

# Session 50

## A welcome and a meal

The Easter stories may be quite familiar to our 5 to 8s, but focus them on discovering more about Jesus. In this session we explore the clues Jesus gives in his words and actions as to who he is and what his life was about.

**To plan your session...** Choose a selection of *Opening*, *Into the Bible* and *Living the life* activities to make your session fun and memorable.

## Options to open your session...

### Clues game

**Activity time:** 10 minutes

**Aim:** to use clues to work out who someone is

- 1 Play a game of 'Who am I?'. You will be 'it' first. Invite the children to ask you questions about yourself to which you can only answer 'Yes' or 'No'. Make sure the person you choose to be is well known to everyone in your group.
- 2 Allow time for the children to be 'it' as well. If you have a large group, you could play in pairs or groups of three.

### Praise

**Activity time:** 10 minutes

**Aim:** to praise Jesus

**You will need:** music

- 1 Sing some songs that refer to Jesus, such as 'Who's the King of the jungle?'. Your group could make up actions to go with them.
- 2 Ask the children to tell you how the songs describe Jesus.
- 3 Now ask them to draw a picture of Jesus, using ideas from the songs. Encourage the children to show and explain their pictures to the group.
- 4 Finish by praying to Jesus, using the pictures for ideas to praise him.

### Aim

To explore the clues Jesus gives about the meaning of his life

### Bible passage

Luke 19:28–40; 22:7–23

### Ready to use activity

### Miming

**Activity time:** 5 minutes

**Aim:** to introduce clues about the meaning of Jesus' life

- 1 Explain that you will choose people to come out in front of the group and mime something that the others will try and guess.
- 2 Choose different children to mime one of the following: talking with some friends, riding a donkey, being in a big crowd of people shouting, having a meal with friends.
- 3 Afterwards, tell the children that today they are going to find out how these events can help us learn about Jesus' life.

**Tip for Leaders:** Timings for each activity are approximate – the time it actually takes will depend on the size of your group and the individual children involved.

# Into the Bible - options to explore the Bible passage...

Ready to use  
activity

## Bible story and picture clues

**Activity time:** 20 minutes

**Aim:** to explore the clues Jesus gives about the meaning of his life

**You will need:** pictures from page 352

### 1 Prepare

Before the children arrive, cut out the pictures from page 352 and hide them around your room.

### 2 Hunt for clues

Invite the children to hunt around the room for picture clues about Jesus. When they have found them all, encourage the children to use them to tell you what they remember about Jesus' life. If you have enthusiastic readers in your group, you could help them to look up and read out the Bible verses on pictures 1 to 8. Encourage them to suggest what clues about Jesus' purpose for coming to earth could be in these pictures.

### 3 Story with clues part 1

Give each child a copy of picture 9 (Jesus riding a donkey) and ask them to describe what is happening. Encourage the children to listen as you read Luke 19:28-40 from a child-friendly Bible to see if they are right, and to hear some clues as to why this was happening. When you have read it, ask them if they were right. Read verse 37 again and challenge the children to listen out for a clue to tell them why the people were shouting about how great Jesus was (*verse 37 refers to miracles Jesus had performed*). Ask the children to look again at pictures 1 to 8 and point out some of these miracles (*pictures 7 and 8*).

Read verse 39 again and challenge the children to listen out for a clue about a role Jesus had played with the people (*verse 39 refers to Jesus as a teacher*). Ask the children to find the picture that could go with this verse (*picture 6*). Reread verse 38 and ask the children to find the picture that gives the clue about who it was that was coming in the name of the Lord (*picture 4*).

### 4 Story with clues part 2

Read Luke 22:7-23 to your group (you could start at verse 14, if you prefer a shorter passage). Ask the children to choose the picture that represents the passage you have just read (*picture 10*). Say that the whole purpose of Jesus' life was to die and come back to life again to save God's people. Throughout Jesus' life we can see God's plan unfolding. Ask the children to say which of the other picture clues would go with these verses (*all of them*).

### 5 Respond

Encourage the children to silently talk to God about the picture about Jesus' life that they like best. They might like to tell the group why they like that particular picture, but don't pressurise anyone to do this if they are uncomfortable.

### 6 Freeze frames

If you have time, get the children into groups and ask them to choose one of their favourite picture clues. They are going to make a 'freeze frame'. To make a freeze frame the children should position themselves in the same way as the people in the picture, and stay perfectly still. Allow them some time to practise and then see if you can guess which it is!

You will find another  
Into the Bible option  
on the next page...

# Into the Bible - options (continued)...

## Bible story with props

**Activity time:** 20 minutes

**Aim:** to explore the clues Jesus gave about the meaning of his life

**You will need:** a paper crown, a toy donkey, a coat, some clothes, a cup, pita bread (or similar items)

### 1 Searching for props

Before the children arrive, hide the objects listed above around the room. When they arrive, ask the children to find the props you've hidden. Make sure they know about any areas that are out of bounds and any other safety issues. When all the items have been retrieved, ask the children to show each other what they have found. Explain that these items are clues about today's Bible story that will help them find out about the meaning of Jesus' life. Ask the children to share what they think the props could mean.

### 2 Bible story with props 1

Read Luke 19:28–40 to your group and ask the children to choose which of their props would go with the story. Put them together, and then ask the children to identify the clues in this passage that help us understand why Jesus came to earth. Pass the crown around the group and ask the children if they can think of any other kings in the Bible. Say that the people of Israel wanted kings like other countries, and the kings were supposed to help the people live in the way God wanted them to. Some of the kings did this, such as King David. Ask the children why they think the crowd said Jesus was a king, even though he was not the king of their country. (*Perhaps it was because they recognised Jesus as someone sent by God to help them live God's way.*)

### 3 Bible story with props 2

Read Luke 22:7–23 to your group and again ask the children to choose which of the props would go with this story. Pass the pita bread around the group, allowing the children to take a piece to munch on if they wish. (Be aware of hygiene and allergies.) As they do this, ask them why Jesus and his friends had this flat bread at their meal. If they are unsure, say that it was one of the ingredients of a special meal which the Jewish people had celebrated ever since they had escaped from Egypt hundreds of years before Jesus was born. Say there is a picture about God helping them to escape on the *Bible Timeline (God frees his people)*. (In the UK, older children will have covered Passover as part of the National Curriculum.) Chat about the Passover meal. Say that the festival helps the Jewish people remember how God helped free their ancestors from slavery in Egypt and how he took them to their own land where they could live lives that pleased God. Ask how they think this might relate to Jesus' life.

### 4 Re-enactment

If you have time, invite the children to form two groups and ask one group to act out Luke 19:28–40 and the other group Luke 22:7–23, using the items from the search. Give each group time to practise and then perform in front of the other group. If you have a small group you could do both stories one after the other. Alternatively, if you have a large group, you could break the stories up into smaller sections and invite smaller groups to act out the stories.

## More on this theme .....

If you want to do a short series with your group, other sessions that work well with this one are:

**Session 51** A walk with friends, Luke 24:1–35

**Session 52** A world to change, Luke 24:36–49

# Living the life - options to help live God's way...

## Splash!

**Activity time:** 10 minutes

**Aim:** to remember the clues given about the meaning of Jesus' life

**You will need:** copies of the *Splash!* sheets from pages 353 and 354

- 1 In advance, make copies of pages 353 and 354, so they are back to back on one sheet of paper; you will need one copy per child.
- 2 Talk about some of the clues the children found today, and what they might tell us about Jesus.
- 3 Help the children to fold their *Splash!* sheets into mini books, and then to do the puzzles.
- 4 As they do the puzzles, chat with them about the clues and what they've discovered about Jesus. Allow this to be an open chat, where you can discover what they think of Jesus.

## Sharing bread

**Activity time:** 10 minutes

**Aim:** to remember Jesus as he asked us to

**You will need:** flat bread or pitas, recipe from page 355 (optional)

- 1 If you have an oven on site, you could make chapattis with the children for this activity; a recipe is available on page 355.
- 2 Ask the children if they remember what Jesus did with the bread in today's story. You could read Luke 22:19,20 again. Explain that Jesus was sharing the Passover meal with his friends. Remind them that Passover is held to celebrate the fact that God set his people free. Say that on the night before he died, Jesus gave his friends a new meal to celebrate – he said they were to share bread as a way of remembering him.
- 3 If your tradition allows, give each child a piece of bread. Encourage the children to spend some time silently remembering that Jesus died so we could be free to know God. If appropriate, they can now eat the bread. (Be aware of allergies and hygiene.)

Ready <sup>to use</sup> activity

## Shouting praise

**Activity time:** 5–10 minutes

**Aim:** to praise Jesus our King

- 1 Ask the children if anyone can remember what the crowd shouted out to Jesus in the Bible story they heard earlier. Read out Luke 19:38, line by line, and encourage the children shout out the words together after each line.
- 2 Make a list of things your group could praise Jesus for.
- 3 Sit in a circle and ask each child in turn to shout out to Jesus one of the ideas from your list.
- 4 Then go around the circle and give any willing children the opportunity to say a prayer about something they can thank Jesus for. Finish off by thanking Jesus for being the King who was sent to save God's people.

## Extra ideas for the session, and beyond...

See if your group can watch or join in a Communion service.

Make paper crowns. Take a sheet of A4 paper and cut it in half lengthwise. Concertina-fold the strips, then slice off the top diagonally. Unfold to reveal a crown. Write 'Jesus' on the front and decorate. Encourage the children to take their crowns home to remind them that Jesus was sent as a King to save God's people.



3 Luke 2:46-49 Jesus in the temple



2 Luke 2:27-32  
Simeon with  
baby Jesus



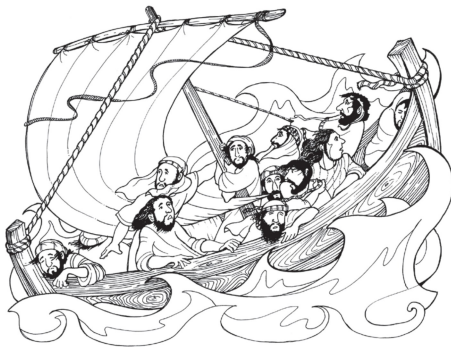
4 Luke 3:3-6  
John the Baptist  
preaching



9 Luke 19:28-40  
Jesus riding  
a donkey



6 Luke 4:14,15 Jesus the teacher



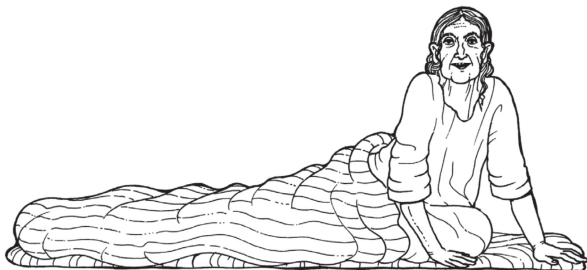
8 Luke 8:22-25 Jesus calms the storm



1 Luke 1:30-33  
The Angel Gabriel with Mary



5 Luke 3:21,22 Jesus is baptised



7 Luke 4:38-44 Simon's mother healed



10 Luke 22:7-23 The Last Supper

The Son of Man will \_\_\_\_\_  
as \_\_\_\_\_ has decided.



live die go God you he

Use two of these words to fill the gaps in the clue Jesus gave.

Look up Luke 22:22 in the **Good News Bible** to see if you are right.



# Splash!

Fold along the dotted lines to make your Puzzle Book.

Use the clues to work out WHY Jesus came to earth.



Use the code to find out what the crowd shouted at Jesus.

☀ = n	
◇ = o	○ = !
□ = e	▽ = a

God  bl  ss  th  m  n  th  n  k  ng  wh  c  m  s

rd  l  f  th  m  n  th  n

Join the blue dots to reveal a clue to help you complete this sentence.

Think of something Jesus did while he was on earth. Draw a picture of it here. Then say a prayer thanking Jesus.

INGREDIENTS	INSTRUCTIONS
<p><b>450 g/1 lb wholemeal plain flour</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1</b> Place 250 g of flour in a deep bowl.</li> <li><b>2</b> Fill another bowl with the cold water.</li> <li><b>3</b> A little at a time, add the water to flour, kneading as you go. Continue until your dough is soft and elastic.</li> <li><b>4</b> Sprinkle some of the rest of the flour on to a table.</li> <li><b>5</b> Split your dough into eight slightly flattened balls.</li> <li><b>6</b> Put one on your floured table and roll it out until it's around 15 cm (6 inches) across.</li> <li><b>7</b> Heat a shallow frying pan (you won't need oil for a non-stick pan) and cook the chapatti for about 20–30 seconds or until the surface is bubbling.</li> <li><b>8</b> Turn it over carefully with tongs and cook the other side for 10–15 seconds. It is done when brown spots appear on the underside.</li> <li><b>9</b> Repeat with the rest of the dough.</li> </ol>
<p><b>250 ml/9 fl oz cold water</b></p>	

**CHAPATTI RECIPE**

