

# FOUNDATIONS for CHILDREN

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# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to these lessons on basic Christian foundations. They are designed to help children understand, respond and put into practise some of the things that will help establish their faith in God.

Ten **children's workbooks** are usually included when these lessons are purchased. Extra copies can be purchased or printed off from the free downloads. The workbooks are designed to help children retain what they are learning.

There is also a booklet titled '**Devotions**' available with 8 to 12 minute devotions that families or small groups can use. It works through the Foundation Curriculum in bite size pieces and has life questions and prayer guides for each day.

There is also an adult/teen Bible Study booklet available.

Some churches preach the subjects at the same time as the children are learning about it in Children's Church; adult connect groups are studying it; teenagers are studying it and families are using the Devotions booklet!

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit lessons are not in the children's workbooks so if you do not teach this subject their workbooks are not affected.

It is worth repeating this curriculum every three or four years to make sure most children are getting the basic foundations.

# LEADER'S INSTRUCTIONS

These lessons are divided into parts A and B so they last for 2 lessons (except for Water Baptism).

The lessons are in large print so they can be easily referred to as you teach.

Always ask God what the children need. These lessons are your servant, not your master.

Tell stories – don't read them. Bring them to life and concentrate on the reason for telling the story. The time allowed for telling stories is a guide only.

Always try and know how well the children are taking things in and applying them to their lives.

Always review previous lessons, particularly the last one you have studied together (I suggest 2 minutes).

Drama suggestions sometimes need filling out with some creativity to be effective.

The Who? box below shows that whatever is coming next is an opportunity for other people to be involved.

Who? _____
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**A suggestion:** Nominate people for tasks at least a month in advance and have them show they are **completely** ready the week before.

Anything in **red** is where the children write answers in their booklets.

Anything in **green** or **brown** is for the leader only and is not in the children's booklet.

Verses with **yellow shading** are read only – the children don't need to look them up in the Bible.

At the end of each lesson, give children the opportunity to thank God for one thing they learnt from the lesson. This is to help children gain confidence in praying out loud and to help them think through what they have learnt. It will also help **you** see what they have learnt.

Remember that milestones such as Salvation are massively important in God's kingdom. Always give full value to these momentous occasions in children's lives.

I would suggest you always display answers out the front so any children embarrassed about spelling can copy.

The children will need colouring pencils for their workbooks as well as pens to write in answers.

## **IDEAS**

You could inspire them to look after their booklets by announcing that there will be a prize at the end of the lessons for the best Children's booklet and one for the best effort (to encourage children who are doing their best but are not naturally neat).

You may want to form a little 'committee' with the objective of taking a quick summary to 'big church' at the end of the series. You could have a child talk about what they learnt from the Born Again lesson – 20 seconds maximum followed by another child reciting the memory verse. You could then do the same for the other lessons. This would be invaluable for informing the church about the great stuff going on with the children.

It would also reinforce the lessons for the children and give them opportunity to express their faith. You could also run a video in the background of the children doing things in the series while the children are talking.

## **MEMORY VERSES** (available from the free download)

Give a memory verse slip to each child to take home.

It is a good idea to have an incentive program for them to come back the following week and recite the verse.

Even better is to have them recite all the verses as they accumulate over the weeks. This will embed them in their memory for life and that is excellent!

You could have a reward at the end of the series for any children that can recite all the verses.

Feel free to be creative with the memory verses. You do not have to stick with the ideas presented.

## **BIBLE STORIES**

You can download free pictures for most Bible stories by going to <http://www.freebibleimages.org/>

The ones needed are:

Adam and Eve disobey God	(Born Again)
Prodigal Son	(Repentance)
Jonah	(Repentance)
Philip and the Ethiopian official	(Water Baptism)
Pentecost	(Baptism in the Holy Spirit)
David & Goliath	(The Bible)

**To receive your free download of the memory verses and other essential material including the Children's workbook please visit David's website: [davidtsykes.com.au](http://davidtsykes.com.au)**

# Born Again

## BEING BORN AGAIN – IS THAT POSSIBLE?

### DRAMA

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Two people talking about the concept of being born again. I.e. How could we do that? Do we shrink? Do we start life again?

How long ago were you born? \_\_\_\_ years ago.  
Do you think you could be born again? **Yes/no**

A man was asking Jesus about being born again. 'How can I be born when I am old?' Nicodemus asked. 'I can't go back inside my mother! I can't be born a **second** time!' (John 3:4)

Let's start at the beginning so we can answer that question:

**We are God's most **loved** and best creation**

Genesis 1:1,26 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth'. Then God said, (v26) 'Let us make man in our **likeness**, and let them rule.'



Say to them: 'If you made lots of things and then you decided to make something that was like you, do you think that would make it really special and important to you?'

What if you made trillions of things and then chose 1 thing to be like you. That would be really special!

God loved us so much that he made us in the likeness of himself - starting with Adam and Eve.



Tell the Bible **story** from Genesis Chapter 3. Do not read the story – tell the story – bring it to life!

From Genesis 2:16 & 17 what would happen if they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? They would **die**.

Sadly, they chose to eat from that tree but how did they die?

- Their **body** started to age (die)
- Their **mind** started to age (die)
- Their **spirit** – the part of them that connected to God died instantly and it is the same for all of us since then.

However, there is good news for us!

## OUR **SPirit** CAN BE BORN AGAIN

Ask for a couple of children to volunteer to thank God for something they learnt today.

Today's memory verse (John 3:3) is in the Download



# Born Again Part B

## REVISION

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

**Our spirit is dead but God gives us the chance to be born again.**

(Have life put back into our spirit)

John 3:3,5&6 'No one can see God's kingdom without being **born again**. What I am about to tell you is true. No one can enter God's kingdom without being born through water (like a baby) and the Holy Spirit. People give birth to people, (babies) but the Spirit gives birth to **spirit**.'

So when someone becomes a Christian the spirit inside them is 'born again' – brought **back to life** by God.

Briefly talk about our spirit. How we cannot see it – but it is inside us.

Give the message of the cross explaining Romans 5:19. 10 minutes.

**Romans 5:19** Many people were made sinners because one man did not **obey** (Adam – by eating the forbidden fruit). But one man **did obey** (Jesus - by being perfect and then dying on the cross just for us). That is why many people will be made right with God.





## TESTIMONIES

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Have leaders give short testimonies about when they were born again.

Encourage any children who have been born again to share their testimony with the group.

If you have asked God into your life you:

-  Told God you were **sorry** for your sin. (Sorry for living your way instead of God's way). **yes/no**
-  Asked him to forgive you. **Yes/no**
-  Thanked him for dying on the cross for your sin. (Being punished in your place so you don't have to be punished). **yes/no**
-  Decided to live your life **totally** for him. **Yes/no**

People who are 'born again' become part of God's family.

Look up 2 Corinthians 6:18.

If you have become a Christian, been born again, God has become your **Father** and you have become his **son/daughter**.

From John 1:12 what do you become when you receive God into your life? A **child** of God.

***They say that a baby being born is like a miracle.  
Being born again into God's family is an even  
greater miracle!  
Have you been born again?***

### **SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY**

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Have leaders discuss this with the children in small groups to check on their level of understanding. Find out if there are children who would like to surrender their life to God and then pray them through to Salvation. Remember that God may be speaking to some of them about surrendering their lives to him even though they do not fully understand.

Ask for a couple of children to volunteer to thank God for something they learnt today.

### **SMALL GROUP CRAFT ACTIVITY**

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Have the children make bookmarks and put them where Jonah is in their Bible and ask them to read the story during the week or ask someone to read it to them so they will be ready for the next subject.

**PASSAGE TO LOOK AT FOR NEXT TIME**  
**Jonah: Chapters 1-3**

# Repentance

## REVISION

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

The NlrV does not use the word repent so the NIV has been used for this lesson. Have the children read from the NlrV as well so they see the different way the Scriptures are expressed.

## WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

A change of **mind**.

To change from the way you live to the **way God** wants you to live.

To turn back to what is right and best.

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that may seem right to a man. But in the end it leads to **death**.

From part of:

Deuteronomy 30:19&20 Choose **life**. Then you and your children will **live**. And you will love the Lord your God. You will obey him. You will remain true to him. The Lord is your very **life**.

2 Peter 3:9 God is patient with you, not wanting anyone to **die**, but **everyone** to come to repentance.

Tell the story of the Prodigal Son from Luke 15:11-24. Highlight how he was doing his own thing – then repented and returned to doing the right thing. 10 minutes. (Prodigal Son Biblavision)



Luke 15:10 I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the **angels** of God over one sinner who repents.

Ask the children why repenting is so big that angels would get really excited. Remind them that repentance is connected with Salvation.

## Repenting leads to **forgiveness** and salvation

Luke 24:46,47 Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and **repentance** and forgiveness of **sins** will be preached in his name to all nations.

Help the children see that both repentance and forgiveness are so important that God wants everyone to be told about them.

## Repenting is a decision

When we **repent** we are making the decision to change from living our life our way to living our life God's way.

Ask for a couple of children to volunteer to thank God for something they learnt today

**Today's memory verse (Luke 24:46 & 47) is in the downloaded material**

# Repentance Part B

## REVISION

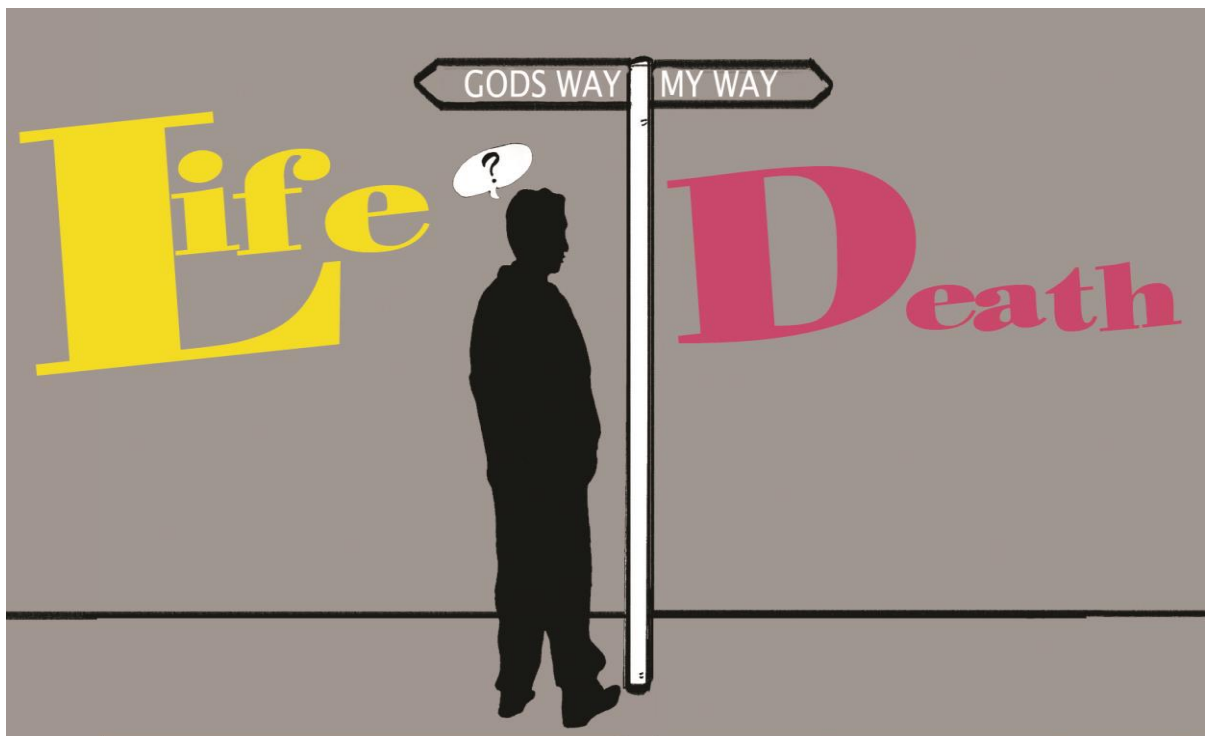
Who? \_\_\_\_\_

## DRAMA

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

1 or 2 people trying to make another person change their mind. They try harsh words and fail, violence and fail, and then ask them really nicely and succeed.

We see from Romans 2:4 that it is God's **kindness** that leads us towards repentance.





## DRAMA

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Two hikers meet someone who tells them they are going the wrong way and will get lost. One decides to change direction and go the right way. The other decides to keep going their own way (so one 'repented' - changed their mind and went the other way).

Tell the story of Jonah from chapters 1-3 highlighting the definition of repentance. 7 minutes.  
(Jonah Biblavisio)

The people of Ninevah repented. Who else repented? **Jonah**

How? **By doing what God wanted instead of what he wanted (or similar).**

Ask the children why repentance is so important.

**Repenting is just the start**

Remember that to repent is a decision to go God's way. We show we are serious by serving God instead of our self.

Ezekiel 18:30-32 Repent! **Turn** away from all your offences; then sin will not be your downfall. **Rid** yourself of all the offences you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the sovereign Lord. Repent and live!

**Acts 26:20** ... I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their **deeds**.

Write down one thing YOU could do to show you were following God instead of living for yourself for each of the following:

<b>At home</b>	_____
<b>At school</b>	_____
<b>With friends</b>	_____

Luke 3:8 Produce **fruit** in keeping with repentance.

### ILLUSTRATION

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Talk to them about how fruit starts small and grows bigger as time goes on and that God helps us to grow good fruit in our lives. Show a piece of mature fruit and a partly grown fruit.

## **SO ALL THIS MEANS**

**Before we become a Christian we are living for ourselves**

**THEN**

**we decide to live for God (repent)**

**SO**

**we tell God we are sorry and give our whole life to living for him**

**AND**

**that is when we are forgiven and are born again into God's wonderful family**

**Ask for a couple of children to volunteer to thank God for something they learnt today**

These prayers could be ones where children declare their desire to go God's way in their lives.

Remember that there may be children who have not surrendered their lives to God yet. Ask if there are any children who want to be born again into God's family.

**PASSAGE TO LOOK AT FOR NEXT TIME**  
**Acts 2:38-41**

# Water Baptism

## REVISION

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

### What is Water baptism?

For Christians, water baptism is when we go under the water and leave our selfish life behind. Then we come out of the water all clean and ready to live for God.

## ILLUSTRATION

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Take a dirty glass and push it under the water. Clean the dirt off then lift it out of the water.

When we go under the water we take our old **sinful** life down with us.

We leave our old sinful ways under the water and come up **clean** and ready to **stay** clean!

Make sure they understand that it is symbolic.


Are Christians already forgiven before they are baptised? **Yes**.

So why do they need to be baptised?

It is to show **everyone** else they are serious about living for God.

If you were Christened as a baby, that is your parents letting everyone know they are going to bring you up in the ways of God.

When **you** are baptised it is **you** declaring that **you** are going to follow God!



Repentance **leads** to salvation  
Giving our lives to God **is**  
salvation

Water baptism is what we do  
to show everyone that we now  
belong to God and are leaving  
our **old life** behind.

From **Acts 2:38** when someone turns away from their sins they **should be** baptised.



## STORY

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Tell the story of Philip witnessing to the Ethiopian from Acts 8:26-39

**Acts 8:12** Philip preached the good news of God's kingdom. He preached the name of Jesus Christ. So men and women **believed** and were baptised.

## TESTIMONIES

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Short water baptism testimonies would be good at this time.

**In this next Scripture, underline what we are commanded to do**

**Matthew 28:19-20** You must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.

2 Corinthians 5:15&17 Christ died for everyone. He died so that those who live should not **live for** themselves anymore. They should **live for** Christ. He died for them and was raised again. Anyone who believes in Christ is a new creation. The old has gone! The new has come!

Being baptised takes **courage**. It is a great thing to show all our **friends** that we are serious about living for God.

**All Christians should be baptised to show the world they belong to Christ and are living for him.**

Have you been baptised? \_\_\_\_

If not, would you like to be? \_\_\_\_

If you want to be baptised write down why

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Ask for a couple of children to volunteer to thank God for something they learnt today

**See download for Matthew 28:19&20 memory verse**

**PASSAGE TO LOOK AT FOR NEXT TIME**

**Acts 1:1-8**



# POWER FROM GOD

## YOU NEED POWER FROM GOD!

(The Baptism in the Holy Spirit)

**There are no children's workbook activities for this lesson.**

### REVISION

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Tell the **story** of the events leading up to Pentecost from Luke 24:7 and Acts 1:3-5&9. The children fill in the answers as you tell the story.

Don't let this disrupt – tell them you will go through the answers again after the story. 3/4 minutes.

### **The events leading up to Pentecost when the disciples were baptised in the Holy Spirit.**

- ✓ Jesus died on the cross.
- ✓ 3 days later God brought him back to life.
- ✓ He spent some time with his disciples.
- ✓ Then he was ready to return to heaven.
- ✓ He knew the disciples needed him to stay but if he did he could only be in one place at a time.
- ✓ So God promised to send the Holy Spirit who would be everywhere all the time.

Ask them how the Holy Spirit could be everywhere at the same time?

Make sure they understand that he is real but does not have a body like ours.

Ask them if the wind is real? We feel it.

It is all over the world at the same time!

Let's look up Luke 24:49. Jesus tells the disciples that when he leaves they should 'stay in the city until they have received power from heaven'

### **So what is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?**

To be baptised means to be immersed. (to go completely under the water). Baptism in the Holy Spirit means being soaked or filled with the power of the Holy Spirit (like a sponge).

### **ILLUSTRATION**

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Dip a large sponge in a glass bowl of coloured water. Let them see you wring it out into a second glass bowl. Highlight how much it holds. Explain that being filled with the Holy Spirit is like that. Our whole being is filled with the power of God.

## STORY

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Tell the story about the disciples waiting for the Holy Spirit to come. Set the scene. They would not have had any idea what was going to happen. All they know is Jesus is gone, their very lives are under threat of death and Jesus promised them power. But they did not understand what that power was!

3/4 minutes

Acts 2:1-4

Ask for a couple of children to volunteer to thank God for something they learnt today

**See download for Acts 1:8 memory verse**

# Holy Spirit, Part B

## REVISION

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Let's remind ourselves about the story of Pentecost from **Acts 2:1-4**

The day of Pentecost came.

The believers all gathered in one place.

Suddenly a sound came from heaven. It was like a strong wind blowing.

It filled the whole house where they were sitting.

They saw something that looked like tongues of fire.

The flames separated and settled on each of them.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to speak in other languages they had not known before.

The Spirit gave them the ability to do this.



## What about tongues?

Speaking in tongues is wonderful because:

- Often you are worshipping God.
- You are growing spiritually stronger.  
1 Corinthians 14:4 Those who speak in other languages build themselves up (build up their strength).
- Sometimes you are praying for people who need prayer.

## TESTIMONIES

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Have a few brief testimonies from people who have been baptised in the Holy Spirit.

## How does the power of the Holy Spirit help us?



He teaches us so we know how to live for God.

**John 14:26** The Father will send the Friend in my name to help you. The friend is the Holy Spirit. He will teach you all things.



He fills us with courage to share Jesus with others (witnessing). From Luke 24:47&49 'I am going to send you what my Father has promised – power from heaven – so you can tell others to turn away from their sins and be forgiven'.

Tell the **story** of Peter being too frightened to stand up for Jesus before Jesus died. Then his courage to tell a huge crowd about Jesus after he was baptised in the Holy Spirit (3000 people saved). 4-5 mins. Matthew 26:31-36&69-75. Acts 2.



He gives us the desire to worship him. We were made to worship him with our voice and through our whole way of living.

**John 4:24** God is Spirit. His worshippers must worship him in spirit and in truth.



He helps us win over sin.

Galatians 5:16 Live by the Holy Spirit's power. Then you will not do what your sinful nature wants you to do.

## How am I baptised in the Holy Spirit?

- Surrender your whole life to him – everything.
- Ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit.
- Thank God and worship him as he fills you.

Remember that it is a gift and you cannot earn it or make it happen. You just ask and believe God is filling you.

When you sense God filling you, start to speak – but not in English – and God will give you the gift of tongues. They spoke in tongues ‘as the Spirit gave them the ability’ Acts 2:4

Pray for children who are keen to be baptised in the Holy Spirit.

Be confident in God for this wonderful time for the children. Pray with faith – not desperation.

Remember that children are generally less emotional.

Just because you don’t see anything happening does not mean nothing is.

After you have finished ask for testimonies. They are usually great.



# THE BIBLE

## GETTING TO KNOW GOD THROUGH THE BIBLE

Take the children through the answers and then get them to find the words in the puzzle.

### About the Bible

- The Bible is made up of **66** books
- The Bible has the **Old** Testament (**before** Christ) and the **New** Testament (from the **time** of Christ)
- The Old Testament has 39 books and the New Testament has **27** books.
- Each book has **chapters** and **verses**.
- The Bible was written by more than **40** people over a period of 1500 years!
- The Bible is God's **Word** to us
- **People** were guided by God so they wrote **exactly** what God wanted for us.

Find the words in the squares below and colour the squares in. Wait until you know which words you are looking for. The words are across and down – not up or backwards.

I	T	E	X	A	C	T	L	Y	P
B	E	F	O	R	E	W	N	S	E
A	W	G	G	R	I	E	E	O	O
B	O	O	T	O	O	N	W	B	P
O	R	A	F	O	R	T	Y	V	L
U	D	T	M	L	D	Y	F	E	E
T	R	E	E	D	A	S	L	R	F
T	I	M	E	G	D	E	E	S	I
B	R	A	V	E	A	V	E	E	S
E	C	H	A	P	T	E	R	S	H
G	G	R	I	E	F	N	E	T	X
S	I	X	T	Y	S	I	X	A	S

**When we are born again (become a Christian) we are like a baby just starting out**

Discuss **1 Peter 2:2** Like babies that were just born, you should long for the **pure milk** of God's Word. It will help you grow up as believers.

**The Bible is full of amazing stories and things to help us know how to **live** for God.**

Tell the David & Goliath story from 1 Samuel 17.  
7-8 minutes.

Ask the children to suggest things that God may teach us through it.

For example: We face Goliaths in our lives. Things that seem too big to defeat. Things such as swearing, bad temper etc. We can be confident, just like David, that God will give us the strength to win.

From the story about David and Goliath in 1 Samuel 17 write down something God could be teaching you.

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From Romans 15:4 what four things do the Scriptures do for us.

1. **teach** us
2. give us **strength**
3. **cheer** us up
4. give us **hope**

Ask for a couple of children to volunteer to thank God for something they learnt today

**See download for Matthew 4:4 memory verse.**

# The Bible, part B

## REVISION

Who? \_\_\_\_\_ Revision

The Word of God is **alive** and helps us bring our lives into line with God's will

Hebrews 4:12 says 'The Word of God judges the thoughts and purposes of the heart'.

Give the children an opportunity to quietly pray, asking God to show them something from this verse.

Write down what he has shown you.

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Ask them what God showed them and help them understand a little more. Make sure they understand that it is a good thing that God is doing for us through his Word.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16. Is the Bible alive? **Yes**.

What are the Scriptures good for?

(Rearrange the letters)

**Cheating Teaching** us what is true.

Correcting our **skitemas mistakes**.

Making our **viles lives** whole again.

**Ratining Training** us to do what is right

In fact, verse 17 tells us that the Scriptures can help us be prepared to do every **good** thing!

## ACTIVITY

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Ask the children to close their eyes and imagine they are in a dark forest at night then ask them what they would need (a torch/light).

Have them look up Psalm 119:105 and ask them how God's Word could be a light to help them in life (It could show them the right way to live. It can help them in tough times, etc.).

Psalm 119:105 Your Word is like a **lamp** that shows me the way. It is like a light that **guides** me.



## DRAMA

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Someone asks two people to start sweeping the floor. They both agree wholeheartedly. One starts sweeping and the other goes back to reading their book.

Ask the children what was wrong with the person reading the book (they listened but took no notice).

**We need to do more than just read the Bible. We need to **do** what we learn.**

Look at the verses below and underline what we should do.

**James 1:22-25** (most of)

Don't just listen to the Word. You fool yourselves if you do that. You must do what it says. Take a good look at the perfect law that gives freedom. You keep looking at it. You don't forget what you have heard, but you do what the law says. Then you will be blessed in what you do.

Circle the words that give you a secret that helps you remember what you should do.



## DRAMA

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

A person has a quick look at an object and then is asked about it and cannot remember anything. Meanwhile, someone else is carefully studying the object. When questioned, they remember things about it.

Help the children understand that this is how we should read the Bible.

### How to get to know God through the Bible

In order to get to know God better, you need to make a time where you can be alone with him to read his Word – the Bible – so he can teach you how to live for him. Then you will understand him better and realise how much he

loves you

and the wonderful

plans

he has for you.

A good way to start is to read a chapter a day. Before you read ask God to **show** you things for your life. Then slowly work your way through the passage, allowing time for God to show you things.

A good place to start is John, then perhaps Luke, Proverbs, Romans, Genesis and Corinthians.

Ask for a couple of children to volunteer to thank God for something they learnt today

The next page is for them to use for the next seven days. Make sure they know what to do.

Print the page off for them to take home and bring back next time.

It is a good idea to have notes for the parents letting them know in case they would like to help their children through the week.

**Remember each day to ask God to show you things that help you. Write down what he shows you.**

**MY TIME WITH GOD THROUGH READING MY BIBLE**

Day 1 \_\_\_\_\_ John 1:1-18

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Day 2 \_\_\_\_\_ John 1:19-28

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Day 3 \_\_\_\_\_ John 1:29-50

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Day 4 \_\_\_\_\_ John 2

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Day 5 \_\_\_\_\_ John 3:1-17

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Day 6 \_\_\_\_\_ John 3:18-36

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Day 7 \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 6:5-13

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# TALKING TO GOD

## GETTING TO KNOW GOD BY TALKING TO HIM

### REVISION

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Ask some children to share what they learnt this week from their time alone with God reading the Bible. Make sure they understand that they are asking God to speak to them about their life through the Bible and to teach them wonderful things.

### What is prayer?

Prayer is simply **talking** to God.

### ACTIVITY

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Have all the children write a short note to one person. Give all the notes to that person and ask them to read them all out at the same time. Impossible of course!

Millions of people could send messages to **you** at the same time but **you** would only be able to read one at a time. **God** hears everybody at the same time and listens carefully to everything they say.

From Psalm 145:18, we see that God is ready to **help** people who really want his help.

Spend a little time talking to him now. Tell him you love him and ask him to help you with something in your life.

**Watch as the children spend time talking to God.**

**Set aside a time each day to pray.**

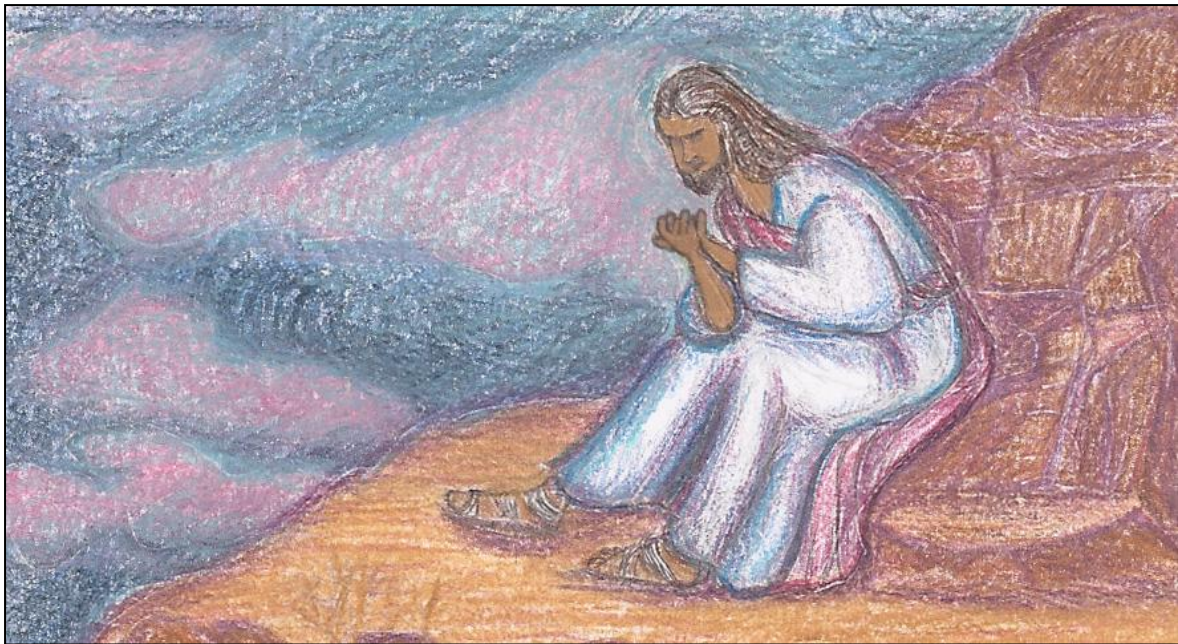
People usually pray and read their Bible at the **same time** each day.

Look up Psalm 5:3. When did King David talk to God? In the **morning**.

**Luke 5:16**  
**Jesus often went away to  
be by himself and pray.**

Early morning, before you start your day is a good time for you to be alone with God (personal devotions) but you need to find a time that is best for you and commit yourself to it.

Mark 1:35 When did Jesus go and pray?  
Very **early** in the morning when it was still **dark**.



He found a place where he could be **alone**.

Where would be a quiet place for you to spend time with God? \_\_\_\_\_

When is the best time of the day for you?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Prayer makes us a stronger Christian!

**Deuteronomy 4:29** Look to the Lord your God. You will find him if you look for him with **all** your heart and with **all** your soul.

Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray. Then you won't fall into sin when you are tempted. The spirit is willing. But the **body** is weak.

It is good to spend time not only talking to God, but also quietly **listening**. Often God speaks to us in our heart as we wait.

**Psalm 46:10** Be **still** and know that I am God

Close your eyes and ask God to speak to you. Then wait and listen.

Did you feel him say something to you?

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**James 4:8** Come **near** to God and he will come **near** to you.

Ask for a couple of children to volunteer to thank God for something they learnt today.

**See download for James 4:8 memory verse**

# Talking to God, Part B

## REVISION DRAMA

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Have a few people come up to someone and all start talking to them at the same time. The person yells for them to stop because they can't hear them all at once.

They go up to a different person and start talking at the same time again and then stop. The person then quietly answers each concern one at a time without them saying another word.

Ask the children if the drama reminds them of something they learnt in the last session (that God can hear and answer everyone at the same time).

**God loves to answer our prayers**

## ACTIVITY

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Show everyone a small chocolate or similar and give hints that if someone asks for it, you will give it to them. When someone gets the chocolate, relate what happened in this activity to this next verse.

John 16:24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. **Ask** and you will **receive** what you asked for. Then your joy will be complete.



**Our time alone talking to God is mainly about getting closer to God so we should:**

- ✓ **Confess** any sin and ask for forgiveness
- ✓ **Worship** - Tell God how much you love him
- ✓ **Listen** - Ask him to talk to you and spend time just listening
- ✓ **Talk** to him about your life, your plans, your needs, people and other things in your life
- ✓ **Believe** for things from God
- ✓ **Thank** him

Go through the list above, one point at a time.

With each point:

1. Make sure they know what to do.
2. Get them to do it.
3. Ask how it went.

We fill our self up with **food** to give our body strength to do things.

We fill our self up with **God** to give us strength to live for God.

Ask for a couple of children to volunteer to thank God for something they learnt today.

Over the next 7 days spend time each day with God reading your Bible and praying.

Print off the following 2 pages from the download and give copies to all the children.

# MY TIME WITH GOD

## READING MY BIBLE

and

## PRAYING

Day 1 \_\_\_\_\_ John 4:1-26

\_\_\_\_\_  
Confess – worship – listen – talk – believe – thank

Day 2 \_\_\_\_\_ John 4:27-42

\_\_\_\_\_  
Confess – worship – listen – talk – believe – thank

Day 3 \_\_\_\_\_ John 4:43-54

\_\_\_\_\_  
Confess – worship – listen – talk – believe – thank

Day 4 \_\_\_\_\_ John 5:1-30

Confess – worship – listen – talk – believe – thank

Day 5 \_\_\_\_\_ John 5:31-47

Confess – worship – listen – talk – believe – thank

Day 6 \_\_\_\_\_ John 6:1-15

Confess – worship – listen – talk – believe – thank

Day 7 \_\_\_\_\_ John 6:16-24, Acts 2:38-41

Confess – worship – listen – talk – believe – thank

GETTING TO KNOW GOD TOGETHER

# FELLOWSHIP

## REVISION

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

**Prayer, Bible reading**  
and  
**fellowship**  
are the main things  
that help us  
grow to be **strong** Christians.

Fellowship is whenever you get **together** with other  
**Christians** in Jesus name.

When you get together to play sport you are  
**sharing** your love for the sport with one another.  
When you get together to do 'God stuff' you are  
sharing your **love** for God with one another.



**So what exactly do we do when we get together?**

From Acts 2:42 and Psalm 35:18 what did they do together?

- 1 **studied** what the apostles taught. (we study the Bible)
- 2 **shared** life
- 3 Broke bread and **ate**
- 4 **prayed**
- 5 **thanked** God
- 6 **praised** God

1	s	t	u	d	i	e	d
2		s	h	a	r	e	d
3				a	t	e	
4		p	r	a	y	e	d
5	t	h	a	n	k	e	d
6	p	r	a	i	s	e	d

There are plenty of other ways we can fellowship together as well.

## ACTIVITY

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Break them up into small groups preferably where they are with their friends. The number in each group does not matter. Give them the 'CLUB' form and guide them through it giving them time to make their decisions and write them down. Club names such as friendship club, chess club, fishing club, eating club.

**CLUB NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

Who can join your club:

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Rules:

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What you want the club to achieve:

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**CLUB NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

Who can join your club:

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Rules:

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What you want the club to achieve:

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When they are finished, ask the whole group what some of the good things are that come from being

in a club. Answers should include things such as 'everybody working together, passion, learning commitment, being there for one another' etc. Write their answers on a white board or similar and get them to come up in turn to circle one thing at a time that would also apply to being together in Jesus' name.

### **Our fellowship includes us, others and God**

In Matthew 18:20 what promise does God give us? Where two or three people meet together in my name, I **am there** with them.

We see in 1 John 1:3, that when we share life (fellowship) together we are also sharing life with the **Father** and his son, **Jesus** Christ.

Ask for a couple of children to volunteer to thank God for something they learnt today.

**See download for Philippians 2:2 memory verse.**

### **ACTIVITY**

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Choose 2 or 3 children to lead communion next time, from 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

## **Fellowship, Part B**

## REVISION

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

### We become one together

As Psalm 133:1 says: How **good** and **pleasant** it is when God's people live together in peace!

What is good about meeting together from  
Philippians 2:2

We **agree** with one another

We come to have the **same** love

We become **one** in spirit

We become **one** in purpose

Break them into groups of about 5. Have them tell one another what their favourite hot meal is. Then get them to decide on 1 type of hot meal that they would all agree to eat together.

Then from the front ask what meal each group decided on. Now ask for hands up on:

- 1) Who still got their favourite meal?
- 2) Who was still happy with what the group decided even though it was not their favourite?
- 3) Who does not like the meal their group decided on?

Compare to the Philippians 2:2 answers.



Which should lead to the question, 'How can we be one in spirit?'

If you were trying to decide what nice thing to do for your neighbour as a witness to them what could you do so you would all agree? **Pray.**

Only God can help us to be one in spirit.

### **We love and serve one another**

**1 Peter 4:8** Most of all, love one another deeply. Love erases many sins by forgiving them.

If we are really serious about fellowshiping together we have to make a **huge effort** to love one another deeply.

List suggestions from the children of things that people do that are really annoying. Choose a common problem and ask how they would feel if their brother or sister did it? Now ask them if they would be more forgiving if their best friend did it? Have children come and 'erase' one thing each from the list. They could do this to show they want to be more loving and forgiving from now on.

Another option would be to write the things on balloons and have the children pop them

## The Bible tells us it is really important to meet together

**Hebrews 10:25** Let us not give up meeting together. Some are in the habit of doing this. Instead, let us cheer each other up with words of hope.

Encourage a child with a 'word of hope' from the front. Get them in groups of two and get them to say something encouraging about living for God to each other.

## We help one another to be strong Christians

Hebrews 3:13 How do we help one another so we will not be 'fooled by sins tricks'.

By **building** one another up every day.

**James 5:16** Admit to one another that you have sinned. Pray for one another so that you might be healed.

## Together we can remember Jesus dying for us

We see in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 that whenever we eat **bread** and have a **drink** we should remember what Jesus has done for us.

Do you know what Jesus did for us just after he ate and drank with his disciples. He **died** for our **sins**.

## ACTIVITY

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Have the children, chosen last time, lead communion from 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

Ask for a couple of children to volunteer to thank God for something they learnt today.



We hope you have learnt plenty about getting closer to God. We also hope you will continue to pray, read your Bible and fellowship together.

# Confidence to live for God

As Christians we want to be good because we love God.

Being good all the time is not easy.

**We need God's help.**

Philippians 4:13 I can do **everything** by the power of Christ. He gives me **strength**.

Ask them who gives them the strength to be good (God).

Then ask them who does the good things (Us).  
Help them to see that success comes from God's strength and our decision to do what is right.

**Being good does not just happen. We need to **decide** to be good.**

## DECISION ONE

To tell God **every day** that we want to obey him because we love him.

In the next scripture **circle** what we should do.

1 John 2:3-5 We know that we have come to know God if we obey his commands. Suppose someone says, 'I know him', But suppose that person does not do what God commands. Then that person is a liar and is not telling the truth. But if anyone obeys God's word, then God's love is truly made complete in that person. Here is how we know we belong to him. Those who claim to belong to him must live just as Jesus did.

Now **underline** what good comes to us when we do what we should do.

## DECISION TWO

**To be filled with God's strength by reading the Bible and praying every day.**

God gives us the power to live for him. However, we need to be continually filled with his power through close relationship with him.

The Scripture - Be **filled** with the **Holy Spirit** from Ephesians 5:18 is a command and we need to be filled because we leak!

## ILLUSTRATION

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Use a plastic bottle with small holes near the bottom. Pour in coloured water so they can see it leaking. Make sure it does not leak too fast! Help them to understand the bottle needs water often or it will run dry. Compare that to our lives. Also ask them what will happen if people don't put petrol in a car. Living for God is a challenge and we need God's strength to help us.

Just as we need food to keep our **bodies** going so we also need strength from God to keep our **spirit** strong.



### DECISION THREE

**To live for God in everything we do.**

How did Jesus show us the way? I have not come down from heaven to do what I want to do. I have come to do what the One who sent me wants **me to do** (His Father - God). John 6:38

What do we learn for ourselves from the way Jesus lived?

**Answers such as:**

**He was a servant**

**Other people were his priority**

**He never sinned**

**He only did what God wanted him to do**

The key is our daily decision to live 100% for God

Proverbs 16:3 Commit to the Lord everything you do. Then your **plans** will succeed.

Give the children an opportunity to come out the front to declare that they want to live totally for God.

Ask for a couple of children to volunteer to thank God for something they learnt today

**See download for John 14:21 memory verse.**

# Confidence to live for God, Part B

## REVISION

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

## DRAMAS

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

3 short dramas that can test a Christian.

For example:

Gossip

Bad pictures in a magazine

Revenge

Talk about each one with the children. How easy it can be to give in and how hard it can be to stay strong and do the right thing.

From 2 Corinthians 10:5, what are we to do with every thought? Keep them under **control** in order to make them **obey** Christ.

Write down a couple of thoughts that could be a problem.

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**Thoughts such as:**

**Thoughts against people**

**Self-centred thoughts**

**Wrong desires**



Whose job is it to control our thoughts? **Ours**.

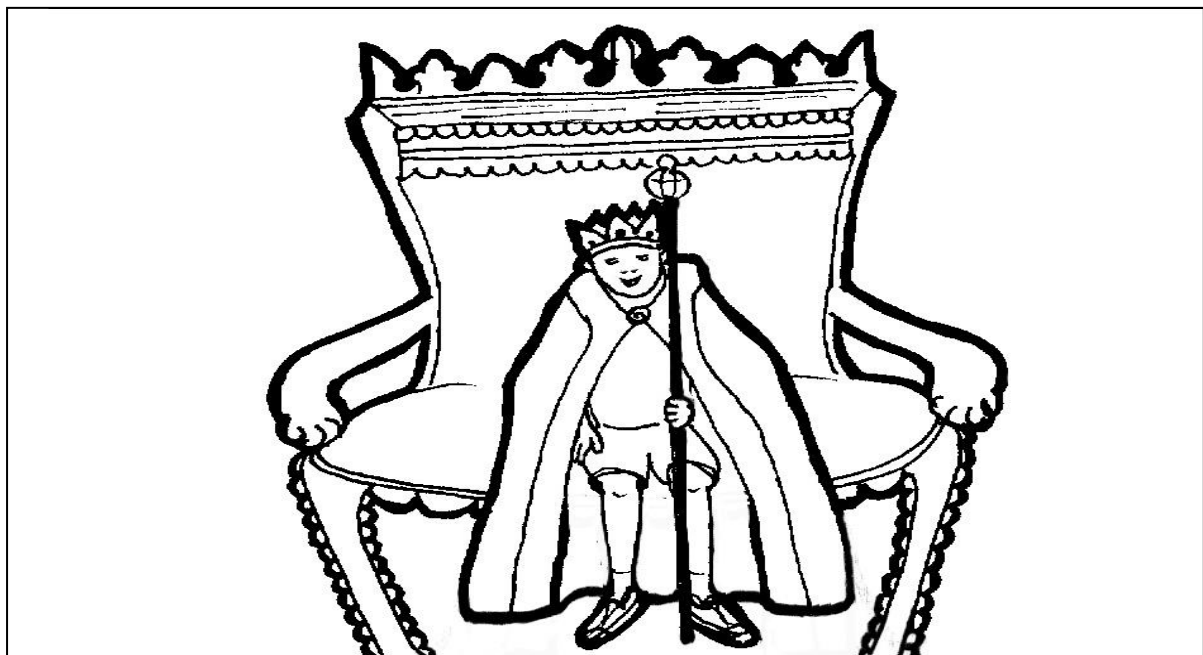
It would be great if we were perfect but we are not. When we are a Christian it upsets **us** when we have sinned. God understands and helps us.

1 John 1:9 God is faithful and fair. If we admit that we have sinned, he will **forgive** us our sins. He will forgive **every wrong** thing we have done. He will make us **pure**.

### Rewards in heaven for victorious Christians

Revelation 3:21 I'll give those who overcome the right to sit with me on **my throne**.

**John 12:26** Jesus says 'My Father will **honour** the one who serves me'.



## SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Get the children into their small groups and hand out an ACTION PLAN to each child.

The next page gives an example of how a child may fill it in. They need a friend who will agree to pray for them and contact them every day for the next week to see how they are going. Their job is to support and encourage – not judge them.

Show them how to keep the Success Record simple.

## ACTION PLAN for Rohan Pearson

FRIEND: James Simpson Phone: 0408 333 777

### PROBLEM

Fighting with my brother

I HAVE DECIDED TO

try and always be nice to him

GOD WILL HELP ME

by giving me the power to win as I stay close to him.

I WILL NOT ALLOW MYSELF TO THINK bad thoughts about him even when he is being difficult

### SUPPORT VERSE

Philippians 4:13 I can do everything by the power of Christ. He gives me strength.

### SUCCESS RECORD

Sunday	<u>It was a good start</u>
Monday	<u>I got angry once but got over it quickly</u>
Tuesday	<u>I was in a bad mood. That did not help</u>
Wednesday	<u>Wow! God was with me – a great day.</u>
Thursday	<u>It was hard but I did ok</u>
Friday	<u>ok</u>
Saturday	<u>Today went well when I thought it wouldn't</u>

**ACTION PLAN for \_\_\_\_\_**

FRIEND: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROBLEM**

\_\_\_\_\_

I have decided to

\_\_\_\_\_

God will help me  
by giving me the power to win as I stay close to  
him.

I will not allow myself to think \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Support verse**

Philippians 4:13 I can do everything by the power of  
Christ. He gives me strength.

\*\*\*\*\*

**SUCCESS RECORD**

Sunday	_____
Monday	_____
Tuesday	_____
Wednesday	_____
Thursday	_____
Friday	_____
Saturday	_____

## DRAMA

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Do a little drama that gives an example of someone praying for their friend and then ringing them to encourage them.

Ask for a couple of children to volunteer to thank God for something they learnt today

**PASSAGE TO LOOK AT FOR NEXT TIME**  
**Psalm 133**

# CONFIDENCE TO BE A WITNESS FOR GOD

## REVISION

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Include feedback from children's action plans.

**The power to witness comes from the Holy Spirit**

**Act 1:8** You will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem. You will be my witnesses in all Judea and Samaria. And you will be my **witnesses** from one end of the earth to the other.

**Witnessing is telling others about God.....**

2 Timothy 1:7,8 God didn't give us a spirit that makes us weak and fearful. He gave us a spirit that gives us **power** and **love**. It helps us control ourselves. So don't be ashamed to give witness about our Lord.

**Witnessing also comes from people seeing the difference God makes to our lives.....**

**John 13:34,35** I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have **loved you**. If you love one another, everyone will **know** you are my disciples.

Discuss: How can we love one another? When is it hard to love someone? What can we do about it? Family relationships are our training ground. How are we going?

Give children the opportunity to respond and have prayer for being better at witnessing through the way they live their lives.

In Acts 2:42-47 the people were saved, filled with the Holy Spirit and living for God. What do you think was the ONE main thing about them that attracted more people to the gospel?

**Example: The love in their lives**

## The message...

...people are **lost** in sin.

**Romans 3:23** **Everyone** has sinned. No one measures up to God's glory (God's standard - perfection).

...they need a Saviour (someone to save them).

**Romans 6:23** When you **sin** the **pay** you get is **death**. But God gives you the gift of eternal life because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.

...Jesus took the punishment for their sin.

**Romans 5:8** Here is how God has shown his love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ **died for us**.

...they can become a Christian by repenting and giving their life to God.

**John 3:16** God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who **believes** in him will not die but will have eternal life.

Ask for a couple of children to volunteer to thank God for something they learnt today

**See download for Romans 10:14 & 15 memory verse**

**Decide how many milk containers you need for the Assurance memory verse and ask the children to bring them next time ready for the time after.**



# Witnessing, Part B

## REVISION

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

**We need to be ready to share our faith.**

1 Peter 3:15 Make sure in your hearts that Christ is Lord. Always **be ready** to give an answer to everyone who asks you about the hope you have. Be ready to give a reason for it. But do it gently and with respect.

**God is serious about us making a stand for him.**

## SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Print off the witnessing plan ready for each child.

Go through the WITNESSING PLAN with them.  
Small groups would be good.

## MY WITNESSING PLAN

Their name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

The time I will pray for them is \_\_\_\_\_

I will invite them to \_\_\_\_\_

I will be ready to share Jesus with them by

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I will show them God's love by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Romans 3:23 Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God's glory (standards). In other words no one is good enough to go to heaven **BUT**

Romans 5:8 Here is how God has shown his love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **BECAUSE**

Romans 6:23 When you sin the pay you get is death. But God gives you the gift of eternal life because of what Jesus our Lord has done. **FOR**

John 3:16 God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but have eternal life. **AND SO**

John 1:12 Some people did accept him. They believed in his name. He gave them the right to become children of God.

**God is serious about us making a stand for him**

From **Matthew 10:32**. What about someone who says in front of others that he **knows** me? I will also say in front of my Father who is in heaven that I **know** him.



## DRAMA

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Two people are talking about where it is easy to witness and then a place where it is really hard.

Have this lead to a discussion in small groups or from the front. Try and understand their world and the challenges witnessing brings.

Romans 1:16 I am **not** ashamed of the good news (gospel). It is God's power. And it will save everyone who believes.

Inspire the children to realise that God is amazing and all powerful and they can have confidence because he is with them!

### **God commands us to share the Gospel**

**Mark 16:15** **Go** into all the world. Preach the good **news** to everyone.

2 Corinthians 5:18 He has given us the **task** of bringing others back to him through Christ.

### **God is pleased when we share the good news.**

**Daniel 12:3** Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the sky. Those who lead many others to do what is **right** will be like the stars for ever and ever.

Ask if any children would like prayer for courage to share the good news of salvation with their friends.

Ask for a couple of children to volunteer to thank God for something they learnt today

**PASSAGE TO LOOK AT FOR NEXT TIME**  
**1 John 5:10-12**

# CONFIDENCE THAT YOU BELONG TO GOD

## REVISION

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Include feedback from the children's witnessing plans.

Assurance is knowing you are a **Christian** and being sure of your place in **heaven**.

### Promises from the Word of God

**John 10:27,28** My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never **die**. No one can **steal** them out of my hand.

John 5:24 What I'm about to tell you is true. Anyone who hears my Word and believes him who sent me has **eternal** life. He will not be found **guilty**. He has crossed over from death to life.

## God values family

God created families and we know they are very important to him. So if he says we become his children then we must be safe!

From John 1:12 we can see that we are part of God's family because we **accepted** him and believed in his name.

## We know inside our self.

Read 1 John 5:10-12

What are the 2 things from this Scripture that help us know we are a Christian?

1. The **testimony in** our heart.
2. He who **has the Son** has life – we can know we belong to God because we have a feeling of real life that can only come from God.

**Romans 8:16** The Spirit himself joins with our spirit. Together they give witness that we are God's children.

**We can have confidence if our desire is to live for God.**

Check out Romans 8:5: As Christians we want to do right and are upset when we do wrong. We have set our hearts on living for God, but doing what is right is something we work at our **whole lives**.

### **DRAMA**

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

A few people start saying awful things about someone who is not with them.  
Then one of them is by himself and realises he has done wrong. He says sorry to God.

Discuss how this helps to show this person is a Christian.

Ask for a couple of children to volunteer to thank God for something they learnt today.

**See the download for the memory verse:  
Romans 8:16**

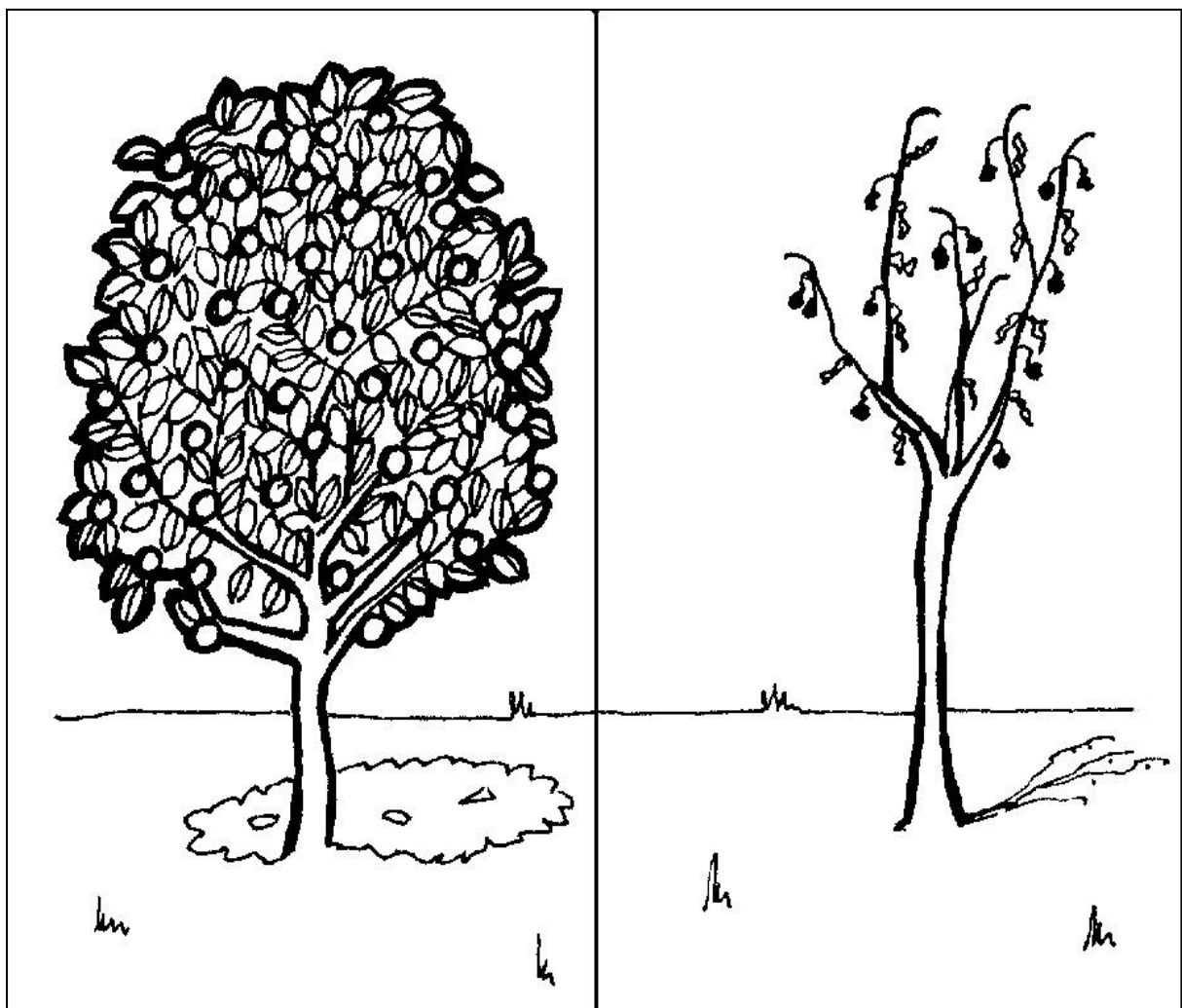
# Assurance, Part B

## REVISION

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

We can tell by our fruit

Matthew 7:17,20 Every good tree bears **good fruit**.  
But a bad tree bears bad fruit. You can tell each  
tree by its fruit.





## ACTIVITY

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Bring a ripe apple and a rotten banana or similar to use as visual aids. Discuss with them.

**Galatians 5:22** The **fruit** the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself.

Do fruit trees have fully grown, ripe fruit straight away? **No**. It takes **time** to grow.

## ACTIVITY & TESTIMONIES

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Show them a piece of fruit still green and small and a fully ripe piece. Discuss with the children how growing good fruit in our lives takes time and effort, just like fruit takes time to grow.  
Have a couple of testimonies lined up.

### God loves us even when we mess up

**Romans 8:1** says there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ. (NIV)

Ask them what condemnation means.

Condemnation is when we are made to **feel bad** about something.

The devil hates us and condemns us.

God loves us and wants to **help us**.

## DRAMA

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

A person is sitting on a chair and is upset. They say 'I wish I had not sinned'.

The devil comes along and whispers that what they did was bad.

Then - they make a lousy Christian.

Then – God won't forgive them.

Then – they should just give up.

They sadly agree with everything BUT

Along comes the Holy Spirit who reminds them that God loves them.

Then agrees that what they did was bad but God was ready to forgive them and help them do better next time.

They agree and the Christian prays.

The Holy Spirit takes their hand and helps them stand.

Optional – the Holy Spirit gives them an encouraging hug.

In other words the forgiveness that comes through Jesus stops us from being **condemned** any more.

## **We are safe and secure in his love**

Read Ephesians 2:4,5

We see from this passage that God must have an amazing amount of love for us to bring new (eternal) life to us even though we are sinners!

**Romans 8:38-39** I am absolutely sure that not even death or life can separate us from God's love. Not even angels or demons, the present or the future, or any powers can do that. Not even the highest places or the lowest, or anything else in all creation can do that. Nothing at all can **separate** us from God's **love** because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.

Ask for a couple of children to volunteer to thank God for something they learnt today