

50. Pentecost



BIBLE STORY / REFERENCE

Acts 2:1-47, John 14:16-17, John 14:26, Acts 1:8

The Holy Spirit comes to the disciples



AIMS

To help the children understand how the Holy Spirit changed the disciples and gave them power.

To reflect on how the Holy Spirit works in the lives of Christians today.

The Holy Spirit came to the disciples and filled them with power and boldness to tell others about Jesus.



PREP FOR LEADERS

Read through the Bible passage for this session and reflect:

- What do the passages for today teach us about the Holy Spirit?
 - Where have you seen the Holy Spirit's power at work in your life?
- Take some time to pray for your group.



GAMES / INTRO ACTIVITIES

Choose one or more of the following activities to introduce today's theme:

▶ Blow Football

You will need: straws, ping pong balls, table (or masking tape)

Divide the children into two teams and give each child a straw. Get one team to stand on each side of a table. Place a ping pong ball in the centre of the table and get the first child from each team to come up to play. Their challenge is to blow the ping pong ball off their opponent's side of the table. They are not allowed to hit the ball with the straw; they can only move it by blowing.

Give a point to the person who succeeds at the challenge;

then let the next child in each team come up to play. Once everyone has had a turn, the team with the most points wins.

If you have a large group, you could create more teams and have the game taking place around several tables at once.

▶ Languages Game

You will need: printouts from additional document: Languages Game, Blu-tack (optional)

The first ten sheets of additional document: Languages Game contain phrases in different languages. You could stick these up around the room before the children arrive, or you could lay them out on the floor or a table when you do this activity.

Have the names of the languages (from the final two pages of the document) cut out in advance.

Tell the children that their task is to match up the phrases with the correct languages.

The answers are:

Louve o Senhor	Portuguese
Preiset den Herrn	German
Molaibh an tighearna	Gaelic
Puji tuhan	Indonesian
δόξα τον κύριο	Greek
השבח לאל	Hebrew
主を称赞	Japanese
Sifu Bwana	Swahili
chwalmy Pana	Polish
سبح الرب	Arabic

Once they have done this, tell them that all the phrases mean the same thing. See if any of them know, or can guess, what the meaning is. The answer is "Praise the Lord."

▶ Minute To Win It Challenge

You will need: ten paper or plastic cups, balloons, timer

Choose a child to take part in the challenge. Lay the cups out upside down along the edge of a table. Give the child a balloon and tell them that their challenge is to blow as many of the cups as they can off the table in a minute. They have to do this by blowing into the balloon and then releasing the air from it in the direction of the cups. If you have time, you could let another child try the challenge and see who is able to get more cups off the table in a minute or who is able to blow all the cups off the quickest.

▶ Balloon Relay

You will need: balloons, newspapers, buckets or hoops (optional)

Divide the children into teams of about five people and get them to line up in their teams at one end of the hall ready for a relay race.

Give the first child in each team a newspaper and a balloon. Their aim is to roll up the newspaper and use it to flap or hit the balloon into either a

bucket or a hoop that has been placed at the other end of the room opposite their team, or else over a particular line. Once they have done this, they can pick up the balloon and run back to hand the balloon and the newspaper to the next member of their team. The first team to have every member complete the challenge wins.



EXPLORING THE BIBLE

▶ Recap/ Introduction

See if the children can remember what they were learning about last time.

After Jesus had risen from the dead, he spent some time with his disciples teaching them about God's Kingdom. He gave them the job of telling other people about him and making more disciples. He promised to be with them and to help them in this, but he wasn't going to be with them in the same way as he had been up until then.

He went up to heaven, but he promised to send the Holy Spirit to be with them, so the disciples went back to Jerusalem to wait for the Holy Spirit to come.

▶ Pentecost Story

You will need: equipment to play music, parcel prepared for Pass the Parcel game with pictures (from additional document: Symbols for pass the parcel game) and words (from additional document: Slips for pass the parcel game) wrapped between each layer. You will need to wrap them in the reverse order of the script below so that they will be opened in the correct order. You could also put a small gift for the children to share in the centre of the parcel under the final layer they will open.

Stick the slips with John 14:16-17, John 14:26, and Acts 1:8 to

the outside of the parcel.

Get the children to sit in a circle. Show them the parcel you have prepared, and explain that just as sometimes they might have to wait to open a gift when it is Christmas or their birthday, the disciples had to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit that Jesus had promised.

Read out the verses on the outside of the parcel (John 14:16-17, John 14:26 and Acts 1:8). These were some of the things Jesus had told his disciples about the Holy Spirit.

How do you think they felt as they waited for the Holy Spirit?

Play a game of Pass the Parcel to find out more about what happened when the Holy Spirit came.

Play some music and get the children to pass the parcel around the circle. When the music stops let the child who is holding the parcel remove one layer of paper to reveal a picture and the next part of the story.

You could give them the option to read out the part of the story they find or you could get a leader to read it. Make sure not to put anyone under pressure to read if they don't want to. The words from the slips are included in the script below.

Layer 1 – Wind

When the day of Pentecost came all the believers were gathered together in one place. Suddenly, there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. (Acts 2:1-2 GNT)

Layer 2 – Flames

Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. (Acts 2:3 GNT)

Layer 3 – Speech bubble

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak. There were Jews living in Jerusalem, religious people who had come from every country in the world. When they heard this noise, a large crowd gathered. They were all excited, because all of them heard the believers talking in their own languages. (Acts 2:4-6 GNT)

Layer 4 – Peter speaks boldly

Peter stepped forward to speak to the crowd, telling them all about Jesus and how he had been killed but raised to life again. He told them that Jesus was the Messiah and that they could be saved from the punishment for their sin by turning away from sin and putting their faith in Jesus. (summary of Acts 2:14-39)

Layer 5 – Crowd

Many of them believed his message and were baptized and about three thousand people were added to the group that day. (Acts 2:41 GNT)

Layer 6 – Community

The believers spent time together each day learning and teaching, praising God, eating together and helping one another. More and more people joined them and put their faith in Jesus. (summary of Acts 2:42-47)

This is the story of how the Christian church began because it was the first time there were large numbers of people following Jesus.

▶ Pentecost Story Video

You will need: equipment to play video

This short video features children telling the story of the Holy Spirit coming to the disciples: <https://>

www.youtube.com/watch?v=vuUKGREOWuE It could be used in addition to the activity above if you have time, or as an alternative.



REFLECT & RESPOND

▶ Popcorn Reflection

You will need: popcorn kernels, either a popcorn popper or some ready-to-eat popcorn (Make sure you are aware of the school's policy on snacks if you plan to give the children popcorn to eat.)

Before the Holy Spirit came, the disciples were scared and uncertain. Jesus had gone to heaven and they weren't sure what was going to happen next but then they were totally transformed.

Ask the children if they can remember the different things that happened when the Holy Spirit came.

Show the children the popcorn kernels – in this state they are very small and they're not much use, but like the disciples they can be transformed into something very different.

If you have a popcorn popper, you can demonstrate this for the children to watch. If not, you can show them the ready-to-eat popcorn and talk about how it came from kernels just like the ones you showed them but it has become something very different and much better.

After the Holy Spirit came to the disciples they became bold and brave, they were able to do things they had never been able to do before, like speaking in different languages, and they were able to tell everyone about Jesus. It was all because of the Holy Spirit's power working in them.

Last time we talked about how

God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, so no wonder it made a difference! It was God's Spirit living inside them!

Christians believe that when people begin to follow Jesus the Holy Spirit comes to live inside them too, helping them to know God more and helping them to live for God and tell others about him.

▶ Paint blowing pictures

You will need: watered-down paint or liquid water colours, printouts from additional document: Holy Spirit, straws, teaspoons or pipettes, cover for table, wipes for cleaning up

Give each of the children a sheet with the words from Acts 1:8 (from additional document: Holy Spirit) in the centre.

Let them decorate the space round the verse by placing drops of paint onto their paper with a teaspoon or pipette and then using a straw to blow on the paint and spread it, creating a pattern.

You could point out that just as the patterns they create look different, the Holy Spirit's work looks different in everyone's lives, but each follower of Jesus has the Holy Spirit living in them.

Encourage the children to take a moment of quiet to bring their prayers or questions to God; then lead them in prayer to close.

51. Persecution



BIBLE STORY / REFERENCE

Acts 4:1-22, 6:8-15, 7:54
-8:1

Peter and John continue to share the Good News about Jesus despite opposition and Stephen is stoned to death.



AIMS

To help the children understand that following Jesus is not always easy and can lead to opposition.

To encourage them that God is with his people in these times giving them boldness and courage to continue living for him and telling others about him.

As Jesus' disciples spread the word about his death and resurrection, they faced opposition and persecution, but they prayed for courage and continued to tell others about Jesus.



PREP FOR LEADERS

Read through the Bible passage for this session and reflect:

- What strikes you about the disciples' response to the persecution they faced?
- Why were they so determined to continue spreading the word about Jesus?
- When have you been willing to make a stand for your faith? Take some time to pray for your group.



GAMES / INTRO ACTIVITIES

Choose one or more of the following activities to introduce today's theme:

▶ Dodgeball

You will need: around 5 soft balls

For this game you will need a large space, such as a gym hall, where the children can run around.

Divide the children into two equal teams. Allocate each team one side of the hall and get them to stand in a line along the baseline so that they are facing the opposing team. Spread the balls out along the centre line of the court.

When the game begins, the children run to the middle, pick up the balls and throw them at members of the opposing team, aiming to hit them below the waist. Players can pick up the balls and continue throwing them back and forth, but they must remain on their own side of the court at all times. Anyone who is hit below the waist by a ball is eliminated, and the game continues until one team has no members remaining.

▶ Protect The President

You will need: a soft ball

Get all the children to stand in a circle, and choose two children to stand in the middle of the circle: one as the President and the other as the Bodyguard.

The children forming the circle have to throw the ball,

(continued overleaf)

attempting to hit the President, while the Bodyguard tries to defend the President.

If the ball touches the President, they are no longer the President and they have to join the circle. Meanwhile the child who was Bodyguard becomes the new President, and the child who threw the ball when it hit the President becomes the new Bodyguard.

▶ **Articulate Game**

You will need: cards (cut from additional document: Articulate Game), timer

Divide the children into teams of anything from two to six players. Choose one team to start and give one member of that team the pack of cards. Set the timer for 30 seconds and get them to describe what is on the top card while the rest of their team try to guess the word. The player describing may not say the word on the card, or any part of it. Once the team guess the word correctly, the player describing can move on to the next card, and continue in this manner until the timer goes off.

Make sure they keep the cards that the team guessed correctly, then pass the rest of the cards on to someone from the next team.

Repeat like this for as long you want (i.e. – until you run out of cards or time) making sure that the teams get the same number of turns if possible. Get the teams to count the cards they guessed correctly, and the team with the highest score wins.



EXPLORING THE BIBLE

▶ **Recap / Intro**

Last time we heard about how the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples and gave them power and boldness to tell people

about him. Around 3,000 people put their faith in Jesus in one day, and after that the word continued to spread and more and more people believed.

▶ **Christians are persecuted**

You will need: pictures from Free Bible Images printed out or displayed on PowerPoint

The suggested images are taken from two sets of images on the website. The first four images (numbered 4, 5, 10 and 14 below) are taken from the relevant slides at this link: <http://freebibleimages.org/illustrations/peter-john-arrested/> and the other images (numbered 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17) are taken from the relevant slides at this link: <http://freebibleimages.org/illustrations/stephen-martyred/>

4. Not everyone was happy with what was happening. Some of the religious leaders didn't like what the disciples were teaching about Jesus and they arrested Peter and John and put them in jail.

5. The next day they were taken before the council to answer questions. Peter took the opportunity to tell them about how Jesus had died and risen to life and that he was the Saviour.

10. The members of the council told Peter and John to be quiet and to stop telling people about Jesus, but they said, "Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than him? We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard."

14. The believers prayed for courage, and they continued telling people about Jesus, but things were going to get even more difficult for them...

8. There was a man called Stephen who was one of Jesus' followers. One day some men

began to argue with him and Stephen tried to explain what he believed.

10. The men got more and more angry and eventually they took him to the high council and got people to lie about him, saying that he was speaking against God and against Moses.

11. The high priest asked Stephen if this was true and Stephen went through the whole story of the Bible up until that point, talking about Abraham, Moses, the kings and the prophets. He pointed out that God had promised again and again that he was going to send someone to save the people but when Jesus came the people had him put to death.

13. The religious leaders got very angry when they heard this, but Stephen stayed calm.

14. He was filled with the Holy Spirit and he told them, "Look, I see the heavens opened and Jesus standing in the place of honour at God's right hand."

15. The leaders dragged him out of the city and began to throw stones at him. A man called Saul was watching and the leaders took off their coats and laid them at his feet as they continued to stone Stephen.

16. Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. Don't hold this sin against them." And then Stephen died.

17. He was the first Christian to be killed because of his faith.



REFLECT & RESPOND

▶ **Reflection / Discussion**

You will need: Bible

The parts of the Bible we have

been thinking about today are difficult because they show that following Jesus was not always easy for the disciples. Their faith in Jesus meant that they faced persecution – that means they were treated badly because of their beliefs.

People argued with them, they were arrested and put in prison, taken before councils to answer questions and some, like Stephen, were badly hurt or even killed.

Why do you think Jesus' followers kept on telling people about him even when they knew the consequences could be so severe?

Read Acts 4:19-20 – Peter and John gave two reasons why they kept speaking out. They knew it was more important to obey God than to obey people, and the news about Jesus was so amazing that they couldn't stop telling people.

Read John 16:33 – these are words that Jesus had spoken to his disciples. He had warned them that they would face trouble but he reassured them that they could know his peace in the midst of their difficulties and that he was greater than the trials they faced.

▶ The Courage And The Cost Video (Open Doors)

You will need: equipment to play video

This video may be suitable for an older/more mature SU Group. It features some facts and stories about persecuted Christians around the world, highlighting their courage in continuing to follow Jesus despite the cost.

You can find the video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=fz4W_eJYI_gQ Watch it yourself first to gauge whether or not it would be suitable for your group.

Alternatively, you could share some facts from the Open Doors Youth website at <https://opendoorsyouth.org/the-problem/>

This page contains the Open Doors World Watch List of the countries where Christians face the most persecution and you can click on each of the top ten countries to find out more about their specific challenges.

▶ Prayer

In this country today we don't see people being arrested or killed just because they are Christians, but that doesn't mean it's easy to live as a Christian.

Sometimes people will disagree. Sometimes they might make fun of Christians or make nasty comments. They might want to stop others having the chance to find out about Jesus.

If you have a group with a number of children who are Christians or from church backgrounds, you could ask them about the ways in which they think it can be hard to be a Christian for them today, or even ways in which it can be hard to explore Christianity.

When we pray for Christians facing persecution we might think the obvious thing to pray is that the persecution would stop, but that's not what the disciples prayed.

You could see if the children can remember what they prayed for in the Bible passages today: **Peter and John prayed for courage and Stephen prayed that God would forgive the people who were hurting him.**

No matter what, they wanted the word about Jesus to continue to spread and for people to put their faith in him.

Lead the children in prayer for Christians facing persecution. If

any of the children mentioned specific situations where they are facing opposition because of their faith, pray for them too. Pray for courage and boldness and that the message about Jesus would continue to spread.



ADDITIONAL IDEAS

▶ Letter Writing To Persecuted Christians

You will need: paper, pens or pencils, envelopes

Open Doors provide the opportunity to send letters of hope and encouragement to persecuted Christians around the world. You can find details of this at <http://youth.opendoorsuk.org/letter-writing/>

At the time of writing, there is the option to write to children in Mexico. When you click on the page for each country it provides information about the specific challenges being faced by people there. You could share some of this information with your group and encourage them to write messages or draw pictures to send to encourage the children.

If you don't have time to do this activity during the session you could explain it to the children and invite them to draw a picture or write a message at home, which they can bring in the following week for you to send to Open Doors.

▶ God's Story Video

You will need: equipment to play video

This video could be used to tell or recap the story of Stephen:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9eN72iFjo>

▶ **Stone Painting**

You will need: stones, permanent markers or acrylic paints, paint brushes and pots for water

You could let the children use paints or markers to decorate a stone with something that will remind them of what they have been learning. They could draw a picture or write a word such as courage, peace or boldness.

52. Transformation



BIBLE STORY / REFERENCE

Acts 9:1-20, Philippians 3:5b-9

Saul is transformed by his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus.



AIMS

To help the children explore the different ways knowing God changes people through looking at Saul's story and reflecting on how God changes people today.

Saul was determined to stop the message about Jesus from spreading, but then he encountered Jesus for himself on the road to Damascus and he was completely transformed. Coming to know Jesus still changes people's lives today.



PREP FOR LEADERS

Read through the Bible passage for this session and reflect:

- What are the different ways Saul was changed by encountering Jesus?
- How has knowing Jesus changed you?

Take some time to pray for your group.



GAMES / INTRO ACTIVITIES

Choose one or more of the following activities to introduce today's theme:

► Change Hate To Love

You will need: pens or pencils, paper

Get the children to write the word "hate" at the top of their paper and the word "love" at the bottom. Their challenge is to find a way to transform hate into love by changing one letter at a time to make a new word.

One possible solution is hate, late, lane, lone, love.

This activity could be used to

occupy those who arrive early at the group while they are waiting for the others to join them. The children could either do this individually or in small groups.

► Conversion Volleyball

You will need: volleyball net or a length of string or rope, soft ball (e.g. inflatable beach ball or sponge football)

Set up the net, or tie or hold the piece of string or rope across the middle of the playing area just above the children's head height. Divide them into two equal teams and get one team to stand on either side of the playing area.

Choose someone to start with the ball and get them to throw it or hit it across the net. The players' aim is to score points by causing the ball to hit the floor on the other team's side

(continued overleaf)

of the net and to prevent it from hitting the floor on their own side. If it goes under the net when they hit it, a point is also scored against them.

Let them play a short game (2-3 minutes) and see which team has the winning score.

Then play again, introducing a new rule. This time whenever someone hits the ball, they must duck under the net and join the opposing team. Let them play for a few minutes with this rule and then ask them how they found that version of the game compared to the normal version.

It may have been a bit confusing because people were constantly switching sides. In the part of the Bible we're looking at today we're going to hear about someone who switched sides and how this was also a bit confusing for those around them.

▶ Dress Up Relay

You will need: set of clothes for each team (e.g. coat, scarf, hat and gloves)

Divide the children into teams of around five or six. Give each team a set of clothes, or if you have more space, place the set of clothes at the other side of the room opposite the team.

When you give the signal, the first child in each team has to run to the set of clothes if they are at the other side of the room, put on all the clothes supplied, then take them off again and return to their team.

When they have done this, the next child takes a turn. This is repeated until every member of the team has had a turn. The first team to get every member to complete this wins.

▶ Create A Character

You will need: supply of clothes, props, dressing-up items

Divide the children into groups of three to five people. Tell them that their challenge is to transform one member of their group into a different character. They can use the props and costumes supplied to do this. Encourage them to come up with a name for their character and a short description of who they are and what they do.

Give them five minutes or so to do this and then get them to share about their character with the other groups.



EXPLORING THE BIBLE

▶ Recap/ Intro

Last time we talked about how some of the first Christians were persecuted because of their faith. They were beaten, put in prison, or even killed because they followed Jesus. We learned about how Stephen was the first Christian to die for his faith.

▶ Saul's Story

You will need: pictures printed out from additional document: Saul's Story, Blu-Tack (optional), or equipment to display PowerPoint (from additional document: Saul's Story PowerPoint), Bible

As you tell the story, use the images to illustrate it, arranging them in three columns: one for what Saul was like before he was changed by Jesus, one for the things that caused him to change, and one for what he was like after putting his faith in Jesus. Depending on the size of your group you could lay the pictures out on a table or stick them up on the wall. Alternatively, you could use the PowerPoint provided, which has the images appearing in the correct order.

Today we are going to think about a man who was there

when Stephen died. His name was Saul.

As Stephen was stoned to death, Saul was watching. People took off their cloaks and laid them at Saul's feet while they stoned Stephen and, while Saul didn't join in, he watched, and he agreed with what they were doing to Stephen.

Despite the persecution the word about Jesus continued to spread and Saul got more and more angry about this. (Place angry emoji picture in left-hand column.) **He was a Pharisee, one of the religious leaders, who was proud of working very hard to keep God's law.** (Add "Follow the rules" picture to the left-hand column.) **He believed that was what he had to do to please God and he didn't believe that Jesus was the Messiah.** (Add "No" image to left-hand column.)

He began trying to round up as many of Jesus' followers as he could so that he could have them arrested. (Add chains image to left-hand column.) **When he heard that some of the Christians had left Jerusalem and gone to Damascus to escape the persecution, he went to the high priest and asked for letters to the leaders in Damascus, asking for their help in rounding up those Christians so that they could be brought back to Jerusalem and put in jail.**

Saul doesn't sound like a very nice man, but things were about to change...

As he got near to Damascus, suddenly there was a bright light from heaven shining on him. (Place torch image in middle column.) **Saul fell to the ground, and he heard a voice. It said, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"** (Add speech bubble to middle column.)

Who are you?" Saul asked.

The voice said, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting. Now get up and go into the city and you will be told what to do."

Saul got up, and he discovered he was blind! He couldn't see a thing! (Add closed eyes image to left-hand column.) **The men with him helped to lead him into Damascus and he stayed there for three days. He was still blind and he didn't eat or drink anything.**

There was a believer in Damascus called Ananias. God spoke to Ananias and told him to go to the house where Saul was staying. Ananias was scared because he had heard about Saul and the way he treated Jesus' followers, but God said, "He is praying to me right now. He is the one I have chosen to take my message to many people."

Ananias went to Saul. He prayed for him and Saul was able to see. (Add praying hands image to middle column and open eyes image to right-hand column opposite the closed eyes image.)

It was an amazing transformation. Not only was Saul able to see physically but he was also able to see who Jesus was. Before, he had been blind to the fact that Jesus was the promised Messiah, but now he believed it was true!

Instead of being against Jesus, he was for Jesus. (Add "Yes" image to right-hand column opposite the "No" image.)

Instead of being angry with the Christians and the message they were spreading, he was happy because he put his faith in Jesus. (Add happy emoji to right-hand column opposite the angry emoji.)

Instead of fighting against the Christians and seeking to have them arrested, he began

telling everyone that Jesus was the Messiah. (Add preaching image to right-hand column opposite the chains.)

Instead of thinking that the way to please God was by keeping the rules, he understood that the way to please God was by putting his faith in Jesus. (Add cross image to right-hand column opposite the "Keep the rules" image.)

Explain that later on, Saul wrote a letter in which he explained how his thinking had changed on this, and read from Philippians 3:5b-9. (Be sure to start at the second half of verse 5 to avoid the distraction of having to answer questions about circumcision!)



REFLECT & RESPOND

▶ Reflection/ Discussion

You will need: Post-it notes, pens or pencils (optional)

It was a dramatic transformation! Point out to the children that the left-hand column images represent what Saul was like before and the right-hand column images represent what he was like after.

Get them to come up with some words they would use to describe Saul before and after. You could give them Post-it notes and let them write words on them to stick up or lay on the table alongside the images (or either side of the screen if you use the PowerPoint.)

Talk together:

What was it that caused such a dramatic change in Saul?

What do you think your response would have been if you had known Saul before he met Jesus and had seen how

much he had changed?

▶ Testimony

You will need: equipment to play video (optional)

Christians believe that coming to know God still changes people today. For some people it's a very sudden and dramatic experience like it was for Saul, and for others it happens a lot more slowly and gradually. God works differently in each person's life, and each person who is a Christian has a different story to tell.

If possible, get one or more of the leaders to share a short testimony of how they came to faith in Jesus and how it changed them. If you know that there are a number of children in the group who are Christians you could ask if any of them has anything they would like to share about how Jesus has changed them, but avoid putting them under pressure to share.

Alternatively, you could show this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0xigPxqsrc> which has a series of young people sharing what they were like before and how God changed them. (You may want to start the video at the 26 second mark to skip the introduction.)

For all Christians, it is meant to be an ongoing process of being changed as we get to know God more and follow him more.

▶ Prayer Activity

You will need: magic painting book (colouring books where the colours are revealed when they are painted over with water – you can find these on Amazon or in shops such as The Works or Wilko), paint brushes, containers filled with water

Give each child a colouring page and a paintbrush and have the water containers within reach in the middle of the table.

Give them a moment to think about how they relate to what they have heard today. Do they know God? If so, how has God changed them? Maybe they are thankful that God has changed them, or maybe there is something in themselves that they would like to ask God to change – e.g. to help them be kinder or more patient. Maybe they want to understand more about who God is.

Encourage them to bring those prayers to God silently as they dip their paintbrush in water and use it to colour their picture. Then lead them in prayer to close. You can let them take their pictures home as a reminder of what they have learned.

▶ **Scratch Art**

You will need: scratch art sheets with scratch tool (you can find these at Baker Ross or on Amazon by searching for “scratch art” - there are various options available such as doodle sheets, bookmarks, or crosses). An alternative is to make your own scratch art sheets – you can find instructions here: <https://www.creativeramblingsblog.com/scratch-art-paper/>

Give the children a scratch art sheet and tool each. Lead them in the prayer activity above, but as an alternative to the magic painting, let them draw or write something on their scratch art sheet to remind them of what they have been learning.

53. Good News



BIBLE STORY / REFERENCE

Acts 10:1-48

Peter has a vision from God and goes to visit Cornelius.



AIMS

To help the children understand that God does not show favouritism and that the Good News about Jesus is for all people.

Peter had a vision from God and went to see Cornelius. He realised that the Good News of Jesus was not only for the Jews, but for all people everywhere.



PREP FOR LEADERS

Read through the Bible passage for this session and reflect:

- What did God teach Peter through his vision and the meeting with Cornelius?
- What difference does knowing that the Good News is for everyone make to the way we witness?

Take some time to pray for your group.



GAMES / INTRO ACTIVITIES

► Farmer, Farmer Game

Choose one child to be the farmer. Get them to stand at one end of the hall while all the rest of the children form a long line along the opposite end of the hall. The farmer and the line of children face one another and the children in the line call out together: "Farmer, Farmer, may we cross your golden river?"

The farmer responds; "Only if..." and adds something to complete the sentence, e.g. "Only if you ate cereal for breakfast", "Only if you have glasses", "Only if you like playing football," etc.

All the children who fit the description the farmer has given can cross the river safely (walk to the other end of the hall). The children who don't fit the description then

Choose one or more of the following activities to introduce today's theme:

► Find The Foods Wordsearch

You will need: copy of the wordsearch for each child (from additional document: Find The Foods), pens or pencils

Let the children complete the wordsearch, finding as many of the foods listed as they can. This activity could be used to occupy the children who arrive early at the group while they are waiting for the others to arrive.

have to try to cross the river too, but the farmer will try to catch them. If they are caught by the farmer they have to stay at the farmer's end of the hall and help with catching people on the next round.

▶ Parachute Game

You will need: parachute

Have the children standing round the parachute holding on to the edge. Together raise the parachute as high as you can and then allow it to drop. Tell the children that whenever you raise the parachute you will call something out, and, if it applies to them, they must run under the parachute and find a new space before the parachute drops.

Some suggestions for phrases to call out are: people wearing blue, people in P6, people who like dancing, people who play a musical instrument etc.

J or G

You will need: small pieces of paper each marked with either a J or a G - one for each child, small treat for each child (e.g. a small sweet or lollipop, some grapes or raisins, a small gift such as a pencil or a sticker)

Prepare the pieces of paper beforehand by writing a letter on each one. Put the letter G on most of them, but have the letter J on a few. Fold them so that the letters cannot be seen. Allow each of the children to choose a piece of paper and open it; tell them that those who have the letter J on their paper can have a special treat.

Make sure you have enough for all the children in the group because the others will also get a treat at the end, but don't tell them this yet. Simply give a treat only to those children who have the letter J on their paper.

If they ask about the significance of the letters, you

can tell them that it links with the Bible teaching for today and you will explain later.

EXPLORING THE BIBLE

▶ Intro/ Recap

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been thinking about what happened to Jesus' followers after he went back to heaven and sent the Holy Spirit to them. They faced lots of challenges, but they continued to tell people about Jesus and many people believed. Last time we heard about a man called Saul, who was dramatically changed from being someone who wanted to stop the message about Jesus from spreading to being someone who believed it for himself and wanted to tell others.

We'll learn more about what happened to Saul next time, but today we're going to look at a story about Peter.

▶ Peter and Cornelius

You will need: words for Peter and the angel (from additional document: Peter and Cornelius words), sheet, variety of toy animals, any other props you have available - such as wings for the angel/sword and helmet for the soldier (optional)

Choose some children to be Cornelius, Peter, an angel, two servants and a soldier. If you have a very small group, you can leave out the servants and the soldier and/or get leader(s) to take part. If you have a large group, you could involve the rest of the children as Cornelius's friends and relatives.

Give out words to Peter and the angel. Position Peter at one side of the room (representing the house in Joppa) and everyone else at the other side

of the room (representing Cornelius' house). The angel can be waiting at the side, ready to appear.

In Caesarea there was a man called Cornelius. He was an officer in the Roman army and he was a good man. He prayed to God regularly and he gave to the poor.

One afternoon, about 3 o'clock, he had a vision in which an angel spoke to him.

(Get the angel to go to Cornelius and read their words.)

Angel: "**Cornelius, God has heard your prayers and seen all your gifts to the poor. Send some men to Joppa to find a man called Peter. He is staying with a man called Simon who lives by the sea.**"

Cornelius called his two servants and a soldier and sent them off to Joppa to find Peter.

(Get them to head in the direction of the house in Joppa.)

The next day, about noon, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He also had a vision. He saw the sky open and something like a large sheet was being let down by its four corners.

(Lower the sheet with the animal toys in front of Peter.)

The sheet was filled with all kinds of animals, reptiles and birds. Then he heard a voice say, "Get up, Peter! Kill and eat them."

Get Peter to read his line: "**No, Lord. I have never eaten anything that our Jewish laws say is unclean.**"

The voice spoke again: "Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean."

The same vision was repeated three times, and then the sheet was suddenly pulled up

to heaven. Peter was very confused about what it all meant.

Just then, the servants and the soldier arrived from Cornelius looking for Peter.

The Holy Spirit said to Peter, "Three men have come looking for you. Go with them, for I have sent them."

Peter went down and spoke to the men. Get Peter to read his line: "I am the one you are looking for. Why have you come?"

The men told him about what had happened, so Peter invited them to stay for the night and the next day all of them travelled to Cornelius's house.

Cornelius was waiting for them and he had gathered his family and close friends together to meet Peter. When Cornelius saw Peter he started to bow down and worship him.

Get Peter to read his line:

"Stand up! I'm just a human being like you."

The vision Peter had had was beginning to make sense to him. The Jewish laws said that, since he was a Jew, he wasn't allowed to go into the house of someone who wasn't a Jew. Cornelius wasn't a Jew, so if Peter was following the law, he shouldn't go into Cornelius's house, but he knew that God had told him to go to Cornelius.

He remembered the words from the vision: "Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean," and he knew it was ok for him to go in to speak to Cornelius.

Cornelius told Peter that he had sent for him because of what the angel had said and that he was eager to hear Peter's message, so Peter began telling him, and the others there, about Jesus.

Peter realised that God's message was for everyone. In the Old Testament of the Bible God's people were the Israelites, sometimes known as the Jews, but Peter realised that the message about Jesus wasn't only for them. It was for everybody else as well. He told Cornelius and the others about what Jesus had done and how he had died on the cross so that people could be forgiven and have peace with God. They listened and many of them believed and put their faith in Jesus.

► Gospel Project Video

You will need: equipment to play video

This video could be used as an alternative way to tell the story, or as a recap: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKU9MyuGriQ>



REFLECT & RESPOND

► Reflection/ Discussion

You will need: treats for the children who didn't receive them in the activity earlier

Refer back to the activity from earlier where the children picked a piece of paper, and those who had a letter J got a treat while those who had a letter G didn't.

Ask the children with the letter G how they felt about the others getting a treat. Ask the children with the letter J how they felt about getting a treat while others didn't.

The letter J stands for Jew and the letter G stands for Gentile – the word Gentile means anyone who is not a Jew.

In the Old Testament the Israelites, or the Jews, were God's people. They were the

ones who received all the promises that God was going to send a Messiah to rescue them, so when Jesus came, many of them thought that he had only come for the Jews.

The vision God gave Peter was to teach him that it wasn't only for the Jews.

Read Peter's words in Acts 10:34-35, 43:

"I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism. In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right... He is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in him will have their sins forgiven through his name."

He realised that God sent Jesus for everyone, and that anyone who trusts in him can be forgiven, no matter whether they are a Jew or a Gentile. The Good News is for everyone.

Give the children who had the letter G on their paper the treat they missed out on earlier.

Prayer Activity

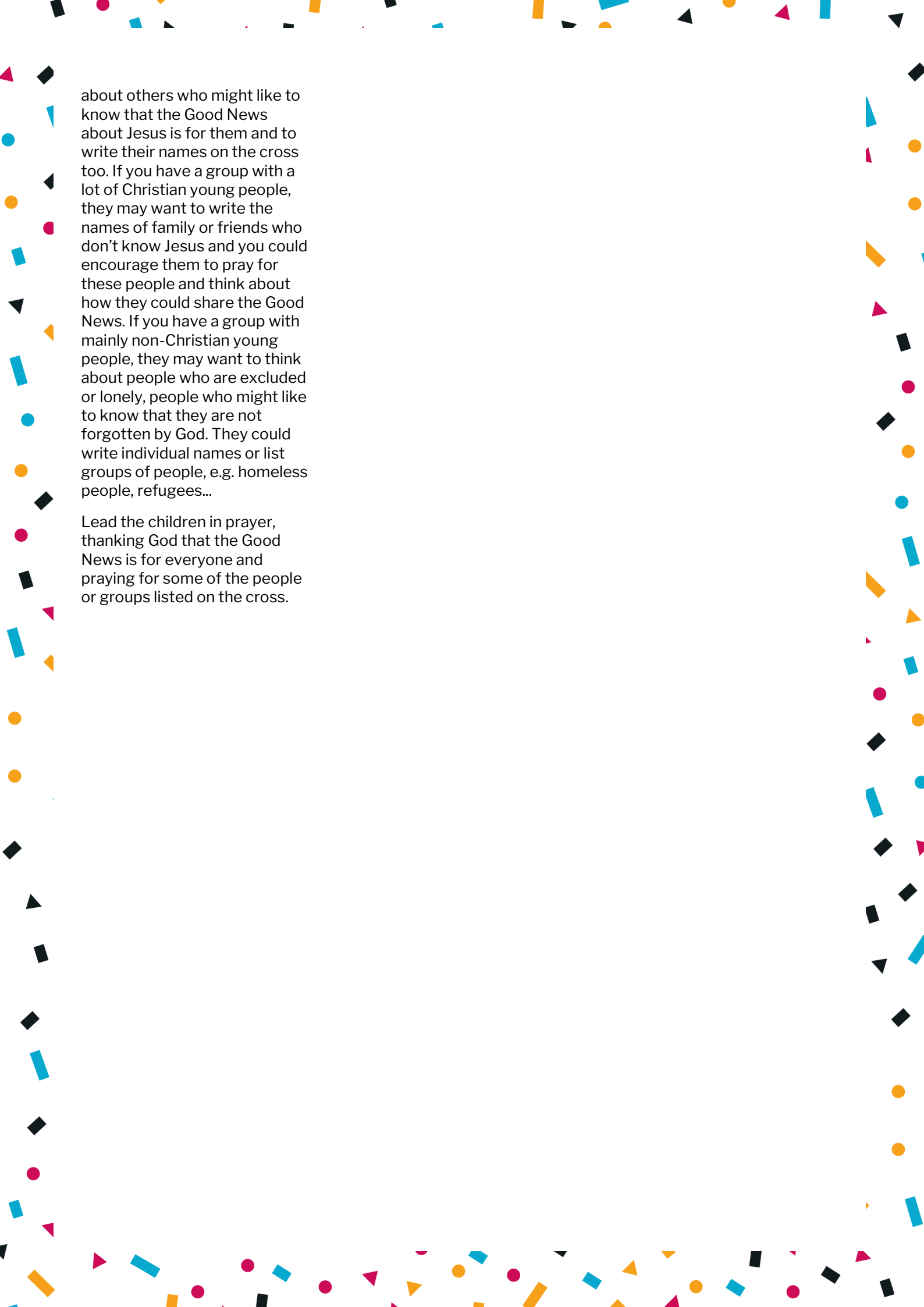
You will need: large sheet of paper with the outline of a cross drawn on it, felt pens/markers

Encourage the children to reflect on the fact that the Good News about Jesus is for everyone. People have to decide whether or not to accept it, but God's offer of being forgiven and knowing him is for everyone.

Get each of the children to write their names in the cross and to think about how they feel about the Good News being for them.

Point out that, even if we are left out by others at times, no-one is forgotten by God. He cares for each one of us and wants us to know him and to trust him.

Then encourage them to think

A decorative border composed of various colorful geometric shapes (circles, triangles, squares, rectangles) in shades of blue, orange, pink, and black, arranged in a circular pattern around the page.

about others who might like to know that the Good News about Jesus is for them and to write their names on the cross too. If you have a group with a lot of Christian young people, they may want to write the names of family or friends who don't know Jesus and you could encourage them to pray for these people and think about how they could share the Good News. If you have a group with mainly non-Christian young people, they may want to think about people who are excluded or lonely, people who might like to know that they are not forgotten by God. They could write individual names or list groups of people, e.g. homeless people, refugees...

Lead the children in prayer, thanking God that the Good News is for everyone and praying for some of the people or groups listed on the cross.

54. Witnesses



BIBLE STORY / REFERENCE

Acts 13:1-14:28

Paul and Barnabas travel to several different places to tell the people about Jesus.



AIMS

To help the children understand that people respond to the Good News about Jesus in a variety of different ways.

To challenge them to reflect on how they are responding to what they have heard about Jesus.

Paul and Barnabas travelled round different places sharing the Good News about Jesus. There were lots of different responses to this – many people listened and believed, but others opposed them and tried to stop the message from spreading.



PREP FOR LEADERS

Read through the Bible passage for this session and reflect:

- What are the different responses Paul and Barnabas encountered as they spread the news about Jesus?
- What responses have you seen as you have shared about Jesus with others?

Take some time to pray for your group.



GAMES / INTRO ACTIVITIES

Choose one or more of the following activities to introduce today's theme:

▶ **Emoji Game**

You will need: emojis (from additional document: Emoji game), Blu Tack

Before the children arrive stick up the emojis around the room.

Gather the children together, point out the different emojis and talk about what kind of feelings or responses they might represent.

Tell the children that you are going to read out a series of statements and you want

them to run to the emoji that is closest to what their response would be to that statement if it was true.

Suggested statements (feel free to adapt or create your own):

School is going to start at 6.30am tomorrow and go on until 6.30pm.

Next Wednesday your class is going to go on a school trip to watch a football match.

You won't have to wear school uniform all next week... but everything you wear will have to be red.

People with blonde hair will get to go first for lunch all next week.

Ariana Grande will be visiting your school as part of her next tour.

Next week, for school lunch there will be pizza every day, but no other options.

Beginning tomorrow people will be allowed to bring their pets with them to school.

Make the point that they were all hearing the same messages, but sometimes they were responding to the message in different ways.

If you have a very small space, instead of getting the children to run to the different emojis, you could lay them out on a table and get them to point to their responses to the statements.

▶ **Over And Under Game**

You will need: soft balls (one for roughly every six children in your group)

Divide the children into teams of around six people. Get the children at the front of each team to stand in a line side by side and get the rest of their team to line up behind them. Make sure you have some space between the teams.

Give a ball to the first member of each team. When you say "go," they have to pass it over their head to the person behind them. That person then has to pass the ball through their legs to the next person. Each member of the team continues passing the ball back, alternating over and under, until the person at the back of the team has the ball.

Once they have the ball they run to the front of their team and begin passing the ball back again in the same fashion.

Continue like this until the team is back in its original formation with the person who started at the front back at the front again. Get the children to sit down when they reach that point, and the first team to do this wins.

▶ **Going On A Journey**

Get the children to sit in a circle and choose one child to begin. They say, "I'm going on a journey and I'm going to take..." and then complete the sentence with an item of their choice (silly or serious). The next person in the circle repeats the sentence, including the first person's item but also adding one of their own. Continue going round the circle with each child repeating the list of items so far and adding a new one. See how long you can keep going without someone forgetting an item. If you have a small group this may mean going round the circle more than once.

▶ **Vote for Favourite Game**

As next week's session is the final one of One Big Story you could ask the children to vote for the game they've most enjoyed as they've gone through the programme and tell them that you'll give them the opportunity to play that game again next week.



EXPLORING THE BIBLE

▶ **Intro/ Recap**

Over the last few weeks we have been learning about what happened to Jesus' followers after he went to heaven. We talked about the Holy Spirit giving the disciples power and how the message about Jesus spread even though there was persecution. Today we are going to continue the story of someone we talked about two weeks ago – a man called Saul.

You could see how much the children remember about the story of Saul.

He had been someone who hated Christians and fought

against them, but then after encountering Jesus as he travelled to Damascus, he was transformed. He put his faith in Jesus and began to tell others.

Although he was known as Saul he was also sometimes known by another name which was Paul. In the part of the story we are looking at today, the Bible refers to him as Paul so that is what we are going to call him today.

▶ **Paul's First Missionary Journey**

You will need: place names (from additional document: Paul's journey place names), pictures printed out, as detailed below, Blu Tack, emojis (from additional document: Emoji Game) - optional

Before the children arrive, stick the names of the places around the room along with the images that go with each part of the story.

Get the children to start standing by the sign for Antioch of Syria and get them to move round with you to the different places as you tell the story. If you have a very small space you could lay the images for each place out on the floor or on a table.

If you want you could give each child one of the emoji pictures from the intro game and get them to hold it up whenever they think it is appropriate as you go through the story.

After Paul had decided to follow Jesus, the main thing he focused on for the rest of his life was telling other people about Jesus so that they could know him too. Paul travelled a lot and today we are going to think about just one of these journeys, which he went on with a friend called Barnabas.

You could show the children the map from slide 3 here:

<http://freebibleimages.org/illustrations/bj-paul-maps/> to show the route he took and the different places he visited. You could remind the children of Acts 1:8 and that Jesus told his followers they would spread the news about him in Jerusalem, in Samaria and all over the world.

Paul and Barnabas were some of the first people to travel spreading the news about Jesus to different countries.

Antioch of Syria (slide 9 from <http://freebibleimages.org/illustrations/paul-cyprus/>)

Paul and Barnabas set out from Antioch of Syria. The Christians there prayed for them and then sent them out to travel round different places telling the people there about Jesus.

Cyprus (slide 16 from <http://freebibleimages.org/illustrations/paul-cyprus/>)

First they sailed to Cyprus and they went from town to town across the island spreading the good news. In Paphos, they met a sorcerer who tried to oppose Paul and Barnabas and tell others not to listen to them, but many people believed in Jesus, including the governor.

Antioch of Pisidia (slides 6 and 10 from <http://freebibleimages.org/illustrations/paul-antioch-iconium/>)

They sailed from Cyprus to Perga and then travelled inland to Antioch. They went to the synagogue and after the people heard the readings from the Scriptures (the Old Testament) speaking about Moses and the prophets, Paul and Barnabas spoke explaining how it all pointed to Jesus and that he was the Messiah, the Saviour God had promised. They told the people how Jesus had died and been raised to life and that they could

receive forgiveness by believing in him. Many people chose to follow Jesus and they asked Paul and Barnabas to speak there again the next week.

They did, and many people believed, but some of the religious leaders got angry. They stirred up a mob against Paul and Barnabas and ran them out of town.

Iconium (slide 14 from <http://freebibleimages.org/illustrations/paul-antioch-iconium/>)

Iconium was their next stop. Again, Paul and Barnabas spoke to the people about Jesus and God gave them miraculous signs to show that what they were saying was true, but opinion was divided. Many listened and believed, but some of the crowd didn't believe and they tried to attack Paul and Barnabas and stone them.

Lystra (slides 3 and 6 from <http://freebibleimages.org/illustrations/paul-lystra-derbe/>)

Paul and Barnabas went to Lystra. There, by God's power, Paul healed a man who couldn't walk. Many of the people began to worship Paul and Barnabas because of this, thinking they were gods, but Paul told them to stop. He said, "We are just ordinary human beings like you, who have come to tell you the Good News."

Some people arrived from Antioch and Iconium. They stirred up the crowd against Paul and Barnabas, and, once again, they began to stone them. This time Paul was hurt so badly everyone thought he was dead but when the believers gathered round him, he got up. The next day, he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

Derbe (slide 9 from <http://freebibleimages.org/illustrations/paul-lystra-derbe/>)

[illustrations/paul-lystra-derbe/](http://freebibleimages.org/illustrations/paul-lystra-derbe/))

In Derbe, things were good for Paul and Barnabas. The people there listened and they made many new disciples.

After that, Paul and Barnabas began their journey home. They went back to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch on their way. That might be surprising since they were treated so badly by some of the people in these places, but they wanted to visit the new churches there to encourage the believers in their faith and remind them that following Jesus could be hard at times but that they should keep going.

Finally, they arrived back in Antioch of Syria and they reported to the believers there everything that had happened on their travels.



REFLECT & RESPOND

▶ Reflection/ Discussion

You will need: images from additional document: Emoji Game (optional)

There were lots of ups and downs for Paul and Barnabas as they travelled, but everywhere they went, they shared the same message about Jesus.

What did you notice about how people responded to it?

There were lots of different reactions. If you used the emoji game at the start you could refer back to those pictures and talk about how they reflected some of the different responses Paul and Barnabas received.

Some people were happy because they believed in Jesus, while others were not interested. Some people were angry about it and even

wanted to kill Paul and Barnabas.

It's the same today when people hear about Jesus – they respond in a variety of different ways.

If you have a group of mainly Christian children, or those who have attended the SU Group for a while, you could ask how they feel about telling others about Jesus.

Do you think it's important to tell people?

Why, and how can we do this?

You could also ask about different responses they have witnessed as people hear about Jesus and encourage them that, despite the different responses they received, Paul and Barnabas kept on telling people because they believed it was important for them to hear.

▶ **Prayer Activity**

You will need: paper, pens or pencils

Give the children a moment to think about their response to what they have heard about Jesus so far. Some of them may go to church or may have been part of the SU Group for a long time so they will have heard a lot, while others may only have heard a little bit.

Get the children to draw an emoji that reflects how they are responding at the moment to what they have heard about Jesus. They could copy an emoji from one of the pictures provided or come up with their own.

Give them the option to lay down their pictures together so that everyone can see the different responses, but allow them to keep their response to themselves if they prefer.

Lead the children in prayer.



ADDITIONAL IDEAS

▶ **God's Story Video**

You will need: equipment to play video

This video provides a short (four minute) summary of Paul's story: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0p0W_Zbt1s It includes his conversion, his missionary journeys and his letter-writing.

55. Forever



BIBLE STORY / REFERENCE

Revelation 21:1-8, 22:1-9

The end of the Bible promises that God's people will be with him forever.

(This session also includes a recap of One Big Story.)



AIMS

To help the children reflect on the end of God's story.

To recap the whole of One Big Story and help them reflect on what they have learned.

God gave John a vision showing him how the story will end and that there will be a new beginning: God's people will be with him forever and there will be no more death, sadness or pain.



PREP FOR LEADERS

Read through the Bible passage for this session and reflect:

- How does knowing the end of the story bring you comfort or hope?
- What have been the main things that have struck you about God's story as you have gone through One Big Story with your group?

Take some time to pray for your group.



GAMES / INTRO ACTIVITIES

Choose one or more of the following activities to introduce today's theme:

▶ Favourite Games

Let the children play their favourite game(s) from One Big Story if they voted for them in the previous session. If not, you could pick a game that they seemed to particularly enjoy or choose one of the options below.

▶ Story Cubes

You will need: either the Story Cubes game (available from Amazon etc.), your own DIY story cubes (free download available here: <https://www.funkidslive.com/summer-challenge/free-printable->

[story-cubes-download-play/](#)), or a phone with the Story Dice app (free on Android or Apple)

Let the children take turns to roll the dice to reveal a selection of symbols. Their task is to create a short story based around the symbols shown. It only needs to be a few sentences long and it can be as serious or silly as they like. You could either let one child make up the whole story or let them take turns to add to the story, incorporating a new symbol each time.

▶ Consequences Game

You will need: pens and paper

Each player starts with a piece of paper. The players each write a word or phrase as the first step in a story and then fold the paper to hide what they have written before passing it to the next player.

The steps are as follows,

(continued overleaf)

where the words in brackets should be replaced by the chosen words or phrase:

(boy's name)

met (girl's name)

in/at/on (where they met)

He said (what he said)

She said (what she said)

He (what he did)

She (what she did)

The consequence was (what happened).

When the players have completed all eight steps the pieces of paper are unfolded in turn and the players read out the completed, usually funny, stories.

You could make the point that in the game you had stories with many authors and the stories that were produced were funny, but didn't make much sense.

The Bible is different. It was written by many authors – around 40 – and it was written over several hundred years, so many of the authors had never met each other, but, as you've hopefully seen through One Big Story, this story does make sense. It all ties together because although many different humans wrote it, Christians believe it was inspired by God.



▶ One Big Story Recap

You will need: cards printed from additional document: One Big Story Recap Cards

Before the children arrive, cut out the cards from the second page of the document. Set aside the final card, which gives the end of the story of the Bible, and hide the others around the

room. These cards refer to what has been covered in the second year of One Big Story.

Get the children to hunt for the cards and then to try to sort them into the correct order to tell the story.

If you have a larger group, you could hide multiple sets of the cards, printed on different colours of paper or marked with different symbols. Then you could divide the children into small groups and see which group is first to find the cards and sort them into order.

Once they have sorted the cards into order, lay out the cards from the first page of the document (these cover the content of the first year of One Big Story – you may have used them before in Session 27 or 28) so that the children can see an overview of the whole thing.

▶ The End Of One Big Story

You will need: Bible

Today we come to the end of One Big Story. We have gone all the way through the Bible from beginning to end. We haven't covered everything, but we have covered the main storyline, and hopefully it has helped you understand more about what is in the Bible and how it fits together.

Now we're going to look at the final part of the story.

The last book of the Bible is called Revelation and it tells us about a vision that God gave to one of Jesus' disciples, John. This was when John was a very old man so it was several years after Jesus had ascended into heaven.

In the vision, God showed John lots of things that would happen in the future and he showed what the future will be like for God's people.

Read Revelation 21:3-4 and ask the children what they think

about it.

Most of us like a story with a happy ending, and, for God's people it will be the ultimate happy ending that goes on forever.

In fact, it's really more like a new beginning. God showed John that everything will be restored and made new – that Jesus will be King over everything, evil will be completely destroyed and God's people will be with him forever. The book of Revelation talks about a new heaven and a new earth which are not spoiled by sin, but where everything is restored to perfection as God intended it to be.

Add the final card to your Bible timeline to complete the story.

(Leaders' note: be aware that children may ask about what happens to those who don't believe in Jesus and be prepared for this. It is wise to avoid getting caught up in too much detail, or in giving answers about individual people (if asked, for example, is my Granny in heaven?), but to say that those who have chosen to be part of God's people will still be God's people, and that God wants everyone to be with him forever (2 Peter 3:9) but that some people choose to reject him.)

▶ God's Story Video

You will need: equipment to play video

Show this five-minute video, which gives an overview of the whole story of the Bible: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebrbdbXzMrg>



REFLECT & RESPOND

▶ Reflection

You will need: large sheets of paper, pens or pencils, post-it notes (optional)

In advance, prepare four large sheets of paper by writing a phrase in the middle of each one:

The main thing I've learned is...

A highlight of One Big Story was...

A question I still have is...

Something I want to say to God is...

Encourage the children to think back over One Big Story and to reflect on what they have learned, what was a highlight for them, any questions they have, and what they would like to say to God.

Depending on your group, you may want to ask them to share some answers aloud or you may just want to get them to write down their responses.

If you have a small group, you could get the children to write their responses directly on each sheet. If you have a larger group, you could give them post-it notes to write their responses on and then get them to stick them onto the sheets of paper when they have finished.

▶ Prayer

If you used the reflection activity above, take a look at the responses on the final sheet - "Something I want to say to God is...". You could give the children the option to read their prayers aloud or you could lead them in prayer, incorporating some of their responses.