His last week in Jerusalem where the religious leaders are plotting to kill Jesus. Today we remember a very special meal and a very special time of prayer that Jesus had before He went to the cross.

It was the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. That was the time to sacrifice the Passover lamb. Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover meal?"

So he sent out two of his disciples. He told them, "Go into the city. A man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. He will enter a house. Say to its owner, 'The Teacher asks, "Where is my guest room? Where can I eat the Passover meal with my disciples?"' He will show you a large upstairs room. It will have furniture and will be ready. Prepare for us to eat there."

The disciples left and went into the city. They found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover meal. When evening came, Jesus arrived with the 12 disciples. While they were at the table eating, Jesus said, "What I'm about to tell you is true. One of you who is eating with me will hand me over to my enemies."

The disciples became sad. One by one they said to him, "Surely you don't mean me?"

"It is one of you," Jesus replied. "It is the one who dips bread into the bowl with me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But how terrible it will be for the one who hands over the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

While they were eating, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks and broke it. He handed it to his disciples and said, "Take it. This is my body." Then he took a cup. He gave thanks and handed it to them. All of them drank from it. "This is my blood of the covenant," he said to them. "It is poured out for many. What I'm about to tell you is true. I won't drink wine with you again until the day I drink it in God's kingdom." Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.

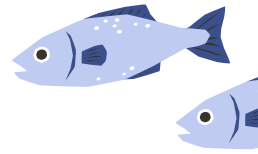
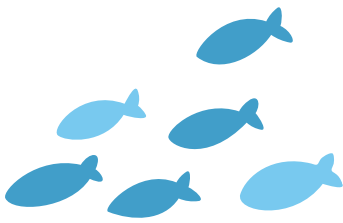
Jesus and his disciples went to a place called Gethsemane. Jesus said to them, "Sit here while I pray." He took Peter, James and John along with him. He began to be very upset and troubled. "My soul is very sad. I feel close to death," he said to them. "Stay here. Keep watch."

He went a little farther. Then he fell to the ground. He prayed that, if possible, the hour might pass by him. "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup of suffering away from me. But let what you want be done, not what I want."

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray. Then you won't fall into sin when you are tempted. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."



ACTIVITIES



ACTIVITIES

Game - Watchkeeper

Craft - binoculars (on next page)

Activity - watch and pray;
Sharing the bread

Prayer - watch and pray

WATCH AND PRAY

As a visual aid, you may like to have a pair of binoculars or glasses

What did Jesus pray in the garden?

Why does Jesus tell us to watch and pray? What is temptation? We have

an enemy who does not want us to fish for people and win people to

Jesus. That enemy is "Satan" or the "devil". He tries to tempt us into sin,

distract us, discourage us and take our sights off God and the task He

has given us. Watching and praying is important to help us stay on track

following Jesus.

WATCHKEEPER

You will need a set of keys

- Have the children sit in a circle with one child in the middle. The child in the middle has their eyes closed and the keys just in front of them. A
- leader points to one of the children in the circle who tip toes to the keys, picks them up and tiptoes around the outside of the circle, back to their place. The watchkeeper has to point to the thief if they hear a noise. When the child is sat back down, the watchkeeper opens their eyes and guesses who has the keys. They only have three guesses in total (including the first pointing with their eyes closed)



PRAYER

Repeat this pray this prayer with actions a couple of times:

Father God,

Help us to watch and pray (make binocular shape with your hands around your eyes)

And remember (point to your head)

You! (Point to the sky)

In the name of Jesus, amen.



SHARING THE BREAD

Extra activity: You will need a loaf of bread

Why do we eat bread?

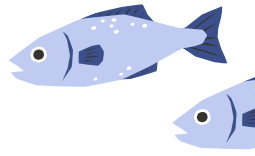
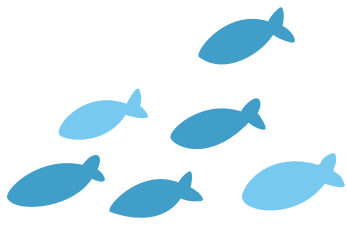
What was Jesus asking us to remember when we share the bread and wine?

What other stories involving bread have we looked at in the gospel of Mark?

Who do you most often share a meal with?

Family perhaps? We remember what Jesus has done for us to bring us into the family of God.





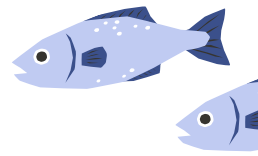
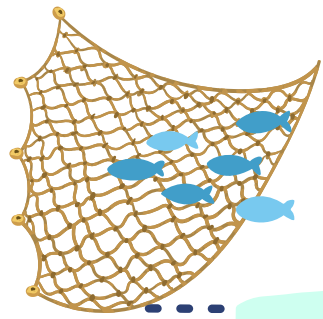
CRAFT BINOCULARS

You will need: 2 toilet roll tubes or 2 pieces of rolled up paper per child; tape; pens; stickers; print outs of the verse from today's story

Decorate the tubes and stick them together with tape to make a pair of binoculars. You could even add string/wool so they can hang around your neck. Cut out the verse and stick it to your binoculars.



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>"Watch and pray. Then you won't fall into sin when you are tempted. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." Mark 14v38</p> | <p>"Watch and pray. Then you won't fall into sin when you are tempted. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." Mark 14v38</p> | <p>"Watch and pray. Then you won't fall into sin when you are tempted. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." Mark 14v38</p> |
| <p>"Watch and pray. Then you won't fall into sin when you are tempted. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." Mark 14v38</p> | <p>"Watch and pray. Then you won't fall into sin when you are tempted. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." Mark 14v38</p> | <p>"Watch and pray. Then you won't fall into sin when you are tempted. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." Mark 14v38</p> |
| <p>"Watch and pray. Then you won't fall into sin when you are tempted. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." Mark 14v38</p> | <p>"Watch and pray. Then you won't fall into sin when you are tempted. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." Mark 14v38</p> | <p>"Watch and pray. Then you won't fall into sin when you are tempted. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." Mark 14v38</p> |
| <p>"Watch and pray. Then you won't fall into sin when you are tempted. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." Mark 14v38</p> | <p>"Watch and pray. Then you won't fall into sin when you are tempted. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." Mark 14v38</p> | <p>"Watch and pray. Then you won't fall into sin when you are tempted. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak." Mark 14v38</p> |



STORY

BIBLE STORY

Our Bible story is found in Mark 14:43-65

Jesus suffered for us. He was wounded, so that we could be healed.

EQUIPMENT

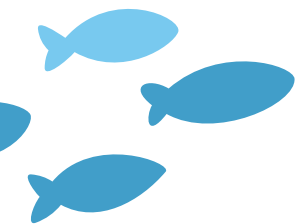
You will need the following pictures:

- Jesus
- 12 disciples
- Crowd
- Tree
- Town



SCRIPT

Use the story script, the felt board and the pictures to tell the story. Have Jesus next to His disciples at the beginning, but then the disciples run away when the crowd appears and Jesus is alone with the crowd. The tree can represent the garden and the town can represent Jerusalem.



SESSION 11 STORY

We have followed Jesus' story from when He called His first disciples in Galilee to follow Him and become fishers of people right up to His last week in Jerusalem where the religious leaders are plotting to kill Jesus. Today we join the story at a very sad part, just as Jesus has finished praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, where He told His disciples to watch and pray.

"Get up! Let us go!" Jesus said to His disciples. "Here comes the one who is handing me over to sinners!"

Just as Jesus was speaking, Judas appeared. He was one of the 12 disciples, one of Jesus' closest friends, but Judas had turned against Jesus and was doing a terrible thing. A crowd was with him. They were carrying swords and clubs. The chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders had sent them.

Judas had told the crowd, "the one I kiss is the man you want." He went up to Jesus and said "Hello, Rabbi," (which means teacher) and he kissed Jesus' cheek. The guards grabbed Jesus and one of Jesus' disciples took out a sword and struck the ear of one of the servants, but Jesus told him to stop and healed the man's ear.

"Why do you come out with clubs and swords? I was with you in the temple everyday. Why did you not arrest me then? But the scriptures must be fulfilled," said Jesus.

Then all of Jesus' followers ran away and the men led Jesus to the High Priest's house, where the Sanhedrin, a group of Jewish leaders, would question Jesus to find a reason to put Him to death. Many people lied about Jesus, but their stories did not make sense. Jesus stood silently, waiting. Eventually, the High Priest asked "Are you the Messiah? The Son of the Blessed One?"

Jesus said, "I AM."

At this, the high Priest tore his robes and shouted, "Jesus must die!"

All the Sanhedrin became mad with anger and started hurting Jesus, spitting at Him and pulling out His beard. They mocked Him horribly and no one would help Him. Jesus patiently went through the suffering. He knew this was the only way to save the world. He would hurt, so that we could be healed. He would be killed, so that we could have eternal life. He was fulfilling scriptures, like Isaiah 53 verses 3-5 which say:

He knew all about pain and suffering.

He suffered the things we should have suffered.

He took on himself the pain that should have been ours.

But we thought God was punishing him.

We thought God was wounding him and making him suffer.

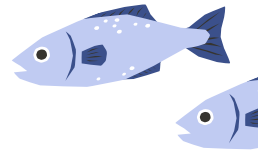
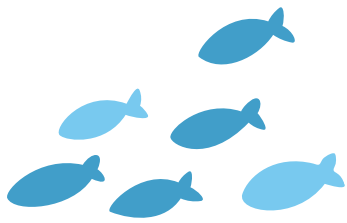
But the servant was pierced because we had sinned.

He was crushed because we had done what was evil.

He was punished to make us whole again.

His wounds have healed us."

Jesus went through all of that horrible pain for us.



ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES

- Game - one for all
- Craft - Jesus with me
- Reflection for younger children - always with us
- Reflection for older children - Suffering with Jesus
- Prayer - Always with me

JESUS WITH ME

You will need: card people shapes, glue, pens, Bible verse

On one side of the card, draw yourself and on the other draw Jesus. Stick on the words 'Jesus said, "I am always with you." Matthew 28:20'



ALWAYS WITH US

- Bring a teddy with you to show the children.
- Do any of you have a special teddy that makes you feel safe and happy?
- How do you think Jesus felt when all His friends left Him and people were being horrible to Him?
- Jesus knows what it is like to feel worried and upset.
- While our special teddy won't always be with us, Jesus promises to always be with us.
- When we are upset or scared, Jesus is with us and He understands.

PRAYER

Hold the person that you have coloured in next to your heart and pray:

**"Thank You Jesus You are always with me.
Help me to know You are always with me.
Even when life is hard, You are always
with me.**

In the name of Jesus, amen."



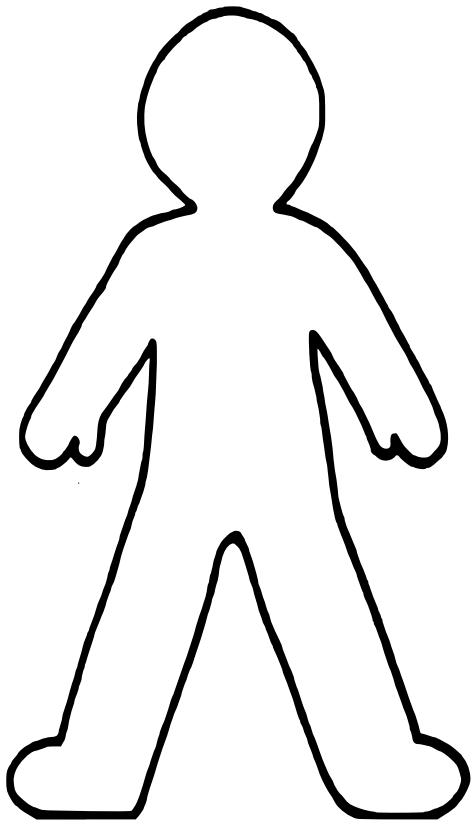
GAMES - ONE FOR ALL

Jesus' actions saved everyone who trusts in Him. In these two games, if anyone succeeds, everyone wins. Choose whichever suits your space and group.

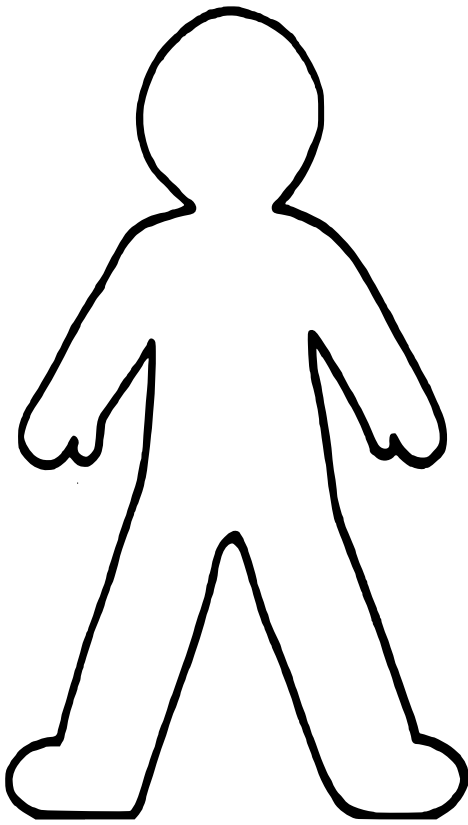
44 save all: one (or two) person(s) guards a base. Everyone else runs and hides while the catcher counts to 44. Then everyone tries to get to the without getting tagged. If you are tagged, you are imprisoned next to the base. If you successfully reach the base without being tagged, shout "44 save all!" and everyone is free.

Goal for all: Put a bucket at one end of the room and give children beanbags to throw into the bucket. If anyone gets one in, shout "Everybody wins!"

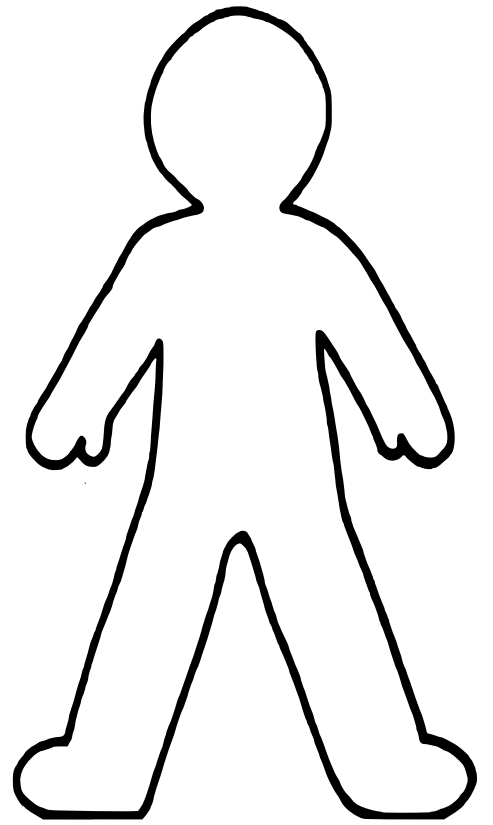




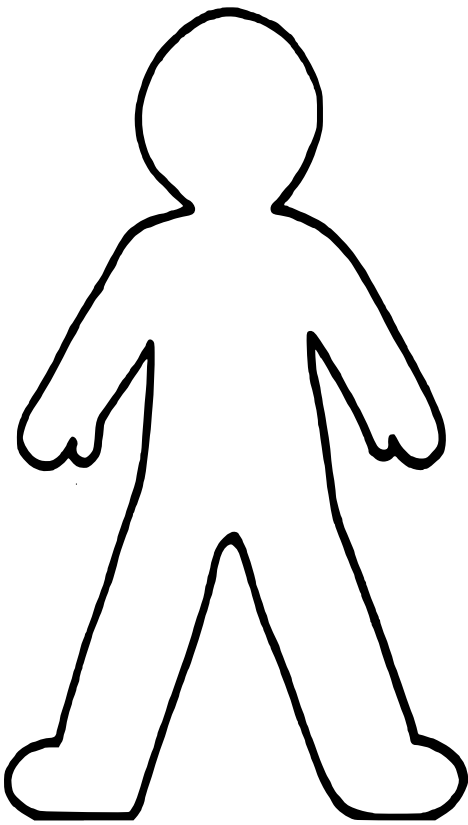
1



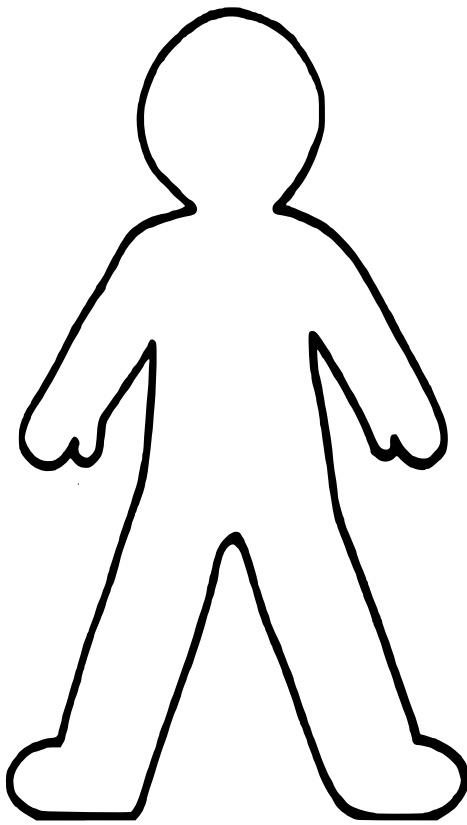
1



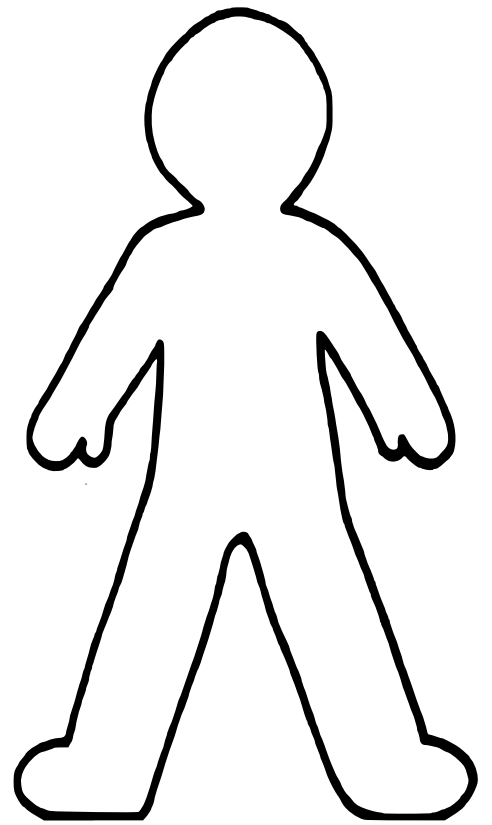
1



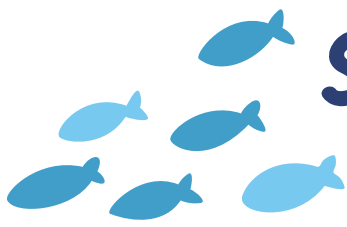
1



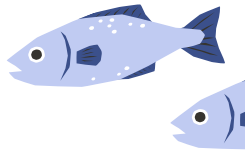
1



1



SUFFERING WITH JESUS



An Iranian pastor tells the story of one of his friends who is a leader in the Iranian underground church. One day his friend dropped off his children at school and then got several messages and phone calls from people in his church saying that they had each just been arrested for following Jesus. The pastor thought for a moment, "maybe this is my chance to run and escape." But then a story Jesus told came to mind.

Jesus said in John chapter 10v11-15:

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. The hired man is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when the hired man sees the wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired man. He does not care about the sheep.

"I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and my sheep know me. They know me just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I give my life for the sheep. "

The Iranian pastor knew that God was going to strengthen him to be like Jesus and lay his life down for his church. He did not run away. He loved his flock (the church that he was looking after) and Jesus too much. Instead, he chose to suffer with His church and with Jesus and Jesus was with him through it all.

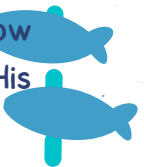
Sometimes following Jesus will involve suffering with Jesus. In the west, we are unlikely to be imprisoned for our faith, but suffering comes in other ways. Sometimes it is going out of our way to love people like Jesus does or choosing to follow Jesus even when others around us don't. Can you think of ways we might suffer with Jesus?

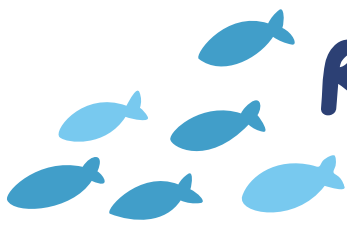
The apostle Paul, who told many people about Jesus in the years after Jesus went back to Heaven, wrote this to the church in Rome:

"As his children, we will receive all that he has for us. We will share what Christ receives. But we must share in his sufferings if we want to share in his glory. What we are suffering now is nothing compared with our future glory." Romans 8v17-18.

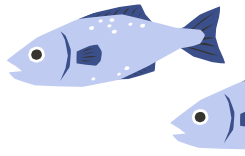
When we go through difficult things, Jesus promises to be with us and one day we will receive a wonderful reward in Heaven for following Jesus and not giving up.

Pray that God would strengthen you and help you in times of difficulty and you would know that He is with you always. He is your Good Shepherd who loves you so much that He laid His life down to save you.



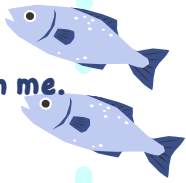


REFLECTION AND PRAYER



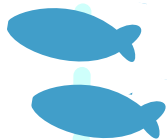
Jesus went through all kinds of emotions in His life and especially on the build up to Him dying on the cross and raising to life. Have a look at the emotions chart together. We are going to practice a little prayer together. After each question, pray **"Jesus, thank you for being with me. Please help me. Amen."**

- When Father God answered His prayer and fed the 5000 with just a few loaves and fish, how do you think Jesus might have felt? Have you ever felt that way? Jesus understands and He is always with you. Let's pray **"Jesus, thank you for being with me. Please help me. Amen."**
- When Peter, James and John couldn't stay awake to pray with Jesus in the Garden, when Jesus needed their help, how do you think He felt? Have you ever felt that way? Jesus understands and He is always with you. Let's pray **"Jesus, thank you for being with me. Please help me. Amen."**
- When all of Jesus' friends left Him and He had to go with the soldiers alone, how do you think He might have felt? Have you ever felt that way? Jesus understands and He is always with you. Let's pray **"Jesus, thank you for being with me. Please help me. Amen."**
- When people were saying all kinds of nasty things about Him and hurting Him, how do you think Jesus might have felt? Have you ever felt that way? Jesus understands and He is always with you. Let's pray **"Jesus, thank you for being with me. Please help me. Amen."**
- When the religious leaders said that Jesus must die, how do you think Jesus felt? Have you ever felt that way? Jesus understands and He is always with you. Let's pray **"Jesus, thank you for being with me. Please help me. Amen."**



Whether we are going through a happy time, a sad time, a scary time, a lonely time, a painful time or any kind of emotion, Jesus understands. He said "I will always be with you." and we can ask Him for help.

LEADER pray a blessing over the children that they would understand that Jesus loves them, remember Jesus is always with them and that they would ask for His help whenever they are in need.





FRIGHTENED



SCARED



HURT



HAPPY



ANNOYED



WORRIED



EXHAUSTED



CONFIDENT



NERVOUS



SHOCKED



CONFUSED



EXCITED



SHY



DISAPPOINTED



SAD



MARK SESSION 12




MAIN POINT

Jesus died for our sins and rose from the grave, making a way for us to become friends of God. We get to tell this good news to others!

(Older children: Jesus tells us to take up our cross and follow Him)

MEMORY VERSE

Mark 1:17 Jesus said to them, "Come and follow me. I will make you fishers of people."




BIBLE STORY



Our Bible story is found in Mark chapters 15 and 16

Jesus died for our sins and rose from the grave, making a way for us to become friends of God.



ACTIVITIES



Game - musical statues or balloon air hockey


Craft - story wheel

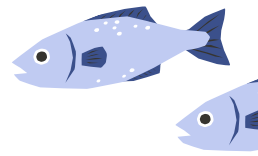
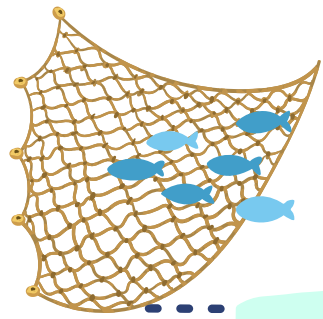
Activity - egg roll challenge

Discussion and prayer - Tell the good news (younger children)

Take up your cross (older children)

LEARNING

- Jesus died to take away our sins so we can become friends of God
 - Jesus rose again to life and ascended into Heaven, telling us to go and make disciples
 - Jesus told His disciples to take up their cross and follow Him
 - We may be persecuted for following Jesus, but the gift of life we receive in Jesus is worth the cost
- 



STORY

BIBLE STORY

Our Bible story is found in Mark chapters 15 and 16

Jesus died for our sins and rose from the grave, making a way for us to become friends of God.

EQUIPMENT

Cut outs of the pictures of

- Jesus on the cross
- the empty tomb
- Jesus appearing to His disciples
- Jesus going up to Heaven

Or a way of sharing the videos with the children

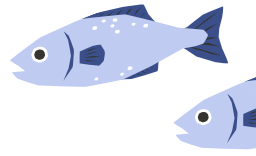
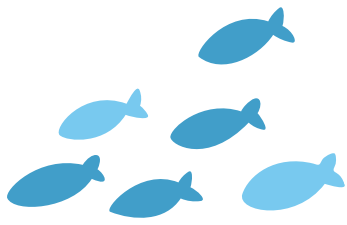
INSTRUCTIONS

You could use the picture cut outs of Jesus on the cross, the empty tomb, Jesus appearing to His disciples and Jesus going up to Heaven to help you tell the story from Mark chapters 15 and 16.

Alternatively, for younger children, you could use this video story reading of "The mystery of the empty tomb" by Cassie Martin that can be found on youtube here: <https://youtu.be/cDnv07OfVrA?si=eN9vLU4HEFLNxRSb>

For older children, you may wish to show them this dramatic reenactment of Mark chapters 15 and 16 performed by Max McLean. Begin watching from 1:23:55 to see just chapters 15 and 16. The video can be found on youtube here: <https://youtu.be/rVFQfPTJPq8?si=78-QMjMb3rHS8-Rg>





ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES

Game - musical statues or balloon air hockey

Craft - story wheel

Activity - egg roll challenge

Discussion and prayer - Tell the good news (younger children)

Take up your cross (older children)

STORY WHEEL

You will need a story wheel printed on card for each child; scissors; split pins; colouring pens

Colour in and cut out the wheel and the wheel cover. Attach the wheel to the cover using a split pin so that you can spin the wheel to tell the Easter story.



MUSICAL STATUES

You will need a way of playing music

When you play music, everyone dances.

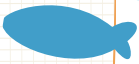
When the music stops, everyone must be as still as a statue.

DISCUSSION AND PRAYER

See the following pages for a discussion and prayer for younger children and older children

EGG ROLL CHALLENGE

See following pages



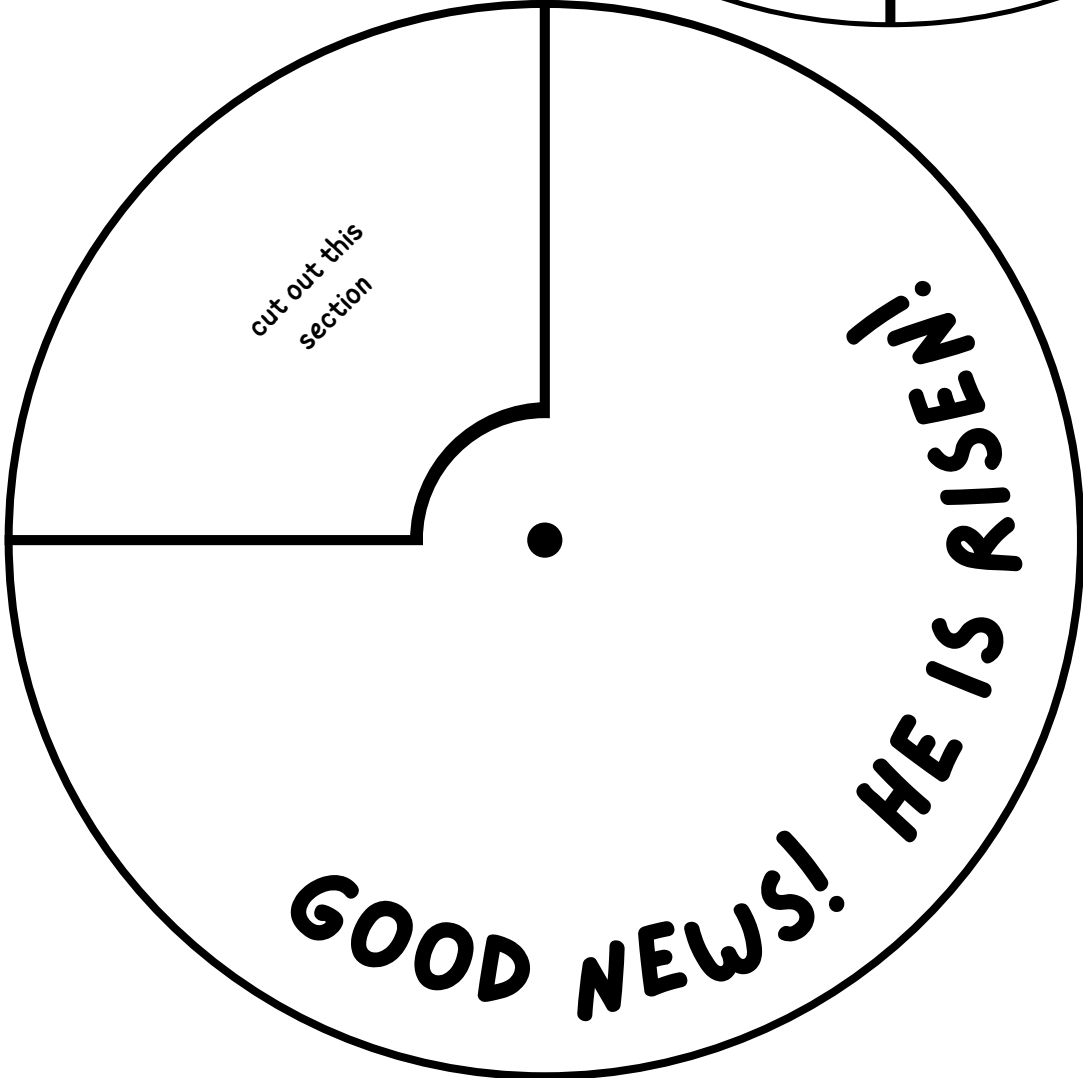
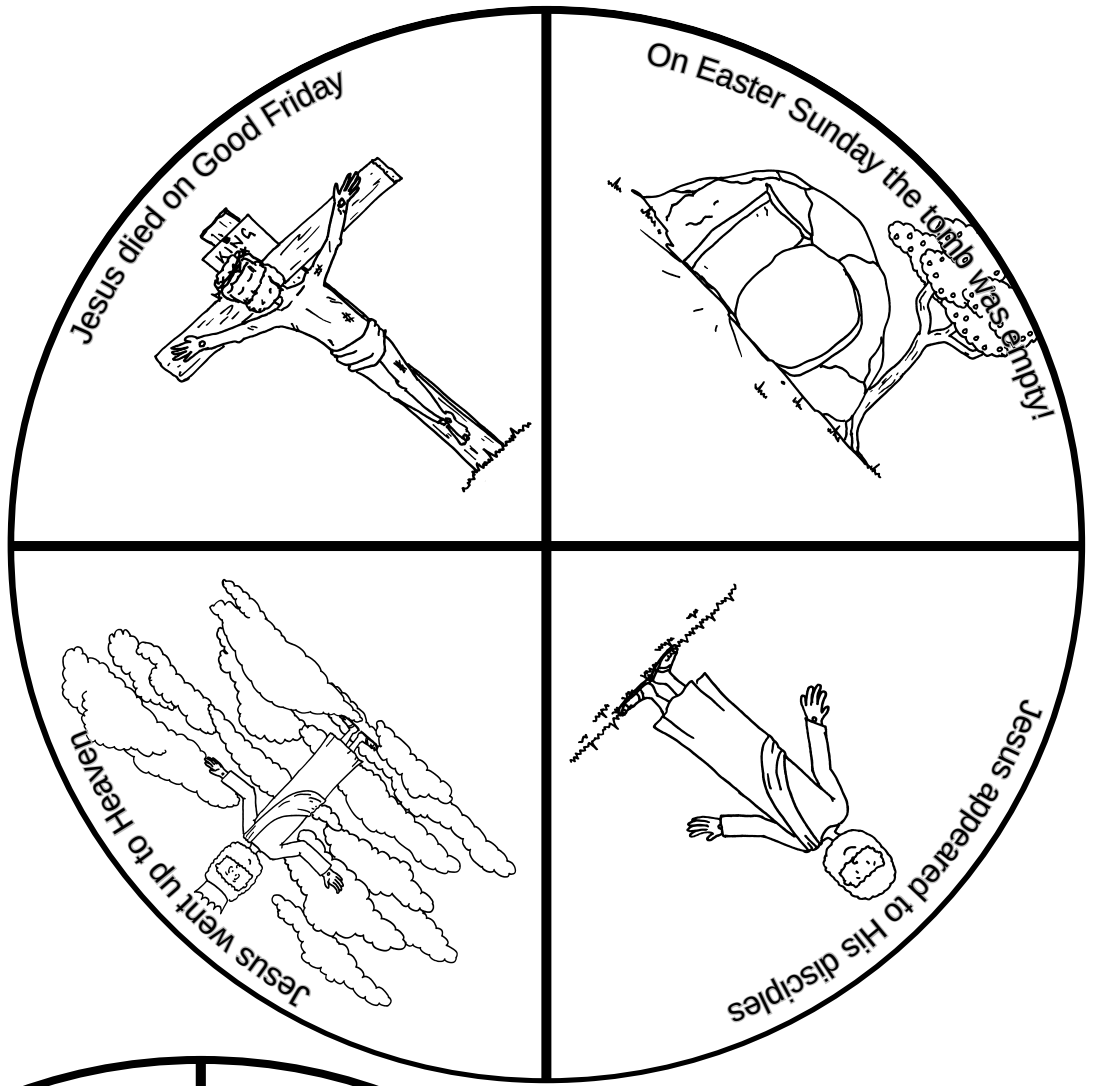
BALLOON AIR HOCKEY

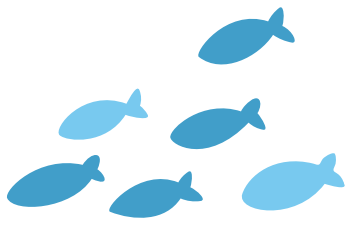
You will need: a round balloon and a spare; 2 long balloons and 2 spares; tape to mark two end zones - one at either side of the room.

Divide the children into two groups, line them up on either side of the room and give each child a number.

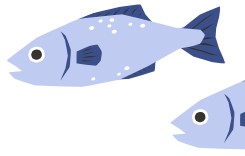
When you call "3", the number "3"s from each team must grab a long balloon each and attempt to pat the round balloon into the opponents end zone to score a point. After 10-60 seconds, call the next number. The children must swap over the person holding the long balloon every time you call a new number.







TAKE UP YOUR CROSS



(Discussion for older children)

1. Why did Jesus go through the crucifixion? Why is Jesus' death and resurrection good news for you and I?

Jesus said earlier in the Gospel according to Mark as Jesus was journeying towards Jerusalem "Jesus called the crowd to him along with his disciples. He said, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must say no to themselves. They must pick up their cross and follow me. Whoever wants to save their life will lose it. But whoever loses their life for me and for the good news will save it. What good is it if someone gains the whole world but loses their soul?" Mark 8:34-36

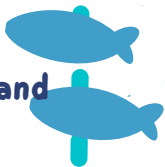
2. What do you think Jesus meant by "take up your cross and follow me"?

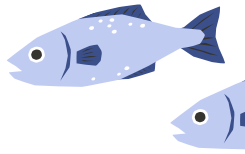
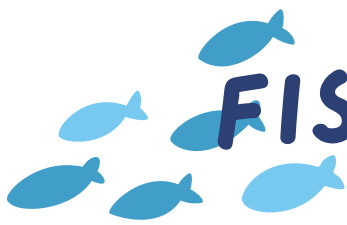
Around the world, our brothers and sisters suffer in various ways for their faith. At the time of writing this (2026) brothers and sisters in Pakistan and India risk their businesses being shut down and some are captured and killed by their neighbours, because they worship Jesus. Jesus' followers in many countries in the Middle East and North Africa risk being imprisoned and executed for sharing their faith. Believers in Nigeria are threatened by murder and the burning down of churches. Brothers and sisters in the Western world (America, Europe) are often mocked and in some countries, their freedom of religion is being taken away. There is also constant pressure to live like those around us, saying "yes" to ourselves rather than God.

3. Yet in all these places, Christians choose to continue to follow Jesus and face persecution rather than giving up their faith. Why do you think that is?

4. What might "taking up your cross and following Jesus" look like in your setting?

5. What would you need from God to empower you to take up your cross and follow Him? Pray for this





FISHING FOR PEOPLE

(Discussion for younger children)

1. Why did Jesus die and rise from the dead?
2. Jesus told Mary to go and tell the others what had happened. Jesus gives us that job too! As we follow Jesus, Jesus makes us fishers of people and helps us to spread the good news that Jesus has risen from the dead. We can be friends of God by saying sorry to God and putting our trust in Jesus. We can tell others this good news too!
3. Pray that God would help us to spread the good news that Jesus died for our sins, rose from the dead and has made a way for us to be friends of God.

EGG ROLL CHALLENGE

On Easter Sunday, the stone from the tomb was rolled away and new life was given to us! We celebrate Easter with eggs, that represent new life.

In this challenge, use card board, scissors and tape to construct a run to roll a hard boiled egg down. See how long an egg run you can create!

