

Session 52

A world to change

As our 5 to 8s hear about Jesus' friends sharing the good news about him with others, help them to discover that the Easter story demands a response. Encourage them to understand that responding to Jesus and sharing good news is something everyone can do.

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...

Balloon praise

Activity time: 5 minutes

Aim: to celebrate that Jesus is alive

You will need: balloons

- 1 Divide your children into groups of four to six and give each group a blown-up balloon.
- 2 Explain that you want them to pat the balloon to one another in the group without letting it touch the floor.
- 3 When you have practised this say that now, every time they hit the balloon, they must shout out a word or phrase to celebrate that Jesus is alive (for example, 'Thank you, Jesus, alleluia' or 'I love you, Jesus').

Dead or alive quiz

Activity time: 5 minutes

Aim: to realise that Jesus is alive for ever

You will need: photos from page 368

- 1 Show the photos one at a time and ask the children whether the things shown are dead or alive. Put the pictures into two groups.
- 2 Go through the things that are dead and ask 'Will this live one day?' and then go through the things that are alive and ask 'Will this die one day?'
- 3 Finally, ask whether Jesus is dead or alive, and ask: 'Will he die one day?' and 'Why not?'

Aim

To realise what we must do because Jesus is alive

Bible passage

Luke 24:36-49

Ready to use activity

Game and chat

Activity time: 5 minutes

Aim: to realise that different events require different reactions

- 1 Play 'Traffic lights'. Invite the children to pretend they are cars. When you say 'red' they should sit down, 'amber' means stand up and 'green' means move. Give the instructions in a random order.
- 2 Talk about how different events require different reactions. For example: when the traffic lights change you move (or stop); when dinner is ready, you eat; when it's raining, you use an umbrella.
- 3 Say that today they're going to find out that there is something we have to do because Jesus is alive.

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 50 A welcome and a meal, Luke 19:28-40; 22:7-23

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

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

Ready to use
Activity

Bible story and *Splash!*

Activity time: 25 minutes

Aim: to understand what we must do because Jesus is alive

You will need: copies of the *Splash!* sheet from page 369

1 Recap

If you haven't done Sessions 50 and 51, briefly recap the Easter story. Explain that you are going to read a story from the Bible, which took place after Jesus had risen from the dead.

2 Bible story

Give out copies of the *Splash!* sheet from page 369 and ask everyone to cut out the speech bubbles (you might want to do this beforehand for younger groups). Say that, each time you read something Jesus said, you will pause for the children to find the correct speech bubble and stick it on their sheets around Jesus.

Read Luke 24:36–49 (from the Good News Bible), pausing after the following statements:

'Peace be with you.' (verse 36)

'Look at my hands and feet and see that it is I myself.' (verse 39a)

'Feel me, and you will know, for a ghost doesn't have flesh and bones.' (verse 39b)

'Have you anything here to eat?' (verse 41)

'Everything written about me ... had to come true.' (verse 44)

'... the message about repentance and the forgiveness of sins must be preached to all nations ...' (verse 47)

'... you must wait in the city until the power from above comes down upon you.' (verse 49)

When the children have stuck all the speech bubbles on to their *Splash!* sheets, read the story again, only this time ask the children to join in and say the words of Jesus at the appropriate time.

3 Think

Have another look at the words of Jesus on the *Splash!* sheet, and ask the group which of the speech bubbles is a command that still applies to us today. They might need some help to work this out so you could give clues like 'Does he tell us to touch him?' Explain that we must still preach the message about forgiveness to the whole world, but rather than start in Jerusalem as the disciples did, we can start in our own home town.

4 Respond

Invite the children to turn over their *Splash!* sheets and draw a picture of themselves. Ask them to think of four things they can tell other people about Jesus and write (or draw) them in speech bubbles around their picture.



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

Into the Bible - options (continued)...

Bible story and interview

Activity time: 20 minutes

Aim: to realise what we must do because Jesus is alive

You will need: a costume for Cleopas (optional)

1 Prepare

Ask another leader to be Cleopas, and practise the script below.

2 Look and listen

If you haven't done Sessions 50 and 51, briefly recap the Easter story. Explain that today's story took place after Jesus had risen from the dead:

Leader: Cleopas, thank you for coming to visit us today. It's great to see you.

Cleopas: Not at all. I think it's very important to tell people about Jesus.

Leader: Yes, I understand that you actually met Jesus after he came back to life.

Cleopas: That's right! I was travelling home to Emmaus with a friend, and Jesus joined us on the road.

Leader: That must have been exciting.

Cleopas: Well, it would have been even more exciting if we'd realised who he was. We thought he was a stranger to the city who hadn't even heard of Jesus, but then he began to explain to us everything that had happened the previous weekend. When we reached Emmaus, we invited him to join us for a meal and to stay the night. It was when he said a prayer and broke the bread that I realised it was Jesus.

Leader: What happened then?

Cleopas: Well, before we had time to say anything, Jesus disappeared! But we were so excited we rushed straight back to Jerusalem to tell everyone.

Leader: Were they surprised?

Cleopas: Yes and no! You see, when we arrived, they were already buzzing with the fact that Simon Peter had also seen Jesus. And then, while we were talking, Jesus himself appeared in the room.

Leader: Just appeared there?

Cleopas: Yes, right in the middle of the room, so everyone could see him.

Leader: What did everyone do?

Cleopas: At first they were afraid and thought that he was a ghost. But Jesus let them touch him and then they knew he was real. He even ate a piece of fish.

Leader: What happened next?

Cleopas: Jesus explained that his death and coming alive again were part of God's special plan. He reminded us of all the Bible verses where these events were foretold. It was quite amazing!

Leader: Did Jesus say anything else?

Cleopas: Yes, he told us that we must tell everyone what had happened. He said he would send God's power to help us, and we were to start where we were in Jerusalem.

3 Draw

Ask if the children can remember what Jesus asked his followers to do. (*Tell everyone about him, beginning in Jerusalem.*) Take a sheet of paper and draw a circle. Ask what the name of your church or group is and write it in the circle. Draw a larger circle outside and ask the children the name of your estate, town or village, and write it in the circle. Keep drawing circles, each one outside the previous one, for your borough or county, then your country, continent and finally the world. Explain that we all have to start telling others where we are (as the disciples did), but shouldn't stop there because Jesus wants the whole world to know about him.

Tip for Leaders: If someone asked Jesus a question, he often responded with a question of his own. He was recognising the need for people to think and learn for themselves.

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

Poster making

Activity time: 15 minutes

Aim: to think about what we can tell others about Jesus.

You will need: two large sheets of paper

- 1 Write 'We can tell our good news' at the top of one of the large sheets of paper. Ask the children if they have any good news, and invite them in turn to write their ideas underneath the heading.
- 2 On the second large sheet of paper, write 'We can tell our God news'. Ask the children for their 'God news' (a way he has helped them, an answer to prayer), and encourage them to write it under the second heading.
- 3 Chat about whether it is easier to tell our good news or our 'God news'. Pray that God will help you all tell news about him.

Shout and sing

Activity time: 5–10 minutes

Aim: to reinforce that we need to tell others that Jesus is alive

You will need: song words from page 370, *Reach Up!* CD

- 1 Tell the children that you are going to use the song 'Reach Up!' as you ask Jesus to help you tell others about him.
- 2 Look at the words from page 370 together, and explain that you will start by singing the chorus and first verse. During the second chorus you will all shout out prayers thanking Jesus that he is alive. During the third chorus you can pray that God will help you tell others about Jesus, and during the last chorus you will shout the names of people you can talk to about Jesus.
- 3 Make sure you join in enthusiastically to encourage the children.

An MP3 for this activity is available in the zip folder.

Ready ^{to use} activity

Mexican wave

Activity time: 5 minutes

Aim: to think about who we can talk to about Jesus

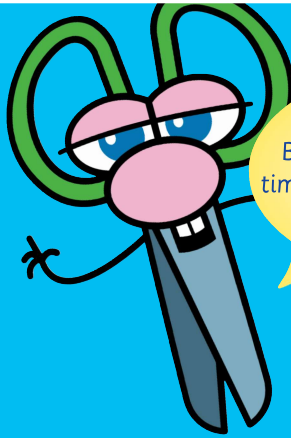
- 1 Invite the children to stand in a circle facing inwards, and explain that you are going to do a Mexican wave: the first person raises and lowers their hands in a wave motion; when their hands reach the 'peak' of the wave, the second person begins their wave, and so on round the circle. Practise a few times.
- 2 When you are ready, invite everyone, as they make the wave, to say the name of someone they know well who they can talk to about Jesus (for example, a family member or friend).
- 3 Next, turn and face outwards and encourage the children to do the same, but name people they don't know quite as well (for example, from school or a club).

Extra ideas for the session, and beyond...

Use the declaration 'Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia!' either with actions or by saying one phrase each round the circle.

Help the children write some prayers for people you know who tell others about Jesus (for example, church leaders, missionaries, aid workers, schools workers). Send the prayers to the people along with a card saying 'We prayed for you today'.





Cut along the green lines. Read the Bible passage slowly. Each time you hear Jesus speaking, stop and glue on that speech bubble.

Splash!



You must preach the message about forgiveness to the whole world.

You must wait in the city for God's power to come down on you.

Touch me and you will know I have flesh and bones.

Everything written about me had to come true.

Look at my hands and feet and see that it is me.

Peace be with you.

Have you got anything to eat?

Reach up!

Reach up, reach in and reach out.

Reach up, reach in and reach out.

Reach up, reach in and reach out.

Reach up, reach in and reach out.

We reach out in worship, we reach out in prayer,
We reach out believing that you're really there!

Reach up, reach in and reach out. (x2)

We're reaching to find the potential you give,
The gifts of your Spirit, your power to live.

Reach up, reach in and reach out. (x2)

We reach out to others, we want them to know,
Sisters and brothers, our family will grow.

Reach up, reach in and reach out. (x4)

Yeah!

Phil Overton
© Scripture Union 2005