Kids Ministry Program

## Series Overview:

**Big Idea:**

People who encounter Jesus have a life changing experience. It happened in the Bible and it still happens today.

**Memory Verse:**

 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIrV)

"When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here!"

**Bible Discovery Method:**

One of the key learning outcomes of this program is to help children grow in confidence and familiarity of the Bible, its structure (OT versus NT) and chapters/verses. We hope they learn to find bible verses for their personal growth now and into the future.

**Bible Version:**

For your information, we have used the New International Readers Version (NIrV) in our program.

**Content:**

In some weeks, we have included more lesson material than time would permit. Please pick and choose which content/games/activities suits your setting best.

**Resource Pack:**

Alongside the program is a Resource Pack containing some printables. These are mentioned in the program when they are available.

The resource pack can be accessed and downloaded (by the Church level partner) here: [https://www.olivetreemedia.com.au/watch/series/church-campaign-encounter/](https://www.olivetreemedia.com.au/watch/series/church-campaign-encounter-preview/)

To preview the pack contents, [click here](https://www.canva.com/design/DAGYYIgRYZo/Q-fSvRg4q9QhpOcrWMcF_Q/view?utm_content=DAGYYIgRYZo&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utlId=h5214022fd2)

**Videos**:

In each lesson we will include a short video of the “Now” Life Encounter, presented by Miah with some animations. The scripts for these are included in this pack for you to preview and you can download the videos here: [https://www.olivetreemedia.com.au/watch/series/church-campaign-encounter/](https://www.olivetreemedia.com.au/watch/series/church-campaign-encounter-preview/)

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##

##

## Lessons

### WEEK 01 - ENCOUNTER (Church Campaign Week 1)

#### **Big idea:**

People have encounters with God, then and now! It’s not just something strange or something old that we read in the Bible. God still shows up in amazing ways today.

#### Getting started:

Set up stations for the kids to engage with as they arrive. Kids can either choose what they engage with or can rotate through the stations.

Suggested stations:

* Memory Verse Colouring In (3 Options provided in Resource Pack)
* Blocks or building activity
* Craft or free drawing table

#### Memory Verse Introduction:

**Relay Race: Memory Verse Challenge**

**Preparation**:
Print the memory verse and cut out each word or phrase separately. (Included in Resource Pack)

**Instructions**:

1. Divide the kids into teams and assign a "home base" for each team, along with a designated point they must run to and return from (this could be a cone or marker).
2. Place the cut-out words of the memory verse at the far point for each team.
3. One by one, the kids will run from their home base to the far point, pick up a single word/phrase of the memory verse, and run back to their team.
4. At home base, the team works together to arrange the words in the correct order to complete the memory verse.
5. Provide an NIrV Bible at each team's home base. If they get stuck, they can choose to look up the verse for help.

**Learning the Memory Verse**

Help the kids memorise the verse using one of these creative techniques:

1. **Melody or Beat**:
Turn the verse into a song by creating a simple melody or rhythm. Singing the verse helps the kids internalise it in a fun and memorable way.
2. **Sign Language**:
Teach the verse using sign language, focusing on an accompanying movement for the key words. You can find helpful signs on Auslan’s Signbank and we’d recommend learning the following bolded words:
*“When* ***anyone******lives*** *in* ***Christ (Jesus)****, the* ***new creation*** *has* ***come****. The* ***old*** *is* ***gone****! The* ***new*** *is* ***here****!”*(Explore more at [Auslan Signbank](https://auslan.org.au/))
3. **Actions**:
Use simple hand motions or gestures to accompany the verse, helping the kids connect the words with actions to aid memorization.

#### Introduction:

Say: *We are starting a new series and it’s about how people encounter Jesus.*

*Encounter means to meet.*

*People met Jesus when he walked on earth - but people also have experience with Jesus today. Over the next few weeks, we’re going to look at people who met Jesus ‘back then’ and people who meet Jesus ‘now’.*

#### **Then (Gospel Encounter):** Mary - Luke 1:26-35

Each week, we look at an Encounter Jesus had with someone in the Gospels. We provide two options for you to share this story. The children can break into small groups and follow the Bible Discovery Method (great for older primary school aged children) or, you can read the story to the whole group, adding comments to help with the flow of the story.

The third option, if you have younger children and the story can be found in a children's bible, is to read from that.

1. **Bible Discovery: The Coming Birth of Jesus**

If your group size is bigger than 10, break off into smaller groups. Give a Bible to each group and read together Luke 1:26-35.

Go through the following Bible Discovery Method steps:

* Read the passage out loud together
* Re-tell the story together in your own words (the kids should all contribute to the re-telling)
* Ask: what did you notice in the story? What was your favourite part?
* Ask: what might you do differently because of this story? Or, who could you tell this story to?
1. **Bible Story: The Coming Birth of Jesus, Luke 1:26-35**

If you have a large group, tell the story to the whole group as follows:

Read:

**26** In the sixth month after Elizabeth had become pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee. **27** He was sent to a virgin. The girl was engaged to a man named Joseph. He came from the family line of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. **28** The angel greeted her and said, “The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you.”

Say: *Mary was a young teenage Jewish girl who was engaged to Joseph…*

Read:

**29** Mary was very upset because of his words. She wondered what kind of greeting this could be. **30** But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you.

Say: *The angel told Mary not to be afraid and that God is very pleased with her. That was because Mary loved God very much and knew the scriptures well. She was devoted to God, even at her young age.*

Read:

**31** You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king like his father David of long ago. **33** The Son of the Most High God will rule forever over his people. They are from the family line of Jacob. That kingdom will never end.”

Say: *Did you notice that? Mary was to give birth to a very important king. How would you feel if you found out your son was going to be a king that would rule forever?*

Read:

**34** “How can this happen?” Mary asked the angel. “I am a virgin.”

Say: *Mary was confused, but asked questions to find out how this might happen. We can ask questions of God too.*

Read:

**35** The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of the Most High God will cover you. So the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God.

Say: *After this visit from the Angel, Mary sings a song and celebrated God’s faithfulness. She was not afraid, but excited.*

#### Now (Life Encounter): Watch David and Genevieve’s Story (Video 1)

##### [Download the video here](https://player.vimeo.com/progressive_redirect/download/1056644426/rendition/1080p/encounter_kids_01_-_david_and_genevieve%E2%80%99s_story%20%281080p%29.mp4?loc=external&signature=f0f4ee18ae09eb8835757040e67e314eccaddafeda7d18e3036af0ac2260190f&user_id=4608299). Video Transcript:

*Hi everyone! My name is Miah and I have a few amazing stories to share with you about people who’ve encountered God. When you read the Bible, there are lots of stories about* ***angels*** *coming to people, God speaking, Jesus healing and all these miraculous things happening. Although we can be amazed at these stories, we might find ourselves wondering: does anything like that still happen today?*

***Do people still meet God?***

*Well - the good news is that the answer is YES! People still have amazing encounters with God, and I’m going to tell you a few of these stories. Some of them contain incredible miracles, some include vivid dreams and other times, people just meet Jesus in ordinary and everyday moments.*

*The thing is, encounters or meeting with God aren’t just ancient stories. They are part of our modern lives and I can’t wait for you to learn more about people who have met Jesus today!*

*To start off, I want to tell you about two university students named* ***David and Genevieve****. Now, imagine this with me…*

*David loved asking big questions. At night, he’d go out with a notepad, write down a question, and pass it around to strangers to see what they thought. One night, he wrote down this:* ***“What is love?”***

*He got all kinds of answers—some were silly, some were funny, and a few tried to be really deep. But you know what? None of them really answered his question and David still felt like something was missing.*

*So let’s fast-forward to the night he meets Genevieve. These two both walk into the same pub with a group of friends. And guess what? They start talking.*

*David was curious about Genevieve because she’d done something amazing—she’d made a* ***film*** *that got into one of the biggest film festivals in the world… and she was only 19! So he asked her, “How did you come up with the idea for your film?”*

*Genevieve smiled and said, “Do you want the easy answer, or the true one?”*

*David, being the curious guy he was, said, “The true one, I guess.”*

*And Genevieve replied, “Well… I feel like* ***God gave me the idea.”***

*David was like, “Wait—which God?”*

*She said, “****Jesus****.”*

*David wasn’t thrilled about this answer and so he responded honestly by saying, “I was hoping you wouldn’t say that. I’ve got issues with Christianity,”*

*Then Genevieve asked him something really bold: “Have you ever felt the* ***love of God****?”*

*David thought for a moment and then said, “Well… no.”*

*So Genevieve asked, “Can I pray for you to experience it?”*

*And to his own surprise, David said, “Sure.”*

*Now here’s where the story becomes amazing. Genevieve prayed for him right then and there. And as she prayed, something incredible started happening to David.*

*He felt his body fill with all these sensations—tingling and warmth. His mind was flooded with images of light and what he described as veils. And then, he heard a voice. Not Genevieve’s voice, but something deep inside him. The voice asked him three times: “****Do you want me?*** *Do you want me? Do you want me?”*

*David didn’t know what to do but he knew this was Jesus speaking to him. Finally, he said, “If you’re real, then yes, I do want you.”*

*That night,* ***David’s life changed forever****. He walked into the pub feeling like God and Jesus weren’t for him. But he walked out of the pub as someone who had encountered God for the very first time.*

*And all of it started because a new friend, Genevieve, was brave enough to ask one simple question: “Have you ever felt the love of God?”*

*Isn’t that amazing?*

*So, let me ask you—what do you think love is? And have you ever thought about God’s love? Maybe you can have a chat about that now.*

#### Small Group Reflection time:

Questions for small groups:

1. What do you think love is?
2. What stood out to you in the story of David and Genevieve?
3. How must Mary have felt when the angel appeared and told her she was going to have a baby?

Discuss how God may show up to us through the Holy Spirit and that we are always told “Do not be afraid”.

Ask the kids if they have ever prayed with someone who doesn’t yet know Jesus. Encourage them to do so in the future.

#### **Re-Cap:**

God sometimes shows up. As an angel or as a feeling in our body - and we might feel afraid or concerned but we are always told “do not be afraid”.

We are called to tell our friends and family about Jesus and to pray for people.

#### Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we thank you that Jesus came to earth, died on the cross and rose again to save us from our sins. Thank you that through Jesus, we can go to heaven and be with God. Amen.

#### Activity: Stuck in the Mud

**Objective:**This is a classic game of tag with a twist! Players who are tagged must freeze in place until they are "rescued" by a teammate who crawls through their legs.

It’s a great way to engage energy and teamwork while creating a natural transition into discussing how it feels to need and receive help—connecting it to the idea of encountering Jesus.

**Optional Discussion Tie-In:**

**Before or After the Game:**

Ask: *How does it feel when you’re stuck and you’re standing there, hoping someone shows up to rescue you?*

Encourage kids to share their experiences from the game—frustration, hope, and relief when someone finally helped them.

Say:*Encounters with God can feel like this. Sometimes, we can feel stuck—maybe with our problems, our worries, or even just not knowing what to do. And we might even be calling out to God for help. When Jesus shows up in our lives, it’s like being rescued. Everything changes when He steps in.*

### WEEK 02 - OUTSIDER (Church Campaign Week 2)

#### **Big idea:**

Jesus accepts everyone. The door to faith is open to all people.

####

#### Getting Started: Secret Identity

**Objective:**
To help kids experience what it feels like to not be known and have to work out who someone is.

**Materials Needed:**

Small cards or sticky notes with various “identities” written or drawn on them. Try to include a variety of identities—some familiar, some a bit unusual or funny. Examples: ”Lion," "Firefighter," "Robot," "Baker," "Princess," "Pirate," "Teacher," "Famous Singer," "Superhero," "Clown."

**Game Setup:**

1. Distribute a card to each child and make sure they don't show it to anyone else. Explain that each card represents their “secret identity.”
2. Have kids wander around the room, introducing themselves with general clues about who they are.
	* For example, the child who is a "pirate" might say, "I love being on the water and looking for treasure."
3. Other children take turns asking “yes” or “no” questions to figure out each person’s identity. For example:
	* “Do you wear a costume?”
	* “Do you use tools?”
	* “Do you help people?”
4. At the end, see if anyone was able to work everyone out.

#### Introduction:

Say: *We are looking at how people encounter Jesus.*

*Last week, we spoke about an Encounter. Encounter means to meet.*

*People met Jesus when he walked on earth - but people also have experience with Jesus today. Over the next few weeks, we’re going to look at people who met Jesus ‘back then’ and people who meet Jesus ‘now’. Last week we talked about Mary and how an angel told her she was going to become the mother of Jesus. Today, we are going to talk about Levi.*

#### Memory Verse Re-cap:

Spend time revisiting the memory verse (remember, for some kids this will be their first week hearing the memory verse).

Ask: *Before we get into today’s encounter, does anyone remember the memory verse from last week?*

Say: *Let’s re-learn it together and teach our new friends.*

Recap the memory verse using the same method used last week: melody, sign language or actions.

"When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here!"

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIrV)

#### Then (Gospel Encounter): Levi - Mark 2:13-17

Each week, we look at an Encounter Jesus had with someone in the Gospels. We provide two options for you to share this story. The children can break into small groups and follow the Bible Discovery Method (great for older primary school aged children) or, you can read the story to the whole group, adding comments to help with the flow of the story.

The third option, if you have younger children and the story can be found in a children's bible, is to read from that.

1. **Bible Discovery: Levi the Tax Collector**

If your group size is bigger than 10, break off into smaller groups. Give a Bible to each group and read together Mark 2:13-17.

Go through the following Bible Discovery Method steps:

* Read the passage out loud together
* Re-tell the story together in your own words (the kids should all contribute to the re-telling)
* Ask: what did you notice in the story? What was your favourite part?
* Ask: what might you do differently because of this story? Or, who could you tell this story to?
1. **Bible Story: Jesus Chooses Levi and Eats With Sinners, Mark 2:13-17**

If you have a large group, tell the story to the whole group as follows:

Read:

**13** Once again Jesus went out beside the Sea of Galilee. A large crowd came to him. He began to teach them. **14** As he walked along he saw Levi, the son of Alphaeus. Levi was sitting at the tax collector’s booth. “Follow me,” Jesus told him. Levi got up and followed him.

*Say: Levi was a tax-collector and in those times, these people cheated workers out of their hard earned money. They were generally not liked by many people and were considered unpopular/outsiders. But Jesus chose him to be of his disciples. He noticed Levi and called out to him. Levi got up and followed him.*

Read:

**15** Later Jesus was having dinner at Levi’s house. Many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples. They were part of the large crowd following Jesus. **16** Some teachers of the law who were Pharisees were there. They saw Jesus eating with sinners and tax collectors. So they asked his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

*Say: The Pharisees considered themselves to be free of sin - but we are all sinners. They were judging people like Levi (and thought he was ‘bad’) and also judged Jesus for eating with him.*

Read:

**17** Jesus heard that. So he said to them, “Those who are healthy don’t need a doctor. Sick people do. I have not come to get those who think they are right with God to follow me. I have come to get sinners to follow me.”

*Say: Jesus told them that he will accept ALL people, not just people who thought they were better than everyone else.*

#### **Now (Life Encounter): Watch Alonzo Paul**’s Story (video 2)

##### [Download the video here.](https://player.vimeo.com/progressive_redirect/download/1056647196/rendition/1080p/encounter_kids_02_-_alanzo_paul%E2%80%99s_story%20%281080p%29.mp4?loc=external&signature=234749b2c4d3010655fc757114e63e7a66a7cb0f029a5f7f9e1c1ec2a4602d59&user_id=4608299) Video Transcript:

*Hi friends! I’m Miah and I want to tell you about a guy named* ***Alanzo Pau****l. His story is really powerful, and I think you’re going to find it inspiring.*

*When Alanzo was a kid growing up in Canada, life was tough. His parents got divorced while he was still in primary school, and it made him feel really lost. All he wanted was to belong somewhere. Have you ever felt like that—****like you just wanted to fit in****?*

*Well, Alanzo tried to find that feeling of belonging, but he found it with the wrong crowd. He started hanging out with some naughty kids who weren’t making good choices, and pretty soon, Alanzo was making bad choices, too. It wasn’t what he really wanted, but it’s where he ended up.*

*As he got older, things didn’t get any easier. One day, Alanzo was attacked. It was really serious—so serious that he* ***ended up in the hospital****. While he was there, he realised how close he had come to losing his life. Can you imagine how scary that must have been?*

*During this really sad and scary time, his sister did something bold.* ***She invited him to church****. At first, Alanzo didn’t want to go. He thought, “If I go to church, everyone will just judge me. They’ll see all the bad choices I’ve made and look down on me. I’ll feel even worse about myself.”*

*But guess what? The opposite happened.*

*When Alanzo went to church, he didn’t find judgement. He found* ***acceptance****. As he listened to what the Bible said and started to feel God’s presence, he realised something incredible: Jesus loved him just the way he was. Alonzo encountered God through the love of the church and through reading what the Bible says about God’s love!*

*Alanzo later said, “There were floods of tears as I learned that Jesus Christ came for the broken. He came for people like me—people who felt* ***radioactive****, like no one could come near them.”*

*Isn’t that amazing? Jesus doesn’t look at our mistakes and push us away. He welcomes us, loves us, and says, “You belong with me.”*

*So if you’ve ever felt like you don’t belong, or like your mistakes are too big to fix, remember Alanzo’s story. Jesus came for the broken, for the hurting, for all of us. And His* ***love*** *is big enough to hold us all.*

*How incredible is that!*

#### Small Group Reflection time:

Ask:

1. Cool vs not cool. Develop a list together of types of people the kids would call ‘cool’ and who are the ‘uncool’. Write them on large butcher papers together. Discuss together how it feels to look at the list.
2. Has anyone ever felt on the outside before or like they were on the ‘uncool’ list? How does it feel?
3. Leader share an example if they have one.
4. How can we be inclusive and kind like Jesus?

Assure children that God loves all of us very deeply, just as we are.

#### Re-cap:

Jesus did not come to make people feel shame. Jesus did not come for those who are good. As it says in the passage Mark 2:17 - it’s the sick who need a doctor. Jesus says “I have come to get sinners to follow me”.

#### Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we thank you that you love ALL of us, just as we are. Thank you that your door is open to EVERYone. Help us to show God’s love to those around us. Amen.

#### Activity: Make Pancakes Together

**Objective:** Help the group understand how Jesus "flipped" people’s expectations by showing love and kindness to everyone, even those who were hated or excluded.

**Preparation:**

- Ingredients and tools to make pancakes (batter, frying pan, spatula, etc.).

- A safe cooking setup (check for allergies in advance!).

- A table for kids to watch and help safely with mixing and flipping.

**Step 1: Introduction**

Gather the kids around the pancake station.

Say:

*Who here loves pancakes? [Pause for responses.] Me too! And today, we’re not just making pancakes; we’re talking about how Jesus did something just like flipping pancakes. Let me explain!*

**Step 2: Mix the Batter**

Involve the kids in mixing the pancake batter while sharing the story.

Say:

*When we make pancakes, we take all these different ingredients—flour, eggs, milk—and mix them together. It’s a little messy, right? Well, sometimes life can feel messy too.*

*Back when Jesus was teaching and healing people, there were certain rules about who was ‘in’ and who was ‘out’ - like we talked about in today’s stories. There were cool and uncool people back then too. People thought that the best, most respected teachers would only hang out with others who seemed good, kind, or important. But Jesus? He flipped that idea completely upside down!*

**Step 3: Start Flipping Pancakes**

As you cook and flip the pancakes, connect the flipping action to Jesus flipping expectations.

Say:

*This is what Jesus did! He flipped what people expected. He didn’t just spend time with those who were popular or well-liked. He sat down and ate meals with the uncool people - the tax collectors, sinners, and people that everyone else hated. He wanted to show them that God loves everyone.*

*So, just like flipping pancakes makes something better, Jesus flipped people’s ideas and showed them a better way to live—with kindness, love, and forgiveness!”*

**Step 4: Serve the Pancakes**

Serve the pancakes and enjoy time together.

###

### WEEK 03 - SEEKER (Church Campaign Week 3)

#### Big Idea:

Following Jesus is not about changing our behaviour and ‘being good’. It is about a full transformation. Jesus said we must be born again.

#### Getting Started:

Stations related to caterpillars and butterflies.

Using craft or art supplies, get the kids to make a series of caterpillars and butterflies. Options:

* Clay or playdough caterpillars
* Egg carton caterpillars (Google ideas or [follow steps here](https://kidsactivitiesblog.com/1374/caterpillar-craft/) as an example)
* Fold-over butterfly paint artwork (Google ideas or [follow steps here](https://artplayheart.com/butterfly-symmetry-painting/) as an example)
* Coffee filter paper butterflies (Google ideas or [follow steps here](https://www.organizedisland.com/how-to-make-coffee-filter-butterflies/) as an example)

#### Introduction:

Say: *We are looking at how people encounter Jesus.*

*Over the last 2 weeks, we spoke about Encounters. Encounter means to meet.*

*People met Jesus when he walked on earth - but people also have experience with Jesus today. Over the next few weeks, we’re going to look at people who met Jesus ‘back then’ and people who meet Jesus ‘now’. Last week we talked about Jesus choosing Levi the tax collector and how He ate with sinners. Today we are going to talk about Nicodemus.*

#### Memory Verse Re-cap:

Spend time revisiting the memory verse (remember, for some kids this will be new for them).

Ask: *Before we get into today’s encounter, does anyone remember our memory verse?*

Say: *Let’s learn it together and teach our new friends.*

Recap the memory verse using the same method used in week 1: melody, sign language or actions.

"When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here!"

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIrV)

####

#### Then (Gospel Encounter): Nicodemus - John 3:1-7

Each week, we look at an Encounter Jesus had with someone in the Gospels. We provide two options for you to share this story. The children can break into small groups and follow the Bible Discovery Method (great for older primary school aged children) or, you can read the story to the whole group, adding comments to help with the flow of the story.

The third option, if you have younger children and the story can be found in a children's bible, is to read from that.

1. **Bible Discovery : John 3:1-7**

If your group size is bigger than 10, break off into smaller groups. Give a Bible to each group and read together John 3:1-7.

Go through the following Bible Discovery Method steps:

* Read the passage out loud together
* Re-tell the story together in your own words (the kids should all contribute to the re-telling)
* Ask: what did you notice in the story? What was your favourite part?
* Ask: what might you do differently because of this story? Or, who could you tell this story to?
1. **Bible Story: Jesus Teaches Nicodemus, John 3:1-7**

If you have a large group, tell the story to the whole group as follows:

Read:

**3** There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus. He was one of the Jewish rulers. **2** He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. We know that God is with you. If he weren’t, you couldn’t do the signs you are doing.”

*Say: Why do you think Nicodemus came to Jesus at night? What do you think a Rabbi is?*

Read:

**3** Jesus replied, “What I’m about to tell you is true. No one can see God’s kingdom unless they are born again.”

**4** “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “They can’t go back inside their mother! They can’t be born a second time!”

**5** Jesus answered, “What I’m about to tell you is true. No one can enter God’s kingdom unless they are born with water and the Holy Spirit. **6** People give birth to people. But the Spirit gives birth to spirit. **7** You should not be surprised when I say, ‘You must all be born again.’

*Say: When we accept Jesus as Lord, the Holy Spirit comes to live in our hearts. This is what it means to be born again - born of the Spirit. Then we can enter God’s kingdom and have eternal life with Jesus.*

*Just as a caterpillar goes through an incredible transformation to become a butterfly, being "born again" means we go through a deep change in our hearts and lives. The caterpillar starts crawling on the ground, but in time it enters a cocoon and emerges as something new and beautiful—a butterfly that can soar through the air. In the same way, when we come to Jesus, He changes us from the inside out. This is what it means to be born again.*

#### Now (Life Encounter): Watch Kanisha Raffel’s Story (video 3)

##### [Download the video here](https://player.vimeo.com/progressive_redirect/download/1056647951/rendition/1080p/encounter_kids_03_-_kanishka_raffel%E2%80%99s_story%20%281080p%29.mp4?loc=external&signature=8a2f33f04221e1ff57677eeef1b1380ab74063cfcb23b89f9d9b139f7e235aaa&user_id=4608299). Video Transcript

*Hi everyone! I’m Miah and I want to tell you an amazing story about a man named* ***Kanishka Raffel****, and how he made a life-changing decision after encountering Jesus.*

*Kanishka grew up in a family that practiced a different religion called Buddhism. Have you heard of it before? It’s a religion where people don’t follow one single God but focus on finding peace through things like mindfulness and meditation. It’s all about inner quietness and calm.*

*When Kanishka was a young man, he was doing something very normal—****picking up some of his friends*** *from a camp they were on. But right before they left, his friends told him they wanted to pray together. His friends said to him, “Hey, you don’t have to join in. You can stand somewhere else if you want.”*

*But Kanishka was curious. So he stayed in the circle and listened to them* ***pray****.*

*As he listened, Kanishka was shocked! Their prayers didn’t sound distant or formal. They weren’t just repeating words. It was like they were talking to someone they knew—like they had a real relationship with God! They talked to God like He was right there listening and it felt like they believed God cared about their lives.*

*That got Kanishka thinking: Who is this God they’re talking to?*

*So later, on a hot summer night, he decided to find out for himself. He picked up a Bible and* ***started reading the Gospel of John*** *- one of the books of the Bible. At first, he thought it would be boring. He even hoped it might put him to sleep! But instead, he was hooked and couldn’t stop reading.*

*The stories about Jesus amazed him. Jesus wasn’t just some faraway figure. He was a real person! He had friends, He had enemies, He performed incredible miracles, and He showed so much love and compassion. But what stood out most to Kanishka was this: even though Jesus was powerful and holy, He wasn’t scary or unapproachable. He was* ***kind and caring****, especially to people who were struggling, poor, or sick.*

*Kanishka kept reading, and he noticed something. In the stories he read, people had different opinions about Jesus. Some thought He was amazing and special. Others didn’t believe he was the son of God. Some even thought He was dangerous.*

*This made Kanishka ask himself a big question: What do I think about Jesus? Do I think He is crazy, do I think it’s all made up or do I think He is someone special?*

*That night, he decided.* ***He wanted to follow Jesus****. He felt so drawn to Him—so inspired by who Jesus was and what He did. Kanishka was convinced that this man was really God! This was how he encountered God for the first time! Through reading the Bible!*

*You know, in the Bible, there’s a man named Nicodemus who also had to decide what he thought about Jesus. You might want to read his story from John 3. Like Nicodemus, Kanishka realised he had to be* ***born again*** *and have his life completely transformed by Jesus.*

*You know, Jesus isn’t just someone we read about in a book. He’s real, He’s alive, and He loves us.*

*So here’s my question for you:* ***What do YOU think about Jesus?*** *How about you discuss this now in your groups.*

#### Small Group Reflection time:

Ask:

1. Brainstorm on a paper together all the things you know or have heard about Jesus?
2. Ask the kids - what do they think about Jesus?

**Response opportunity:** Offer the chance for kids to consider where they stand with Jesus. Have they been born again? Have they accepted Jesus’ invitation to a new life?

#### Prayer:

Dear God, thank you that you invite us to live a new life and be born again. Thank you that the Holy Spirit lives inside us. Thank you that we can enter God’s kingdom and have eternal life with Jesus. Amen.

#### Activity: Obstacle Course/Relay

**Objective:**Help kids understand the concept of transformation by comparing their obstacle course experience to the transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly and how God transforms our lives.

**Instructions:**

1. Set Up the Obstacle Course:
	* Crawling Section: Create a part where kids must crawl under or through obstacles like pool noodles or ropes.
	* Climbing Section: Add a safe climbing area with low benches, soft blocks, or hurdles.
	* Running Section: Finish with an open path where kids can run freely to the finish line.
2. Divide Into Teams:
	* Split the kids into teams.
	* Each child will complete the entire obstacle course while their teammates cheer them on.
3. Run the Course:
	* Let the kids take turns running through the course, encouraging them as they go.

#### Re-cap:

After everyone finishes, gather the kids together and say:

*Did you notice how the course had three parts—crawling, climbing, and running? That’s a lot like how a caterpillar transforms into a butterfly. At first, the caterpillar crawls on the ground. Then it goes through a big change, and finally, it becomes a butterfly that flies freely.*

*Just like that, God wants to transform us! When we trust Jesus, He helps us grow and become the best version of ourselves. We don’t stay the same—God helps us to live with freedom and joy, just like a butterfly flying through the air.*

###

### WEEK 04 - UNEXPECTED (Church Campaign Week 4)

#### Big idea:

Who is this man? Even the wind and waves bow down to Him.

#### Getting started: Clay or Playdough Station

**Objective:**
Engage kids in a creative activity to spark their imagination and bring them together.

**Materials needed:**

* Clay (or playdough if you prefer)
* Child-safe tools. For example: plastic knives, toothpicks, rolling pins, and cookie cutters
* Paper plates with kids’ name on them (so they can take their creations home)
* Instructions for how to set the clay: oven or kiln

**Instructions:**

1. Prepare the Station:
	* Set up a table with enough clay or playdough for all the children.
	* Provide tools such as plastic knives, toothpicks, rolling pins, and cookie cutters to help them shape their creations.
	* Lay down a protective tablecloth or mats to keep the area clean.
2. Introduce the Activity:
	* Gather the kids around and explain that they’ll be using the clay to create some fun shapes.
3. Give Creative Prompts:
	* Ask the children to create one of the following with their clay or playdough:
		+ A penguin
		+ A person
		+ A boat
	* Encourage creativity! Kids can decorate their creations however they like.
4. Optional: explain that you will ‘set’ their creations using an oven or kiln (if you have access). Or, send the baking instructions home on the paper plates.

#### Memory Verse Re-cap:

While they are making their items, spend time revisiting the memory verse.

Ask: *While you’re building, does anyone remember our memory verse?*

Listen and help the kids recite the memory verse using the same method used in week 1: melody, sign language or actions.

"When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here!"

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIrV)

#### Activity: Post-It Note Team Challenge

**Materials Needed:**

* Lots of Post-it Notes (variety of colours if possible).
* Measuring tape

**Instructions:**

* Divide kids into small groups of 3–4.
* Challenge each group to build the tallest tower they can using only Post-it Notes within a set time (e.g., 5 minutes).
* Encourage teamwork, creativity, and fun!
* At the end, measure the towers and celebrate all efforts—whether they stand tall or fall over!

**Transition to the Story of the Post-it Note:**

Once the activity is finished and the towers are admired (or toppled), gather the kids together and say:

*Building those towers was so much fun! But do you know what’s cool about Post-it Notes? They were invented by accident! Let me tell you the story.*

*There was a scientist named Spencer Silver, and he worked for a company that made glue. One day, he was trying to invent a super strong glue, but what he made was the opposite—it was really weak and didn’t stick well at all. He thought, ‘What a mistake!’*

*But another scientist, Art Fry, found a surprising use for it years later. Art sang in a choir and used little pieces of paper to mark his place in his songbook. The problem was, the paper kept falling out! So he used Spencer’s ‘weak glue’ to stick the papers in place, and they peeled off perfectly without tearing the pages. That’s how the Post-it Note was born!*

*What started as a mistake turned into one of the most useful inventions ever. Isn’t it amazing how something unexpected can turn into something incredible?*

#### Introduction:

Say: *We are looking at how people encounter Jesus.*

*Over the last few weeks, we have spoken about Encounters. Encounter means to? Meet!*

*People met Jesus when he walked on earth - but people also have experience with Jesus today. We’ve been looking at people who met Jesus ‘back then’ and people who meet Jesus ‘now’. Last week we talked about Nicodemus. Today we are going to talk about how Jesus calmed the storm and how sometimes God shows up in unexpected ways.*

*But first, I want to read you a little story about a boy, a penguin and a boat. Yes - just like you made with the clay earlier.*

**Read the book:** Lost and Found by Oliver Jerffers

Or, **show this video**: Lost and Found Read Aloud - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cRAAQ8EWzig>

Say:

*Sometimes what you are looking for isn’t what you end up finding.*

*The boy thought the penguin was lost - but he just needed a friend.*

*The inventor of the Post-It Note thought he made a mistake - but he created an amazing invention.*

*Our stories today show how God works in unexpected ways.*

#### Then (Gospel Encounter): Calming the Storm - Luke 8:22-25

Each week, we look at an Encounter Jesus had with someone in the Gospels. We provide two options for you to share this story. The children can break into small groups and follow the Bible Discovery Method (great for older primary school aged children) or, you can read the story to the whole group, adding comments to help with the flow of the story.

The third option, if you have younger children and the story can be found in a children's bible, is to read from that.

1. **Bible Discovery : Luke 8:22-25**

If your group size is bigger than 10, break off into smaller groups. Give a Bible to each group and read together Luke 8:22-25.

Go through the following Bible Discovery Method steps:

* Read the passage out loud together
* Re-tell the story together in your own words (the kids should all contribute to the re-telling)
* Ask: what did you notice in the story? What was your favourite part?
* Ask: what might you do differently because of this story? Or, who could you tell this story to?
1. **Bible Story: Jesus Calms the Storm, Luke 8:22-25**

If you have a large group, tell the story to the whole group as follows:

Read:

22 One day Jesus said to his disciples, “Let’s go over to the other side of the lake.” So they got into a boat and left. 23 As they sailed, Jesus fell asleep. A storm came down on the lake. It was so bad that the boat was about to sink. They were in great danger.

*Say: The disciples and Jesus are in a boat and there is a massive storm. The disciples thought the boat was about to sink and that they were going to drown. Most of these men were experienced fishermen but they were very scared and Jesus was asleep!*

Read:

24 The disciples went and woke Jesus up. They said, “Master! Master! We’re going to drown!”

He got up and ordered the wind and the huge waves to stop. The storm quieted down. It was completely calm. 25 “Where is your faith?” he asked his disciples.

*Say: The storm calms as soon as Jesus speaks. The disciples are BOTH amazed and terrified. How would you feel if you were in the boat too?*

Read:

They were amazed and full of fear. They asked one another, “Who is this? He commands even the winds and the waves, and they obey him.”

*Say: This moment was shocking, scary and unexpected. They realised that if Jesus has the authority to calm a storm - then maybe He really is God!*

####

#### **Now (Life Encounter): Watch** Paul Kingsnorth’s Story (video 4)

##### [Download the video here](https://player.vimeo.com/progressive_redirect/download/1057319776/rendition/1080p/encounter_kids_04_-_paul_kingsnorth%E2%80%99s_story%20%281080p%29.mp4?loc=external&signature=99b9eda2e7d430f3f0a5356be4f26860d7f35c412bbec446f9ce448b391fa698&user_id=4608299). Video Transcript:

*Hi friends! It’s Miah again, and I want to ask if you‘ve ever been looking for one thing and ended up finding something completely unexpected? Like when you search your room for your lost shoe but instead find a cool drawing you forgot about? Or - fun fact - did you know that the* ***Post-it Note*** *was invented by accident? A scientist was trying to make a super-strong glue and ended up creating something that barely stuck. But guess what—it turned out to be one of the most useful things ever!*

*Well, today, I want to tell you about a man named* ***Paul Kingsnorth****, whose life took a totally unexpected turn—kind of like the discovery of Post-it Notes!*

*When Paul was growing up, he heard a little about God, but it didn’t really stick. Stick - get it? Like a post it note? Anyway… He wasn’t against the idea of God; he just hadn’t thought much about it. Instead, Paul loved going on walks with his dad and feeling really connected to nature. He felt like the* ***trees, the rivers, and the mountains*** *were created by something or someone bigger, but he wasn’t sure what or who.*

*So as Paul got older, he started searching for answers. He explored Buddhism and learned about meditation. He tried Wicca, which focuses on nature and magical ideas. But these religions didn’t really feel right. It was like searching for treasure and finding nothing but empty boxes.*

*One day, Paul got so frustrated that he prayed. He said, “****Okay, God, if you’re real, show me.****” He wasn’t sure what would happen, but what came next was totally unexpected.*

*All of a sudden, Paul started seeing signs of Jesus everywhere. He met Christian people who were kind and welcoming. He started hearing about Jesus at random moments. He even had a dream about Jesus! And then, out of nowhere, his wife looked at him and said, “You’re going to become a Christian.” Paul was shocked because that wasn’t part of his plan at all.*

*After this,* ***Paul decided to read the Bible****, just to see what all the fuss was about. He started with the Gospels—the stories about Jesus—and he was hooked! Jesus wasn’t what he expected at all. He was powerful but kind, strong but gentle, wise and caring. Jesus wasn’t just a teacher or a nice guy;* ***He was the answer*** *Paul had been searching for all along. Paul loved nature and now he was discovering he could know personally the God who had created the sun, trees, waterfalls, mountains and all of creation.*

*In the end, Paul realised he had found something much better than he ever expected:* ***Jesus****. He gave his life to follow Him, and it changed everything.*

*So, what about you? Have you ever been surprised by finding something you didn’t expect? Maybe, like Paul, you’ll discover that Jesus is the answer you didn’t even know you were looking for. Sometimes, the best things in life happen when we’re searching for something else entirely.* ***Do you want to encounter God too?*** *Why not take a moment to ask God to show Himself to you? You might just be surprised!*

####

#### Small Group Reflection time:

Questions you might like to discuss:

1. What did you like about the Lost and Found story?
2. What did you like about the Bible story?
3. What did you like about Paul Kingsnorth’s story?
4. How do you answer the question: who is this man that even the wind and the waves obey Him?

#### Re-Cap:

Creation reveals to us the wonder and majesty of God and when Jesus calmed the storm, he showed that he was king over creation. Only the one true God who made the world is able to control the weather and tell it what to do. This is the God we trust!

#### Prayer:

Invite the kids to pray Paul Kingsnorth’s prayer: *God, if you are real, show me.*

Remind them to look out for unexpected ways that they might see God answer that prayer in the coming weeks. Invite them to tell you their stories if they want to.

### WEEK 05 – EXCLUDED

#### Big Idea:

Jesus heals people from the inside out. He had the power to heal physically and the compassion to heal them emotionally.

#### Getting started:

Set up stations for the kids to engage with as they arrive. Some ideas are below but try and incorporate ‘hand’ themes where you can:

* Tracing and cutting handprints. Decorate using glitter and paint (see below for inclusion of memory verse)
* Cut out handprints and add them to a tree.
* Make crazy glove characters - latex gloves and permanent markers needed (idea here: [https://youtu.be/P6SCEiY5-sQ)](https://youtu.be/P6SCEiY5-sQ)
* Building activity like lego or magna blocks
* Giant jenga or another group game

Incorporate the memory verse into one of the stations. Here are some suggestions:

* Use the hand printable for them to cut, colour and display (such as onto a tree) (Included in Resource Pack)
* Encourage them to print or trace their own hand onto the sheet (Included in Resource Pack)
* Print and cut out the memory verse into puzzle pieces. Encourage them to piece it together and glue onto cardboard (Included in Resource Pack).

#### Game: Gross (Yucky) Relay Challenge

**Materials Needed**

* Large buckets or containers (1 for each team)
* Rubber gloves (1 pair for each team)
* Goo (e.g., slime), liquid (e.g., water with food colouring), or baked beans
* Small hidden items (coins, beads, small balls, pebbles)
* Timer(s)
* Tape to mark the starting line
* Paper towels or wipes for clean-up

**Preparation**

1. **Set up the Game Area**: Place the large buckets in front of each team. Fill the buckets with the gross materials (goo, liquid, or baked beans).
2. **Hide the Items**: Bury the small items (coins, beads, small balls, pebbles) inside the goo or liquid mixture so they are not immediately visible.
3. **Mark the Starting Line**: Use tape to mark a starting line a few metres away from the buckets.
4. **Prepare the Timer**: Have a leader at each station to time the kids for each round

**Instructions**

1. **Divide into Teams**: Split the kids into teams. Each team should have an equal number of players.
2. **Equip with Gloves**: Give each team a pair of rubber washing up gloves. Each child will need to wear gloves to handle the gross materials.
3. **Explain the Rules**:
	* Each child will run from the starting line to the bucket, where they must use their gloved hands to find one of the hidden items (coins, beads, small balls, or pebbles) in the goo, liquid, or baked beans.
	* They only have 10 seconds to search for the item, so they must be quick!
	* After finding one item, they must race back to the starting line and tag the next teammate to go.
	* Once one child finishes, they must swap gloves with the next player.
4. **Start the Relay**: The first player on each team will put on the gloves, run to the buckets and start searching.
5. **Repeat the Relay**: Each child can only search for 10 seconds. Then the player must race back and tag the next child in line, who will also put on the gloves and continue the relay.
6. **Continue Until All Players Have Had a Turn**: The game continues until every player on the team has had a turn to search for an item. The team that successfully finds all items in the shortest amount of time wins!

#### Introduction:

Say: *We are looking at how people encounter Jesus.*

*Over the last few weeks, we have spoken about Encounters. Encounter means to meet.*

*People met Jesus when He walked on earth - but people also have experience with Jesus today. Over the next few weeks, we’re going to look at people who met Jesus ‘back then’ and people who meet Jesus ‘now’. Last week we talked about Jesus calming the storm.*

*Today we are going to talk about Jesus healing a man who had a skin disease.*

Put on a pair of washing up gloves (like the ones from the game).

Say:

*When I am going to put my hands near something gross, I always wear gloves! Like you guys did when you were searching in the buckets. We don’t want to touch things that are dirty, smelly, gooey, mushy, messy or things that might make us sick.*

*Today’s story is about a man with a contagious skin disease. Not only did his skin look really awful, but because other people could catch it, no one wanted to go anywhere near him. If they did, I am sure they would have wanted to wear gloves to protect themselves.*

*The skin disease is called leprosy and today’s story is about a man healed by Jesus. The special part of this story though is that Jesus touched him. We’re going to read this story now.*

#### Then (Gospel Encounter): Jesus Heals a Man with a Skin Disease - Matthew 8:1-4

Each week, we look at an Encounter Jesus had with someone in the Gospels. We provide two options for you to share this story. The children can break into small groups and follow the Bible Discovery Method (great for older primary school aged children) or, you can read the story to the whole group, adding comments to help with the flow of the story.

The third option, if you have younger children and the story can be found in a children's bible, is to read from that.

1. **Bible Discovery : Matthew 8:1-4**

If your group size is bigger than 10, break off into smaller groups. Give a Bible to each group and read together Matthew 8:1-4.

Go through the following Bible Discovery Method steps:

* Read the passage out loud together
* Re-tell the story together in your own words (the kids should all contribute to the re-telling)
* Ask: what did you notice in the story? What was your favourite part?
* Ask: what might you do differently because of this story? Or, who could you tell this story to?
1. **Bible Story: Jesus Heals a Man with a Skin Disease, Matthew 8:1-4**

If you have a large group, tell the story to the whole group as follows:

Read:

8 Jesus came down from the mountainside. Large crowds followed him.

*Say: This bit of teaching is from what we call “The Sermon on the Mount”. A large crowd had gathered around Jesus to hear His teaching.*

Read:

2 A man who had a skin disease came and got down on his knees in front of Jesus. He said, “Lord, if you are willing to make me ‘clean,’ you can do it.”

3 Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing to do it,” he said. “Be ‘clean’!” Right away the man was healed of his skin disease. 4 Then Jesus said to him, “Don’t tell anyone. Go and show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift Moses commanded. It will be a witness to everyone.”

*Say: Jesus touches him! He doesn’t just wave his finger or speak the words (like with the storm). Jesus heals the man by touching him.*

*This man has been isolated. He has been separated from people. He was always worried he would infect others.*

*Here Jesus reaches out a hand and touches him. This heals him physically but it’s more than that - the man would have been transformed within (inside) too.*

####

#### **Now (Life Encounter): Watch** Sam Wachiuri’s Story (Video 5)

##### [Download the video here.](https://player.vimeo.com/progressive_redirect/download/1057322273/rendition/1080p/encounter_kids_05_-_sam_wachiuri%E2%80%99s_story%20%281080p%29.mp4?loc=external&signature=a2ce6c7ec479aeb2c6744827cd0329610be94a5fc0644c4f288af9da3cbd195e&user_id=4608299) Video Transcript:

*Hey there friends! I’m Miah and I want to share an incredible story with you today about how Jesus can change lives, no matter where you come from or what you've been through. This is the story of a man named* ***Sam Wachiuri****, and it shows us just how powerful a simple hug can be.*

*Sam left home when he was just 12 years old. He moved to a* ***big city*** *called Nairobi in Kenya, hoping to make a life for himself. But things didn’t go as planned. He got involved with gangs, started causing trouble, and even got caught stealing.*

*He ended up in and out of jail a lot. One time, Sam tried going to church, thinking maybe this would help him turn things around. But when he got there, he was told* ***he wasn’t welcome****. They said he was unsafe and couldn’t come in. Imagine how that would have felt – like Jesus was for everyone except him.*

*And so for a long time, Sam believed that Jesus was for other people, but not for him. He felt unloved, unforgivable, and like he didn’t belong. He lived this way for many years, in and out of jail and sleeping on the streets.*

*Then something interesting started happening. A Christian man started to show up every Sunday to the community that he was a part of. He didn’t preach or judge, he just brought snacks and* ***tea****, week after week.*

*One day, Sam decided to go to church with him. It wasn’t because he wanted to – but because he wanted to thank this man for all he had done for the community.*

*This time, Sam wasn’t turned away. When he walked in, the whole atmosphere was different. People were kind, and for the first time in his life, Sam felt like he might belong.*

*He went forward for prayer, desperately wanting something to change. He was ready for his life to be different. And then, something amazing happened. A woman prayed for him, and then* ***she hugged him****. Now, Sam was dirty, smelt bad, and had a really bad reputation. But this woman didn’t care. She gave him a hug, and that hug changed his life forever!*

*Sam kept going to church, week after week. And after months of hearing about Jesus, one day he felt a fire inside him. He knew he was ready. He wanted to give his whole life to Christ.*

*Today,* ***Sam is a Pastor****, and he’s become a living example of how no one is too far beyond the reach of God. Sam learned this powerful lesson: No one has ever gone too far beyond the reach of God. The hand of God can reach anyone.*

*Sam’s story reminds us that Jesus doesn’t turn anyone away. No matter what you've done or where you’ve been,* ***He loves you****, and – even something as simple as a hug – can change everything. Just like it did for Sam.*

#### Small Group Reflection time:

Ask:

1. Why do you think Jesus touched the man with leprosy?
2. When do you like someone to give you a hug or hold your hand- and when do you not like it?
3. How do you think the man with the skin disease’s life would have changed after his encounter with Jesus?
4. How is Sam’s story similar?
5. Can you think of anyone in your life who might need a hug?

#### Re-Cap:

In both stories, physical touch played an important role. A hand or a hug shows people that they are worthy. No one is beyond the loving reach and touch of God and we also need to show that to others.

Sometimes it’s a high five, a pat on the back or a hug - but when we touch people, we can show them God’s love!

#### Prayer:

Dear God, help me to see people the way you do and to never be afraid of someone because they might be dirty, different, difficult or unkind. Everyone is loved by you. Help me to show your love to others. Amen.

#### Activity: Play Handball

Mark out some four square handball courts and play handball in small groups to finish.

**Materials needed:**

* Tennis or hand balls (one for each court)
* Tape or chalk to mark the courts

### WEEK 06 - TREASURE

#### Big idea:

Idols are anything we put our faith in other than God. Jesus warns against idols because they will never satisfy.

#### Getting started: Make a Paper Cup Trophy

**Materials Needed**

* Paper cups - 2 per child (same size)
* Craft paint (any colour)
* Paintbrushes
* Glue (craft glue or hot glue) or tape
* Scissors
* Gold or silver foil paper (optional, for decoration)
* Markers or stickers (optional for personalising)
* Ribbon or string (optional for decoration)
* Decorative items (glitter, stickers, etc. for extra decoration)

Follow instructions to make a Paper Cup Trophy here: <https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Trophy#Making-a-Paper-Cup-Trophy>

#### Memory Verse Re-Cap: To do while kids are completing the craft

**Materials needed:**

* Small awards. These might be paper certificates, plastic medals or trophies, lollies, a stamp or a sticker

Ask: *who remembers our memory verse?*

Get each child to recite it and give them an award if they have it memorised.

#### Introduction:

**Materials needed:**

Bring in and display as many of your trophies or medals as you have. Perhaps borrow some from others if you don’t have many/any of your own.

Alternative is to print and display photos of all kinds of trophies and awards.

Say:

*Here are my/some trophies and awards. They are for all kinds of different things (talk through the display).*

*Now all these awards can make me feel really really good about myself which is OK but it can also be a bit dangerous. You see, if I spend my whole life trying to win awards and trophies, then I might miss out on other good things God has for me.*

*The Bible says a lot about idols. Idols are anything that we chase after and want. It might be money, cars, a great job, popularity, a friendship, a toy or even, winning awards. But the Bible says we need to be careful not to idolise things above God.*

*Today we are going to talk about someone who had lots of money and we’ll hear the story of a phenomenal basketballer called Courtney.*

#### Then (Gospel Encounter): Rich Young Ruler - Mark 10:17-23

Each week, we look at an Encounter Jesus had with someone in the Gospels. We provide two options for you to share this story. The children can break into small groups and follow the Bible Discovery Method (great for older primary school aged children) or, you can read the story to the whole group, adding comments to help with the flow of the story.

The third option, if you have younger children and the story can be found in a children's bible, is to read from that.

1. **Bible Discovery: Mark 10:17-23**

If your group size is bigger than 10, break off into smaller groups. Give a Bible to each group and read together Mark 10:17-23.

Go through the following Bible Discovery Method steps:

* Read the passage out loud together
* Re-tell the story together in your own words (the kids should all contribute to the re-telling)
* Ask: what did you notice in the story? What was your favourite part?
* Ask: what might you do differently because of this story? Or, who could you tell this story to?
1. **Bible Story: Rich People and the Kingdom of God, Mark 10:17-23**

If you have a large group, tell the story to the whole group as follows:

Read:

17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him. He fell on his knees before Jesus. “Good teacher,” he said, “what must I do to receive eternal life?”

*Say: A man comes to Jesus to ask about eternal life. What is ‘eternal life’? Does anyone here know?*

Read:

18 “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good except God. 19 You know what the commandments say. ‘Do not murder. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not be a false witness. Do not cheat. Honor your father and mother.’ ”

*Say: Jesus’ first answer is to reiterate the 10 Commandments (*[*Exodus 20:12–16*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exod.20.12-Exod.20.16&version=NIRV)*;* [*Deuteronomy 5:16–20*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deut.5.16-Deut.5.20&version=NIRV)*).*

Read:

20 “Teacher,” he said, “I have obeyed all those commandments since I was a boy.”

*Say: He says he has obeyed all of those.*

Read:

21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. “You are missing one thing,” he said. “Go and sell everything you have. Give the money to those who are poor. You will have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me.”

22 The man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he was very rich.

*Say: So Jesus tells him he must sell everything. And he goes away sad.*

Read:

23 Jesus looked around. He said to his disciples, “How hard it is for rich people to enter God’s kingdom!”

*Say: Jesus was pointing out that we cannot serve Him and also love other things… For this man, it was money but it might also be: fame, sports, friends, work, goals, dreams.*

*Eternal life is so much more important than money, sport, being famous. Having eternal life is so important (it is the biggest treasure!) so that we can be in heaven with Jesus one day.*

#### **Now (Life Encounter):** Courtney Delks

##### [Download the video here](https://player.vimeo.com/progressive_redirect/download/1057351339/rendition/1080p/encounter_kids_06_-__courtney_delks%27_story%20%281080p%29.mp4?loc=external&signature=6933f2ae00078f9d6fafb40f074f8f3601b310fcefb93b083093e7c4876d5fa7&user_id=4608299). Video Transcript:

*Hi friends, it’s Miah here, and today I’m going to tell you the story of someone who’s not just amazing at basketball, but also someone who’s learned a lot about real strength and achievement. Her name is* ***Courtney Delks****, but you can call her by her nickname - “Short Court”.*

*She is pretty short for a basketball player - but that didn’t hold her back. After spending years trying to beat her older brother on all different kinds of fields and courts, she eventually settled on* ***basketball*** *and pursued that as her passion. She was always looking for ways to get better!*

*On the outside, it looked like she had it all. She was awarded Miss Basketball in the US state of Indiana in 2010, everyone was cheering for her, and she seemed unstoppable. Courtney was at the top of her game, the best ever. But then, she missed out on her dream of being drafted into the big leagues. Being drafted is when you make it onto a professional basketball team!*

*Have you ever tried out or auditioned for something and not gotten in?* ***It’s just so disappointing****. All that work and effort to then not be selected.*

*And on top of that, things at home were hard for Short Court. She had a big decision to make: should she leave her family behind and play basketball overseas, or stay at home and be there for her family?*

*It was a tough choice. Courtney had worked so hard her whole life to get to the top, and she was so close. But in the end, she* ***chose to step away*** *from the dream of being a professional basketball player so she could be with her family and loved ones.*

*But that wasn’t the end of her story! Courtney’s compassionate heart for others led her to make an incredible difference. She’s spent the last few years* ***helping her friend Carinne****, who was in a terrible motorcycle accident in 2020. The crash should’ve taken Carinne’s life, but through prayer, therapy, and hard work, she’s been making a miracle comeback. Carinne is proving what it really means to compete—****it’s not about winning a trophy*** *or becoming a professional sportsperson. It’s doing what God calls you to do, even when things are really hard.*

*Now, Short Court is using her basketball skills to train Carinne so she can live an independent life again. Courtney is showing God’s love through her actions, helping others grow stronger, and reminding us that the real victory isn’t always making your own dreams come true —it’s in how we* ***love and look after others.***

#### Small Group Reflection time:

Questions for discussion:

1. What kind of idols do you think people have? What do they want soooo badly?
2. How would you feel if Jesus asked you to sell everything you have?
3. What would be the hardest thing in your life to give up?
4. What stood out to you in Courtney's story? Do you think becoming a professional basketball player would have been hard to give up?

#### Re-cap:

We need to always check our heart and make sure we aren’t idolising the things of this world.

#### Prayer:

Dear Lord, please help me to always put you first and not let other things (like possessions/toys, sport, popularity, friends, TV shows) become more important than my relationship with you. Amen

#### Activity: Ping Pong Bounce

**Materials Needed:**

* Plastic cups (one for each team competing at a time)
* Ping pong balls (at least 5 per team, plus extras)
* Masking tape
* Open space (large enough for the activity)

**Preparation**:

1. **Set up the cups:** Place one plastic cup for each team at one end of the room, evenly spaced apart.
2. **Mark the starting line:** Use masking tape to create a line on the floor, about 2–3 metres away from the cups.
3. **Organise teams:** Divide the children into teams of 4 or 5, depending on group size.
4. **Distribute materials:** Give each team at least 5 ping pong balls for the game.

**Instructions**:

1. Have each team line up behind the masking tape starting line.
2. Explain the goal: Each child will take turns trying to bounce a ping pong ball into their team’s cup.

**Gameplay:**

* + The first player in each line takes one attempt to bounce the ball into the cup.
	+ If the ball goes in, leave it in the cup.
	+ Whether successful or not, the player moves to the back of their team’s line.
	+ The next player steps up for their turn.
	+ Continue cycling through the team members until one team fills their cup with say, 5 balls.
	+ Announce the winning team and celebrate their success!

**Optional**:

* If you have a large group, run several rounds, with each team competing against different teams.
* Have a grand final with the winners of each round.
* Encourage cheering and positive support for all participants to keep the atmosphere fun and engaging.

###

### WEEK 07 - DESPERATE

#### Big Idea:

Desperate people have and always will reach out for Jesus. We need to love our brothers and sisters to show Christ's love to a desperate world.

#### Getting Started: Collaborative Art Project with Memory Verse

**Materials Needed:**

* Large sheets of butcher’s paper (one per group of 6–8 children)
* Stickers
* Textas, pencils, and crayons
* Other art supplies (e.g., stamps, glitter, stencils, etc.)
* Printed memory verse (or write it on the paper)

**Preparation:**

1. **Set up the space:** Roll out a large sheet of butcher’s paper on the floor or tape it to a wall. Prepare multiple sheets if you have a large group and plan to divide them into smaller teams of 6–8 kids. In the centre, glue or write the memory verse.
2. **Arrange supplies:** Place stickers, textas, pencils, and other art supplies near each sheet for easy access.

**Instructions:**

1. **Divide the kids into groups:** Assign 6–8 children per sheet of butcher’s paper.
2. **Explain the activity:** Encourage the kids to work together to create one big artwork on their sheet of paper that reflects the memory verse. They can use the stickers, textas, and other art supplies however they like.
3. **Collaborate and create:** Let the kids enjoy making their masterpiece.
4. **Admire the artwork:** When the groups finish, have everyone step back to admire their shared creative work. Get each group to share more about their work of art.

#### Activity: The Human Knot

**Goal:** Undo the knot without letting go of hands

**Gameplay Instructions:**

1. Get the kids into a circle. Everyone stands shoulder to shoulder. You can also do this in smaller groups and add a competition aspect.
2. Everyone lifts their right hand and puts it towards the middle of the circle.
3. Everyone grabs the hand of someone else in the circle. They cannot hold hands with the person next to them.
4. Everyone lifts their left hand.
5. Everyone grabs the hand of someone else in the circle. (Not the same person as with the right hand.) They cannot hold hands with the person next to them.
6. The group has to untangle the knot without letting go of anyone’s hand.
7. Repeat the exercise and this time instruct them that they can’t talk. All communication has to be non-verbal.

#### Introduction:

Say: *We are looking at how people encounter Jesus.*

*Over the last few weeks, we have spoken about Encounters. Encounter means to meet.*

*People met Jesus when He walked on earth - but people also have experience with Jesus today. Some encounters happen unexpectedly - as we’ve spoken about. But sometimes - people find themselves desperate for God and they literally reach out for Him.*

*Today we are going to talk about people like that. People who met Jesus because they reached out.*

#### Then (Gospel Encounter): Woman with the Bleed - Luke 8:40-48

Each week, we look at an Encounter Jesus had with someone in the Gospels. We provide two options for you to share this story. The children can break into small groups and follow the Bible Discovery Method (great for older primary school aged children) or, you can read the story to the whole group, adding comments to help with the flow of the story.

The third option, if you have younger children and the story can be found in a children's bible, is to read from that.

1. **Bible Discovery: Luke 8:40-48**

If your group size is bigger than 10, break off into smaller groups. Give a Bible to each group and read together Luke 8:40-48.

Go through the following Bible Discovery Method steps:

* Read the passage out loud together
* Re-tell the story together in your own words (the kids should all contribute to the re-telling)
* Ask: what did you notice in the story? What was your favourite part?
* Ask: what might you do differently because of this story? Or, who could you tell this story to?
1. **Bible Story: Jesus Heals a Dead Girl and a Suffering Woman, Luke 8:40-48**

If you have a large group, tell the story to the whole group as follows:

Read:

**40** When Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed him. They were all expecting him. **41** Then a man named Jairus came. He was a synagogue leader. He fell at Jesus’ feet and begged Jesus to come to his house. **42** His only daughter was dying. She was about 12 years old. As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him.

**43** A woman was there who had a sickness that made her bleed. Her sickness had lasted for 12 years. No one could heal her. **44** She came up behind Jesus and touched the edge of his clothes. Right away her bleeding stopped.

*Say: This woman had been unwell for so long and had tried everything to get better. Just one touch of the edge of Jesus’ and she was healed!*

Read:

**45** “Who touched me?” Jesus asked. Everyone said they didn’t do it. Then Peter said, “Master, the people are crowding and pushing against you.”

**46** But Jesus said, “Someone touched me. I know that power has gone out from me.”

**47** The woman realised that people would notice her. Shaking with fear, she came and fell at his feet. In front of everyone, she told why she had touched him. She also told how she had been healed in an instant. **48** Then he said to her, “Dear woman, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.”

*Say: Jesus healed her physically but it was more than that.*

*He gave her a dignity she hadn’t known. He connected with her and called her “Dear woman”. He showed her she was important to Him.*

####

#### Now (Life Encounter): Watch Andrew Browning’s Story (Video 7)

##### [Download the video here](https://player.vimeo.com/progressive_redirect/download/1057351904/rendition/1080p/encounter_kids_07_-_andrew_browning%E2%80%99s_story%20%281080p%29.mp4?loc=external&signature=14c116f262fa3aaa7ab9a5888a90b049093c11d77cd2e086a95e7cd267cfac5c&user_id=4608299). Video Transcript:

*Hi everyone! It’s Miah with you again and I want to tell you a really cool story about a man named* ***Dr. Andrew Browning****. When Dr. Browning was just six years old—about the same age as some of you—he had a moment that changed his life forever.*

*One day, Andrew heard a missionary speaking at his church. She was a nurse who worked in Tanzania, Africa. She wasn’t just helping people feel better by healing their bodies; she was also telling them about Jesus. Andrew sat there on the floor of his church, listening to her story, and thought, Wow!* ***I want to do that.*** *I want to go to Africa and help heal people while also telling them about Jesus too.*

*And guess what? That’s exactly what he did! As he grew up, Andrew worked hard at school, studied medicine, and* ***became a doctor****. Then, he travelled to Africa, just like he dreamed when he was a kid.*

*Now, Dr. Browning spends his life helping women who really need him. Many of the women he helps are a lot like the woman in the Bible who pushed her way through the crowd and reached out to touch Jesus’ robe. She was hurting and was desperate for healing, and Jesus didn’t ignore her. He healed her and he also stopped to speak to her. It’s an amazing story of the power of Jesus to heal our bodies and our hearts.*

*Dr. Browning wants to be like Jesus by stopping to help women who feel broken, ashamed, or alone.* ***He wants to heal them and also show God’s love to them.***

*But that’s not all. Dr. Browning also helps women have their babies safely. In some countries if there isn’t good support, having a baby can be really dangerous. But Dr. Browning works hard to make sure* ***mums and babies*** *are cared for.*

*Dr. Browning says he does this because of God’s love.*

*1 John 4:19 says, “We love because God first loved us”.**God’s love isn’t something we keep to ourselves. It’s* ***meant to spill out into the world*** *to help others.*

*Dr. Browning is an amazing example of what it means to let God’s love shine through your life. Whether it’s fixing a woman’s body, helping them feel seen, or making sure a baby is born safely, he’s showing Jesus’ love to people every day. And he is showing it to people who are absolutely desperate for their life to change. How cool is that!*

#### Small Group Reflection time:

1. Find and read verse 1 John 4:21b “Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.”
2. Explore who their brothers and sisters might be.
3. Encourage the children to mention ways in which we can show our love and kindness to others. Try to draw out suggestions such as being polite, smiling at people, being friendly, helping someone, etc.
4. Ask the children if they have seen people shine with God’s love and if they would like to also.

####

#### Re-cap:

How we love is so important. People can encounter God through us when we love them the way Jesus loves.

#### Prayer:

Dear Lord, please help us to show our love and kindness to EVERYone. Help us to help people in need and to be caring. Amen.

####

#### Activity: Bandaging Up

**Materials needed:**

Many rolls of toilet paper for bandages

**Gameplay Instructions:**

Have a number of teams and ask each group for a volunteer who will be ‘helped’ with getting ‘bandaged up’. Give each team a couple of rolls of toilet paper. Whichever team can cover their patient up with bandages in 2 minutes the most wins the game. Make sure each child gets a chance to help with the toilet paper bandaging. Each patient should look like a mummy at the end.

###

### WEEK 08 - COST

#### Big Idea:

Jesus said that to follow Him isn’t always going to be an easy thing to do.

####

#### Getting started: Countries Game

**Materials needed:**

A4 sheets of paper and textas

**Gameplay Instructions:**

1. Ask “Who has lived overseas?” Or “What country are you from?”
2. Get kids to raise their hands to answer your question.
3. Write down different countries in large letters where they are from on each A4 sheet. Add travel/holiday locations if you need to add in a few more. Ask kids something unique/identifiable about their country and ask all the kids to remember these ‘facts’.

E.g. National animal, national food or landmark.

1. Stagger the sheets around the room on the floor as ‘destinations’. Have the kids poised and ready as you call out a country’s ‘fact’ and they have to run to the country where it is from.
2. Eg Call out “Pasta” and they run to the Italy sheet. Call out “Panda” and they run to the sheet for China.

#### Introduction: Open Doors and World Watch List

Talk about the ministry of Open Doors and look at the world watch list map. Talk about living in other places in the world. <https://www.opendoors.org.au/>

Take note of countries that you listed during the activity. Are any on the [World Watch list](https://www.opendoors.org.au/world-watch-list/)? Talk with the children about what it might be like to be a Christian there today.

#### Prayer: Persecuted Church

Gather the kids into smaller groups (ideally with a leader in each group) and encourage the kids to pray for the persecuted church. They could select one part of the world and just pray for it.

####

#### Memory Verse

Ask: *Can anyone remember the memory verse?*

*Let’s all say it together 3 times.*

Once you’ve repeated in three times, mention that today you’re going to again look at people who had encounters with Jesus. Prompt the kids to look out for people who become a ‘new creation’ because that’s what happens after we meet Jesus.

#### Introduction:

Say: *We are looking at how people encounter Jesus.*

*Over the last few weeks, we have spoken about Encounters. Encounter means to meet.*

*People met Jesus when he walked on earth - but people also have experience with Jesus today. Over the next few weeks, we’re going to look at people who met Jesus ‘back then’ and people who meet Jesus ‘now’. Last week we talked about a woman who had been bleeding for a long time.*

*Today we are going to talk about two of Jesus’s disciples, James and John.*

#### Then (Gospel Encounter): James and John Ask Jesus for a Favour, Mark 10:35-45

If you have a large group, tell the story to the whole group as follows:

Each week, we look at an Encounter Jesus had with someone in the Gospels. We provide two options for you to share this story. The children can break into small groups and follow the Bible Discovery Method (great for older primary school aged children) or, you can read the story to the whole group, adding comments to help with the flow of the story.

The third option, if you have younger children and the story can be found in a children's bible, is to read from that.

**a) Bible Discovery: James and John Ask Jesus for a Favour**

If your group size is bigger than 10, break off into smaller groups. Give a Bible to each group and read together Mark 10:35-45.

Go through the following Bible Discovery Method steps:

* Read the passage out loud together
* Re-tell the story together in your own words (the kids should all contribute to the re-telling)
* Ask: what did you notice in the story? What was your favourite part?
* Ask: what might you do differently because of this story? Or, who could you tell this story to?

**b) Bible Story: James and John Ask Jesus for a Favour, Mark 10:35-45**

If you have a large group, tell the story to the whole group as follows:

Read:

35 James and John came to Jesus. They were the sons of Zebedee. “Teacher,” they said, “we would like to ask you for a favour.”

36 “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked.

37 They replied, “Let one of us sit at your right hand in your glorious kingdom. Let the other one sit at your left hand.”

*Say: Come to Jesus to ask if they can sit at right and left.*

*They want the place of honour and to appear to be the most important disciples. They wanted the best seats in the house.*

Read:

38 “You don’t know what you’re asking for,” Jesus said. “Can you drink the cup of suffering I drink? Or can you go through the baptism of suffering I must go through?”

*Say: Jesus replies: can you endure the suffering I will?*

Read:

39 “We can,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “You will drink the cup I drink. And you will go through the baptism I go through. 40 But it is not for me to say who will sit at my right or left hand. These places belong to those they are prepared for.”

 *Say: The cup Jesus was talking about was about the suffering He was about to endure. He was talking about the persecution He would soon face and His upcoming death on the cross. Were John and James prepared for the opposition too?*

#### **Now (Life Encounter):**  Watch Ladan Nouri’s Story (Video 8)

##### [Download the video here](https://player.vimeo.com/progressive_redirect/download/1057355189/rendition/1080p/encounter_kids_08_-_ladan_nouri%E2%80%99s_story%20%281080p%29.mp4?loc=external&signature=b36e0b1d9dee6132b9c6b958ab9ebfcc17e4333df7f33b3e2080b752ea8a3a51&user_id=4608299). Video Transcript:

*Hey guys, it’s Miah here! Today I want to share with you an incredible story about a woman named* ***Ladan Nouri****. She grew up in Iran, a country where most people follow the Muslim faith. Ladan's family was Muslim and she tried really hard to connect with God through her faith. But no matter how much she prayed or followed the rules, she felt like something was missing.*

*One day, Ladan did something brave. She walked into a* ***Christian church service****. She wasn’t sure what to expect, but as soon as she stepped inside, she felt something amazing: God’s love. It was like nothing she’d ever felt before. Ladan realized she had found what she’d been searching for her whole life!*

*She started going to church every week and loved learning about Jesus so she started* ***reading the Bible*** *for herself. The more she read, the more she realized how much Jesus loved her. So Ladan became a Christian, and her life was completely changed.*

*But - like I said - this wasn’t a safe country to follow Jesus. Ladan found out that Christians were being arrested. It became really dangerous, and Ladan knew she couldn’t stay. So, she packed up her things and ran away to* ***Turkey****, hoping to find safety and a better life.*

*In Turkey, Ladan kept growing in her faith and even went to Bible College to learn how to share Jesus with others. Yet even though she was safe in Turkey, deep down Ladan couldn’t shake this feeling in her heart:* ***God was calling her to go back to Iran****.*

*It sounded crazy, right? Going back to a place where being a Christian was dangerous? But Ladan knew that the people in Iran needed to hear about Jesus. She couldn’t ignore God’s call, so she went back, even though it was risky.*

*When she returned, something amazing happened. Everywhere she went,* ***people wanted to hear about Jesus****. Ladan said that 9 out of 10 people she talked to were eager to know more about Him. More and more people started coming to faith because of her courage to share about Jesus.*

*But it wasn’t easy. As more people became Christians, there was also more pressure and danger.* ***Ladan had to trust God in every step, even when it felt scary.***

*Ladan’s story reminds us of how powerful God’s love is. It’s a love so big that it can change lives, cross borders, and even overcome fear. And just like Ladan, you and I can share God’s love with the people around us. It might feel hard and we might be scared people will reject us - but, let’s* ***pray for courag****e. We need to be brave and share Jesus even when it feels difficult because we want others to encounter God’s love too!*

#### Small Group Reflection time:

**Materials Needed:**

* A6 pieces of cardboard (one per child)
* Markers, pencils, or crayons
* A globe, map, or smartphone/tablet to look up countries
* Optional: Examples of prayers or prompts to help kids get started

**Instructions:**

In small groups, have the kids choose a country from the [*World Watch List*](https://www.opendoors.org.au/world-watch-list/). Give each child an A6 piece of cardboard and ask them to draw the shape of their chosen country on one side (using a globe or phone for reference). Encourage them to write the name of the country and make it look really beautiful.

On the back, have them write a prayer for the people in that country, then encourage them to take the card home and display it in their room as a reminder to keep praying.

#### **Re-cap:**

Many important things in life are hard (being good at sport, studying, working) and Jesus said that following him would be costly.

#### Prayer:

Dear Jesus, help us to be brave like Jesus and people like Ladan from Iran. Help us to stay strong in our faith and to tell others about Christ. We know it may not always be easy, but we are so thankful you help us and guide us by your Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### Activity: Standing Tall - Pool Noodle Game

**Materials needed:**

5 pool noodles

**Gameplay Instructions:**

* Have 5 pool noodles and break the kids into groups of 5. If you have more pool noodles, break into bigger groups, as space permits.
* Have one group of kids stand in a circle and give them each a noodle.
* Have the remaining kids seated, like an audience.
* Demonstrate standing a pool noodle on its end for the class.
* Have kids stand their noodle on its end and then when you say “SWAP!” they all have to rotate right to grab the next noodle that has been left standing, keep them formed as a circle, decide how big the circle is after assessing the skill set of the group. The circle should be large enough for the noodle to start to fall by the time a child gets to it (maybe about a metre apart).
* Keep saying “SWAP” and get faster and faster as they gain confidence. Get the other kids to count how many rotations they can get and to cheer the team on.
* The team with the most passes without dropping a noodle wins.

###

### WEEK 09 - GRACE (Church Campaign Week 5)

#### **Big Idea:**

The cross represents deep sacrifice and unmerited favour because Jesus was innocent but went to the cross for others, for us.

#### Getting started: Pass the Blame

This game is a new take on ‘pass the parcel’ and it helps kids explore the idea of taking the blame and paying the cost for others in a fun and thought-provoking way.

**Materials Needed:**

* A soft ball or beanbag
* A set of "crimes and punishments" written on small pieces of paper. Some example suggestions are below but they are supposed to be lighthearted and silly (e.g., hop on one leg, do 10 jumping jacks, sing a funny song, etc.)

**Instructions:**

1. Gather the Group:

Have the kids sit in a circle and explain the rules. Say:

*There will be two rounds of this game. It’s like pass the parcel but when the music stops, you need to choose a card from the centre of the circle. You read it aloud and it will explain a crime you have committed and the punishment for that crime. But the trick is - you get to choose someone else from the circle to take the blame and do the punishment on your behalf but you must select someone who hasn’t already taken the blame for someone else.*

1. Start the music and pass the ball around.

When the music stops, the child holding the ball picks a card from the pile and reads it aloud. They then choose someone to take the blame and enact the punishment.

1. Continue the Game:

Repeat the process for several rounds - trying to give most if not all of the kids a chance to participate

1. Start Round Two:

Say: In round two, we’re going to do it again but this time, instead of someone being nominated to take the blame, someone needs to volunteer or offer. Each time we’ll wait for someone to offer to take the punishment.

1. Start the pass the parcel again and continue until enough kids have had a turn
2. Debrief: Ask the kids to reflect how it felt to be handed a punishment they didn’t deserve and how it compared to offering to take the blame?

**Suggestions for Crimes and Punishment to put on cards:**

* *You stole an ice-block from the school canteen. Do 10 star jumps.*
* *You broke your sister's brand new skateboard. Drop and do 5 push ups.*
* *You forgot to bring your homework to school. Run around the room three times.*
* *You didn’t show up to school. Sing the first verse of the national anthem out loud.*
* *You kicked a soccer ball and it broke your bedroom window. Do a breakdance routine for 30 seconds.*
* *You made a kid at school feel sad and left out. Make up a song and sing it out loud to say sorry.*

#### Memory Verse Circle

Gather the kids in a circle or remain from previous activity.

Ask: *hands up who remembers our memory verse.*

Say*: We’re going to go around the circle and repeat the memory verse together. Each person will say just one word of the verse and then hi-five the person to their right, who will say the next word. If you don’t know what the next part is, say PASS.*

Repeat the activity until:

1. The whole verse has been recited correctly.
2. Everyone had had a turn.
3. Or, the verse has been recited without anyone saying ‘pass’.

#### Introduction:

Say: *We are looking at how people encounter Jesus.*

*Over the last few weeks, we have spoken about Encounters. Encounter means to meet.*

*People met Jesus when he walked on earth - but people also have experience with Jesus today. We’ve been looking at people who met Jesus ‘back then’ and people who meet Jesus ‘now’. Last week we talked about two of Jesus’s disciples, James and John.*

*Today we are going to talk about the thief on the cross next to Jesus.*

#### Then (Gospel Encounter): Thief on the Cross - Luke 23:32-43

Each week, we look at an Encounter Jesus had with someone in the Gospels. We provide two options for you to share this story. The children can break into small groups and follow the Bible Discovery Method (great for older primary school aged children) or, you can read the story to the whole group, adding comments to help with the flow of the story.

The third option, if you have younger children and the story can be found in a children's bible, is to read from that.

1. **Bible Discovery: Thief on the Cross - Luke 23:32-43**

If your group size is bigger than 10, break off into smaller groups. Give a Bible to each group and read together Luke 23:32-43.

Go through the following Bible Discovery Method steps:

* Read the passage out loud together
* Re-tell the story together in your own words (the kids should all contribute to the re-telling)
* Ask: what did you notice in the story? What was your favourite part?
* Ask: what might you do differently because of this story? Or, who could you tell this story to?
1. **Bible Story: : Thief on the Cross - Luke 23:32-43**

If you have a large group, tell the story to the whole group as follows:

Read:

32 Two other men were also led out with Jesus to be killed. Both of them had broken the law. 33 The soldiers brought them to the place called the Skull. There they nailed Jesus to the cross. He hung between the two criminals. One was on his right and one was on his left. 34 Jesus said, “Father, forgive them. They don’t know what they are doing.” The soldiers divided up his clothes by casting lots.

*Say: Jesus went to the cross and was positioned between two criminals. But Jesus had never done anything wrong - He even forgave the soldiers taking His clothes whilst He was there hanging on the cross!*

Read:

35 The people stood there watching. The rulers even made fun of Jesus. They said, “He saved others. Let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

36 The soldiers also came up and poked fun at him. They offered him wine vinegar. 37 They said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

*Say: The people are mocking, shouting, dividing up his clothes.*

Read:

38 A written sign had been placed above him. It read,

This is the King of the Jews.

39 One of the criminals hanging there made fun of Jesus. He said, “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself! Save us!”

*Say: One thief made fun of Jesus and insisted that if he was God, he would save himself.*

Read:

40 But the other criminal scolded him. “Don’t you have any respect for God?” he said. “Remember, you are under the same sentence of death. 41 We are being punished fairly. We are getting just what our actions call for. But this man hasn’t done anything wrong.”

*Say: But the other seems to grasp who Jesus really was. He says: we are getting what we deserve. We are being punished as we should but Jesus is innocent.*

Read:

42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

*Say: Then he turns to Jesus and says: “Remember me!”*

Read:

43 Jesus answered him, “What I’m about to tell you is true. Today you will be with me in paradise.”

*Say: And Jesus accepts him into paradise/heaven right then and there, even though the man had been a thief!*

#### **Now (Life Encounter):** Watch Dwayne Jack’s Story (Video 9)

##### [Download the video here](https://player.vimeo.com/progressive_redirect/download/1057356561/rendition/1080p/encounter_kids_09_-_dwayne_jack%E2%80%99s_story%20%281080p%29.mp4?loc=external&signature=a6e3f7d15a0138e8d35a4243922964a75adc39ae968bee60e1841aa81003955f&user_id=4608299). Video Transcript:

*Hi everyone! It’s Miah here again and Today I’m going to tell you about someone whose life was completely turned around. His name is* ***Dwayne Jack****, and his story shows us how God’s grace can change our life by giving us so much more than what we deserve. Let me explain.*

*Dwayne grew up in a home in the west of London that wasn’t very happy. There was a lot of fighting,* ***shouting****, and arguing. He says it wasn’t a nice place to be and that he often felt lonely. He didn’t have anyone to turn to for comfort or help.*

*As he got older, Dwayne found friends in the wrong places. He joined a gang—the kind of group you’d call “the wrong crowd.” At just 13 years old, he had his first run-in with the police and* ***ended up in jail****. That wasn’t the last time, either. He spent most of his teenage years in and out of jail.*

*Back then, Dwayne couldn’t see a future for himself. He thought, I’ll either be dead or in jail for life by the time I’m 25. He had no dreams, no hope, and no way out—or so he thought.*

*But while he was in jail, something started to change - Dwayne started* ***going to Bible studies.*** *Volunteers would come in to run groups, and Dwayne joined in. At first, he was just curious, but the more he listened, the more he started to wonder: Could there really be a God? A God who is bigger than all of my mistakes?*

*Even though Dwayne was beginning to think about God, he was still stuck in his old ways. He kept committing crimes, going back to jail, and living a dangerous life. He even had two moments where he could have died—or at least been seriously hurt—but somehow, he survived. He knew it wasn’t just luck.*

*Then one day, Dwayne hit rock bottom. He woke up alone in a hotel room, miserable and* ***crying****. He felt like he had no one and nothing. He says it was the darkest moment of his life. He was so desperate for safety that all he wanted was to go back to prison.*

*And that’s what he did. He intentionally went and got himself in trouble so that he could go back to the place where he was safe and where he was able to think about God. When he went to prison this time, something was different. Dwayne completely surrendered.* ***He prayed to God with his whole heart*** *and gave up trying to do things his own way. That night after he prayed, something amazing happened.*

*Dwayne says he went to bed and felt his entire body start vibrating from head to toe. It was like* ***joy and happiness were filling every part of him****. He couldn’t explain it, but he knew it was God. In that moment, everything changed.*

*Even though Dwayne was still in prison, he felt free for the first time in his life. He started praying, meditating, and sharing Jesus with others. He avoided the people and situations that might trip him up and pull him back into his old life.*

*Dwayne became a completely* ***new person*** *because he let the Spirit of God take over his life. And that same God who changed Dwayne’s life can change ours too.*

*No matter how messy or broken things feel, God’s love is bigger. And - it doesn’t matter how many mistakes we’ve made or how far away we get from God, his grace and forgiveness are always available to us.*

*Dwayne didn’t have to make up for all his mistakes. He didn’t get what he deserved. Instead, all he needed to do was to pray and surrender his life to God.*

*Because Jesus died on the cross, our mistakes have all been* ***paid for by Jesus****. It’s like he went to jail on our behalf and now, we have full access to the love and grace of God. How cool is that?!*

#### Small Group Reflection time:

Questions you might like to discuss:

1. Why do you think Jesus said to the thief “Today you will be with me in paradise”?
2. Do you think Jesus really can forgive Dwayne? Why?
3. What would help Dwayne live for Jesus from now on?
4. Is it hard to ask Jesus to change your life?

#### Re-cap:

We don’t get what we deserve, Jesus died on the cross for us so that we could receive God’s grace and forgiveness. We just need to surrender our lives to God and ask for His forgiveness.

#### Prayer:

Dear God, thank you that because your son Jesus died on the cross for us, you forgive us for our sins. Please forgive us for our sins (the things we have done wrong) and change our lives to be more like Jesus. Amen.

#### Activity: Heads Up

**Materials needed:**

5 hats/bandanas, about 20 pictures of items (depending on size of group and time permitted), laminated pictures would work best, or those stuck to cardboard.

**Gameplay Instructions:**

* Stand 5 kids out the front with a bandana or hat on their heads.
* Tuck in a picture of an item/person in their hat or bandana. Only the ‘audience’ sees the item/person but can’t tell the people out the front.
* Each child out the front takes a turn asking a question about their item/person until each person guesses it.
* Examples of items/people pictures for guessing: a mouse, ball, horse, car, book, TV, flower, tree, the pastor, a baby, a police officer etc
* Example questions could be like “Am I living or am I a thing?”, “Am I a person or an animal?”, “Am I a toy?”
* Game continues until the person guesses what is written on their card
* Continue so that most/all children get a turn

###

### WEEK 10 - REDEMPTION (Church Campaign Week 6)

#### Big Idea:

Jesus’ death on the cross was not the end of the story. The stone to Jesus’ tomb was rolled away. He is alive. This was an amazing and miraculous surprise ending for Jesus’ disciples and friends. As we encounter God, he can also change our story and give us an amazing new life in him!

####

#### Getting started: Surprise Endings

**Materials Needed:**

* A list of fun and creative story prompts (examples provided below).
* Optional: A small object (like a talking stick) to pass around to indicate whose turn it is.

**Preparation:**

1. Write down or memorise a few starting story prompts that are age-appropriate and engaging for the group.
2. Arrange the children in a circle where everyone can see each other.
3. Decide on the order in which children will participate (clockwise or random).

**Instructions:**

1. Introduce the Game:

Gather the children and say:
*We’re going to create a story together, but here’s the fun part: the story will keep changing as we go, and where it ends will be completely different from where it started! Everyone will get a turn to add their own twist or surprise to the story.*

1. Set the Rules:

Each person gets 15–30 seconds to add their part to the story.

Encourage creativity and silliness—there’s no right or wrong way to add to the story!

Remind everyone to listen carefully so their part makes sense with what came before.

If a child gets stuck, encourage them gently or let them pass their turn if needed.

1. Start the Story:

Pick a fun opening prompt to get started (see below for ideas).

1. Go Around the Circle:

Pass the "talking stick" (if using one) to the first child. Let them add one sentence or a short piece to the story. Continue around the circle, ensuring each child has a chance to contribute.

1. Wrap Up:

When the story starts to feel long or everyone has had a turn, bring it to an end. You can do this by saying, “Okay, last turn! Let’s wrap up the story!”

End with a cheer for everyone’s creativity.

**Example Story Prompts:**

* A robot woke up one morning and realized it could feel emotions…
* A pirate ship was sailing on chocolate milk instead of water…
* A superhero discovered they had the power to talk to animals, but only fish...
* A group of kids found a mysterious glowing box in their backyard…
* A dog decided to go to school to learn how to read…

#### Activity: Bowls

**Materials needed:**

Ping pong balls, permanent markers, object to roll towards (like a stack of kid’s bibles)

**Gameplay Instructions:**

1. Have each child mark a ping pong ball with their initials.
2. Place an object such as a stack of kids bibles, down one end.
3. Get the kids one by one to stand behind a line and to roll their ball towards the object.
4. The goal is to get your ball as close to the object as possible.
5. If you have a small group, they could all roll their ball at the same time and you could have several rounds.

#### Memory Verse Party

Set up a party table in the corner of the room. Add a table cloth, decorations, party food and special cups. Ask the kids to find a partner or break the kids into pairs. Say that they need to work together to remember the memory verse as a pair (have leaders ready to help give prompts if needed). Then, each pair is asked to recite the memory verse to the leader as the special ‘password’ to the party.

Celebrate together at the table with party food and congratulate the kids on remembering the verse this term.

#### Introduction:

Say: *We are looking at how people encounter Jesus.*

*Over the last few weeks, we have spoken about Encounters. Encounter means to meet.*

*People met Jesus when he walked on earth - but people also have experience with Jesus today. Over the next few weeks, we’re going to look at people who met Jesus ‘back then’ and people who meet Jesus ‘now’. Last week we talked about the thief on the cross next to Jesus.*

*Today we are going to talk about how Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene after He died.*

####

#### Then (Gospel Encounter): Mary Magdalene - John 20:11-18

Each week, we look at an Encounter Jesus had with someone in the Gospels. We provide two options for you to share this story. The children can break into small groups and follow the Bible Discovery Method (great for older primary school aged children) or, you can read the story to the whole group, adding comments to help with the flow of the story.

The third option, if you have younger children and the story can be found in a children's bible, is to read from that.

1. **Bible Discovery: Mary Magdalene**

If your group size is bigger than 10, break off into smaller groups. Give a Bible to each group and read together John 20:11-18.

Go through the following Bible Discovery Method steps:

* Read the passage out loud together
* Re-tell the story together in your own words (the kids should all contribute to the re-telling)
* Ask: what did you notice in the story? What was your favourite part?
* Ask: what might you do differently because of this story? Or, who could you tell this story to?
1. **Bible Story:**  **Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene, John 20:11-18**

If you have a large group, tell the story to the whole group as follows:

Read:

11 But Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she cried, she bent over to look into the tomb. 12 She saw two angels dressed in white. They were seated where Jesus’ body had been. One of them was where Jesus’ head had been laid. The other sat where his feet had been placed.

*Say: Mary Magdalene was very upset that Jesus had died on the cross. She came to the tomb to get Jesus’ body ready to be buried, but He wasn;t there! She was greeted by two angels instead!*

Read:

13 They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

“They have taken my Lord away,” she said. “I don’t know where they have put him.” 14 Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn’t realise that it was Jesus.

15 He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?”

She thought he was the gardener. So she said, “Sir, did you carry him away? Tell me where you put him. Then I will go and get him.”

16 Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him. Then she cried out in the Aramaic language, “Rabboni!” Rabboni means Teacher.

*Say: Then she recognised Him and was very excited He was alive! Jesus’ death on the cross was not the end of the story.*

Read:

17 Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me. I have not yet ascended to the Father. Instead, go to those who believe in me. Tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ ”

*Say: Jesus tells Mary that He has risen again and that He is soon to go to heaven to be with God. He tells her to go and tell the Good News to all the others who believe in Him.*

Read:

18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news. She said, “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

*Say: Mary was very excited and told all the disciples that Jesus is alive and tells them what He said.*

#### Now (Life Encounter): Watch Jerry Pattingale’s Story (Video 10)

##### [Download the video here](https://player.vimeo.com/progressive_redirect/download/1057358435/rendition/1080p/encounter_kids_10_-_jerry_pattingale%E2%80%99s_story%20%281080p%29.mp4?loc=external&signature=a13e9eac4319a430924d8781f69a9370197866daaa4394665055e01384913829&user_id=4608299). Video Transcript:

*Hi friends! I’m Miah and today I want to share an amazing story about how God can take our lives and turn them around completely. This story is about a man named* ***Jerry Pattengale.***

*Jerry grew up in a tiny town in America called Buck Creek. He came from a really big family—****eight kids*** *in total -but life was hard. They were really poor, and by the time Jerry was 16 and had finished high school, his mum and half his siblings had moved away. Jerry had nowhere to live.*

*Can you imagine that? Being 16, done with school, and homeless? Jerry had to find a way to survive, so he* ***got a job at a Holiday Inn hotel****. At night, he would sneak into the linen closet and sleep there.*

*One day, some friends invited Jerry to a church camp. He didn’t have anywhere else to go, so he said yes. But when he showed up, things didn’t go too smoothly.*

*The thing is, it was a very traditional camp. All the men wore black woolen suits, and all the women wore long dresses. Jerry arrived in his old, beat-up car, wearing s****horts, flip-flops and a singlet****. As soon as he got there, a man in a suit walked up to him and said, “What are you doing here, young man?”*

*Jerry told him, “I’m here for the camp.” The man looked him up and down and said,* ***“Not dressed like that, you’re not!”*** *Then he told Jerry to leave.*

*So he started to drive away, but to his surprise, five of his friends chased after him, cut him off, and begged him to stay. They told him, “We’ll lend you clothes. Just come to camp!”*

*So Jerry stayed. And at that camp, he heard people talking about God—how God could change lives and give hope.*

*On Wednesday night, a preacher gave an amazing talk, and after the talk, he invited people to come to the front. This is called an* ***altar call****. Let me explain that for a moment. The altar is the table at the front of churches. Some churches still have them. When a preacher finishes speaking, they might give people a chance to take the next step with God and come forward for prayer or to accept Jesus.*

*That night, hundreds of kids went to the front during the altar call. But not Jerry. He wasn’t ready to give his life to God yet.*

*The next night though, things were different. Another preacher got up to speak, and it was pretty average. Well, in all honesty, Jerry thought it was pretty bad! But something amazing happened. Even though the talk wasn’t impressive,* ***Jerry felt God speaking to him in his heart.***

*So Jerry got up and went to the front at the altar call. He was the only one who went that night, but it didn’t matter. God had spoken to him, and Jerry knew it was time to give his life to Jesus.*

*When Jerry* ***drove away from that camp in his beat-up car,*** *he knew he wasn’t going back to his old life. Now that he had encountered God, God had a new road for him to follow.*

*And wow, what a road it’s been! Today, Jerry is an academic and an author. He’s even one of the founding scholars behind the Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC, in the United States. God truly took Jerry’s life and* ***turned it around.***

*Jerry’s story reminds us that no matter where we’ve been or what we’re going through, God can give us a new direction. When we trust Him, He can take our messy, broken lives and turn them into something amazing.*

*So, here’s my question for you: Are you ready to let God take you on a new road? He has an incredible plan for your life, and it’s never too late for you to take that first step.*

#### Small Group Reflection time:

Questions you might like to discuss:

1. How shocked would Mary have been to find the tomb empty?
2. Why do you think Jesus rose again?
3. Why do you think Jerry gave his life to Jesus?
4. Are you ready to accept Jesus into your heart and to trust Him with your future?

#### Re-cap:

No one expected Jesus to be raised back to life. Mary was amazed and delighted at the surprise ending. Jerry’s life also had an amazing turn around. This is what an encounter with Jesus can do.

Jesus changes lives and if you’re open to it, He can change yours and take you on an amazing adventure.

#### Prayer:

Dear Jesus, thank you that you rose again, just like you said you would. Thank you that you are always with us, we are never forgotten or alone. Please help us to trust you, like Jerry did. Show us how we can live our lives for you. Amen

#### Activity: Make a Paper Car

**Objective:**

Kids are to make a paper car that they can take home. Explain that it’s to remind them of the story of Jerry and how when he drove away from camp, he knew God was taking his life in a new direction.

God is all about amazing and surprise endings. We can trust God to take us on a great journey if we trust in him.

**Instructions:**

Choose one of the paper car options on the site below and lead the children through making one together. There are two options: one simpler and one more complex.

How To Make a Paper Car - <https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Paper-Car>

#### **Activity**: Memory Game

**Materials needed:**

Small table, table cloth, 15 items for memory game, pencils and paper (one for each child)

**Gameplay Instructions:**

* Have a table set up with a cloth over it. On the table, have 15 items placed (prior to the children arriving). Include some items that relate to the Encounter series we’ve been looking at. Give each child a piece of paper and a pencil and they all have one minute to look at the items, but can’t write anything down.
* Place the cloth back over the table. Ask the children to write down all the objects they remember. They get a point for everything they remember and you can award bonus points if they point out how it connects with the lesson. Give kids a minute or two to write down what they remember. Ask them to mark 5 things they think might be related to God/Jesus/the lesson with a “J” besides it. Alternative - Instead of items, you could print off pictures of different objects.
* Examples of bonus point items/objects could be: a small cup, a small heart, a figurine of someone praying, a small cross, a bible, a stone.
* Examples of other items/objects could be: a yoyo, a chocolate, a ping pong ball, a pencil, a post-it note, a balloon (not inflated), a plastic ball, a toy car, a bangle, a hair elastic.
* Get kids to pass their sheet with their name on it to someone else in the group for scoring. Unveil the table again and point out items one by one as they score. Go through which ones relate to the lesson for bonus points. Ask different children why they think it relates to the lesson/series. For e.g. why a heart might be relevant etc.
* Award the child with the highest score with a small prize.

Remind children that although we might forget things, Jesus never forgets about us.