



St Helen's
Bishopsgate

Bible time booklet | 5-11's

Mark

Jesus is the king who came
to rescue us



St Helen's Children's Ministry



Mark

Mark's gospel is all about Jesus. Mark will show us who Jesus is and what Jesus has done for his people. Jesus is God's son, the promised King. He has come to preach good news. He saves people from death, cleanses hearts, and opens blind eyes. He judges the old, established religious order and establishes his own kingdom. As the promised-saving-king, Jesus ultimately came to deal with sin. Jesus came to give his life as a ransom, a substitute just like the Passover lamb. In his death on the cross he dealt with our sin and our failings, by taking on himself the punishment that we deserve, and was crowned as King.

This is wonderful news! Which requires a response: to repent and believe. As we make our way through Mark's gospel our prayer is that we all would repent and believe. That we would look at our King and understand, whether for the first time or more deeply, the sacrifice he made for us. And in understanding this we would respond in heartfelt gratitude.

As we work our way through Mark's gospel you may also notice he does more than just give us a clearer understanding of our promised-saving-king. Through his material, Mark weaves themes which disciples will find useful as they follow their King. See if you can spot any and ask yourself, 'how does this help me follow King Jesus?'

If you're looking for a quick overview of Mark's gospel, one can be found in these short training videos: <https://www.st-helens.org.uk/resources/trainingseries/3/>

Memory verse

This is the memory verse we'll be learning as we go through Mark:

“The time has come,’ he said. ‘The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!’” Mark 1:15

Using the material – a guide for parents

We hope these studies will help you:

- To know what we've been teaching in Sunday school - so that you can talk to your child about it and pray for them as they hear about King Jesus from Marks gospel.
- To give you an opportunity to dig into the passage with your child and clarify or build their understanding.
- To give you an opportunity to help your child further think through how they are responding to what they are hearing in God's word.

We hope that this will enable us to better partner with you as you continue to teach your children about the Lord Jesus.

Why not get into the habit of praying with your child, asking for God's help, before you start the study. Then cover as much of the study as you feel able to with the age and attention span of your child.

You could go through the study over a meal time or at bedtime. You could also do the study over a whole week, doing a question each day.

Here are some ideas:

- For smaller children, you might choose to read the story recap, think about the first 'look' question and then pray.
- Slightly older children might be able to look at one of the 'think' questions too, and the oldest may manage to cover all the questions.
- If you have older children, who want to go further than the study, you could read the rest of the passage and any other bits we miss out with them and perhaps think together what it adds to our understanding of the big idea.

King Jesus has arrived!

Story 1: Mark 1:1-45

King Jesus has arrived and preaches good news

When you were born, your mum and dad probably made an announcement: “He’s arrived!” “She’s been born!” They would have told their friends and family and others they know that you had come into the world. At the start of Mark’s gospel, we hear four announcements. These announcements announce the coming of God’s promised-saving-king, Jesus, into the world.

Announcement #1: Mark announces at the start of his book that he’s got some good news to share with us about God’s king. Announcement #2: the Old Testament announces that one day the Lord himself would come to earth. Announcement #3: John the Baptist announces that someone will come after him who is incredibly powerful and unbelievably important. Then Mark tells us about a man named Jesus who came from Nazareth. John baptised him in the river Jordan. As this happened, another announcement was made. Announcement #4: God spoke from heaven and announced that this was his Son, his king.

The King has arrived! What will he do? First, he does some amazing miracles. He casts out demons from people, and heals the sick. What amazing things which show us what his kingdom will be like: no Satan, no sickness. Perhaps he’ll bring his kingdom in now? But there’s a twist. Even though Jesus can do this, it’s not what he’s come to do. Jesus says he’s come to preach. He says, ‘The time has come, the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!’ As we read Marks gospel we should listen to Jesus’ good news, repent, and believe.



Read

Pray and read Mark 1:14-15



Look

Look at verse 14... What does King Jesus do?

Look closer... at verse 15. What should we do when we hear his good news?



Think

Hm... Who announces Jesus arrival?

Hmm... Why do they think it’s worth announcing the arrival of Jesus?

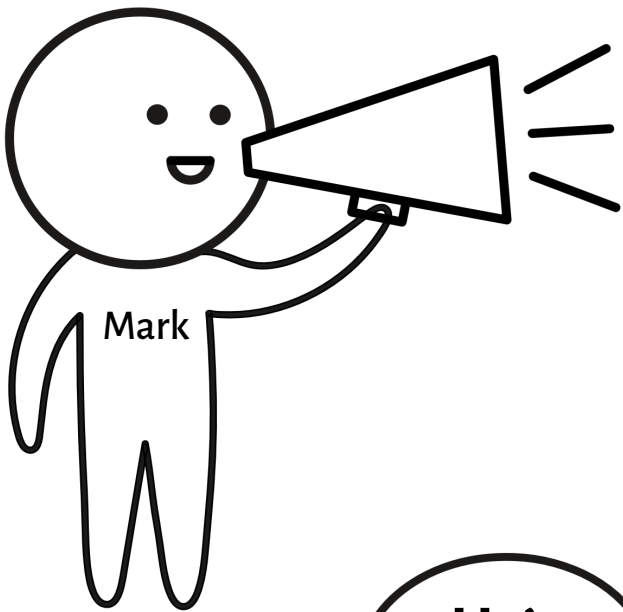
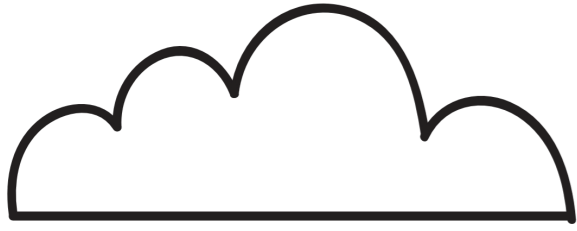
Hmmm... What has Jesus come to do?



Pray

Let’s **ask** God to help us listen to Jesus.

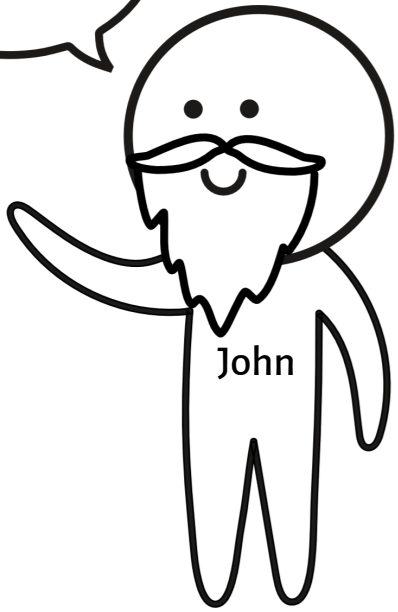
He's here!



He's here!

He's here!

He's here!



Love him or hate him

King Jesus came for sinners, but not everyone likes him

Have you ever played with magnets? Magnets do two things: they attract, and they repel. When a magnet attracts an object, like a paper clip, the object goes towards the magnet and attaches itself to the magnet. When a magnet repels an object, the object doesn't go towards the magnet but away.

In our story today Jesus is like a magnet. He is God's king, come to earth to announce God's kingdom; people should come to God's king, repent of their sin, and believe in him. But there was a group of people who were not attracted to Jesus, they were repelled by Jesus. They did not like Jesus at all. In fact, the more Jesus did, the more they hated him. These people were the Pharisees and teachers of the Law. Let's take a look at three episodes.

In episode 1, Jesus had just met a man who could not walk. He said to him, "Son, your sins are forgiven." 'How dare he forgive a man his sin!' the teachers of the Law thought. Jesus proved he could forgive sins by saying to the man, "Get up, take your mat and walk!" The man got up, took his mat and walked. The crowd were amazed. In episode 2, Jesus has dinner with some bad people. 'How dare he eat with sinners!' the Pharisees thought. But Jesus said, "I have come to call sinners." Will the Pharisees admit they're sinful, repent, and come to Jesus? In episode 3, Jesus heals someone on the Sabbath day when everyone was supposed to be resting. 'How dare he break the law!' the Pharisees thought. So they plotted against Jesus about how they might kill him! Jesus is like a magnet, some people come to him, some are repelled by him. Jesus came for sinners, but not everyone likes him.



Read

Pray and read Mark 3 verses 1-6



Look

Look at verse 5... What does Jesus do?

Look closer... at verses 2 and 6. What do the Pharisees think of Jesus?



Think

Hm... The Pharisees hate Jesus. Is this surprising?

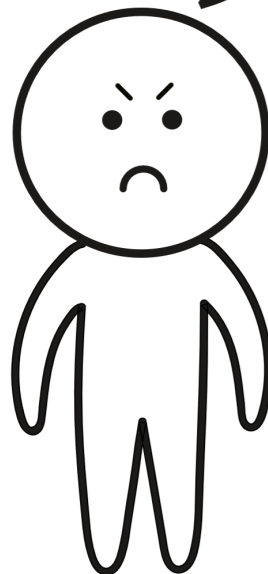
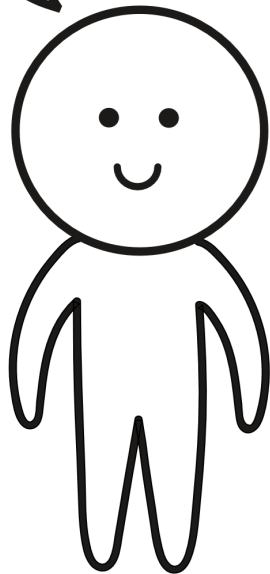
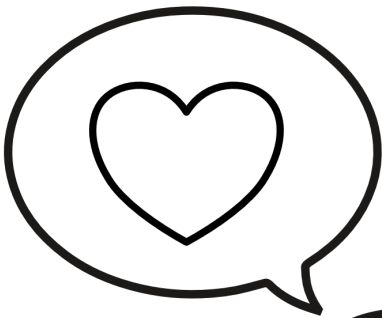
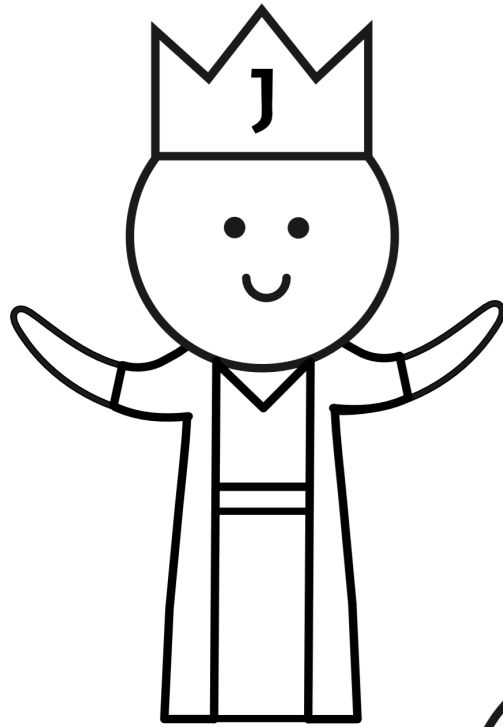
Hmm... Do people still hate king Jesus?

Hmmm... Why is it useful to know?



Pray

Let's **thank** God that Jesus came for sinners.



Outside and inside the kingdom

Story 3: Mark 3:20-35

King Jesus welcomes anyone who listens to him into his kingdom

Jesus' Kingdom is a truly wonderful place. But who's in and who's out? Our story today will help us find the answer.

One day, Jesus was teaching inside a house. There were many people gathered around him listening. Some teachers of the Law came to where Jesus was, but they stayed outside of the house and did not listen to him. They thought they were inside God's kingdom. They knew their Bibles really well. They thought that if anyone was inside God's kingdom it would be them. But they said that Jesus was working for Satan. How dare they! Jesus was working for God, not Satan. The teachers of the Law could not be in God's kingdom if they said this about God's king. They weren't listening to him.

Another group of people were there, standing outside the house. This was Jesus' family. They had thought he'd gone mad so they'd come to collect him. But Jesus isn't mad, he's the king and they should listen to him. Jesus said to all those inside the house 'Here are my family. Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother.'

Who's in and who's out? The answer is: those who listen to Jesus are in and those who don't listen to Jesus are out. Let's be insiders who listen to Jesus.



Read

Pray and read Mark 3 verses 20-21 and 31-35



Look

Look at verse 31... Where is Jesus' family?

Look closer... at verse 32. Where is the crowd?



Think

Hm... Who is in/out of God's kingdom?

Hmm... Why are they in/out of the kingdom?

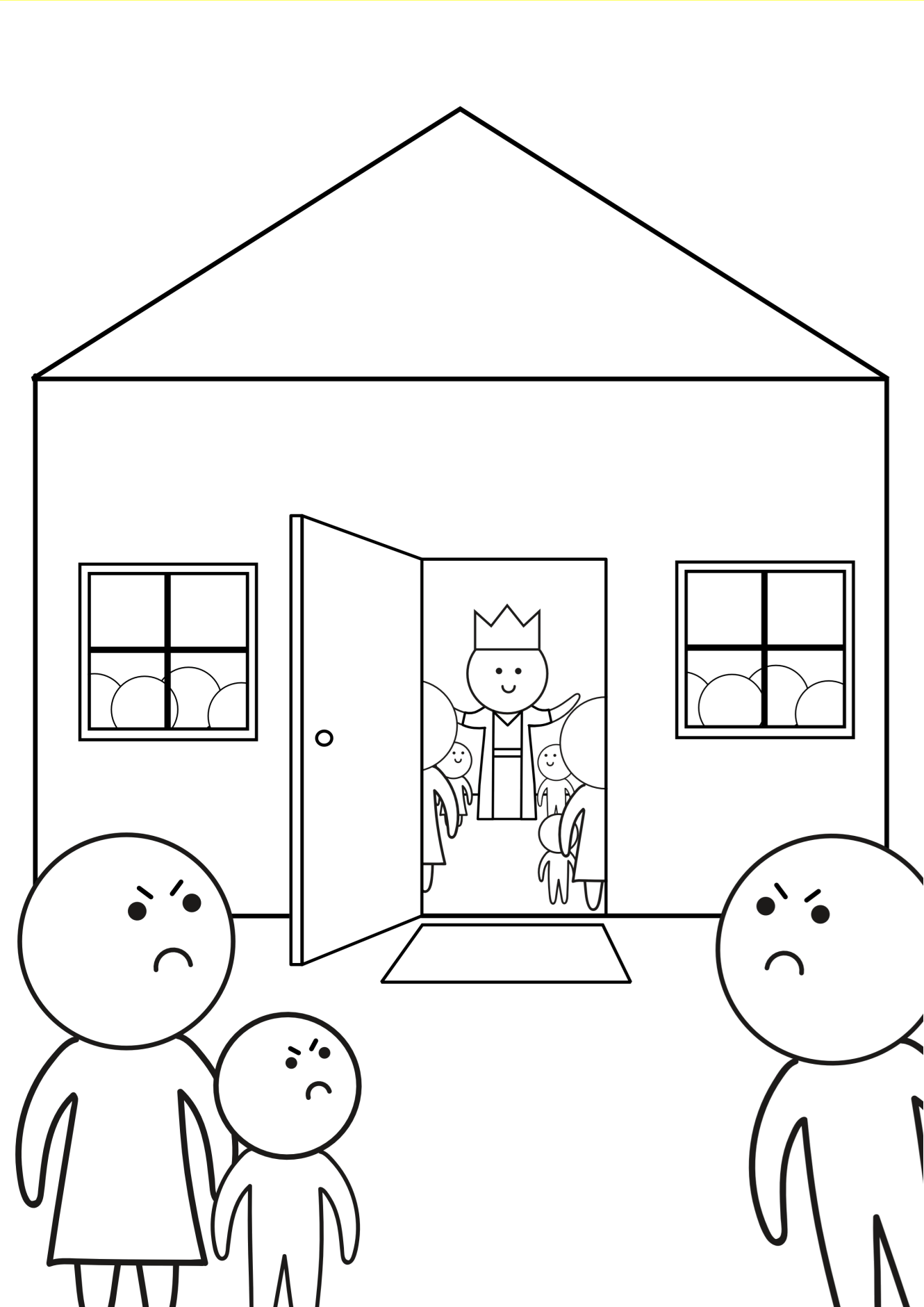
Hmmm... What makes us part of God's kingdom?

What doesn't make us part of God's kingdom?



Pray

Let's **ask** God to help us listen to King Jesus.



Listen to the King!

Story 4: Mark 4:1-20

King Jesus blesses those who really listen to him

We saw last time that those who listen to Jesus are in his kingdom. But what does it mean to listen? To listen, means more than to just hear what Jesus says. It means to accept it.

Jesus tells a parable about a farmer who sows some seed. (The farmer is Jesus and the seed is the word of God.) As Jesus teaches people and preaches about the forgiveness of sins, it's like he's sowing the seed. He's throwing out lots of seed which falls on lots of people. These people hear his words, but do they all really listen?

Jesus says that some seed falls along the path. Birds swoop down and immediately come and eat it up. These are people who hear what Jesus says, but ignore it and get on with thinking about other things.

Jesus says that some seed falls among the rocks. There's not much soil here so the plants spring up quickly but soon wither in the sun. These are people who hear what Jesus says and are excited about it, but when trouble comes they quickly give up.

Jesus says that some seed falls among the thorns. The seed grows into a plant but is choked by the thorns and doesn't produce fruit. These are people who hear what Jesus says but the worries of the world cause them to be distracted and unfruitful.

Jesus says that some seed falls on good soil. This seed grows up and produces a mighty crop. These are people who when they hear what Jesus says they accept it. Let's keep on listening to Jesus and accept what he says so that we can be the good soil.



Read

Pray and read Mark 4 verse 14 to 20



Look

Look at verses 14 to 20... Try to spot the different soils.

Look closer... at verse 20. What are we told about the good soil?



Think

Hm... Why is listening to what Jesus says so important?

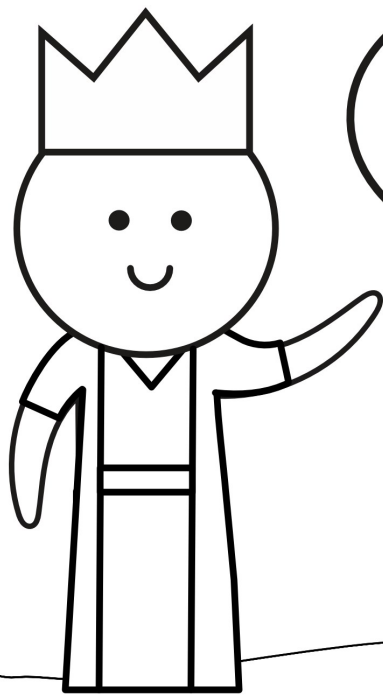
Hmm... What stops people listening to Jesus?

Hmmm... Why do we as disciples need to know this parable?

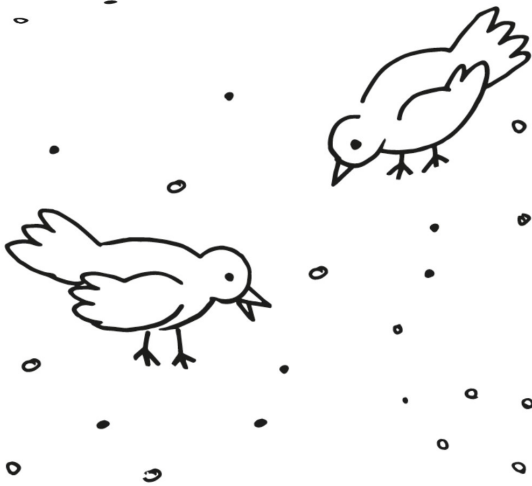


Pray

Let's **ask** God to help us listen to Jesus and accept his word.



Listen!



Great fears

Story 5: Mark 4:35-5:43

King Jesus has power over our greatest fears, trust him.

What makes you scared? Spiders? The dark? Bullies? In the next part of Mark's gospel Mark shows us how Jesus will save his people from their greatest fears, things even more terrifying than spiders or the dark. We'll look at one of these now.

Crash! Splash! Gasp! Crash went the lightening from the black storm clouds. Splash went the waves as they towered high over the boat. Gasp went the sailors who thought they'd all drown. The disciples were in a boat crossing the Sea of Galilee. But this mighty tempest had come. The waves were breaking over the side of the boat. The boat was filling up. It was so scary that these hardy sailors thought they were going to sink. The disciples thought they were going to die.

Jesus was asleep in the stern. They went to wake him up: "Teacher don't you care if we drown?" We might feel the same way: "Jesus don't you care if I suffer? Jesus don't you care if I die?" Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves. "QUIET! BE STILL!" he said. Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. Jesus had saved them from drowning. Of course he cared.

King Jesus has power over uncontrollable nature. He is the mighty saviour from our greatest fears. He is our mighty saviour from death. And he will one day bring us into his kingdom where there will be nothing to fear ever again.



Read

Pray and read Mark 4 verses 35 to 41



Look

Look at verse 1... What were the disciples scared of?

Look closer... at verse 40. Should the disciples fear death?



Think

Hm... Name one great fear in your life. Why don't need to fear this?

Hmm... Why can we totally trust Jesus in the face of our greatest fear, death?

Hmmm... What can we praise Jesus for?



Pray

Let's **praise** Jesus that he has power over our greatest fears.



**Quiet!
Be still**

Exodus miracles

Story 6: Mark 6:30-52

King Jesus has come to rescue

In the Old Testament, God rescued his people from Egypt. His people, the Israelites, were slaves under Pharaoh for 400 years. Through mighty plagues, God brought his people out who then journeyed through the wilderness. But in the wilderness there was no food—only sand, and you can't eat sand. There were thousands of people in the middle of nowhere, with nothing to eat. So, God provided food for them. God did this as he rescued his people from Egypt, you can read about it in the book of Exodus.

What Jesus does next in Mark's gospel reminds us of this rescue. Mark is reminding us of God's Exodus rescue because he wants us to see that Jesus is the same God whose come to rescue his people again. See if you can spot the similarities.

Jesus was teaching a large crowd of people—there were at least 5000! All day he had been teaching, and when he got to the end it was time for some food. But they were in the middle of nowhere and had nothing to eat. Hmm. Jesus gathered 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. And after giving thanks he broke them up and told his disciples to give them out. The disciples gave out the food, and kept on giving, and giving, and giving. The food kept on coming, there was enough to go around! Jesus had done what his Father God had done; he had fed thousands of people in a desert.

Mark wants us to see that Jesus is the God of the Exodus. He is the same God who has come to rescue his people again. Jesus has come to rescue us from the punishment that we deserve for our rebellion against God. We'll see how he does this later on in Mark's gospel.



Read

Pray and read Mark 6 verses 34 to 44



Look

Look at verse 35 ... What type of place were they in?

Look closer... at verse 44. How many people ate?



Think

Hm... How does this miracle show us that Jesus is the rescuing God of Exodus?

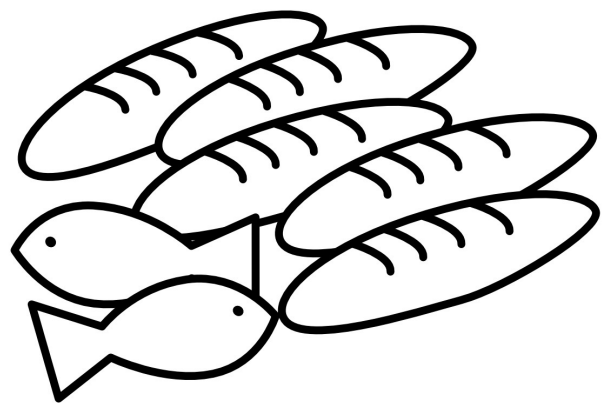
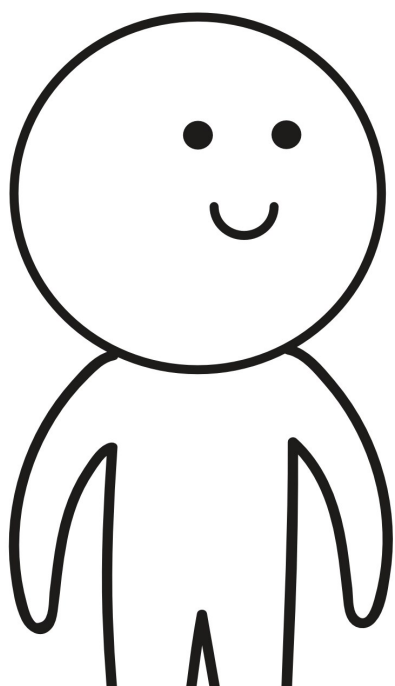
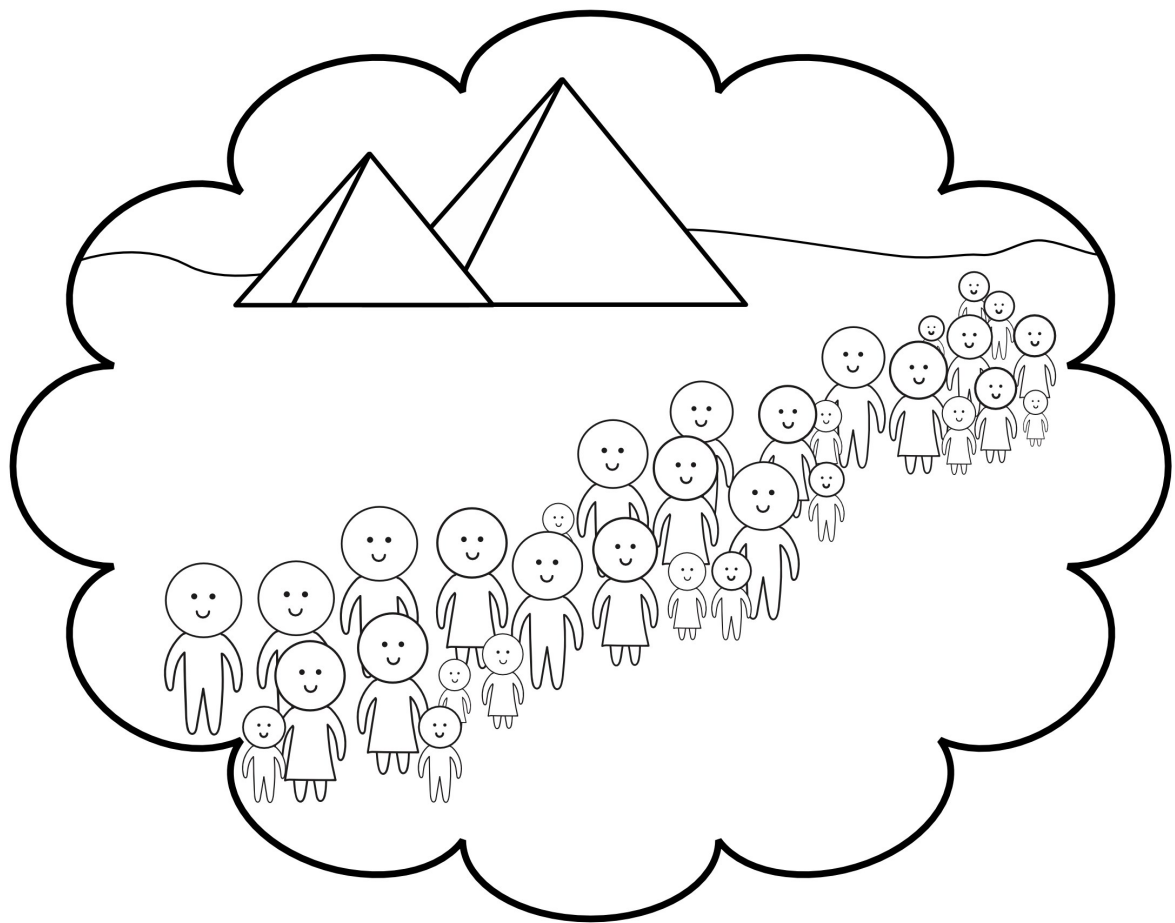
Hmm... Why do we need rescuing?

Hmmm... How does this give you a bigger view of Jesus?



Pray

Let's **thank** the Lord for sending Jesus to rescue us.



Unclean hearts

Story 7: Mark 6:53—7:23

King Jesus cleanses our defiled hearts

Imagine you didn't wash for a whole year. Your hair would be greasy, your fingernails would be black, and a foul stench would follow you everywhere. Your friends would think you were disgusting and they wouldn't want to hang around with you. Because of your uncleanness they would stay well clear. In the Old Testament, God had told his people they were unclean. They were spiritually dirty because of their sin. God had to stay well away from his people—he was repelled by their stench of sin; he couldn't be friends with them.

In today's story Jesus is talking with some religious leaders about what makes them spiritually unclean. They thought that going to the supermarket made them unclean. They thought that seeing certain people or touching certain animals made them unclean. They thought that the dirt came from outside. So they tried very, very hard to stay clean. They washed after going to the supermarket, they stayed away from certain people.

But Jesus said to them, "nothing outside a person makes them unclean; it's from within, from the heart that the dirt comes". People's hearts are sinful. It's from these sinful hearts that sin comes. This sin makes people spiritually unclean. Because people are spiritually unclean, God has to stay well away from them.

But Jesus can make people better. He can clean dirty hearts. If Jesus is our king, he has cleaned our heart, so that we can be friends with God.



Read

Pray and read Mark 6 verses 53 to 56



Look

Look at verse 56 ... Where are the people placed?

Look closer... at verse 56. What does Jesus do to these unclean people?



Think

Hm... What's the problem with an unclean heart?

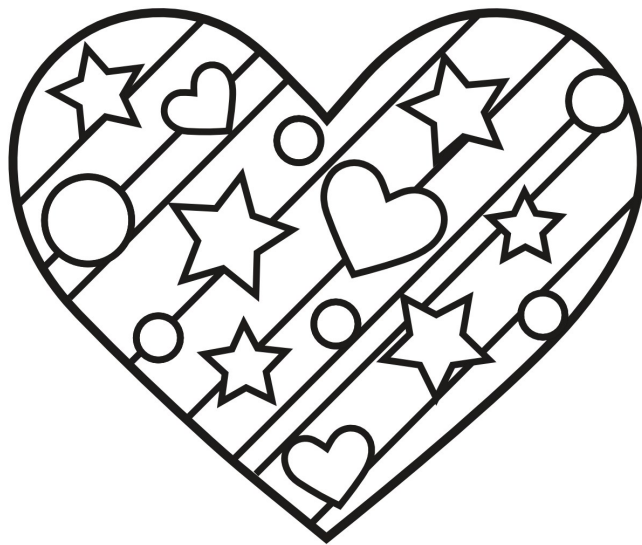
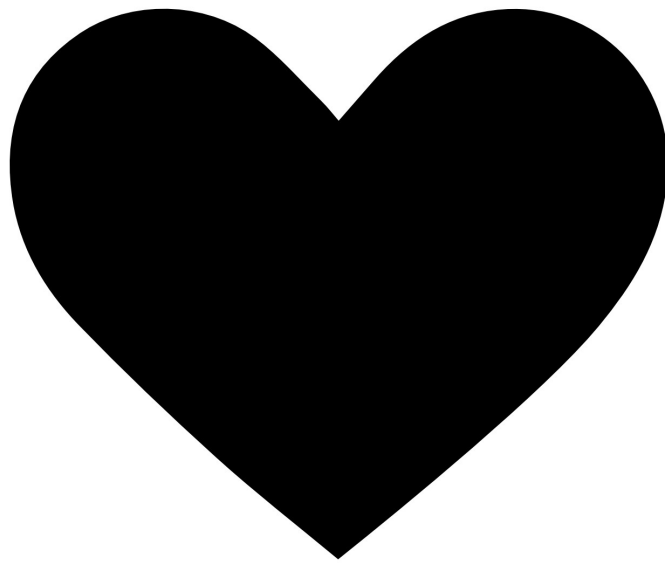
Hmm... Who can make you spiritually clean?

Hmmm... Why does religious ceremony not make someone clean?



Pray

Let's **thank** Jesus for cleaning our hearts so that we can be friends with God.



Blinded eyes

King Jesus opens our eyes to see who he is

Even though Jesus did many amazing things, some people didn't understand who he was—they were blind in their minds. So, how were they going to see?

The disciples were in a boat with Jesus, crossing the Sea of Galilee. On their way they realised they hadn't brought any bread with them. Oh dear! They thought they might go hungry. Jesus, hearing what they were saying, said to them, "Do you still not understand? Do you have eyes but fail to see? Don't you remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of pieces did you pick up?"

Even though the disciples were with Jesus when he fed five thousand people with just five loaves of bread, when he showed them that he was the powerful rescuing King, they still don't understand who he is. They are blind in their minds.

When they got to land and parked their boat, some people came to Jesus bringing a blind man and begged Jesus to heal him. Jesus spat on the man's eyes and touched him and the man was healed. What an amazing miracle! The blind man could now see. Jesus can heal blind eyes but can he heal blind minds?

When Jesus was with his disciples he asked them, "Who do you say I am?" Peter answer him, "You are the Messiah". Peter has got it! He's understood who Jesus is. Peter's mind has been unblinded. So what's happened? Jesus must have done an amazing miracle. Jesus must have unblinded Peter's mind. Just like he unblinded the blind man's eyes.



Read

Pray and read Mark 8:22-25



Look

Look at verse 22... What was wrong with the man?

Look closer... at verses 23 to 25. What happened to the man?



Think

Hm... If people don't understand who Jesus is, they are blind in their _____.

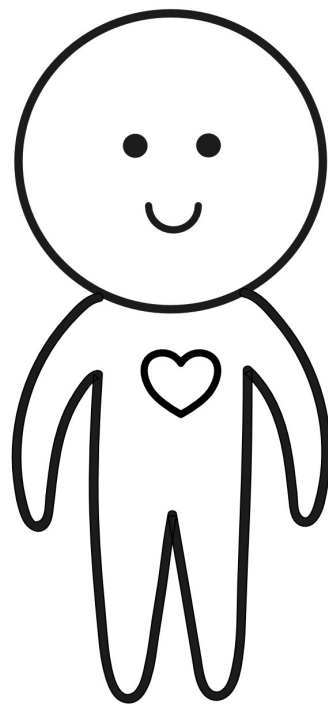
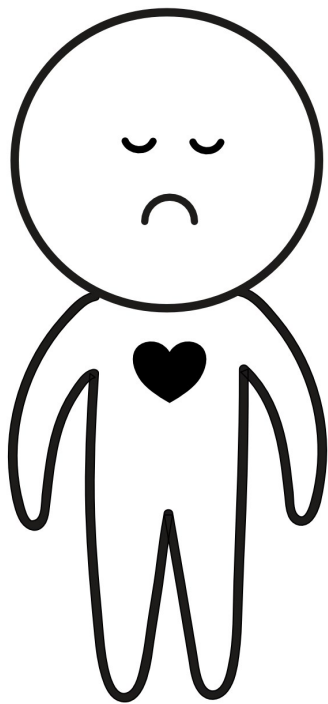
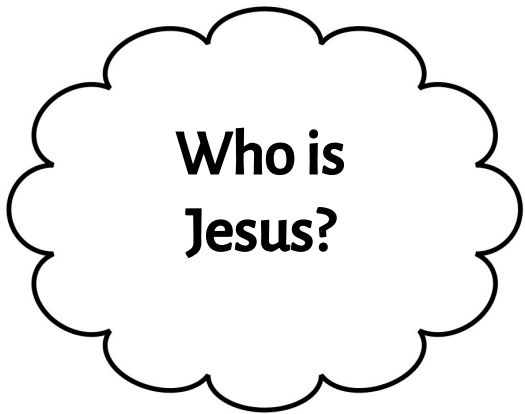
Hmm... If we understand who Jesus is, what's happened to us?

Hmmm... How will our friends see who Jesus is?



Pray

Let's **thank** God for unblinding our minds.



Saving your life and losing your life

Story 9: Mark 8:31-38

King Jesus loses his life now to gain it forever, follow him

Jesus began to teach his disciples that he was going to die. Hold on! Jesus was God's promised King who was going to rescue his people. Great kings like Jesus don't die, what was he thinking?

Jesus gathered his disciples together to explain God's plan. Jesus was going to die, and then, three days later, rise to life again. Jesus said that he was losing his life now to gain it in the future. And he told his followers to do the same. Following him meant losing their lives now and gaining them in the future.

To help us think about this I'd like to tell you about a man called Thomas Cranmer. Thomas lived in England 500 years ago when Henry VIII was king. Thomas loved Jesus and King Henry gave him the important job of teaching people about Jesus. But when King Henry died, his daughter, Mary, became queen. Mary didn't like Thomas teaching people about Jesus so she put Thomas in prison. Mary said that if Thomas stopped teaching people then he could go free, but if not, he would be executed. What should Thomas do? Should he save his life, or lose it for Jesus? Thomas kept following Jesus, so Mary put him to death. Even though Thomas lost his life, in the future, Jesus will raise him up and bring him into his everlasting kingdom. Even though he lost his life now, he will gain it forever.

Following Jesus means losing our lives now and gaining them in the future. We might not go through what Jesus and Thomas went through, but there will be times when we suffer for following Jesus. We must remember that this is what following Jesus looks like and that we'll be with him in his kingdom in the future.



Read

Pray and read Mark 8:31, 34-38



Look

Look at verse 31... What will happen to Jesus?

Look closer... at verse 34. What should followers of Jesus do?



Think

Hm... What does it mean to save your life and lose your life, now and in the future?

Hmm... Why is it worth losing our lives now?

Hmmm... What do you find hard about losing your life?

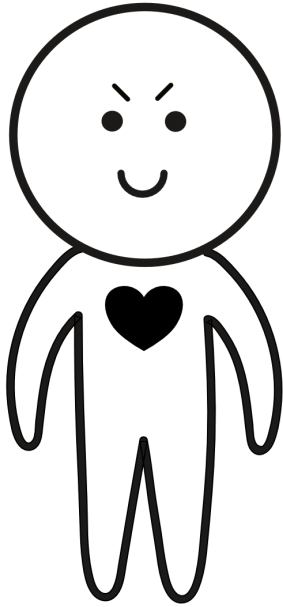


Pray

Let's **ask** God to help us deny ourselves and follow King Jesus.

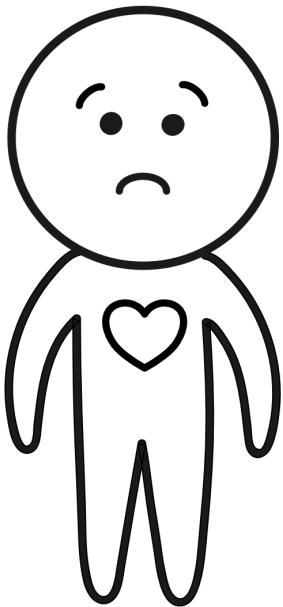
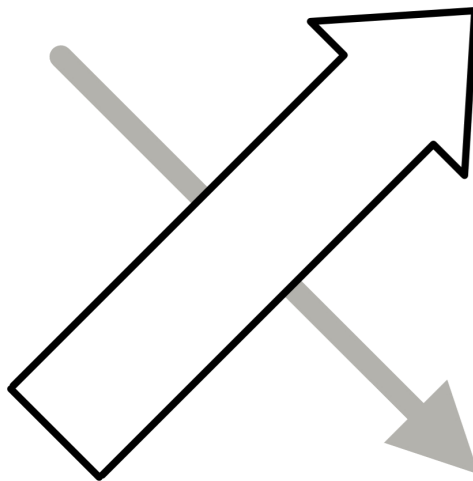
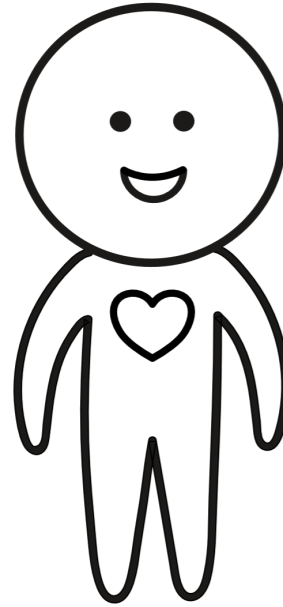
Save life now

Money, fame



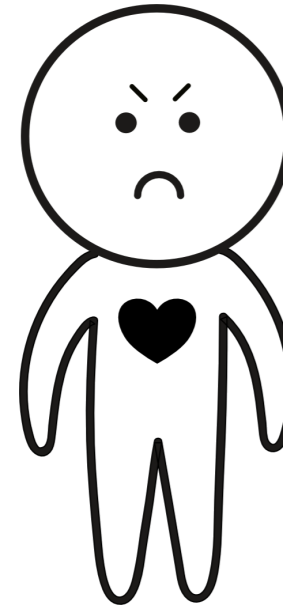
Gain life forever

Jesus, kingdom, life!



Lose life now

Cross, suffering, poor



Lose life forever

Death

Our ransom

King Jesus came to set us free from our sin

Imagine a great prison. Imagine that everyone in the world is in this great prison. They've committed the most grievous crime and face the punishment of death. But, there's a way out! If someone pays the ransom then those in the prison will be freed. Who will help these people and pay their ransom?

The Bible tells us that everyone in the world is trapped in a prison. It's not a prison with iron bars, and guards, and yucky food. The prison is sin. Everyone is trapped inside the prison of sin. Everyone sins. Everyone turns away from God. No one can escape. The punishment for sin is death. Everyone deserves to die. But, there's a way out! If someone pays the ransom then those who trust this will be free. The ransom price is death. Who will serve us by dying to pay the ransom to set us free?

Listen to this verse from Mark 10:45, "For even the Son of Man (that's Jesus) did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many". King Jesus came to serve. He came to pay the ransom. He came to die to set people free.

Can you remember our memory verse? "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" Those who repent of their sins and trust that Jesus died for them, are freed from the prison of sin. Their ransom has been paid.



Read

Pray and read Mark 10:45



Look

Look at verse 45 ... What did Jesus come to be?

Look closer... at verse 45. What did Jesus come to do?



Think

Hm... Why did Jesus die?

Hmm... Whose ransom did Jesus pay?

Hmmm... Jesus served you by dying to set you free. How does that make you feel?



Pray

Let's **thank** God for sending Jesus as our ransom.



I'm free!

Keep watch!

King Jesus will return, keep watch!

Can you remember the last time you waited for someone to come home? Perhaps you were waiting for a friend to come and play, or for your mum or dad to come back from work. Were you excited? Were you ready for them to come? Today we're seeing that Jesus will come back and that we should be ready.

Jesus says that when he returns the sun will stop shining, the stars will vanish, and he will descend from heaven on clouds in great power and glory. Whether you're at school doing maths, or playing games in the park, or at home in your bed, you won't miss it.

Jesus says that when he returns, those who have repented of their sin and trust in him will be gathered up and taken to the kingdom of God. Whether you're at school doing maths, or playing games in the park, or at home in your bed, Jesus will collect you and bring you to his kingdom; the wonderful place full of goodness where we will live with God.

Jesus will return to collect his people, but when will this happen? Today? Tomorrow? Next year? In the next one thousand years? Jesus doesn't tell us. No one knows except God the Father. So we must wait patiently. We know he's coming but we don't know when; so we must be alert and ready. We must keep following Jesus and keep on remembering that he's coming back.



Read

Pray and read Mark 13:24-27 and 32-33.



Look

Look at verses 24 to 27 ... What will happen when Jesus returns?

Look closer... at verse 33. What should we do as we wait?



Think

Hm... Why is it important to know that Jesus will return?

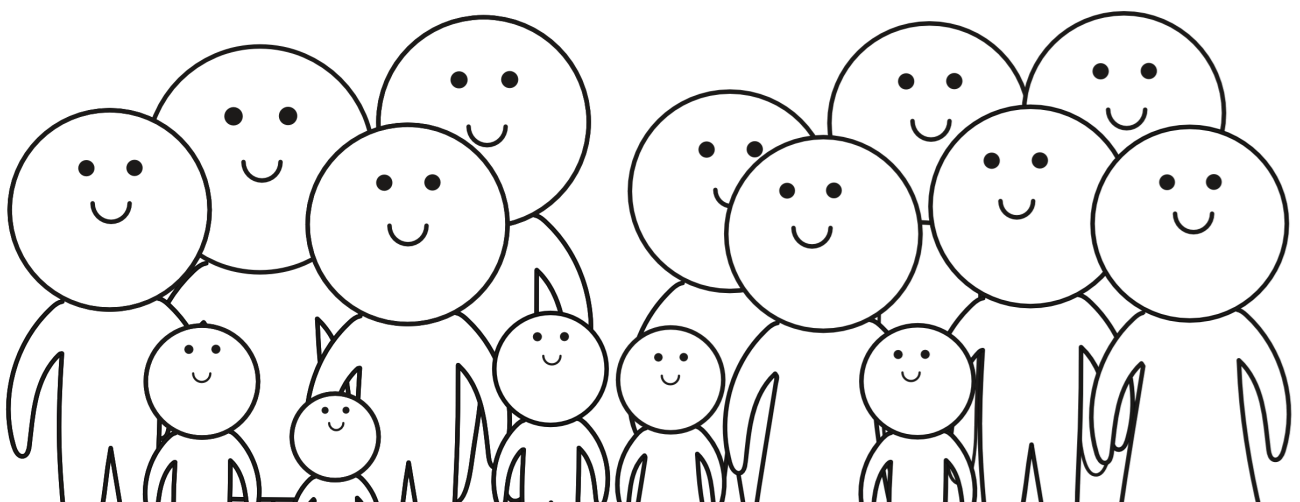
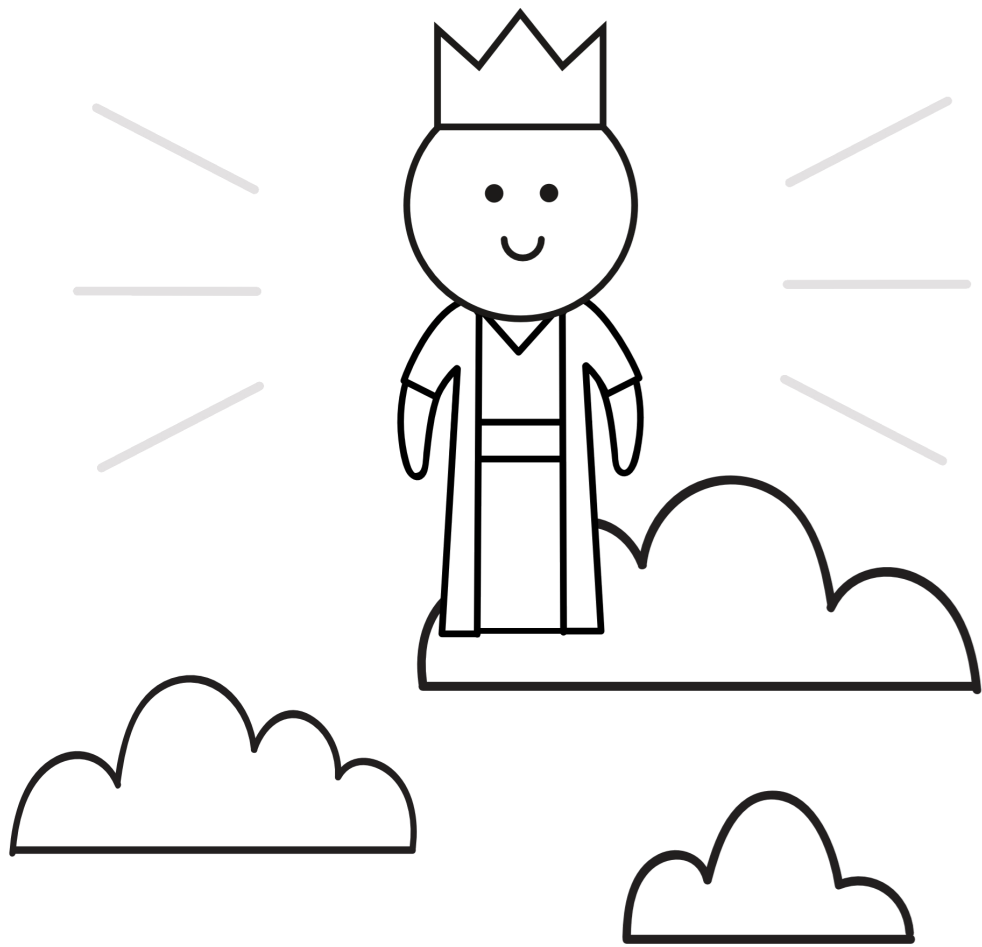
Hmm... What might distract you from waiting?

Hmmm... What will help you to wait?



Pray

Let's **ask** God to help us wait for Jesus' return.



The Passover Lamb

Story 12: Mark 14:1-25

King Jesus dies as a substitute

A substitute is when someone swaps places with someone else. In football there are substitutes, where one player who is off the pitch swaps with another player who is in on the pitch. In our story today, Jesus hints to his disciples about a substitution that is going to take place.

Jesus is with his disciples in Jerusalem. It's the time of year where they celebrate the Passover festival. The Passover was when God rescued his people from Egypt. Do you remember the final plague? God went through the land of Egypt and killed every firstborn son of each family. But, he told his people that if they killed a lamb, then their firstborn son wouldn't die. The lamb died instead of the eldest boy. The lamb was a substitute.

Anyway, Jesus is with his disciples in Jerusalem. They're in a room eating the Passover meal—a meal which reminds them of what happened in Egypt. As they are eating this meal Jesus 'took bread, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them.'

Jesus was saying that just like the lamb in Egypt was broken and its blood was poured out, his body will be broken and his blood will be poured out. Just like the lamb, Jesus was going to be a substitute. Jesus was going to swap places with his people and take the punishment for sin that they deserve. Jesus will substitute himself for us. How amazing!



Read

Pray and read Mark 14:22-24



Look

Look at verse 22 ... What does Jesus do with the bread?

Look closer... at verse 24. Who will his substitution be for?



Think

Hm... How is the lamb in the Exodus a picture of what will happen with Jesus and his people?

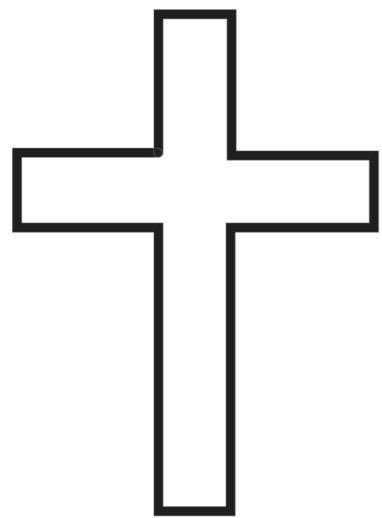
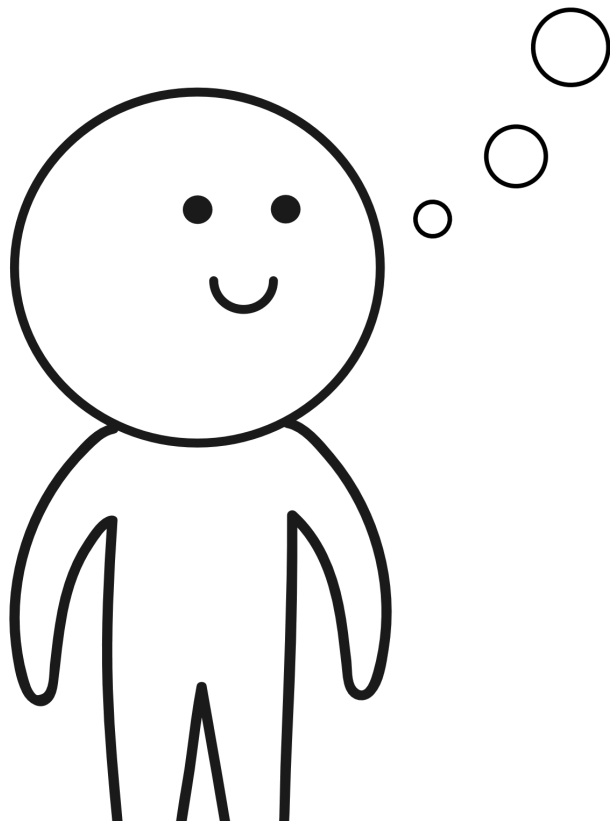
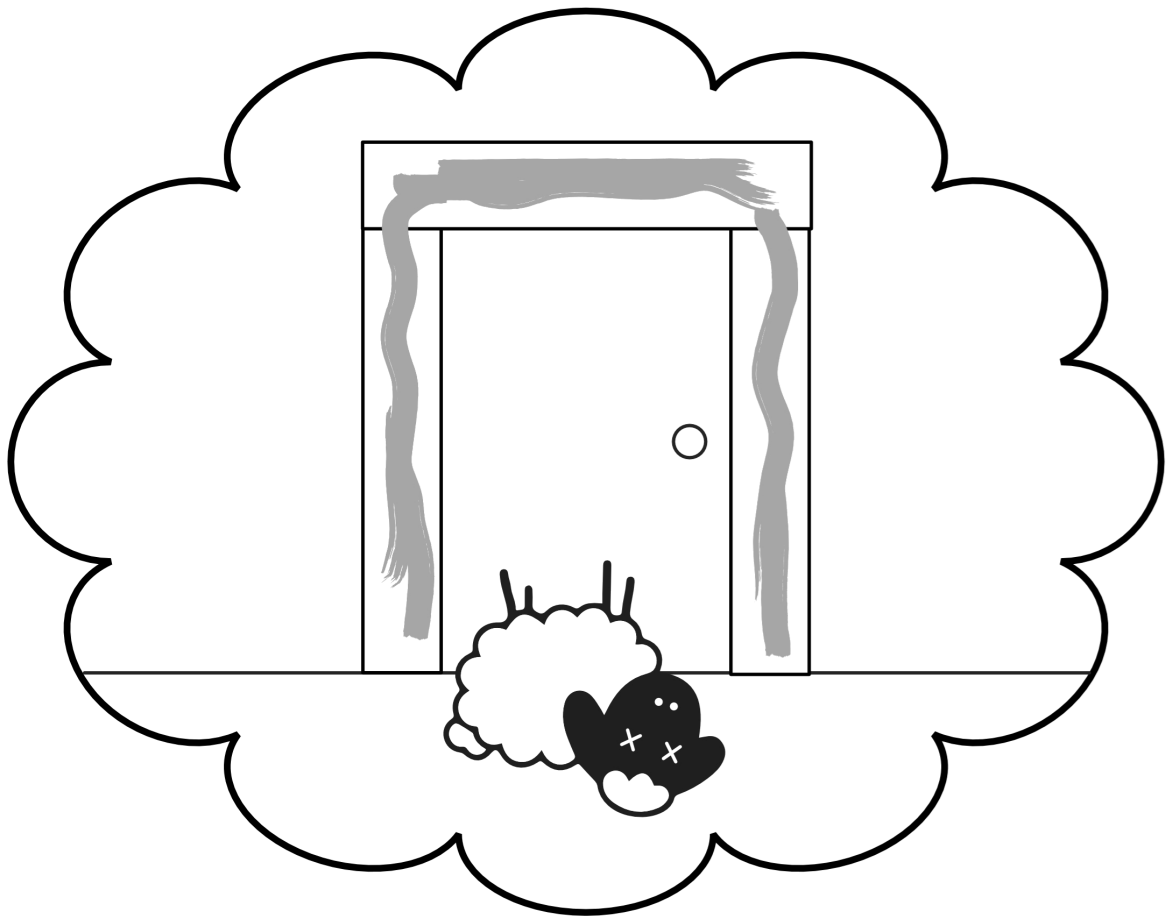
Hmm... Why does Jesus' substitution matter?

Hmmm... Jesus was punished instead of you. How does that make you feel?



Pray

Let's **thank** God for sending Jesus to be our substitute.



Victory!

Story 13: Mark 15:1-39

King Jesus dies to save his people

King or criminal? Victory or defeat? The authorities had arrested Jesus. The Jews now accused him of many things. They cried out for him to be crucified. So he was handed over to the Roman soldiers, who flogged him, hit him, spat on him, mocked him, and led him out to be crucified. They nailed him to a wooden cross and left him to die. The sign above his head read 'The king of the Jews'. But was this right? Was he God's king or was he a criminal? Was this victory, or was this defeat?

Then two odd things happened. Odd thing #1: the sky became dark. In the middle of the day it was dark for three hours. What does this odd thing mean? Darkness in the Bible is a sign of God's judgment. The darkness here shows us that as Jesus was dying, he was being punished by God. He was taking the punishment that we deserve because of our sin.

Odd thing #2: the big curtain in the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The temple was where God was present on earth but the curtain blocked the way. People couldn't meet with God because of their sin. But now that Jesus has taken the punishment for sin, people can meet with God. There is nothing that stops them from being with him.

King or criminal? Victory or defeat? Jesus is God's king! Although his death looked like a defeat, it saved his people from the punishment that they deserve and allows them to be with God. This is a massive victory!



Read

Pray and read Mark 15:33-39



Look

Look at verses 33 and 38 ... What are the two odd things that happened as Jesus died?

Look closer... at verse 39. Having seen Jesus die in this way, who does the centurion say Jesus is?



Think

Hm... Was Jesus' death a victory or a defeat?

Hmm... Why did Jesus die? (What did his death achieve?)

Hmmm... Jesus did all this for you. How does that make you feel?



Pray

Let's **thank** God that King Jesus died to save us.



He is risen!

Story 14: Mark 15:40-16:8

King Jesus rises from the dead; how will you respond?

Today we're going to meet two sets of characters: bold Joseph of Arimathea, and some scared women. Mark wants us to look at these two sets of characters and think about who we will most be like. Will we be like bold Joseph, or will we be like the scared women?

After Jesus had died a man named Joseph, who was from Arimathea, asked Pilate for Jesus' body. Joseph wanted to honour King Jesus by giving him a proper burial. But this wasn't an easy thing for Joseph to do. Joseph was a member of the Jewish Council; the council who had called for Jesus' crucifixion. The rest of the council wouldn't have liked what Joseph was doing. But Joseph thought it was worth losing his life now for Jesus. So Joseph placed Jesus' body in a tomb and rolled a stone against the entrance.

The next set of characters are some scared women. A couple of days after Jesus was buried, Mary, Mary, and Salome brought spices to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body. But when they got there something amazing had happened. The stone had been rolled away, Jesus wasn't there, and an angel started speaking to them, "Jesus has risen! He is not here. Go and tell his disciples and Peter". How amazing, King Jesus had risen from the dead, just as he had said. But the women were scared, they ran away and didn't tell anyone.

Those are our two sets of characters: bold Joseph of Arimathea, and the scared women. King Jesus has risen! He is the King who saves his people and will bring them into his kingdom. In light of this news what will we do? Will we be like the women and run away scared, or will we be like Joseph and honour our King with our lives?



Read

Pray and read Mark 16:1-8



Look

Look at verses 1 to 8 ... What evidence do you see that Jesus is alive?

Look closer... at verse 7. What should the women do?



Think

Hm... Out of the two sets of characters, who will you be like?

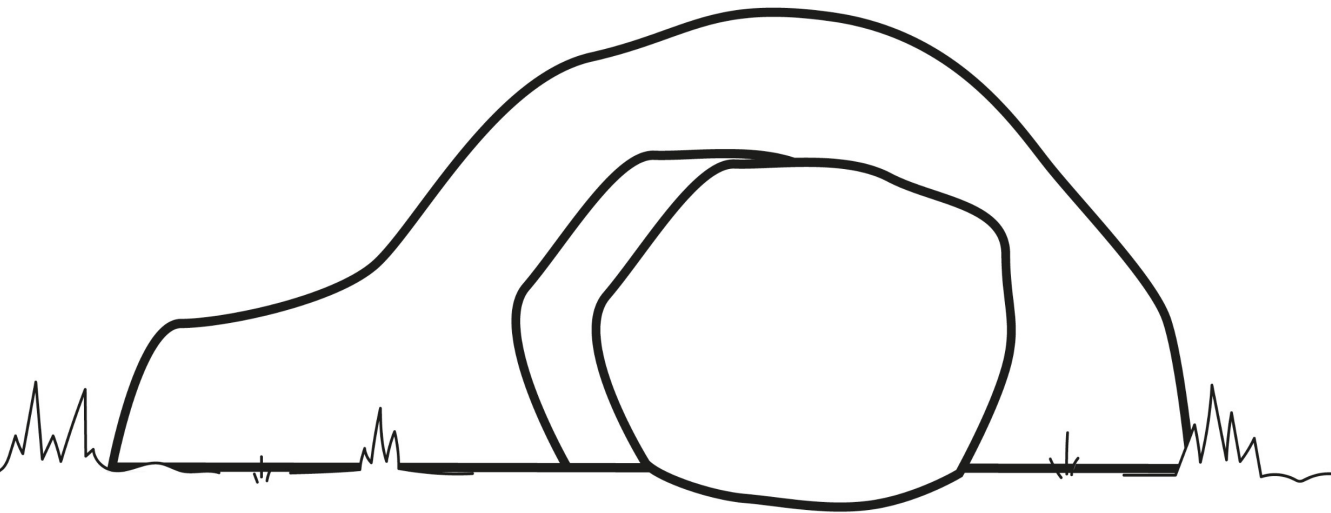
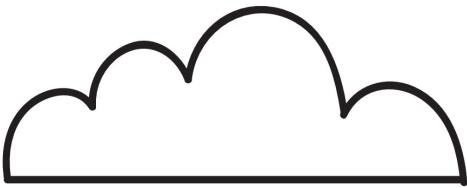
Hmm... What will you do knowing that King Jesus is alive?

Hmmm... Why should the women tell the disciples? (Why might Peter want to know that Jesus was alive?)



Pray

Let's **ask** God that he would make us bold for Jesus.



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