



St Helen's  
Bishopsgate

# Luke

## Teaching material for 5-11's

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Following the king



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Holy Bible, New International Version® Anglicized, NIV®  
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# The 'material' of Sunday school



The unfolding story of the Bible is revealed progressively through 66 books. These books were written by human authors who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. They were written with an agenda to a real audience. **Through these books, by His Spirit, God works.** He gives new life and discipled His people.

At Sunday school our desire is to teach through books of the Bible and allow our teaching to be directed by the Biblical author. We want to make the *main point* of our teaching the main point the author is teaching. We want the *aim* of our teaching to be the aim the author had. When we think about *how* we teach, we want to use the literary style, techniques, and content the Biblical author uses. In short, **we want to teach the Biblical author's point, for the Biblical author's purpose, using the Biblical author's practice.** The more clearly this is done, the more clearly the children will have heard the living God speak to them. As we strive to do this, we pray the fruit would be thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.

The team at St Helen's has worked hard studying some key books of the Bible. As we have done so we have endeavoured to write our material following the principles above.

## 5-11's material

The 5-11's material is presented as example talks. An example talk has several functions.

Firstly, it is a talk. This talk could be given verbatim, adapted, used for ideas, or ignored by the individual assigned to give the talk. For less experienced leaders they may wish to read verbatim the example talk, adding in props and visuals. For more experienced leaders they may wish to chop, change, and adapt the example talk as they see fit. For very experienced leaders they may wish to ignore the example talk and write their own, only looking at the example to see another voice on the passage.

Secondly, it is a commentary on the passage. For those not giving the talk the example helps them to understand the passage, how it can be taught, and areas of application. It will also indicate what the speaker might say so that everyone can align their group time with this.

Additionally, there is space for working. Use this to help you prepare for your group discussion and activity.

# Teaching program | Luke

## Following the king

### Introduction to the book of Luke

Luke writes his gospel to a man named Theophilus to give him certainty that what was anticipated in the Old Testament has indeed been accomplished by Jesus of Nazareth.

**Chapters 1-4** anticipate, describe, and confirm the saviour king's coming.

In **Chapters 4-6**, King Jesus is shown to be the anointed preacher of Isaiah 61 who preaches good news of the kingdom of God and the year of the Lord's favour.

**Chapters 6-8** show that King Jesus saves. The heart of this salvation is from sin. The response is faith.

In **chapter 9**, King Jesus tells his disciples that to accomplish his Exodus rescue he must die. He calls them to take up their cross and follow him. His mission to save sinners is now their mission.

**Chapters 9-19** of Luke's gospel are well known as the 'Travel Narrative'. This is because they tell of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. On the way Jesus answers four governing questions which help his followers as they get involved in his mission.

**Chapters 9-10**: Question: Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them? Answer: No; go and tell them the good news.

**Chapters 10-13**: Lord, do you not care that I serve alone? Listen, I have given you the Father and the Spirit and all you need to serve me.

**Chapters 13-17**: Will those who are saved be few? There will be many in the kingdom. They will not be who you expect.

**Chapters 17-19**: When will the kingdom come? See, its coming now as sinners repent and follow. It will come one day when the Son of Man returns, so invest wisely.

**Chapters 19-21** tell of the coming destruction of the temple and religious leaders – the 'old kingdom'.

**Chapters 22-23** anticipate his coming death and interpret this as the wrath bearing, Passover sacrifice, for his sinful people. The saviour then dies.

**Chapter 24** describes his resurrection, shows how what has been accomplished can only be understood as he opens people's minds to the scriptures, and tells his disciples to go and proclaim repentance for the forgiveness of sins to all nations.

**Overall**, Theophilus can have certainty that Jesus of Nazareth is God's saving king, who saves repentant sinners through his death, and gathers a people for his kingdom through the preaching of the gospel.

## **Memory verse**

'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.' Luke 9:23

# Teaching plan

Week/ Talk	Passage	Title	Big idea
1	1:26-38	The king	Jesus is God's promised king!
2	1:67-75	The saviour	Jesus is God's saving king!
3	5:27-32	The doctor	King Jesus saves sinners!
4	6:46-49	The flood	King Jesus saves sinners. Listen and repent!
5	9:21-27	The mission	King Jesus saves sinners by going to the cross. Follow him!
6	9:51-62	The fire	What should we do? Tell!
7	10:38-11:13	The help	How will King Jesus help? With the help of God.
8	14:15-24	The banquet	Will only a few be saved? The kingdom will be full.
9	15:11-32	The lost	Will only a few be saved? Sorry sinners will be saved.
10	19:1-10	The kingdom now	When will the kingdom come? See it now.
11	19:11-27	The kingdom later	As we wait for the kingdom, do the master's work.
12	19:41-20:18	The old kingdom	The old kingdom will be destroyed.
13	22:66-23:46	Mission accomplished!	King Jesus dies to save sinners.
14	24:36-49	Mission go!	King Jesus rises from the dead.



# The king

Big Idea | Jesus is God's promised king!

## Introduction

Who do you think Jesus is?

My friend, \_\_\_\_\_, thinks that Jesus is made up. That he's an imaginary character which some crazy people invented a long time ago. [Write 'Made up' on a sheet of paper.] Muslims say that Jesus is a prophet but nothing more. [Write, 'Just a prophet on a sheet of paper.] They say that he was sent from God, but that he's not as special as Mohamed. My teacher at school said that Jesus was just like him – a good teacher. [Write, 'Just a good teacher' on a sheet of paper.] That he had some interesting ideas and some really good advice on how to live, but that was it.

So who is Jesus? Let's have a look at who God says Jesus is.

## Point 1.

### Waiting for God's promised king.

A long time ago God had promised his people a king, from the family of David. This king would establish God's kingdom and save God's people. But God had promised that 1000 years ago! And so far, the king hadn't come. God's people had been waiting, and waiting, and waiting. Twiddling their thumbs. Looking out of the window. Have you ever been waiting a long time before? Maybe you've been on a long journey in the car. Maybe you've had to wait a long time for your class to finish or for your mum or dad to get home. Maybe you've been waiting years until your old enough to go to the cinema on your own or get a new bike. God's people had so far been waiting 1000 years for the promised king.

## Point 2.

### Jesus is God's promised king.

And then, in the city of Nazareth, an angel appeared to a young lady called Mary. Watch and listen to this: [Read and dramatize Luke 1:26-33 & 38]

God's promised king was finally going to come! What did the angel say? The angel said to Mary... [As you read this list could one of the boys be used to illustrate who Jesus is.]

- ...that she will have a son. [Have a volunteer boy stand up front.]
- Who will be called Jesus. [Place a name label on him.]
- And he will reign on the throne of David. [Sit him on a chair.]
- And be king of God's people. [Place a crown on his head.]
- And his kingdom will never end.

The angel said that Mary's son, Jesus, would be God's promised king. And we all know the Christmas story: At that very first Christmas, Mary gave birth to a baby boy. And she called him Jesus. This was God's promised king. After years of waiting, he's finally come! Jesus is God's

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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promised king. Say it with me. [[Jesus is God's promised king](#).]

Which makes my friend, \_\_\_\_\_, wrong. Jesus was a real person, born in a real place, in a real manger, to real parents. He's not imaginary. [[Rip up the sheet of paper which says, 'Made up'](#).] If you were there you could have seen him and talked to him and touched him – many people did. People who say Jesus is made up are wrong, because the angel said that Jesus is God's promised king.

This also means Muslims are wrong. They say that Jesus is just a prophet. But he's more than that. [[Rip up the sheet which says, 'Just a prophet'](#).] Jesus is the most important person who's ever lived. It would be very disrespectful to think that he is anything less. The angel said that Jesus is God's promised king.

And this makes my teacher wrong too. Jesus wasn't just another good teacher. [[Rip up the sheet which says, 'Just a good teacher'](#).] God had chosen Jesus to rule a kingdom that would last forever. God didn't choose anyone else. There is no king greater. There is no other king sent from God. Who is Jesus? Jesus is God's promised king.

## Conclusion

And if the king has come, that means it's kingdom time. How will King Jesus build his kingdom? Who will be in it? What should we do if we follow King Jesus? These are all questions which we will find the answers to in the rest of Luke's gospel.

Oh dear, I've not told you about Luke! Let me introduce you to Luke. Luke was a doctor. Dr Luke had never met Jesus, but he had heard about him. And he wanted to be sure that what he had heard was true. So he decided to become an investigator. He would investigate Jesus. He interviewed those who had met him, and researched the historical facts. And having investigated everything carefully, Dr Luke was convinced that what he had heard about Jesus was true. And he wanted his friend, Theophilus, to be sure of it too. So, Luke wrote it all down in a book, and gave this book to Theophilus, so that Theophilus could also be sure. We have this book in our Bibles; we call it Luke's gospel. For the rest of this term, we're going to go through this book. Dr Luke will teach us who King Jesus is, what King Jesus does, how King Jesus builds his kingdom, and what we should do if we follow this king. Today Dr Luke showed us that Jesus is God's promised king.

Let's praise God for sending his promised king.

## Pray

**Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:**

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


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**Materials:**

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

 **C.** God, I am sorry \_\_\_\_\_

 **T.** God, I thank you \_\_\_\_\_

 **S.** God, I ask you \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**

# The saviour

Big Idea | Jesus is God's saving king!

## Introduction

Last time we heard that Jesus is God's promised king. Today we'll see that Jesus is God's saving king.

Let me tell you a story of a prince and a princess. Once upon a time there was a prince, who ruled a kingdom. The people of his kingdom were happy. They had food to eat and parks to play in. And there was a princess. A beautiful princess who loved the prince and was loved by the prince. But one day, whilst the princess was walking through the forest something terrible happened. A great dragon flew down and took the princess. And flew the princess to his fiery lair. Word of this got back to the prince. He grabbed his sword, put on his armour, called his soldiers, jumped on his horse, and galloped off to meet the dragon. The dragon was waiting. The princess screamed, 'Help!!' The prince drew his sword and charged. He thrust it this way and that way. The dragon retaliated, spitting fire left and right. After tense fighting the prince stuck his sword in the dragon's heart. The dragon roared one final roar, and sunk to the ground, defeated. The princess was saved. The kingdom was safe. And they lived happily ever after. The end.

Kings save. That's their job. Kings defeat enemies and save their people.

## Point 1.

### God's king saves.

Let me tell you a story about a king from the Old Testament. This story is a true story. In the days of the Israelites, when David had been anointed king over God's people, the Philistines gathered together their armies for battle against the Israelites. Their army was vast and terrifying. The Israelites gathered together their army too. The Philistines camped on a hill and the Israelites on another, facing each other, with a valley in between. They drew up their battle lines and waited. A champion of the Philistines named Goliath came out of the Philistine camp. He was huge. He wore a bronze helmet on his head and scale armour made of bronze, and a javelin was slung on his back. He came out and shouted at the ranks of Israel, 'Choose a man and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us.' The Israelites were dismayed and terrified. For 40 days Goliath faced the Israelites and shouted, 'This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight!' Whenever the Israelites saw Goliath, they fled from him in great fear. The man in charge of God's people Saul was too terrified to fight Goliath himself. He asked his soldiers if any of them were willing to, but no one was. Then one day David came to visit his brothers who were soldiers in Israel's army. As Goliath came to the Israelites and shouted his usual defiance, David heard. He went to Saul and said, 'I will fight Goliath'. Saul was surprised. But David said, 'When I have looked after my sheep I have saved them from the lion and the bear; this Philistine will become like one of them.' David then went and took 5 smooth stones from the stream and put them in his pouch. He approached Goliath. Goliath looked at how small David was and despised David. He said, 'I'll give your flesh to the birds.' David replied, 'You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head.' Goliath moved to attack David. But reaching into his bag and taking out a stone David slung it, and it struck Goliath on the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath fell face down on the ground. So David triumphed over the Philistines and saved God's people.

The lesson of this story is that God's king saves. [Get the children to repeat this phrase with actions: 'Gods' – point fingers up, 'king' – make a crown with your hands on your head, 'saves' – pull a superman pose.] God's king defeats the enemy and saves his people.

### Point 2.

### God's king, King Jesus, saves.

Let's now think about King Jesus. Last time we heard that Jesus was God's promised king. Today we learn that like King David, Jesus will save his people too. Have a listen to what a man named Zechariah said about Jesus when Mary was pregnant with him. [Read 1:67-69]

Zechariah is praising the LORD, because God has raised up a king who will save his people. That's what the horn of salvation is. In the Old Testament a horn was a sign of something strong and mighty, and was used to describe God's kings. Zechariah is praising God because Jesus will be the strong and mighty saviour King, like David when David defeated the Philistines. Zechariah is telling us that God's king, Jesus, will save. [Get the children to repeat this phrase with actions: 'Gods' – point fingers up, 'king, Jesus' – make a crown with your hands on your head, 'saves' – pull a superman pose.] Jesus is God's saving king.

### Conclusion

But Jesus didn't come to save princesses from dragons or the Israelites from the Philistines. So who did he come to save? And what does he save them from. We'll find out next time. For now, we've seen that Jesus is God's saving King.

Like Zechariah, let's praise God for sending a king to save.

### Pray

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**Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:**

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


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**Materials:**

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

 **C.** God, I am sorry \_\_\_\_\_

 **T.** God, I thank you \_\_\_\_\_

 **S.** God, I ask you \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**

# The Doctor

Big Idea | King Jesus saves sinners!

## Introduction

Today I have some bad news and some good news. Let's start with the bad. The bad news is that you are sick. You might not think you're sick. You might be feeling fine. You might be feeling on top of the world! But you are sick. You are sick with a deadly disease – sin. You are sick with sin. Sin is when we say 'Shove off God. I'm in charge. No to your rule.' [Repeat with actions.] Can you say that with me. [Get the children to repeat it with you.]

## Point 1.

### We are sick with sin.

We are all sinners. We are all sick with sin. Let me show you. How do you know you have a cold? [Take answers] How do you know you have broken your leg? [Take answers] Let me show you how you are sick with sin. God gave us parents who we should listen to and obey. But when we don't, we are saying, 'Shove off God. I'm in charge. No to your rule.' We can see that we are sick with sin. Here's another one. God loves our brothers and sisters and the people we play with at school. So when we are mean to them and hurt them, we are saying, 'Shove off God. I'm in charge. No to your rule.' We can see that we are sick with sin. Like a runny nose shows you have a cold, when we say, 'Shove off God. I'm in charge. No to your rule.' we see that we are sick with sin. And the punishment that we deserve for our sin is death and an eternity away from God. That's the bad news. Now the good news. King Jesus has come to save sin sick sinners like us.

## Point 2.

### Levi's banquet.

[Have the children act out the following story involving Levi. Depending on practicalities it could involve a few of the children or all of them.]

When Jesus was in one of the towns, he saw a tax collector called Levi. Jesus knew that Levi was sick with sin. But Jesus said to him, 'Follow me.' Levi got up, left everything, and followed Jesus. Then Levi decided to throw a great banquet at his house for Jesus. He set the table, prepared the food, and invited a large crowd of guests. These people were just like Levi. They were tax collectors and sinners. Now when the Pharisees and the scribes saw this they grumbled and said, 'Why do you eat with tax collectors and sinners?' Jesus answered, 'It's not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill. I have come not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.'

Jesus has come to save sinners. He's come to save people like Levi. Jesus is like a doctor who treats people who are sick. But instead of treating a nasty cold or a broken foot, he is a doctor that treats sin. He came to save sin sick Levi from the punishment that his sin deserves. He came to save sinners. He came to save sin sick Levi and his sin sick friends from the punishment that their sin deserves. He came to save sin sick me and sin sick you from the punishment that our sin deserves. Jesus is the sin doctor who has come to save sinners.

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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## Conclusion

So let me ask you, will you let Jesus treat you? You are sick with sin, and Jesus is the sin doctor. Will you let him save you?

In our story we saw two types of people. One type were the Pharisees and scribes. They didn't think they were sick with sin. They were like someone who has a big headache, and a scratchy cough, and snot pouring from their nose, but refuses to admit that they're sick. But they were sick. They had said, 'Shove off God. I'm in charge. No to your rule.' They might not look as bad as the person next to them, but they still needed Doctor Jesus to save them.

The other people in our story were the sinners who knew they were sick with sin. They came to Jesus. And Jesus could treat them. He would save them from the punishment they deserve. And he will do that for us too. We just need to come to him, say sorry for our sin, and turn back to God. That's what the word repentance means. When we repent, we turn from saying, 'Shove off God. I'm in charge. No to your rule.' to saying, 'Yes God. You are in charge. Yes to King Jesus' rule.' Some of us have already repented of our sin. But some of us might not have. If that's you, now would be a good time to do that and let Doctor Jesus treat you.

## Pray

Let me lead us in prayer. 'Father God, we are sorry for our sin. We repent and turn back to you. Thank you that King Jesus is the sin doctor who came to save sin sick sinners like us.'

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**Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:**

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


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**Materials:**

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

 **C.** God, I am sorry \_\_\_\_\_

 **T.** God, I thank you \_\_\_\_\_

 **S.** God, I ask you \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**

# The flood

Big Idea | King Jesus saves sinners. Listen and repent!

## Introduction

Will you listen?

Imagine you were on a walk with your family. And you came across a busy road. Cars and vans and buses were whizzing past you. Imagine you stop paying attention and you start to cross to the other side. You go to take a step just as a bus is coming. But as you take that step your dad shouts 'STOOOOOP!' Will you listen?

Jesus has told us that we are sin sick sinners. We say 'Shove off God. I'm in charge. No to your rule.'. But now is the time where God will be merciful and forgive those who have sinned against him. Jesus has told us that if we say sorry for our sin, then we will be forgiven. But will we listen? This week Jesus is going to tell us a story about the consequences if we don't.

## Point 1.

### Build your house on the rock.

[Read 6:46-49. Think about how you could immerse the children in the story: Could you have pictures? Could you dramatize it? Could you have some premade Lego houses on different foundations?]

The king tells us that one day there will be a flood. Remember in Noah's day when there was a flood. God flooded the world. This was his judgment. He was punishing human sin. King Jesus warns us of a day in the future when God will judge the world again. It will be his day of vengeance. He will once again punish human sin. So what people do now really matters.

Jesus tells us there are two types of people. The first are those who hear and really listen to and do what he says. They are like the man who build's his house on deep foundations. When Jesus tells them to say sorry for their sin and follow him, that's what they do. They say sorry. They follow him. They are forgiven. And when God judges the world, they will be safe.

But those who hear but ignore what Jesus says, they are like the man who builds his house without any foundation. When King Jesus tells them to say sorry for their sin, they don't. When he tells them to follow him, they don't. And so they are not forgiven. And when God judges the world, they will not survive.

## Conclusion

So which will we be? The man who hears and does, or the man who hears and ignores.

Let me tell you about Sally and Sam. Sally and Sam both read their Bibles at home. They both enjoy hearing their parents read Bible stores. They both go to Sunday school, and both hear the Bible talk. They both hear that they are sick with sin and that Jesus came to save them. They both hear that Jesus tells them to say sorry. They both hear that this is the only way to be forgiven.

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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They both hear that this is the only way to be safe when God judges the world. But even though they both hear, only one of them listens. Only Sam did what Jesus said. Only Sam said sorry. And only he will be safe.

Are we like Sally or Sam? If we want to survive God's coming judgment, we must do what his King says; we must say sorry for our sin and follow him. Will you listen?

## Pray

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**Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:**

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


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**Materials:**

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 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

 **C.** God, I am sorry \_\_\_\_\_

 **T.** God, I thank you \_\_\_\_\_

 **S.** God, I ask you \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**

# The mission

Big Idea | King Jesus saves sinners by going to the cross. Follow him!

## Introduction

How might you save someone from a burning building? [Take answers] How might you save someone from a flood? [Take answers] How might you save someone from a bully in the playground? [Take answers] Today we're thinking about how Jesus will save sinners from the punishment they deserve.

## Point 1.

## The mission.

[Have a leader dressed up as Dr Luke and read out the lines in italics. Enter stage right Dr Luke.]

Hello \_\_\_\_\_ church Sunday school? I'm Doctor Luke.

Hello Dr Luke, what are you doing here?

*I'm here to recruit you for a special mission.*

Oooh, sounds exciting. What's the mission?

*Your mission is to save sinners. [Stick up: 'Mission: save sinners.']*

Wow, that's a very big mission, but wasn't that Jesus' mission?

*You're right it was Jesus' mission. When King Jesus came to earth, he was on a rescue mission. His mission was to save sinners. And he would do this by dying on a cross.*

Dying on a cross sounds like a strange way to save someone. Are you sure he didn't save people with a jet-pack or fast car or a lifeboat?

*Saving people with a jet-pack would have been fun, but it wouldn't have worked. Here's how Jesus says he's going to save sinners, 'The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed' You see, sinners deserve to be punished for their sin. The punishment for sin is death. But Jesus will die on the cross to take the punishment instead on himself. Now, sinners can be forgiven. And when they repent and say sorry for their sin, they can be friends with God and can be a part of his kingdom.*

Wow, so King Jesus saves us from sin by dying in our place. But Dr Luke, it sounds like that's mission accomplished. What do you want to recruit us for?

*Well, the mission isn't over. There is still time for sinners to be saved. And Jesus wants your help. His mission to save sinners is now your mission. And this mission needs to be your top priority. All your other missions and plans will have to go on pause.*

Ok I think we're up for that. Are we up for that children? [Let the children respond] Dr Luke, how will we save sinners? Will we need to die on a cross for their sins as well?

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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*No you won't. That was Jesus' job. He died so that sinners could be forgiven. You'll find out how you can save sinners next time.*

Ok, is it going to be hard?

*Errrrrrrrrr. Yes... This is what Jesus said [read 9:23].*

Oh that does sound difficult!

*Jesus does warn us that this mission is very hard. It will feel like going to the cross daily. It will mean saying 'no' to what we want and doing what we can so that others can be saved. This will be hard, it will be tiring, it will be painful, it will sometimes make us feel sad, and people will be mean to us, we may even get hurt.*

Hmm ok. Thank you for showing us this warning Dr Luke. So to sum up what you've said: you want us to join Jesus in his mission to save sinners. We won't have to die on the cross like he did, but it will be very hard.

*That's right!*

Are you sure you can't tell us what our job is?

*You'll need to be patient and wait for next week.*

And will King Jesus give us any help? And how many sinners will be saved? And when will his kingdom finally come?

*Those are all good questions. You'll learn the answers to each of them over the rest of the term. I have to go now. Good luck!*

## Conclusion

Last week we learned that King Jesus came to save sinners. Now we know how: Not with a jet-pack or fast car or lifeboat. Jesus will die on a cross to take the punishment that sinners deserve. And he calls us to follow him. We too take up our crosses so that others can be saved. I don't know what missions you're already involved in. Maybe it's figuring out a complicated math's question. Maybe it's building an incredible den. Maybe you're working for MI5, defending this nation from hostile forces. Whatever it is, Jesus gives us a mission which is more important than all other missions. His mission is now our mission. Our mission is to save sinners.

## Pray

Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


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**Materials:**

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

 **C.** God, I am sorry \_\_\_\_\_

 **T.** God, I thank you \_\_\_\_\_

 **S.** God, I ask you \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**

# The fire

Big Idea | What should we do? Tell!

## Introduction

There are lots of jobs in the world. Some people are doctors, some are nurses, some are teachers, some are businessmen, some are cleaners, some are builders, some are astronauts, some are shopkeepers. Our mums and dads have jobs. Maybe you've thought about what job you might do when you grow up. [Ask the children what they would like to do when they grow up.] Today, Jesus is going to give you a job. He is going to tell us of a very special job he wants us all to do. As I read this short story from the Bible try to spot what job Jesus wants us to do.

## Point 1.

### The Samaritans.

Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem, where he will die to save sinners. [Read 9:52-54] Two of his disciples, James and John, think it's their job to call fire down from heaven to consume the bad and sinful people. They think it's time for vengeance and judgment! But Jesus turns to them and rebukes them. No, it's not judgment time. Our job is not to call fire down from heaven. So what is it? Let's keep reading.

## Point 2.

### The followers.

[Read 9:57-60]

Did you spot what job Jesus wanted the man to do? Jesus wants him to proclaim the kingdom of God. He wants the man to open his mouth, waggle his tongue, and tell others about Jesus and his kingdom. Because it's salvation time, not judgment time. And when people hear about King Jesus, they can say sorry for their sin, be forgiven by him, and be saved!

## Point 3.

### Us.

Do you remember what our mission from last week was? Dr Luke told us that Jesus was on a mission. His mission was to save sinners. And he wanted us to join in with him. Our mission is to save sinners. And now we know how. We save sinners by opening our mouths, waggling our tongues, and telling others about Jesus. And when we do, people will hear about how King Jesus can save them from their sin. They will hear that they need to repent and say sorry for their sin. And if they do this, they will be saved. We can save someone's life by telling them about Jesus.

Think about what job you will do when you grow up. Maybe a [repeat some of the children's answers from earlier]. Whatever we do, the most important job we have, the job given to us by the king, is to open our mouths, waggle our tongues, and tell others about him. This is a job he wants me to do. This is a job he wants... [pick a child] [repeat]. Because our mission is to save sinners. And when sinners hear us talk about Jesus. they can say sorry for their sin and be saved.

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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We can tell anyone and everyone about Jesus and his kingdom: rich people, poor people, tall people, short people, white people, black people, friendly people, nasty people. We can tell everyone and anyone about Jesus and his kingdom. Have a think about who you can tell.

We can tell people anywhere and everywhere about Jesus and his kingdom: in the park, in the playground, in the classroom, at the zoo, in England, in Australia, or anywhere in the world. We can tell people anywhere and everywhere about Jesus and his kingdom. Have a think about where you can tell people about King Jesus.

We can tell people any time, all the time: Winter, Spring, Summer, and Autumn. Breakfast time, break time, lunchtime, dinner time, or even at bedtime. We can tell people all the time, any time, about Jesus and his kingdom. Have a think about when you could tell the people you know about King Jesus.

## Conclusion

Our mission is to save sinners and how we do this is to open our mouths, waggle our tongues, and tell others about Jesus. You could save someone's life. Who will it be? Let's thank God that Jesus has given us a special job to do.

## Pray

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**Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:**

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


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**Materials:**

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

 **C.** God, I am sorry \_\_\_\_\_

 **T.** God, I thank you \_\_\_\_\_

 **S.** God, I ask you \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**

# The help

Big Idea | How will King Jesus help? With the help of God.

## Introduction

How do you find serving King Jesus? Do you find it hard or do you find it easy? Do you get nervous telling others about him or are you relaxed? Do you worry whether serving him will mean you don't have enough food or drink? Do you sometimes feel like you have no help?

If you're anything like me, then I imagine you find it hard serving King Jesus. When I tell others about Jesus, I sometimes don't know what to say. When I try to live for him, I worry about whether I'll have enough money to eat and survive. When I'm serving King Jesus, it can feel like there's no help.

## Point 1.

### A lady called Martha.

This is how it felt for a lady called Martha. Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem, where he will die to save sinners. And on the way, he stopped at a house of two sisters. Have a listen as I read from the Bible. [\[Read 10:38-40\]](#). As Martha was serving King Jesus it felt like he didn't care. It was hard. It felt like there was no-one to help. And she was worried she wouldn't get it all done. But this is what Jesus says to her [\[read 10:41-42\]](#). Jesus says to her, 'don't worry, be like Mary and listen to me.' If we find serving King Jesus hard, Jesus says to us, 'don't worry, be like Mary and listen to me.' Because as we sit and listen to King Jesus, he will tell us just how much he cares for us and the help that he gives us as we serve him.

## Point 2.

### Our father in heaven.

The first thing Jesus tells us is that we have a father in heaven. We might have a father on earth. But if we follow king Jesus, we also have a father in heaven. Remember, our father in heaven is the God who made everything and who cares for us so, so much. Jesus says we can pray to our father in heaven and ask him to help us and look after us. As I read the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, try to spot all the ways we can ask God to care for us [\[read 11:2-4\]](#). Did you hear how our father in heaven helps us? [\[Take answers\]](#)

As we've listened to Jesus, he's told us we have a father in heaven. We don't need to be anxious about what we'll eat or drink. We don't need to get worried about where to go or how people will treat us. Our father in heaven loves us and cares for us. He gives us what we need, forgives our sins, and leads us in the right ways.

## Point 3.

### The Holy Spirit.

And the second thing Jesus tells us is that our father in heaven gives us something very special. Can you tell me children some of the good things your dads have given you. [\[Take answers\]](#)

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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Let's see what good gift our father in heaven gives us [\[read 11:11-13\]](#). Did you spot the good gift our father in heaven gives us? When we ask, our father in heaven gives us his very own Spirit – the Holy Spirit which lives inside us. The Holy Spirit helps us remember the truth about King Jesus and his kingdom. The Holy Spirit gives us boldness to tell others about King Jesus and his kingdom. The Holy Spirit is always with us because he's in us. The Holy Spirit is the best help we could have.

## Conclusion

Serving King Jesus can be hard. We might get nervous telling others about him. We might be worried we won't have enough to live on. It can feel like there's no help. But having listened to Jesus, he's shown us that we have the best help. We have a father in heaven and the Holy Spirit in us. So let's always pray to the father knowing that he takes care of us; and let's go out and tell others about King Jesus with boldness knowing that we have the Holy Spirit in us.

## Pray

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**Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:**

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


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**Materials:**

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

 **C.** God, I am sorry \_\_\_\_\_

 **T.** God, I thank you \_\_\_\_\_

 **S.** God, I ask you \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**

# The banquet

Big Idea | Will only a few be saved? The kingdom will be full.

## Introduction

Jesus has given us a job to do: to tell others about him and invite them to join his kingdom. But will they listen, and will they accept the invite, and will they join the kingdom? As King Jesus was journeying to Jerusalem, this was the question someone asked him, 'Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?' To help answer the man's question, Jesus tells a story about a banquet.

## Point 1.

### The banquet.

[Use pictures or dramatise to help tell the story.] Once upon a time there was a man who was preparing a great banquet. He set up a big, long table. He laid out the knives and forks and napkins and candles. He got the music ready. He sent out the invitations, and he prepared a delicious meal. What do you think he might have cooked for the banquet? [Take answers]. This was going to be a great banquet!

When everything was ready, he told his servant to go and tell the guests that the banquet was ready. So off the servant went. The servant came to the first guest and said, 'Come, the banquet is ready!' But the first guest said, 'I've just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'

So the servant went off to the next guest and said, 'Come, the banquet is ready!' But the next guest said, 'I've just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'

So the servant went off to the next guest and said, 'Come, the banquet is ready!' But the next guest said, 'I've just got married, so I can't come.'

The servant went back to his master to tell him what the guests had said. The man was angry. He said to the servant, 'Go out into the streets and alleys of the town and invite the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' The servant went and did this, and many came to enjoy the banquet. But there was still room for more. So the man said, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.' And so the servant did. Many, many people enjoyed the banquet.

## Conclusion

The kingdom of God is like a banquet. This story shows us that when we tell others about Jesus and invite them to join his kingdom, many will say no. They will make excuses. They'd rather do something else than join God's kingdom. [Give a personal example of when you have invited a friend/someone to follow Jesus and become a part of his kingdom, but they have refused the invite.] When we tell others about Jesus and invite them to join his kingdom many will say no.

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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But many will say yes. [Give a personal example of when you have invited a friend/someone to follow Jesus and become a part of his kingdom, and they have accepted the invite.]

Jesus says that in the end many, many people will have accepted the invite. Many will be saved. The kingdom will be full.

## Pray

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**Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:**

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


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**Materials:**

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

 **C.** God, I am sorry \_\_\_\_\_

 **T.** God, I thank you \_\_\_\_\_

 **S.** God, I ask you \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**

# The lost

Big Idea | Will only a few be saved? Sorry sinners will be saved.

## Introduction

Remember that Jesus has given us a job to do: to tell others about him and invite them to join his kingdom. Last time we heard that many people will listen and be saved – God’s kingdom will be full! But I wonder who you think will listen and be saved. Those who are good or those who are bad. Those who are proud or those who are humble. Those who are religious or those who know they’ve done wrong. Gail the goody or Billy the bully?

On his way to Jerusalem, some tax collectors and sinners gathered around Jesus to hear him speak. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, ‘This man welcomes sinners, and eats with them.’ To show us who will be saved, Jesus tells us a parable about two sons.

## Point 1.

### The parable of the two sons.

[Read 15:11-32 using pictures or dramatising. The following Bible passage is taken from the NIV.]

<sup>11</sup>“There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

<sup>13</sup>Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. <sup>14</sup>After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup>When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup>I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ <sup>20</sup>So he got up and went to his father.

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

<sup>22</sup>But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup>‘Your brother

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

<sup>28</sup>The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

<sup>31</sup>'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'

The end.

## Conclusion

Can somebody tell me what the younger son was like. [Take answers. The two big things to get are that he sinned and that he repented.]

Can somebody tell me what the father was like. [Take answers. Some big things to get are that he is generous, compassionate, and welcomes back his younger son.]

Can somebody tell me what the older son was like. [Take answers. Some big things to get are that he is angry that his father has welcomed back his sinful son, that he refuses to go in to the banquet.]

As we tell people about King Jesus. Those who know they are sinful, and humble themselves and say sorry, will become a part of God's kingdom. But the proud and self-righteous who don't think they need to say sorry, like the Pharisees, will be left outside.

## Pray

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**Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:**

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


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**Materials:**

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

 **C.** God, I am sorry \_\_\_\_\_

 **T.** God, I thank you \_\_\_\_\_

 **S.** God, I ask you \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**

# The kingdom now

Big Idea | When will the kingdom come? See it now.

## Introduction

Can anyone tell me what three things make up a kingdom? [\[Take answers\]](#) A kingdom has a king, a people, and a place. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland covers England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland – that's the place. It has King Charles III as king. And he rules over the British people.

God promised that his king would rule over an everlasting kingdom. We saw a picture/foreshadow of it when we looked at Solomon's kingdom. Do you remember? Solomon was God's king who ruled over the Israelites in the land of Israel. It was a wonderful kingdom. But it was only a picture/foreshadow of God's everlasting kingdom: A wonderful place, ruled by God's king, where we will live with God forever. I can't wait! But when will the kingdom come? Is it coming tomorrow, or maybe the day after? Or will it come next year, or has it come already? Today we're going to see that the kingdom has come now.

## Point 1.

### Zacchaeus.

To see this, Dr Luke tells us a story of a man called Zacchaeus who met Jesus. Have a listen to this: [\[Read 19:1-10 using pictures or dramatising. The following Bible passage is taken from the NIV.\]](#)

**19** <sup>1</sup>Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup>A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. <sup>3</sup>He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. <sup>4</sup>So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

<sup>5</sup>When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." <sup>6</sup>So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

<sup>7</sup>All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

<sup>8</sup>But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

<sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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## Conclusion

Remember the three things we need for a kingdom: a king, a people, and a place. Do we have a king? [\[Take answers\]](#) Yes, we have a king. Do we have a people? What does our story show us? [\[Take answers\]](#) Yes, when Zacchaeus repented of his sin and welcomed Jesus, he became one of the people of God's kingdom. Zacchaeus shows us how God's kingdom is coming now. The kingdom comes as Jesus seeks and finds sinners. When anyone says sorry for their sin, they become part of the people of God's kingdom. I wonder if you can spot it. Have you seen anyone who's said sorry for their sin? Have you seen someone who's living for Jesus? Maybe they're sitting next to you. Maybe they are you. If you have, then you've seen the kingdom – the people of the kingdom. And as the news about Jesus travels around the world and people believe, we can see the kingdom coming. The kingdom is coming now. But the place of the kingdom still needs to come. Which we'll hear about next time.

## Pray

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**Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:**

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


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**Materials:**

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

 **C.** God, I am sorry \_\_\_\_\_

 **T.** God, I thank you \_\_\_\_\_

 **S.** God, I ask you \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**

# The kingdom later

Big Idea | As we wait for the kingdom, do the master's work.

## Introduction

Let's start with a quiz.

1. A master goes on holiday and leaves his servant to water the plants. When the master returns, he sees that the plants are healthy and the soil moist. Was the servant a good servant or a wicked servant? [\[Take answers\]](#)
2. A master goes out for the day and leaves his servant to clean the house. But when the master returns, he sees that the dishes haven't been washed up, the hoovering hasn't been done, and the bathroom is dirty. The servant was watching tv all day! Was the servant a good or wicked servant? [\[Take answers\]](#)
3. A master goes away on a business trip. He tells his servant to make some bread and sell it at the market. When the master returns, the servant shows him the money that he has made. Was the servant a good or wicked servant? [\[Take answers\]](#)

Good servants get on with their master's work whilst their master is away. Wicked servants don't. Jesus tells us a parable about some good and wicked servants. This parable shows us what we should do whilst Jesus is away, before he comes to bring his everlasting kingdom.

## Point 1.

### The parable of the ten minas.

[\[Read 19:12-27 using pictures or dramatising. The following Bible passage is taken from the NIV. Verses 14 & 27 have been removed so that there is no confusion \(there is still a distinction between enemies and wicked servants: enemies are destroyed, wicked servants are just not rewarded as generously\).\]](#)

<sup>12</sup>“A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. <sup>13</sup>So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. ‘Put this money to work,’ he said, ‘until I come back.’

<sup>15</sup>The nobleman was made king, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it.

<sup>16</sup>The first one came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned ten more.’ <sup>17</sup>“Well done, my good servant!’ his master replied. ‘Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.’

<sup>18</sup>The second came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned five more.’ <sup>19</sup>“His master answered, ‘You take charge of five cities.’

<sup>20</sup>Then another servant came and said, ‘Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. <sup>21</sup>I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.’

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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<sup>22</sup>His master replied, 'I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow?' <sup>23</sup>Why then didn't you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?'

<sup>24</sup>Then he said to those standing by, 'Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.' <sup>25</sup>'Sir,' they said, 'he already has ten!' <sup>26</sup>He replied, 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what they have will be taken away.'

### Point 2.

### Working as we wait for our king's return.

Jesus tells us this parable because it is about us and him. He is the nobleman who goes away to be appointed king. And one day he'll return. We don't know when, but he will. We've been waiting and waiting and waiting. Waiting years and decades and centuries and millennia. And we might have to wait some more. Maybe another year, maybe another ten years, maybe another hundred years, maybe another thousand years. We might need to wait some more, but one day Jesus will come back. And when he comes back, he will take us to be with him in his kingdom forever.

Whilst Jesus is away he gives us, his servants, work to do. This work is the mission he's told us about – saving sinners. Our job is to go and tell people about Jesus and his kingdom. Whilst he's away will we be a good servant and get on with our master's work or a wicked servant?

Have a think about the opportunities God has given you to tell others about King Jesus. At Sunday school do you help others to know Jesus better? At school who could you tell the good news to? At home are there gospel workers around the world you could be praying for and giving money to?

### Conclusion

King Jesus will return. But whilst he's away we've got work today. So let's be good servants and get on with our masters' work. Then when he does return, he will say to us, 'Well done, my good servant!' He will generously reward us for our work. He will take us to be with him in his everlasting kingdom.

### Pray

**Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:**

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


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**Materials:**

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

 **C.** God, I am sorry \_\_\_\_\_

 **T.** God, I thank you \_\_\_\_\_

 **S.** God, I ask you \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**

# The old kingdom

Big Idea | The old kingdom will be destroyed.

## Introduction

All term we've been learning about King Jesus and his kingdom. Jesus is the king. His kingdom is filling up with people who have said sorry for their sin and follow him. If we follow him then we go out and tell others the good news. And one day when Jesus returns God will create a new heavens and earth where his kingdom will be.

But hold on a second. Wasn't there already a kingdom which was God's kingdom: Whose capital city was Jerusalem. Whose people were the Israelites. Whose leaders were the Pharisees. And whose temple was where people could find forgiveness.

How can we be certain which one is the real kingdom? How can we be certain which one is now God's kingdom? To answer this, Jesus tells us that the old kingdom will be destroyed and will be replaced with the new. Here are three judgments he speaks which condemn the old.

[For younger children, or to shorten the talk, consider cutting one or two of the judgments Jesus speaks.]

## Point 1.

### Judgment on Jerusalem.

The first is on Jerusalem. Jerusalem was the heart of the kingdom. But Jerusalem did not recognise that Jesus has come as their king. So King Jesus speaks judgment on it. He says, [read 19:43-44]. Jesus speaks his first judgment on Jerusalem.

## Point 2.

### Judgment on the temple.

Jesus speaks his second judgment on the temple. The temple was supposed to be where anyone could go to talk to God and ask him for forgiveness and be saved. But people took it in vain, continued in their evil, and didn't listen to what God had said in the Old Testament. So King Jesus speaks judgment on it. [Read 19:45-46]. Jesus speaks his second judgment on the temple.

## Point 3.

### Judgment on the religious leaders.

Jesus speaks his third judgment on the religious leaders. He does this with a parable about a vineyard and its tenants. [Read 20:9-16a using pictures or dramatising.]

This is a parable about Jerusalem and its religious leaders. God is the man who planted the vineyard. The vineyard are the Israelites. The tenants are the religious leaders who should have pointed the Israelites to God. The servants are the prophets that God sent. The son is King Jesus.

The parable shows us how Jerusalem's religious leaders will reject their king. Just like how they rejected all the prophets God had sent. Can you remember any prophets from the Old

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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Testament? When the prophets were sent to the Israelites to tell them to follow God, they were rejected and many were killed. Isaiah was sawn in two. Jeremiah was dangled up to his arm pits in a cesspit. Micaiah was imprisoned and starved. Zechariah was stoned. What happened to the prophets will also happen to the king. King Jesus will be rejected and killed.

But that wasn't the end of the story. Can you remember what the owner of the vineyard did? The owner will kill the tenants and give the vineyard to others. Jesus speaks his third judgment on the religious leaders.

### Point 4.

### Judgment comes.

King Jesus has spoken judgment on Jerusalem, the temple, and the religious leaders. He has said that because of their rejection of their king, they will all be destroyed.

Forty years after Jesus' death and resurrection, the Roman emperor Vespasian ordered the invasion of Jerusalem. The Jews had rebelled against the Romans. They wanted to be free of Roman rule. So to stop this rebellion Vespasian sent an army. The Roman legions surrounded Jerusalem. For five months they put the city under siege. Inside, the people were terrified. They started to starve. Then the Roman army attacked. They rammed through the walls of the city and slayed everyone inside. They went to the temple and burned it to the ground. The city was utterly destroyed. The judgment Jesus had spoken had come to pass.

### Conclusion

We can be certain that the old kingdom is replaced with the new. Jerusalem used to be the heart of the kingdom of God. But now we're awaiting a new heavens and earth where God's kingdom will be. Forgiveness used to be found at the temple. But now it is found in Jesus. The religious leaders used to be the ones pointing others to God. But now it's Jesus' followers. The old kingdom has gone. We are part of the new.

### Pray

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**Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:**

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


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**Materials:**

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

 **C.** God, I am sorry \_\_\_\_\_

 **T.** God, I thank you \_\_\_\_\_

 **S.** God, I ask you \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**

# Mission accomplished!

Big Idea | King Jesus dies to save sinners.

## Introduction

King Jesus came to save sinners. That was his big mission. He's said that he will do this by dying. This week we see him accomplish his mission.

## Point 1.

### Jesus is crucified

[Dramatise or use pictures to tell the story.]

The religious leaders hated Jesus. They wanted him gone. So they took him to Pilate and accused him of many things. They convinced the crowd that Jesus deserved to die. They shouted, 'crucify him, crucify him, crucify him!' There was another man, a criminal called Barabbas. Barabbas was a terrorist, a rebel. The religious leaders wanted Barabbas released and Jesus crucified. What would Pilate do? Jesus was innocent; Barabbas was not.

Pilate gave in to their demands. Barabbas went free; and Jesus was lead away to be crucified. The soldiers stripped him and beat him nailed him to a cross. They wrote a notice above his head which said, 'This is the king of the Jews'. Two criminals were crucified with him. One on his right and one on his left.

[Read 23:39-43]

## Point 2.

### For sinners like us

In this story what happened to Jesus is obvious – he died. But did you notice what happened to the criminals. One of them was set free. And the other, inspite of being a criminal, inspite of being a sinner, would be with Jesus in paradise. This is what Jesus accomplished with his death. Jesus died to take the punishment which others deserve for their sin. And because of his death people can be forgiven and be with him in paradise. We are sinners. We say, 'Shove off God, I'm in charge, No to your rule.' We deserve death. But Jesus died in our place. He offers us forgiveness. We can be with him in paradise. And if we've asked Jesus to forgive us, we will be with him in paradise.

Jesus has accomplished his mission to save sinners.

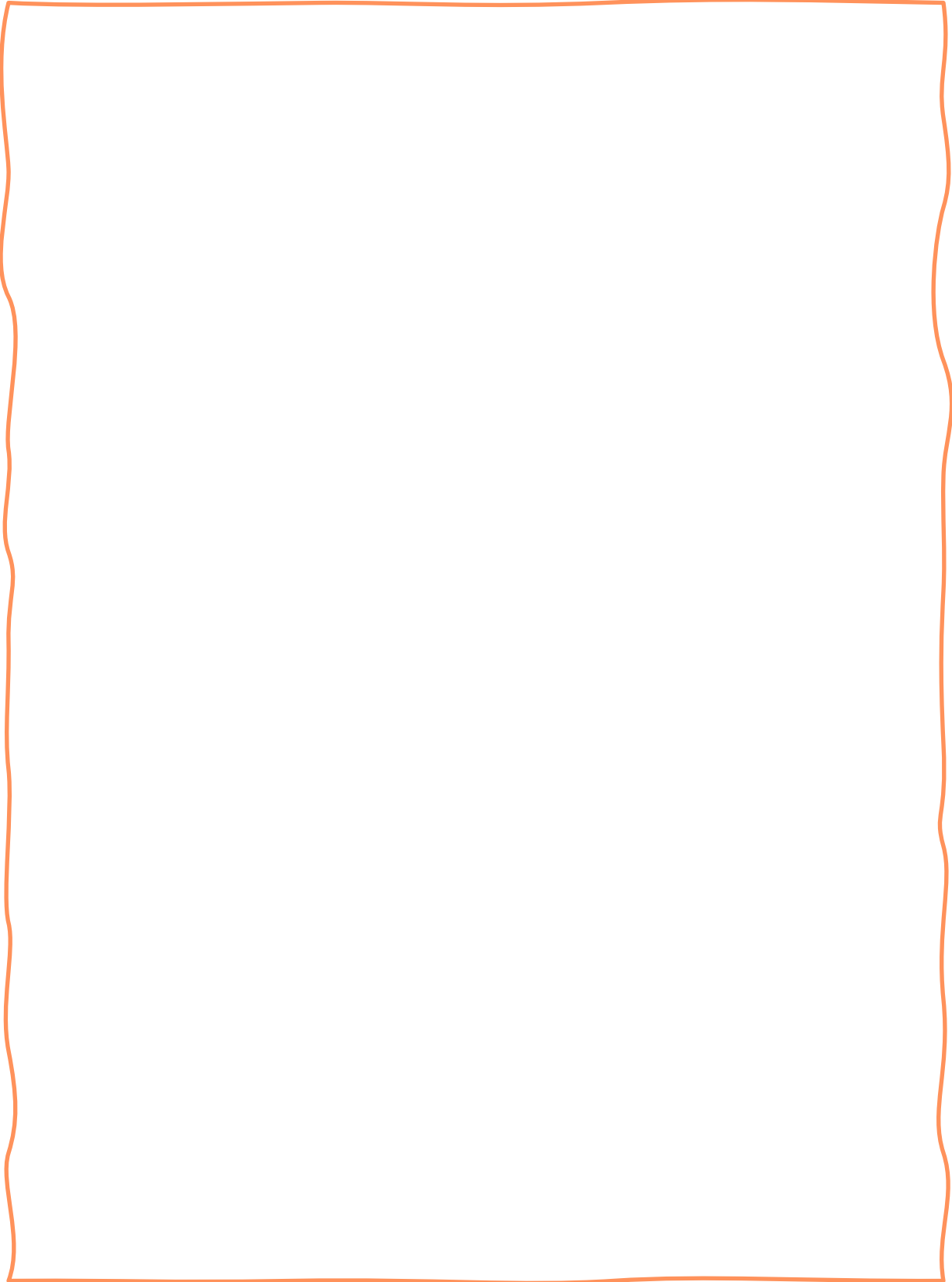
Let's thank him now for saving us.

## Pray

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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**Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:**

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


1


2

3


**Materials:**

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

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**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**

# Mission go!

Big Idea | King Jesus rises from the dead.

## Introduction

This morning we're going to do some investigating. It is said that someone has risen from the dead! I need a volunteer [invite a volunteer up]. Here's a fish [dead fish]. Can you tell me, is it dead or alive? [Take answer.] And how do you know it's dead? [Take answers.] Thank you, you can take a seat again. Wouldn't it be a surprise if this fish suddenly started moving and swimming and doing fishy things. It would be a surprise because when things die, they stay dead. But in our Bible passage today something came back to life. Someone came back to life. Jesus has risen from the dead.

Like the fish, Jesus had stopped breathing; he'd stopped moving; he'd stopped talking; surely he can't be alive again – dead people stay dead! But the disciples said that they saw him alive. Let's have a listen.

## Point 1.

### Tests

I need two volunteers to be disciples. [Pick two children.] While they were together, Jesus himself stood among them. [Have another volunteer to come and be Jesus.] Jesus said to them, [have 'Jesus' read out loud: "Peace be with you."] The disciples were startled and frightened thinking they had seen a ghost. Jesus said to them, [have 'Jesus' read out loud: "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?"] And so he gave himself some tests that he could do to prove that he really was alive.

The first test is the identity test. Jesus wants us to know that it's really him, and not someone pretending to be him. Is this the same man who was crucified only three days ago? Let's check his identity. Jesus said to the disciples: "Look at my hands and my feet, it's me!" Can anybody tell me, if it was Jesus, what would the disciples have seen in his hands and feet? [Take answers – holes, from where the Romans hammered nails into him.] [Draw holes in hands of the 'Jesus' volunteer and get the 'disciples' to check.] Jesus showed them the holes in his hands and his feet. It really was him. Jesus has passed the identity test.

The second test is the poke test. Jesus said to them, "Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." This is a very easy test. Jesus says poke me, and if your hand goes through me then I'm a ghost, but if your hand hits something solid then I'm not a ghost. [Get the 'disciple' volunteers to poke the 'Jesus' volunteer.] Jesus has flesh and bones. This is a real body. He's not a ghost, or a dream, or an illusion. It's a real body, Jesus' body, standing in front of them. Jesus has passed the poke test.

The third test is the fish test. Jesus said to them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" So they gave him a piece of fish. What happens when a dead man eats fish? Nothing. The fish just sits there in his mouth. But what happens when an alive man eats fish? The fish goes in; the mouth moves around; there's a big gulp; and the fish disappears. Let's do this test now. [Feed the 'Jesus' volunteer some fish, eg tuna from a can. Get the 'disciples' to watch 'Jesus' open his mouth, put

Use the 'How to prepare a Bible talk' section in the leader's handbook to help you.

## Visuals and props

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the fish in, chew it, and swallow it. Get them to check whether the fish has disappeared.] Jesus was alive. He has passed the fish test. He really did rise from the dead. [Volunteers to sit back down.]

Having investigated, the disciple knew for sure that King Jesus was alive.

### Point 2.

So what happens now? Jesus went on to say, [read Luke 24:44-47]. The scriptures – that's the Old testament – said that the God's saviour king would suffer and rise from the dead. This has now happened. And what's going to happen next is that repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, starting at Jerusalem.

### Conclusion

Jesus is alive, so it's mission go! It's time to go tell people of all nations about King Jesus. The world is full of sinners and it's time to tell them that there is forgiveness in Jesus' name. And this is what has been going over the last 2000 years. [Have a globe or a map to help the children see where the gospel has been preached.] It started in Jerusalem. Then the surrounding area of Judea and Samaria. Then the rest of the Middle East and into the Mediterranean. Then to Europe and Asia and Africa and the America's and even all the way to Australia. For the last 2000 years God's people have been on a mission. A mission to go and tell others about the forgiveness that King Jesus offers. [For older children and if time allows, at this point you could give them a real life story about someone who shared the gospel with others. It could be a famous missionary in a far flung place, or it could be yourself, and how you are telling your friends/family/colleagues about Jesus.]

God's people are on a mission to go and tell others about King Jesus. And we can do that to. Now is the time for us to tell people about the forgiveness of sins that Jesus offers. Who might you tell? Where might you go? Let's ask God that he would give us opportunity and boldness to go.

### Pray

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**Notes/ thoughts/ workings/ personal response:**

**Discussion: Digging deeper / ACTS**

Aim - Recap/ apply/ pray: \_\_\_\_\_


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2


3


**Materials:**

Use the 'How to lead a Digging deeper discussion' or 'How to lead ACTS prayer' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

 **A.** God, I praise you \_\_\_\_\_

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**Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

Use the 'How to prepare a e.g. memory verse/ game/ VIPP activity' section in the leader's handbook.

**Materials**







St Helen's  
Bishopsgate



St Helen's Children's Ministry

