

Connecting With God

28 Ways

CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES



SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST
CHURCH
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Connecting With God 28 Ways – Children's Evangelism Series

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Acknowledgements

The South Pacific Division Children's Ministries Department wishes to express its thanks to the authors Amanda Bews and Brendan Pratt for all the time and hard work that has gone into writing this resource. Also produced by Julie Weslake and edited by Rebekah Rankin.

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Complementary Resources

28 Ways Bible Studies, Sing About God's Love Belief Songs and Learn About God's Love belief activity book from Children's Ministries General Conference
Belief DVD's from Amies Shack – Abide Family Ministries

Connecting With God **28** Ways
 CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

Topic	Belief	Scripture	Sing About God's Love & <i>Arnie's Shack DVD</i>
1. God Writes to Me (pg. 9)	Bible is God's Inspired Book	2 Timothy 3:16	1. God's Book the Bible <i>1. Growing Up With Jesus</i>
2. One Plus One Plus One (pg. 15)	Father, Son Holy Spirit	2 Corinthians 3:14	2. One God three Times <i>2. Thank You Father</i>
3. My Father in Heaven (pg. 21)	God the Eternal Father	Zephaniah 3:17	3. God Is My Father <i>3. Child of the King</i>
4. The Name of Jesus (pg. 25)	God the Son	Matthew 1:21	4. Save Me <i>4. Reason to Celebrate</i>
5. Support Team (pg. 29)	God the Holy Spirit	John 14:26	5. Working in My Life <i>5. All That you Can Make Me</i>
6. God Made Me (pg. 35)	Creation	Genesis 1:1	6. Creation <i>6. God Made</i>
7. A Light in the Darkness (pg. 41)	Nature of Humanity	Psalms 139:12	7. Jesus is the Light <i>7. Calling Your Name</i>
8. The Big Battle (pg. 45)	The Great Controversy	Ephesians 6:14	8. We're Winning <i>8. Big Picture</i>
9. A Happy Tomorrow (pg. 49)	The life Death & Resurrection of Christ	1 Thessalonians 4:16	9. Jesus Is Alive <i>9. Best Way to Go</i>
10. Good Medicine (pg. 54)	The Experience of Salvation	Acts 10:38	10. Healing From the Inside Out <i>10. Total Surrender</i>
11. I Can be Like Jesus (pg. 61)	Growing in Christ	Philippians 2:5	11. More Like Jesus <i>11. I Give You My Heart</i>
12. One Big Happy Family (pg. 67)	The Church	Galatians 3:26-28	12. We are the Church <i>12. Love One Another</i>
13. The God Squad (pg. 73)	The Remnant	Matthew 22:14	13. Standing For Jesus <i>13. We worship You</i>
14. Many Parts (pg. 79)	Unity in the Body of Christ	Ephesians 4:13	14. Together <i>14. Stand and Be United</i>
15. Healing Waters (pg. 85)	Baptism	Galatians 3:26,27	Disc 2. 1. God's Offer of Life <i>15. They Choose Jesus</i>
16. A Meal of Memories (pg. 89)	The Lord's Supper	1 Corinthians 11:26	Disc 2. 2. Remember Me <i>16. The Most Important thing</i>
17. My Gift From God (pg. 93)	Spiritual Gifts	Ecclesiastes 9:9,10	Disc 2.3 Use, Don't Lose it <i>17. Ordinary to Amazing</i>

18. Someone to Show the Way (pg. 101)	Gift of Prophecy	2 Chronicles 20:20	Disc 2.4 God send Us Guides <i>18. Treasure</i>
19. Signs (pg. 107)	10 Commandments	Psalms 119:10	Disc 2.5 Follow the Signs <i>19. God's Way</i>
20. God's Special Day (pg. 111)	The Sabbath	Mark 2:27, 28	Disc 2.6 His Time is Our Time <i>20. We Worship You</i>
21. My Beautiful Yard (pg. 117)	Stewardship	Psalms 24:1	Disc 2.7 What's Mine is Yours <i>21. SHINE</i>
22. My Temple (pg. 121)	Christian Behavior	1 Corinthians 6:19, 20	Disc 2.8 Trash in, Trash Out <i>22. Building Our lives</i>
23. Goose Family (pg. 127)	Marriage and the Family	1 Corinthians 13:8	Disc 2.9 That's a Promise <i>23. Garden of Love</i>
24. Out on a Limb (pg. 133)	Christ's ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary	Hebrews 8:1	Disc 2.10 The Judge's Chambers <i>24. All To You</i>
25. Get Ready (pg. 141)	The second Coming of Christ	Revelation 1:7,8	Disc 2.11 He's Coming <i>25. Be Ready</i>
26. Heaven's Flowers (pg. 145)	Death and Resurrection	1 Thessalonians 4:16	Disc 2.12 We're Going home <i>26. It was For me</i>
27. Into the Fire (pg. 149)	The Millennium and the end of Sin	Revelation 21:4	Disc 2.13 No more Bad Stuff <i>27. Just Jesus</i>
28. No More Walls (pg. 153)	The New Earth	Daniel 7:18	Disc 2.14 What time is Forever <i>28. Register With Jesus</i>
Nightly Prayer Song – Now As I Pray			

Connecting With God CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES 28 Ways

Welcome to the 'Connecting With God 28 Ways' Children's Evangelism Resource. Firstly, thank you for making the time to be intentional about how God can work in and through you to minister to children. What you're offering is not a crèche or a baby-sitting service. Reality is, life changing, destiny shaping decisions will be made in the environment that you create. Most decisions for a relationship with God are made before the age of 9. The conversations you have, the stories you tell and the prayers you pray impact little hearts for eternity. Evangelism really is happening in your program.

This Guide:

This guide covers the 28 Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It is presented in the order as outlined in the official statement of the 28 Fundamental Beliefs however it can be used and adapted in a variety of ways.

Perhaps your church is running an adult evangelism campaign. Then this guide can give you ideas and the topics could be reordered to match the adult sequence. That way the entire family can be learning the same point at the same time.

You may also use this program as a stand-alone children's series covering as many of the 28 Fundamentals as you choose. It could form the basis of a school chapel series. Use the resource in your context and shape it to work for you.

This guide is intended simply to give you some ideas for your program. It is not a set schedule that must be followed. This Guide will suggest welcome activities, games, drama sketches and discussion questions. Cut and paste, chop and change, and feel free to do what you feel works for the children God has put in front of you. You know the resources at your disposal, the gifts of the people serving with you and the ages/abilities of the children you have. Plus – go with their questions and shape a beautiful picture of God based on where you discern your group is up to. Include stories, interviews and other segments into the program that you can draw on in your context.

Arrival:

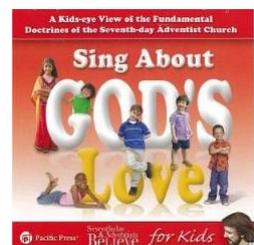
Make sure welcomers know where to direct parents to go with their children. Have the program well organized so that you are not rushing to get things sorted at the last minute but rather can make time to talk to the parents and their children. Discerning conversations can be more important than the actual program.

You may like your team to have lanyards or be in a particular colour to distinguish leaders. Make sure children are signed in (it's a good idea is to have parents/caregivers fill in a mobile number which they will keep on vibrate so that you can txt them if needed).

As children are arriving have music playing.

Music:

Most children love music – include a time for learning songs, especially some with significant messages. Twenty years from now the children may have forgotten the program however they may remember a song. Include songs from Sing About God's Love CD. These are songs about our



28 beliefs. To conclude each night there is a belief song on DVD from Arnie's Shack – Abide Family Ministries

Review:

It may be useful to start each program by reviewing the previous night/day's program with a quiz and prizes.

Each program will include the following components:

Big Idea: This will be the main point for that program. The main points of the adult program will be included for your interest. The children's program will take one of these ideas as the main point.

Belief Song: from Sing About God's Love

Key Bible Story: This will be a Bible passage/story that you can tell, show or act out. Maybe someone with a gift for communicating with children can be the designated Bible story person.

Object Lessons: A variety of Object Lessons will be outlined. Choose one or more, or include your own object lessons. Perhaps you can intersperse the program with object lessons to keep children's minds focused.

Drama/Interview/Reader's Theatre: Each Program will contain one or more of these components. This is just another way to help the children understand the concepts behind the big idea.

The Reader's Theatres and Interviews will need to be arranged in advance. Questions will need to be discussed in preparation for the interview so the person being interviewed can think about their answers before they are on stage.

The children involved in the Reader's Theatre will need to practice it in order for it to run smoothly.

The Dramas will require practices and preparation in advance.

The Impromptu dramas can be organised on the day. The person reading the script may want to read it though a couple of times in advance just so they know when they might need to pause so the actors can do their parts. You can choose whether or not you want the actors to repeat the 'spoken' words of the narrator. Either way is fine. The props would be helpful but not imperative.

Choose confident children from the audience to act out the parts. They will need to be quick on their feet and not mind the other children laughing at them. If you want to key them up in advance then this is fine too. Just have fun with it. It is designed to be fun and memorable.

Talking Points: The talking points section outlines the main idea of the theme. You can include these in one talk or give each section to a different person. Some sections will be ideal for children to present. Feel free to adapt and shape the talks to work for your context.

Key Bible Verses: Each program has a Bible verse included. The verse is the same as given as the main text in the 'God Loves Me 28 Ways' guide. There are a list of fun activities you can choose from to help the children remember the verses. Or reading through the list of activities might spark some ideas of your own. Try to keep the verse time interesting and not let it become something the children feel like they *have* to do. Make it a fun something they want to do.

Group Questions: If you have more than 8 children it would be ideal to form more than one discussion group. Remember the conversations in the discussion time are the main point of the program. Kids remember what they talk about.

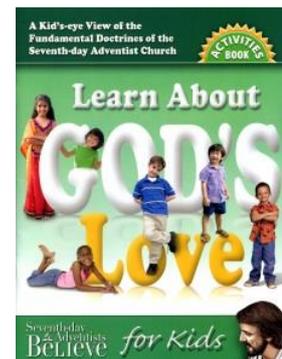
Five discussion questions will be provided. The first few are more general to get children chatting. Feel free to add more questions and have your discussion leaders be aware the goal is not so much getting through the questions but rather hearing the hearts of the children in their group.

DVD: 28 Belief Songs from Arnie's Shack

My World and Take Home Questions: These are for individual thinking to conclude and discussion time at home with their parents. They are to help the children apply the lessons they have learned in the program into their daily lives.

Application Activity:

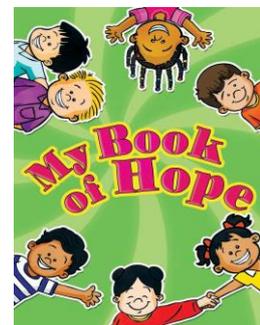
The Application Activities are from 'Learn About God's Love Activity Book' General Conference Children's Ministries Department, Pacific Press, 2006. This activity book includes activity sheets to match each Fundamental.



Take Home:

God Loves Me 28 Ways Bible studies: (General Conference Children's Ministries Department, Pacific Press, 2012). This series provides a great take home guide that covers the main points, includes the key verse and has an activity puzzle.

Attendance Rewards: The **Book of Hope** can be given out on the first night and children fill in the first page. Depending on your setting, perhaps the book remains with the leaders and the child can get a sticker for each night's attendance. On the last night the child can take the book home as a reward. In other settings where an adult program is giving away Bibles for attendance you might, if easily sourced, use children's Bibles as an attendance reward.



Follow Up: It would be great if over the time you get to spend with the children and parents you're able to build a positive relationship. Joining a Sabbath School would be a good start for follow up. In addition, help parents create a positive spiritual growth environment in their homes. Some useful tools to help with follow up include:

Gracelink Study Guide: Order some extra third quarter pamphlets to give as follow up tools.

Daily Bites: A more in-depth resource that helps parents study the Bible with their children. Daily Bites is based on the Kids In Discipleship resource and available from Adventist Book Centre and South Pacific Division Children's Ministries.

Table Talk: Provides a tin of questions to generate spiritual meal time discussions. Tins can be purchased from South Pacific Division Children's Ministry.



Child Commitment Ceremony: Many of the children will give their lives to Jesus during this series. They will want to show the church that they have made a commitment so arrange a time with your Pastor when a short Ceremony can happen.

Baptism: Some older children may want to be baptised. Help them to be involved in Bible studies such as the 28 Ways or the Daily Bites. In some cases the child's parents, small group leader or school chaplain will be the starting point for studies. Talk to your Pastor and ask that they include these children in preparation for baptism.

The South Pacific Division team will be praying for you. Be creative, make it work for you, have fun and allow God to use you to shape lives for eternity.

Websites where the key verse teaching ideas were obtained:

www.fevr.net/youth-group/16-games-and-ideas-to-help-memorise-the-bible

www.voices.yahoo.com/3-easy-memory-verse-games-kids-sunday-school-4307301.html?cat=4

www.hopeingod.org/document/memory-verse-games

Teaching Ideas for the Key Verse

Feel free to use these ideas or any you are familiar with and work for your context.

1. Balloon Pop: Print off 2 copies of the memory verse on different coloured paper and put the words of the memory verse into about 5-6 balloons. Blow up the balloons and give one each per child. Have the children sit on the balloon to pop them then arrange the memory verse and read it out. First team to read out the memory verse correctly is the winner.

2. Mirror Writing: Write the memory verse backwards on the chalkboard and let the children discover what it says.

3. Erase-a-word: Write the entire verse on a chalkboard and erase one word at a time. Have the children repeat the verse after each new word is erased. At the end, the board should be blank and the children should know the verse.

4. Verse Relay: Divide the children into two teams. Place a chalkboard, white board, or large sheet of paper at a distance from the starting line. Hand the first child of each team a writing implement, and on the shout of "Go" have him run to the writing surface and write the first word of the verse. Then have him return to his team and hand the writing implement to the second person. The team that finishes writing the verse correctly first wins.

5. Line Up: Write each word of the verse on a separate slip of paper. Tape a slip of paper onto the front of each child and have them line up in verse order. (Variations: Play this as a team game or tape the slips onto the back of each child and have them ask questions to find out which word is on their back and then line up in verse order.)

6. Roll it: Have children sit on the floor in a circle. The first child says the first word of the verse and rolls a ball to anyone in the circle. The child receiving the ball says the second word of the verse and so on.

7. Children sit around a table. Someone writes the first word or phrase of a verse (or the reference) on a sheet of paper and passes it to the next person who writes the next word or phrase, and so forth until the verse is completed. The next person starts another verse, and so forth. By timing the children to see if they can "beat" their previous time, you can liven up the activity. Timing the activity may help you determine which verses and how many to include.

8. Ping Pong: A child calls out the first phrase of a verse, then another calls back the second phrase, and so forth. This can be played in pairs or in teams with the children facing each other in a line.

10. Puppets: Let a puppet teach the memory verse to the children.

14. Naughts and Crosses: To play line up 3 rows of 3 chairs in the centre of your classroom to use as your board. If you don't use chairs in your classroom, you can place paper plates or construction paper on the floor to use as your board. As each team member repeats their memory verse correctly, have them choose a space on the board and sit or stand there. The first team to get three in a row, wins. You can play this several times and mix up the teams if your class needs extra time to learn the verse.

15. Mystery Voice: Similar to #14, but let a mystery voice record the verse. Children will then try to guess whose voice is saying the verse. This could be a means of introducing them to various people in the church (ex: the Pastor, deacons, etc.).

16. Pass the Bag: Use a coloured paper bag as a hot potato. Inside the paper bag place slips of paper with the individual words to the memory verse written on them. Have the kids sit in one large circle and start the music. When the music stops, that child pulls out one slip of paper from the paper bag. They can either tape it up to the board or just place it on the floor in the middle of the circle. Have the kids work together to put the memory verse in the correct order. You can also have the kids repeat the memory verse instead of using music and stop the hot potato on a different word from the memory verse each time. Almost any traditional game can be tweaked to help kids learn their memory verse. So have fun playing!

18. Use the Wall: Place individual words of a memory verse on card strips. Place these strips on different sections of your wall. Have one child stand by each strip. Then let each child say the word he is standing beside in the proper word sequence.

19. Hot Potato: Let the children stand in a circle and pass an object around the group. When someone says, "stop", the one holding the object must be able to quote the memory verse. If unable they must sit out the rest of the game.

20. Original Song: Learn the memory verse by putting it to music.

21. Fill-in-the-Blanks: Write your memory verse leaving out key words. Let the children supply the missing word.

22. Whispering: Seat the class in a semi-circle. Beginning with one of the end children, whisper the memory verse to him. Each child in turn whispers.

23. Those Wearing Red: In order to use variety, try having various groups recite the verse together. For example: "Everyone who has red on, say the memory verse."

24. Find The Other Half: Print some of the memory verses on colored slips of paper. Cut these slips in half. Hide one of the halves around the room. Then, give each child one of the remaining half pieces. The child is to find his matching piece only. When all are found, read the verses out loud.

26. Responsive Reading: If you have an exceptionally long verse let the boys read one part of the verse; then let the girls read the next segment.

27. Envelopes: Write the memory verses on separate 8 ½ X 11 sheets of paper. Cut each memory verse into puzzle pieces. Place in separate envelopes. Allow the children to choose one envelope and complete the memory verse puzzle. When they finish they should sign their name on the envelope to show they did that puzzle.

28. Monk Writing: Bring the memory verse with no spaces between words. Let the children draw lines to separate the words. For example: "Thou shalt not steal", would be "Thou/shalt/not/steal."

29. Scrambled Words: Scramble the words to a memory verse. Have the children quote the unscrambled verse.

30. Drama: Many verses can be acted out. Sometimes you can pose a situation related to the verse too (example: "Thou shalt not steal.")

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CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

28 Ways

God Writes to Me

Holy Scriptures

The Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God, given by divine inspiration through holy men of God who spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. In this Word, God has committed to man the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are the infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the test of experience, the authoritative revealer of doctrines, and the trustworthy record of God's acts in history. (2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Ps. 119:105; Prov. 30:5, 6; Isa. 8:20; John 17:17; 1 Thess. 2:13; Heb. 4:12.)

Big Idea:

The Bible is a message from God.

Key Verse: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16 & 17

Welcome and Prayer

Sing About God's Love: 1. God's Book the Bible

Bible Verse Activity

Object Lesson - A Light for Your Path

You will need:

- Torch
- Road Map
- Blindfold

Activity:

Blindfold a child then have them do an obstacle course (be careful to guide when needed so there are no injuries). Take the Blindfold off and see how much easier it is to do the course in the light. Ask the child to explain how they felt with the blindfold on and off.

Say:

- So the Bible is like a few things... it's a bit like a road map that shows you how life works best. It's a bit like a lamp that shines the way. Being without the Bible is a little like walking in the dark without a light. "Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Ps 119:105.
- Most of all it's a letter from a God who loves you very much and wants to be with you forever. God uses people to tell us the story of how much He deeply desires us. He also explains how we, His creation, work best with Him and each other.
- All day our minds are bombarded by games, internet, TV shows and messages that pull us in a thousand directions. In this world we need God's word to remind us about what really matters.
- The Bible is God's special letter to us. In it He tells us how much He loves us and how He wants to be with us. God is always with us. But,
- because we can't talk to Him like we would our Mums and Dads, He had some very special followers write the Bible for us.

Drama - A Message for You

- **Characters:**
 - Jill
 - John
- **Props:**
 - Sofa
 - Bookshelf containing various items
 - Old family Bible

Setting:

Jill and John are coming inside from playing. John is rummaging around on the shelf behind the sofa looking for something. While searching John knocks a book off the shelf. Jill reaches down to fetch it. She looks surprised.

Jill: Careful John, you just knocked a very special book off the shelf. (John glances up at what she's holding and goes back to searching.)

John: Awww that old thing. I can't believe it actually fell off! It's so big and heavy.

Jill: Old thing? You can't call the Bible an old thing!
John looks at her surprised.

John: Well it is an old thing. It was my Grandmas. No one reads it. It's in real old words that are hard to understand. I tried to read it once one day when I was bored. I didn't get it.

Jill: All Bibles are special John. It doesn't matter how old they are or where they came from.

John: It's only good for pressing flowers. My sister puts them in there all the time. She said she is going to make a picture out of them.

Jill: The Bible is a picture all by itself. It is a picture of how much God loves us. And it isn't just one book. There are 66 books inside it so of course it is big. All those 66 books tell us something special about God and help us to know Him more.

Jill opens the Bible and turns to a verse.

Jill: It's filled with wonderful promises God has made as well. This is one of my favourites, it's found in John 3:16.

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only son. That whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life"

And there are so many more promises...

John: (after looking over Jill's shoulder) Hey, that's not how that verse reads in this Bible!

Jill: No, but here it is...see? The words may be a little different and a little harder to understand but the message is still the same. No matter what Bible you read, if you turn to John 3:16 it will tell you how much God loves you, me...all of us. There are other promises I've learned too. Promises about how God will be with us when we are hurting. How He wants to wipe our tears away and how he knows us so well that he can tell you how many hairs are on your head.

John: Wow, that's pretty clever. When Jacob had nits Mum got out heaps of them and we still didn't even bother to count them.

Jill: (Withering look) John, that's disgusting! (pauses) The point is, no matter how battered a Bible looks, how old or how hard it is to read...that doesn't matter. It is still a special book and we should treat it with respect because it is God's love letter to us. He speaks to us through the Bible and he died for us.

Jill carefully slides the old Bible back on the shelf. John looks at where she put it and sighs.

John: You know what? You're right. It is a special book and obviously my Grandma loved it. It's been really well read. Its leather cover is looking really worn. (pauses to think) we've got some leather conditioner under the sink. I'll get some rags and clean up.

Jill: That's a lovely idea. Can I help?

John: Sure, after all...it's a message for you too!

The End

Talking Points 1

I am Holding:

This is not just a book that I am holding.

- No book has ever been so loved and hated. People have been killed for having a copy of this book.
- It was written over a period of 1,400 years.
- It has 66 books written by about 40 different people. People who were inspired by God.
- It was written in three languages: Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic.
- When a scribe made a mistake in copying a book the entire scroll was destroyed and he started again – no backspace button or liquid paper.
- The *Dead Sea Scrolls*, discovered in 1947, proved that this book has remained the same down through the ages.
- Jesus read the very same accounts and stories that we read today.
- Of course, the book I hold in my hands is the Bible. The Bible is God's word for you. Jesus wants you to trust the Bible. But more importantly He wants the Bible to point you toward a loving God.

The Bible and You:

- Did you know that you're one of the main characters of the Bible? It's not just about people like Joseph, Daniel, Jonah and Mary – it's all about changing you.
- Unless the Bible brings about a change in how you love God and love people it has not accomplished what God intended to do.
- Studying the Bible is not about just knowing more; it's about change in our lives. The Pharisees prayed and studied, however they did it in a self-seeking way rather than looking for a connection with God. You can know that hydrogen and oxygen make water, but that makes no difference if you're dying of thirst. Knowledge is good, but only if it causes a change that leaves you with a stronger love for God and people.
- Always remember to study with a rake rather than a shovel – apply it to yourself rather than simply dishing it out for others.

Inserting your Name:

- Some people find it useful to insert their name into the Bible verse. Here's Isaiah 43:1-3 with my name in the blank spaces:

But now this is what the Lord says –

He who formed you O _____, Fear not for I have redeemed _____;

I have summoned _____ by name; _____ is mine.

When _____ passes through the waters, I will be with _____;

and when _____ passes through the rivers, they will not sweep over _____.

When _____ walks through the fire, _____ will not be burned; the flames will not set _____ ablaze.

For I am the Lord, _____'s God,

The Holy One of Israel, _____'s Saviour.

- Why not try inserting your name into God's promises.

Washed By the Word

- Start with a quote with a recent washing powder commercial.
- Adds for washing powders tell you how they will move through the fibres of your clothes to lift out the dirt and stains.
- In Ephesians 5:25 & 26 Paul talks about being washed by the word.
- Our hearts can get cluttered with all sorts of ideas, attitudes, misguided plans, fears and with ourselves.
- Reading the Bible is about letting God's word wash through your attitudes, thoughts and feelings to help you see what really matters.
- The Bible shows us a loving God who wants to make us new.
- The Bible also shows us the sin problem we are in but explains God's plan to deal with the sin problem.
- Jesus is the focus of the Bible.
- The Old Testament talks about Jesus being the Messiah.
- The New Testament is about Jesus saving the world.
- Every page somehow tells us something about Jesus' character
- Of course Jesus' death on the cross, which is described from four different angles in the Bible is the clearest picture of a God who loves us, wants to save us and wants to live with Him forever.

Where to Start:

- Often people do not know where to start with their Bible. A new year comes and they make a new year's resolution to read the whole Bible by the end of the year. By the time they get to Leviticus their resolution starts to get a bit shaky. So, how do we go about reading and applying God's word?
- Jesus reminds us in John 14:26 to always start with prayer inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your study and impress you with what God wants to do in and through you. It's a good idea to start with just a small section. Read it slowly to see what God might want to say to you. What might God be nudging you about?
- You don't have to start in Genesis. In fact it's probably best to start with the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). Spend some time in these books to discover all you can about Jesus. Ask:
 - What seems important to Jesus?
 - What sort of questions does he ask people?
 - What sort of questions do people ask Him?
 - What is Jesus inviting me to do?
- There are a lot of different ways to study the Bible. Choose a passage, choose a word, a theme or character or book and get started.
- Some people find it helpful to take notes as they read. Some people find it helpful to re-write the passage in their own words. Other people like to listen to the Bible as they work, drive or while exercising.
- Whichever way you choose to read the Bible, some useful questions to ask as you read are:
 - What speaks to my heart?
 - What new thought or idea comes to me?
 - Is there an example here for me to follow?
 - Is there a promise to claim or a command to obey?
 - Is there a prayer for me to pray?
 - Is there a sin to be confessed?
 - Is there a question God is asking me?
- Memorizing scripture is particularly useful. It allows God to bring back into your mind various verses at all times and in all places. You might think memorizing is hard but just think about how many songs and ads end up in your head and jump back into your mind without even trying.
- Remember we will never know everything about God – we will be exploring His love for eternity. So then, the Bible is not simply a book to get through. It's about letting God's love get through you and growing to know and love Him more.

Group Discussion:

- Were you ever afraid of the dark when you were little? Why?
- Why do you think David calls God's word a lamp for his feet?
- Why do you think some countries don't let Bibles come into their country?
- What is your favourite story in the Bible? What makes this passage come alive for you?
- What sort of things have you memorized without trying?
- What stops you from being able to spend some time in the Bible each day? How can you readjust?

Application Activity:

'Learn about God's Love' 1. The Bible is God's Inspired Book

Arnie's Shack DVD: 1. Growing Up With Jesus

My World and Take Home Questions:

- Have you ever written a letter to someone you love? How would you have felt if the person you loved just ignored your letter?
- Do you have your own copy of the Bible? How often do you read it?
- What ideas do you have for memorising verses from the Bible?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

1. God Writes to Me

Closing Prayer

Connecting With God

CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

28 Ways

One Plus One Plus One

Trinity

There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons. God is immortal, all-powerful, all-knowing, above all, and ever present. He is infinite and beyond human comprehension, yet known through His self-revelation. He is forever worthy of worship, adoration, and service by the whole creation. (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 Tim. 1:17; Rev. 14:7.)

Big Idea:

God is on Your Side. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are one – working as One great team.

Key Verse:

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” 2 Corinthians 13:14

Welcome and Prayer

Sing About God's Love: 2. One God Times Three

Bible Verse Activity

Object Lesson:

Scientist:

Have a child dressed as a scientist demonstrate the properties of water.

- Ice: Can cool a drink, make a wonderful icy treat and is great to skate on.
- Water as Liquid: Vital to staying alive, wonderful for keeping clean and great fun to swim in.
- Steam: Can run large engines and great for disinfecting and cleaning.
- Ice, liquid water and steam are all made from the water molecules, 2 molecules of Hydrogen and 1 molecule of oxygen. They are the same one thing but can be three things all at the same time.

- Solid, liquid and gas have their special role however they are exactly the same one molecule.
- Three in One

Hairdresser:

Have a child dressed as a hairdresser and another child with an almost completed plat of three strands.

- Today I am going to show you how to do a plat. Here is one I prepared a little earlier. Let's finish it.
- You take the three strands and continue in this pattern.
- The three strands all come together to form one plat.
- It's a bit like a piece of rope (hold a piece of rope) where three pieces are twisted in a way to become one piece – giving extra strength.
- Three in One.

Farmer:

Have a child dressed as a farmer holding an egg.

- I would like to introduce you to this egg. I get very excited about eggs as they hold the potential for new life – if you don't eat them first as they are also very nutritious.
- The inside of my egg has a rich yellow yolk which is filled with vitamins and protein for the growing chick.
- The white of this egg is mainly water and some protein. It protects the growing chick and gives some extra nutrition.
- Then there is an incredibly well designed shell. Tough enough to protect the egg but not so tough that the chick can't get free.
- Three parts, all vital to new life, that make one egg.
- Three in One.

Chef:

Have a child dressed as a chef:

- Today I would like to demonstrate making a very tasty fruit salad. Let me introduce you to my ingredients.
- I have one banana – The banana is a wonderful, healthy, yummy snack. It is full of potassium. I will chop one banana into my fruit salad.
- Now let me add one orange (already peeled so the skin lifts off easily) – The orange is full of vitamin C which makes it very good for you – and tasty. Let me chop this into my fruit salad.
- Now for one crunchy apple. You know what they say, an apple a day keeps the doctor away. What can be healthier than a crisp, juicy apple? Let's chop the apple into my fruit salad.
- Here we have it, healthy, colourful and tasty.
- How many fruits did I use? - Three. How many fruit Salads have I made? – One.
- Three in One.

Have one of the children above or an extra child explain:

- You can never really make a model to explain God. He is three in One.
- There is God the Father who loves us and forgives us.
- There is God the Son who created the world and died on the cross to save each one of us.
- There is God the Holy Spirit who comforts us when we are discouraged and helps us choose right from wrong.
- We only have one God but God is three. It's a bit of a tricky idea that we call the Trinity.
- Tri – meaning three and Unity – meaning together as one. One God in a team of three.
- People have written whole books trying to explain it and people have argued lots about how it works.

- The big point to remember is that you have a three in one God how loves and wants to save you.

Reader's Theatre – The Trinity

- Child 3:** In the beginning there was God
- Child 1:** God the Father
- Child 2:** God the Son
- Child 3:** And God the Holy Spirit
- Child 2:** And through them all things were created
- Child 1:** In the heavens and on the earth
- Child 3:** But trouble came to the earth. Man sinned and God had to make a decision.
- Child 2:** So God the Son came to earth and died in man's place
- Child 3:** Because of sin the human race was cut off from God the Father
- Child 1:** And the only way to him was through his Son, Jesus
- Child 2:** I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the father but by me. (John 14:6)
- Child 3:** After Jesus rose again he had to return to Heaven.
- Child 1:** But God didn't wish to leave man alone.
- Child 3:** So he sent a comforter
- Child 2:** I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it does not see him or know him. But you know him, because he lives with you and he will be in you. (John 14:16-17)
- Child 1:** So be of good cheer my people. We have not left you. We are still with you. We live in your heart.
- Unison:** We are the God Head, three in one.

The End.

Talking Points:

Three Pictures of God:

- All through the Bible we find three pictures of God. But God says there is only one God. We use the word trinity to describe how we find this three in one God in the Bible. All three pictures of God can be found in the Old and New Testaments.
- All were part of Creation "Let **Us** make man in **Our** image." In Genesis 11:7 God says "Come, let **Us** go down". Isaiah says "And now the Lord God (the Father) and His

Spirit (the Holy Spirit) have sent Me (the Son of God)." Yet Deuteronomy 6:4 says, "The LORD our God is One." A three in one God.

- John chapter 1 starts with talking about Jesus being the Word. In the beginning was the word (Jesus) and the word was with God and the word was God. That's a bit tricky being *with* and was all at the same time. Imagine if I said that I was *with* my Dad and that I was my Dad.
- Later in John 16 Jesus talks about the work of the Holy Spirit and how the Holy Spirit will be a guide.
- The three picture of God can be seen at Jesus baptism.
- Jesus (The Son of God) went into the Jordan River to be baptised. He didn't need to be baptised for His sins, Jesus never sinned, but he was giving us an example.
- As John the Baptist lowered Jesus into the water the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit came down on Jesus like a dove. Then God the Father spoke, "This is my Son and I love Him. I am pleased with Him." Here at the river we meet God the Son - Jesus. We hear God the Father speaking and we see God the Holy Spirit coming down like a dove.
- How cool is that? One God but Three Persons - and they, all three, are on our side, love us and want to live with us forever.

Names for God:

- You could use several children for this if you wanted to involve more children or you could adapt this to be a group activity where children look for different names for God.
 - Most High (Psalm 7:17)
 - Holy and Awesome (Psalm 111:9)
 - Adonai – Almighty ruler (Isaiah 6:1, Psalm 35:23)
 - El Shaddai – God Almighty (Exodus 6:3)
 - Yahweh – Faithful and full of Grace (Hosea 12:5, 6)
 - I am – (Exodus 3:14)
 - Father – (Isaiah 63:16)

Our Three in One – Powerful God:

- While God is three persons, God is one in purpose, thoughts and character. God, three together, is united in the one purpose of saving the world and loving you.
- All three love each other perfectly and love being with each other.
- All three work together perfectly.
- God the Father loves and forgives.
- God the Son saves from sin.
- God the Holy Spirit comforts and protects.

Together they make God:

- God is the most powerful being in the universe.
- His superpowers are way beyond any powers we can imagine. Imagine the most powerful Pokémon or superhero you have ever heard of and God is way more powerful. Plus Pokémon's and superhero's are just imaginary, our God is real.

Did you know?

- That God has been around forever Rev 22:13, John 5:26.
- He knows everything (this is what the word omniscient means) Job 37:16, 1 John 3:20.
- He can be everywhere at the same time and see everything (the special word we use for that is omnipresent) Psalm 139:7-12. My mum seems a bit omnipresent.
- Nothing is impossible for God (that word is omnipotent) Dan 4:17, 25, 35
- Don't worry if you don't remember the big words. Just remember that our really big God is in love with you more than you can even imagine.

God is in Love with You:

- The most amazing power God has is unending love. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit use their powers together to love you.
- Like it or not God is in love with you. He knows everything about you. God can be wherever you are and loves it when you invite Him to be with you in what you do.
- God can do anything including listening and caring about you as if you were the only being in the universe. God's love is greater than the Heavens (Psalm 108:4). That's massively big. That's an unimaginable amount of love. This God that is beyond our imagination wants to work in and through you and cares about every part of your life. Isn't that amazing?
- By ourselves we're really nothing. Sure some of us can run fast, or do Maths really well and we might think we're pretty good but really it doesn't stack up to much – and your clever abilities are from God anyway - but being loved by the God of the universe makes you something – it makes you a child of the most powerful being we can possibly image. That's something to be excited about and praise God for.
- My God really is so big, so strong and so mighty there really is nothing my God cannot do – that's true.
- God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are in love with you. God uses His power to love you! He then asks you to reflect His love to others.
- "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." 1 John 4:7-8
- One God's endless love times three – now that's a lot of love.

Group Discussion:

- What words come to your mind when you think about God?
- If you could choose a super power what would it be? Would you like to fly, be able to turn invisible, jump over tall buildings, be stronger than steel, have x-ray vision or be able to travel through time?
- How would you use your super-power? Would you help people, would you have fun?
- Can you think of any other examples of how three parts become one thing?
- Why do you think some people are scared of God?
- How do you feel when you think about how much God loves you – as if you were the only one?

Application Activity:

'Learn About God's Love' 2. There is One God: Father Son and Holy Spirit

Arnies Shack DVD 2. Thank You Father

My World and Take Home Questions:

- How does it feel knowing that God, the most powerful being in the universe, loves you?
- How does God's love for you make you want to respond to Him?
- How can you show God's love to the people around you?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

2 – One Plus One Plus One

Closing Prayer

Connecting With God **28** Ways

CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

My Father in Heaven

Father

God the eternal Father is the Creator, Source, Sustainer, and Sovereign of all creation. He is just and holy, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. The qualities and powers exhibited in the Son and the Holy Spirit are also revelations of the Father. (Gen. 1:1; Rev. 4:11; 1 Cor. 15:28; John 3:16; 1 John 4:8; 1 Tim. 1:17; Ex. 34:6, 7; John 14:9.)

Big Idea:

God Is With You.

Key Verse:

"The Lord your God is with you... You will rest in his love. He will sing and be joyful about you."
Zephaniah 3:17

Welcome and Prayer

Sing About God's Love: 3. God is My Father

Bible Verse Activity

Object Lesson

Provide various material for making a sculpture (modelling clay, feathers, card, straws, tape, ribbon etc). Ask children what words comes to their mind first when they think of God and then have them make a sculpture to represent those words (words might include, love, powerful, strong, kind).

Show some pictures of space and stars to help children begin to understand the size of God's universe and how big and powerful He is. There are many websites that demonstrate the magnitude of the universe.

Reader's Theatre – Psalm 8

Child 1: LORD our Lord,

Child 2: Your name is the most wonderful in all the earth!

Child 1: It brings you praise everywhere in heaven.

Child 3: From the mouths of children and babies come songs of praise to you.

Child 4: They sing of your power to silence your enemies who were seeking revenge.

Child 2: I look at the heavens you made with your hands.

Child 3: I see the moon and the stars you created.

Child 1: And I wonder, "Why are people so important to you?"

Child 2: Why do you even think about them?

Child 3: Why do you care so much about humans?

Child 4: Why do you even notice them?

Child 2: But you made them almost like gods

Child 1: and crowned them with glory and honour.

Child 4: You put them in charge of everything you made.

Child 3: You put everything under their control.

Child 2: People rule over the sheep and cattle and all the wild animals.

Child 4: They rule over the birds in the sky

Child 1: And the fish that swim in the sea.

Unison: LORD our Lord, your name is the most wonderful name in all the earth! Psalm 8 (ERV)

Talking Points:

Your Picture of God:

- If I asked you to draw a picture of God right now what would it look like? Would it be a happy or angry picture? If you gave God eyes would they be kind or scary? If you gave God a mouth would it have a smile?
- All of us have a picture of God. Even people who choose not to believe in God have a picture of the God they don't believe in. In the book 'Steps To Christ', a lady who loved God very much, Mrs Ellen White, explains how Satan wants to give us a bad picture of God. Instead of a God who loves us Satan wants us to think of God as a cruel, vengeful judge (page 12). Sadly Satan seems to be doing a good job of giving people the wrong picture of God.
- Lots of people think that God burns people in Hell for ever. Other people think that God is watching them from a long way away looking for a mistake to keep them out of Heaven. Some people see God as the big policeman who is watching everything they do to see if He can catch them doing something wrong. Other people feel that God is too 'holy' for them and that they are not good enough for Him. Some people

think God made the world but then just left it and got busy doing other stuff while others think God is there just to give them what they want.

- What's your picture of God? Did you know that your picture of God is often shaped by your picture of your father on earth? For some people this is helpful if your dad is kind and loving. In other cases it makes things difficult because sadly some dads can be mean sometimes. It doesn't mean your picture has to stay this way. Remember that God is always a kind, loving father. If you don't have a dad at home or have a dad who doesn't give good pictures – then think of someone you know who is really kind and think how you might see pictures of God through them.
- Remember that while we can see God through loving mums and dads God is perfect and always loving. (for this research on Pictures of God see Stoope and Brunner, 'It Starts At Home')
- Why not start painting a picture of God in your mind that reflects God's love for you and His how he wants to be with you?
- The most important truth you can know is that God is very much, madly in love with you and wants to be part of your life.

Parent Interview:

(About how much they love their children)

Today we are speaking with _____ about being a parent. Thanks for coming to speak with us today. I guess being a parent would be really hard.

- Can you please tell us why you decided to have children?
- Is your child here today?
- What is his/her name?
- Can you tell us about how you felt when (insert name) was born?
- I guess you didn't feel like you needed any more children after that now did you? Babies keep you pretty busy?
- Really, you had another child? But didn't you love your first child?
- Then how did you have enough love for the second one if you already loved the first one?
- Well, you must have stopped at two kids then?
- Wow, you had (insert number) children? And you loved them all the same? How is that possible? Don't you run out of love?

I guess parents are a bit like God. Maybe that's why God designed adults that way, so they could have children and fall in love...like he did with us. Being a parent is like a little snap shot of what it is like to be God.

God Wants to be With You:

- How much do you think the God of the Universe knows about you? Here's the amazing thing. The God of the Universe cares enough about you that he knows everything about you and wants to live life with you.
- Matthew 10:30 reminds us that he even knows the number of hairs on your head. For some people that's easy for other people that would be pretty tricky. Every day the average person loses 60-100 strands by the way. What this verse is saying is that our huge God cares about us. He knows more about you than you know about yourself.
- God designed you incredibly well and He knows how every part of you works. God isn't just big – He cares about small.
- Our God is a God of detail. He has everything designed just right. More than your hair and cells God cares about the detail of your life. He cares about how you feel. He cares about how you treat people and how people treat you. He cares about you in

the playground, work, shopping, watching television, playing games. God cares about the detail of your life.

- What's even more incredible is that not only does He care about your life, He wants to be part of it and do everything with you.
- God wants to be a part of what you do every day. How would it make you feel knowing that God was at school, work and play with you? How would it feel to garden with God, to go to the shops with God, to do your jobs with God? It might sound a bit odd but our great big powerful God wants to be a part of your life.
- In Revelation 3:20 God is pictured knocking on the door, asking to be invited in to eat with us. Our great big powerful God doesn't push His way in, He doesn't use his super powers to take over – He waits, knocking, wanting to be invited in and then do life with you.
- Our God is huge beyond imagination. He knows everything and cares about the small things. He has super-powers beyond what we can comprehend. Yet He loves you and longs for you to invite Him into your life. The same God who breathes stars wants to hear your voices and be part of your everyday life. How do you respond to God's love – will you let Him in?
- Here's the thing. God is head over heels in love with you. Over and over again, in the Bible, God reminds you that you're His child and that makes you incredibly valuable.
- God uses His powers to love you. He knows everything about you. He knows you better than you know yourself. God can be wherever you are and loves it when you invite Him to be with you in what you do. He can spend the day with you in your classroom, on the sports field or at home.

Group Discussion:

- Who in your family has the most hair? Do you think you could count all the pieces of hair on their head? How do you feel when you think about God already knowing the answer?
- Who, out of people you know, do you think loves you the most and how do you know they love you?
- Why do you think some people are scared of God?
- What words come to your mind when you think about your dad on this earth?

Application Activity:

'Learn About God's Love' 3. God is The Eternal Father

Arnies Shack DVD 3. Child of The King

My World and Take Home Questions:

- How do you feel knowing that God wants to be 'with' you?
- What do you think would change if you could see God with you in the playground or at home?
- What are some ways you can spend time with God this week?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

3. My Father In Heaven

Closing Prayer

Connecting With God 28 Ways

CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

The Name of Jesus

Son

God the eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ. Through Him all things were created, the character of God is revealed, the salvation of humanity is accomplished, and the world is judged. Forever truly God, He became also truly man, Jesus the Christ.

He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived and experienced temptation as a human being, but perfectly exemplified the righteousness and love of God. By His miracles He manifested God's power and was attested as God's promised Messiah. He suffered and died voluntarily on the cross for our sins and in our place, was raised from the dead, and ascended to minister in the heavenly sanctuary in our behalf. He will come again in glory for the final deliverance of His people and the restoration of all things. (John 1:1-3, 14; Col. 1:15-19; John 10:30; 14:9; Rom. 6:23; 2 Cor. 5:17-19; John 5:22; Luke 1:35; Phil. 2:5-11; Heb. 2:9-18; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4; Heb. 8:1, 2; John 14:1-3.)

Big Idea:

Jesus is the water of life. He wants to fill us with His love.

Key Verse:

"She will give birth to a son. You will name the son Jesus. Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21

Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst, But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life. John 4:14

Welcome and Prayer

Sing About God's Love: 4. Save Me

Bible Verse Activity

Interview

If possible, have someone tell a story of a time they have been very thirsty and how it felt when they got water.

Talking Points:

Water:

- Did you know that around 70% of your body is water? 75% of a tree is water
- You can survive for about a month without food but less than five days without water.
- What happens to a plant if it does not get water? It can have the right soil and fertilizer but no water and it dies.
- Water puts out fires, is used for cooking is good to drink and can be a lot of fun.
- What happens to a person without water?
- Did you know Jesus calls himself living water? Here's the story.

Impromptu Drama – The woman at the Well

John 4:4-30

Characters:

- Jesus
- Woman
- Disciples (up to 12)

Props:

- Bucket
- Cup
- Something to use for a well
- Chairs or the edge of the well to sit on

On the way to Galilee Jesus passed through Samaria. He decided to stop in Sychar for a rest. He arrived at lunchtime and sat down by the well.

A Samaritan woman came to the well to collect her water for the day and Jesus said to her, "Could you pour me a drink please? I am quite thirsty."

The woman was very surprised. Jewish people didn't usually speak to Samaritans so she replied.

"Why would you, a Jew, ask me for a drink?"

But Jesus replied, "If you knew who I was and how kind and generous my Father is, you'd actually be asking me for a drink, because I can give you fresh living water."

The lady laughed, "How can you give me water? You don't even have a bucket and this well is very deep. Are you a better man than our great-grandfather Jacob who dug this well to quench the thirst of his family and animals and passed it on to us?"

"You can drink from this well," said Jesus, "And you will get thirsty again and again but if you drink from the water I can give you, you will never need another drink because my water will give you eternal life."

The woman sighed and sat down, "Sir, if only you could give me your water so I never had to return to this well again."

"Go get your husband and you can both come back to me..." Jesus began.

"Husband? I have no husband," she interrupted.

"No husband? I count five husbands and the man you are with now isn't your husband either," Jesus pointed out.

The woman was a little embarrassed so she decided to change the subject, "Oh, so you are a prophet are you? If that is so, why is it that you Jews think we have to go down to the city to worship when our ancestors have been worshipping forever in these mountains?"

“The time has arrived that it does not matter where you come from. All can worship the living God and where you go to worship will not matter. All that will matter is who you are and how you live. God wants to be with those who are just themselves before him.”

The woman frowned, “Well I don’t know about that but when the Messiah comes we’ll get the whole story.”

“I am the Messiah,” Jesus replied.

When the disciples came back they were surprised to see Jesus talking to a Samaritan woman like her. She could tell what they thought of her so she got up and left. She returned to her village and told everyone she saw about the man she had met at the well. She said, “Come back to the well with me and meet the man who knew all about me and what I’ve done and still cares. Could he really be the Messiah?”

So the people came to see for themselves.

Talking Points:

Living Water:

- Jesus says that He will give the lady ‘living water’. He wants us to also have His living water.
- It doesn’t mean that we will never want another drink of real water.
- It does mean that our hearts will be satisfied and we won’t be wanting to chase things like stuff, fame and money to make us satisfied.
- Today people try all sorts of ways to satisfy their hearts. Some people think that being famous will satisfy them – they get famous and find out that they still feel empty.
- Some people think that if they just got the right boyfriend or girlfriend they would be happy – a bit like the lady in our story who Jesus met at the well. There are lots of songs that say that we would be happy forever with the right person. But they find out that while it might be nice that is not the answer to the empty feeling in their heart.
- Some people think that if they were rich they would be happy. But many rich people are very sad. In fact the more money a community has the more sad people they have – seems strange hey?
- People try all sorts of ways to try and make themselves satisfied.
- Jesus says come to me and I will give you water for your soul.
- Jesus is saying that if we come to Him, He will give us His Holy Spirit in our lives and then our hearts will follow after the things that really matter, connecting with God and other people.

Thirsting for God:

- How can you drink Jesus’ living water?
- King David prayed, “O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water” (Ps 63:1).
- The sons of Korah sang, “As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?” (Ps 42:1-2).
- It’s about asking the Holy Spirit into your life. In John 7:37-39 Jesus tells his disciples that the Holy Spirit, who is part of God, will be living water to refresh their hearts. Drinking living water is about connecting with God and asking for the Holy Spirit, to work in and through us. Spending time in prayer, nature, quietness, serving, worship and listening to God’s voice are all ways of allowing living water to fill your heart.
- It’s time to drink some living water!

Jesus shows us God:

- Jesus wants to be in your life and flow through you.
- Jesus did all he could to show that He loves you and wants to spend forever with you.
- Jesus, part of God, became a baby and lived among us. He showed us how to live.
- But Jesus was on a mission not just to show us life but to give us eternal life.
- He lived a perfect life but then took the death for sin that should have been ours.
- That means we can choose to have His perfect life and his death for sin count for us. Jesus really, really loves people.
- Jesus is our clearest Picture of God.
- Through Jesus we can know what God is like. Jesus says I loved you enough to become one of you. Jesus shows us a picture of a God who even though He is the ultimate being in the Universe chooses to serve. Jesus shows us a picture of God who loves his children – even the ones that mock and plot against Him. Jesus shows us a picture of God who is forgiving.
- Most of all Jesus shows us a picture of God who is incredibly, deeply and unexplainably in love with you.

Group Discussion:

- What's your favorite water sport?
- Have you even been really thirsty? What happened and how did you feel when you got water?
- What do you think are the top five uses for water?
- What do you think it means to drink the Living Water that Jesus offers?
- Do you think your family would be able to notice if you invited Jesus into your life? How differences would they see?
- How about people in your school – would they be able to see that you have been connecting with God?
- What's your favourite story about Jesus and what does that tell you about God?

Application Activity

'Learn about God's Love' 4. God the Son

Arnies Shack DVD 4. Reason to Celebrate

My World and take Home Questions:

- What ideas do you have for making time to drink Jesus 'living water'?
- How will others see Jesus reflected through you this week?
- How will the person in your class, who you like the least, see Jesus reflected through you?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

4. The Name of Jesus

Closing Prayer

Connecting With God
CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

28 Ways

Support Team

Holy Spirit

God the eternal Spirit was active with the Father and the Son in Creation, incarnation, and redemption. He inspired the writers of Scripture. He filled Christ's life with power. He draws and convicts human beings; and those who respond He renews and transforms into the image of God. Sent by the Father and the Son to be always with His children, He extends spiritual gifts to the church, empowers it to bear witness to Christ, and in harmony with the Scriptures leads it into all truth. (Gen. 1:1, 2; Luke 1:35; 4:18; Acts 10:38; 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 4:11, 12; Acts 1:8; John 14:16-18, 26; 15:26, 27; 16:7-13.)

Big Idea:

God supports us with the Holy Spirit.

Key Verse:

"But the Helper will teach you everything. He will cause you to remember all the things I told you. This Helper is the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name." John 14:26

Welcome and Prayer

Sing About God's Love: 5. Working in Your Life

Bible Verse Activity

Object Lesson:

Seeing the Wind:

If practical, have a bubble machine running as children arrive.

Can you see the wind – of course not. But you can see where the wind is, where it has been and what it does.

Blow bubbles in front of a fan or have the fan behind a bubble machine (or blow bubbles made from soap and water). Can you see the wind? – No. Can we see the effects of the wind? – of course. We can't see the Holy Spirit but we can see how He changes people.

Unseen Protection:

This is a simple object lesson that incorporates science to demonstrate one aspect of the doctrine of the Trinity. Be careful not to mistakenly offer a pantheistic answer and say that God is in everything! That is different than saying God is everywhere (which is called God's omnipresence. See Psalm 139:7-10).

Materials:

- Paper towel
- 2 Large Cups or Glasses
- Tub of water

The Experiment:

Fill the tub with water. Take a paper towel and put it in the cup. Ask the children what will happen if you put the cup in the water – will the towel get wet or will it stay dry? Allow for some answers. Presumably, the kids will be giving both answers – wet and dry.

First show them how the paper towel stays dry by placing the cup perpendicularly in the water. The air in the cup will force the water around the cup keeping the paper towel dry. As you are showing the dry paper towel, explain to the children that we don't see the air and that everything in the room is surrounded by the air but it would appear that the air does not take up any space. However, the air took up space in the cup so that water could not get it.

The science is that the pocket of air in the cup cannot escape and therefore keeping the water from entering the cup.

The Explanation:

Even though we can't see the air, we can see that it has properties that can be seen. This is also true of the Holy Spirit. Those who have the Holy Spirit living inside them will change how they treat people. We might not be able to see the Holy Spirit but we can see how He works. Read Gal. 5:22-25.

(Adapted from – www.ministry-to-children.com/god-the-holy-spirit-is-everywhere-object-lesson-for-children)

Drama - The Holy Spirit

Characters:

- Liz
- Ben
- Mum

Props:

- Torches x 3
- Bed
- token bedroom furnishings

Setting:

There is a loud storm going on. All the power is out. Liz comes into her big brother's bedroom carrying a torch. She is scared.

Liz: (shakes her brother) Ben, Ben...are you awake?

Ben: (eyes still shut) No

Liz: (turns to go) Wait a minute. If you said no then you are awake.

Ben: No, I'm asleep and so should you be.

Liz sits down on Ben's bed.

Liz: Come on Ben. You know I'm scared of storms.

Ben sits up and rubs his eyes.

Ben: But you've got Kelly and Jasmine in there with you. You can't be scared.

Liz: But they are younger than me...

Ben: And they're still asleep, right?

Liz looks sheepish then nods. Ben laughs and puts his arm round his sister.

Ben: It's ok, I won't hassle you anymore. You know I used to be scared of the dark too.

Liz looks startled.

Liz: Oh no Ben, I'm not scared of the dark. I'm scared of the ghosts!

Ben: Ghosts?

Liz: Yes, ghosts Ben! I can hear them outside my window. They are scratching on the shutters with their finger nails and...

Ben: Those aren't ghosts Liz! They're just the trees. Their branches are being blown around in the wind and are scratching the window. Besides, there are no such things as ghosts.

Liz: There are too! Cathy was telling us the other day all about them. She said there is this one called the Holy Ghost...

Ben: Well that one's real...

Liz: You just said there was no such thing as ghosts?

Ben: There's not...

Liz: But you said...

Ben: (Frustrated) Liz...listen! Can you please hear me out?

There is another rumble and flash of lightening. Liz squeals and grabs her brother.

Ben: The Holy Ghost is another name for the Holy Spirit. In the Bible he is sometimes called 'The Comforter'

Liz: I can't see how a ghost or spirit would be very comforting!

Ben: He is part of God. After Jesus died on the cross for us he had to go back to heaven.

Ben reaches up to grab his Bible. He turns the pages and shines the torch on the page

Ben: See, here it says in John 14:26, "But the Helper will teach you everything and will cause you to remember all that I told you. This Helper is the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name." The Holy Spirit is our conscience. If we listen to his voice, that comes from in our heart, then he will help us make wise decisions. He is God on earth now that Jesus is gone.

Liz: So the other day, when I was at school and I couldn't remember how to spell one of my spelling words... I was tempted to look at Kim's work. I knew deep inside I shouldn't. So I didn't...was that the Holy Spirit?

Ben: Yes... and sometimes he encourages us to help someone else. Like last week when a new kid turned up at school. I was about to go out and play rugby at lunch time but I just felt like I should go over and talk to him instead. Turns out he'd been real lonely and was finding it hard to make friends. If it weren't for the Holy Spirit prompting me, I would never have noticed he was feeling down.

Liz: So...we are never really alone. We always have the Holy Spirit with us?

Ben: That's right

Liz: So I didn't need to feel frightened in the storm. I did have someone older with me after all!

Mum pokes her head in the door carrying a torch.

Mum: I thought I heard voices? Liz, what are you doing in here?

Liz: I was afraid of the storm...

Ben: So she came in here and I told her ghost stories! (Ben laughs)

Mum: Ben! That's not very helpful!

Liz: (laughing) it's ok Mum, they were Holy Ghost stories. Now I know God is always with me in my heart and I am never alone.

Mum smiles and sits on the bed.

Mum: Yes, isn't wonderful that we are never alone. That God is with us in life's storms. But perhaps you could go back to bed now hey hon? This storm has almost blown itself out now so you should be able to go back to sleep.

Liz gets up and goes to the door.

Liz: Thanks Ben, love you Mum and goodnight...oh, and don't be scared of the dark Ben, the Holy Spirit is with you too.

Mum turns to Ben

Mum: Scared of the dark?

The End.

Talking Points:

Give us Comfort:

- When Jesus died on the cross His disciples were confused and terrified.
- Jesus said he would send a comforter (John 14:16).
- The book of Acts describes how in a little room the Holy Spirit came to each disciple like a flame of fire.
- Filled with the spirit the disciples couldn't contain their love for Jesus.
- With the Holy Spirit's help, the disciples remembers all the things that Jesus said.
- They told everyone they could and people, even from far away who could not understand the language, heard in their own language.
- Some people said, what does this mean? Other people thought that they were drunk. But Peter said above the noise that Jesus had risen, gone back to Heaven and that they had the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Did you know that same comforter is still with us today? When you're discouraged, afraid or feeling alone remember that you are not alone. The Holy Spirit is real and wants to be your comforter.
- The Holy Spirit will do the same for us as He did for the disciples. He will help us remember the things Jesus said and did and grow us to become more like Jesus (John 14:26).

Bring Truth:

- Have you ever done something you know is wrong like cheated on your test or was mean to you little brother? Even though no one caught you, you still feel really bad about it.
- Where did that feeling come from?
- The Holy Spirit prompts you in knowing and doing what is right.
- The Holy Spirit guides you onto the right path.
- Sure the Holy Spirit tries to work on everyone's lives but people who invite The Holy Spirit into their lives allow the Spirit to work more effectively, guide and show the right path.
- The Holy Spirit wants to show us God's love. He points us to Jesus and desperately wants you to allow God to work in and through you.
- The Holy Spirit works on every person's heart to try and bring them to love Jesus.
- However in a special way the Holy Spirit wants to work in the hearts and lives of those people who invite Him in.
- The Holy Spirit works to change our hearts and make us more like Jesus. He speaks in our mind, showing us the way to be like Jesus.

Gives Us Power:

- Have you ever tried to play an electronic game with the battery flat – not much good hey? Have you ever tried to make toast with the toaster not plugged in?
- You need power to make things work.
- Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit would give us power.
- Just before Jesus went back to Heaven He told his disciples that they would not be alone, that He would send the Holy Spirit to comfort and guide them. "But the Holy Spirit will come to you. Then you will receive power. You will be my witnesses. (Acts 1:8)
- Using the power from the Holy Spirit we can share God's love with the whole world.
- Did you know that the Holy Spirit gives each believer at least one spiritual gift. This is a something that God has made you really good at so you can impact the church, your community and your world. We will explore more about spiritual

gifts in a later program. For now, know that the Holy Spirit makes you good at something which is then used to make our church and world a better place.

- God has big plans in mind for you. The Holy Spirit wants to work in you, give you power to show the world who God is.

He Wants to Be Invited Into Your Life.

Group Discussion:

- Can you think of other examples where you can't see something but you know it's there because of what it does?
- How do you feel about the Holy Spirit wanting to work in your life?
- What sort of 'power' do you think the Holy Spirit gives?
- Why do you think Jesus sent the Holy Spirit?
- Why do you think that people get baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
- Who is someone you think has the Holy Spirit working in them? How would you describe this person and what makes you think the Holy Spirit is in them?

Application Activity:

'Learn About God's Love' 5 God the Holy Spirit

Arnies Shack DVD 5. All That You Can Make Me

My World and Take Home Questions:

- How does knowing that the Holy Spirit is with you change the way you play with others at school? – Do you think that others can see the Holy Spirit in and through you?
- Why do you think Jesus sent the Holy Spirit?
- What do you think your spiritual gift might be? What makes you think this?
- What's stopping you asking the Holy Spirit to work in and through your life?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

5. Support Team

Closing Prayer

Connecting With God

CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

28 Ways

God Made Me

Creation

God is Creator of all things, and has revealed in Scripture the authentic account of His creative activity. In six days the Lord made "the heaven and the earth" and all living things upon the earth, and rested on the seventh day of that first week. Thus He established the Sabbath as a perpetual memorial of His completed creative work. The first man and woman were made in the image of God as the crowning work of Creation, given dominion over the world, and charged with responsibility to care for it. When the world was finished it was "very good," declaring the glory of God. (Gen. 1; 2; Ex. 20:8-11; Ps. 19:1-6; 33:6, 9; 104; Heb. 11:3.)

Big Idea:

God Created everything including you. He has a plan for you.

Key Verse:

"In the beginning God created the sky and the earth." Genesis 1:1

For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth. All things were created by Him and for Him. Colossians 1:16

Welcome and Prayer

Sing About God's Love: 6. Creation

Bible Verse Activity

Object Lesson 1:

Have a few children to create an 'animal' with including plasticine, feathers, plastic eyes, pipe cleaners etc. Have children 'create' an animal. Have them explain the features of their animal. Talk about how their creation shows the mind of a designer.

Object Lesson 2:

Ask children about their pet/s and what makes them special. If possible, in an earlier program, ask children to bring in or email a photo of their pet which can be shown during this time.

Object Lesson 3:

Lego/Blocks

Props:

- Two identical Lego toys both constructed
- An empty box with a lid
- school desk or table

Places one perfectly formed Lego toy on the table. Talk about why you like the toy and what makes it special.

Then take out a second identical toy and dismantling it onto the box. Explain how many bricks it contains and how long it took to make it. Perhaps you could tell about the instruction booklet and how hard it was to find the tiny pieces or an incident that happened while you were putting the toy together.

When finished breaking it piece from piece into the box put the lid on and shakes it.

Ask:

Is everything in there to make the toy?

Take the toy to the children and ask them to shake the box. Take it back to the table and place it next to the constructed toy.

Say:

Now we wait.

Keep coming back throughout the program to shake and then check inside the box.

Not done yet!

At/near the end of the program hold up the completed toy and the box containing the bits for everyone to see.

Say:

We could shake and leave this box to sit in the corner for as long as we like and nothing would happen or we could use those pieces to create something wonderful.

Reader's Theatre - Psalm 8 (ERV)

Child 1: LORD our Lord,

Child 2: Your name is the most wonderful in all the earth!

Child 1: It brings you praise everywhere in heaven.

Child 3: From the mouths of children and babies come songs of praise to you.

Child 4: They sing of your power to silence your enemies who were seeking revenge.

Child 2: I look at the heavens you made with your hands.

Child 3: I see the moon and the stars you created.

Child 1: And I wonder, "Why are people so important to you?"

Child 2: Why do you even think about them?

Child 3: Why do you care so much about humans?

Child 4: Why do you even notice them?"

Child 2: But you made them almost like gods

Child 1: and crowned them with glory and honour.

Child 4: You put them in charge of everything you made.

Child 3: You put everything under their control.

Child 2: People rule over the sheep and cattle and all the wild animals.

Child 4: They rule over the birds in the sky

Child 1: And the fish that swim in the sea.

Unison: LORD our Lord, your name is the most wonderful name in all the earth!

Talking Points:

Creation – Genesis 1

Ideas to take from the story:

- Did you know that your eye has over 2,000,000 parts working together to make it work. Every part needs to work just right. Do you think it all just managed to happen somehow – and all the parts worked together, just right, at the same time? In the Bible, John 1 reminds us that the eye, and all of creation, didn't just happen – it was God who started everything.
- The idea that God created everything isn't just some made up story. Lots of scientists realise that creation is just too incredible to have simply invented itself and that something bigger is going on.
- Imagine all the pieces of an airplane spread out over a big field. What do you think would be the chances of a storm just blowing all those pieces back into an airplane that works? Imagine all the pieces of a watch being tossed into the sea. How likely do you think it would be for the waves to wash all those pieces back together as a working watch? Guess what, it would be far easier for that to happen than your body, which is far more complicated than an airplane or a watch, to just happen without design.
- Some people believe that your existence is a random chance in the universe. Some people think just happened by chance over millions of years all by itself. However the Bible and the universe declare that there is a God who made you for a reason. Your life is very valuable because you are deeply loved by the God of the universe. Something far bigger is at work.

You're Special:

- Did you know that your body is about 80 percent oxygen and 10 percent hydrogen, phosphorous and potassium? If we sold all those bits it would get around \$2. Hopefully we could sell your gold fillings for a little bit more. If we just take what you are physically you're not that valuable. However you are more than the pieces that make you – you're God's special creation and that makes you extremely valuable.
- Being created means you're special. You're not just the next part of a 'survival of the fittest' process. You're not just a very clever animal. You are God's special creation. That makes you valuable beyond imagination.
- God did not make you to be a puppet, with strings for Him to pull. That would make you His toy. Rather He made you with reason and the power to choose so that He could have a relationship with you. The creator of the universe wants to be invited into your everyday situations and be part of your life.
- Your life starts with God and keeps going with God. Every heartbeat is a gift from a loving God.
- God made you special. He also made your mum and dad special. He also made your brothers and sisters special, if you have them. He also made your friends at school special. He also made the person you like least in your class special. That's where it gets a bit tricky. The thing is everyone is incredibly special to God and he asks us to treat his special creations well.
- The really cool thing is that the most powerful force in the universe, God, didn't just make you, He wants to spend time with you. We can know God is real because we can get to know Him in our hearts and spend time with Him everyday. God loves you so much that he wants to be involved in everything that you do. He is with you in all the good times and feels sad with you when things don't work out right. Always remember that God is in love with you.
- As you are thinking about God at this moment, know that He is thinking about you.
- In Psalms 19 David reminds us that God's love is written everywhere:

"The heavens declare the glory of God
the skies proclaim the work of his hands
Day after day they pour forth speech;
Night after night they display knowledge."

Look After God's Creation:

- Have you ever been given something really special? Maybe it was something very old, passed along from grandfathers and grandmothers. Maybe it's a special toy that you don't want scratched. Maybe it's something worth a lot of money. How do you look after special things? You make sure it is not going to get broken and ruined don't you?
- (If possible include personal story of looking after something special)
- God's creation is special. It was not just an accident. Our planet is incredibly balanced to support life. If our earth were tilted one degree more toward the sun we would not be able to support life. If we were placed any closer or further from the sun we would not be able to support life. In fact there are hundreds of minute calculations that allow life to exist on this planet. This planet was planned for a purpose. God called His creation very good Genesis 1:31. To God His creation is special. In Genesis 1:28 and again in 2:15 God asks us to care for His 'very good' creation.
- The Bible makes it clear that we are stewards of all that God has made. A steward is somebody who takes care of something. God asks you to steward His creation.
- For God, creation is not just something to be used to make us comfortable and then forgotten about, creation is one of His ways of showing love and creation praises Him.

He asks us to care about what He cares about. Even a sparrow is important to God. In the Old Testament, God's people were to even make sure to take care of the land and all the other creation. Caring for the earth begins where we are, with the stuff we have and use and want to get rid of.

- So what can you do? You can recycle what you can, maybe start a compost heap to replenish nutrients. Maybe you can think of ways to reduce burning fossil fuels.
- Plan a way to make the earth more beautiful, plant flowers in the city, take care of a stretch of road. Maybe you can volunteer to help regrow bushland or give to help groups that care for animals that are being threatened – like the NOAH group that is trying to find a cure for diseases that otherwise might wipe out the Tasmanian devil (*depending on your context you may insert another cause here*). Make sure you don't wash chemicals into the storm water and make sure plastic is not left where it can litter and cause problems in nature.
- There are lots of things you can do to be a good steward of the environment. Your imagination is the only limit to creating positive ways to look after the earth that God has asked you to care for.
- We might think that our individual contribution might be too small to make a difference, however every little bit counts. Every snowflake in an avalanche has some responsibility for it. Every person has a responsibility to care for our earthly home.
- Romans 8:22 says that the whole of creation groans waiting for Jesus to come. Let's do our part to be good stewards and care for God's creation. How you treat the environment matters to God's creation and to God.

Group Discussion:

- Talk about something you have made without help. What was it? How did you feel when you had finished it?
- What is your favourite animal and what does it show you about God?
- How does it make you feel when you think about how God made you special?
- How do you feel about God, who created everything, wanting to spend time with you?
- What are some ways your family can care for creation?

Application Activity:

'Learn About God's Love' 6. Creation

Arnies Shack DVD 6. God Made

My World and Take Home Questions:

- How do you feel about God being so 'big' that he can create everything by speaking?
- How do you feel when you think about this 'big', 'powerful' God wanting to be a part of your life?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

6. God Made Me

Closing Prayer

Connecting With God
CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

28 Ways

A Light in the Darkness

Nature of Man

Man and woman were made in the image of God with individuality, the power and freedom to think and to do. Though created free beings, each is an indivisible unity of body, mind, and spirit, dependent upon God for life and breath and all else. When our first parents disobeyed God, they denied their dependence upon Him and fell from their high position under God. The image of God in them was marred and they became subject to death. Their descendants share this fallen nature and its consequences. They are born with weaknesses and tendencies to evil. But God in Christ reconciled the world to Himself and by His Spirit restores in penitent mortals the image of their Maker. Created for the glory of God, they are called to love Him and one another, and to care for their environment. (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7; Ps. 8:4-8; Acts 17:24-28; Gen. 3; Ps. 51:5; Rom. 5:12-17; 2 Cor. 5:19, 20; Ps. 51:10; 1 John 4:7, 8, 11, 20; Gen. 2:15.)

Big Idea:

Jesus is my Saviour from sin.

Key Verse:

"Even the darkness is not dark to you. The night is as light as the day." Psalms 139:12

Welcome and Prayer

Sing About God's Love: 7. Jesus is the Light

Bible Verse Activity

Object Lesson:

Working in the Dark:

Have a box with a variety of objects in it that children can feel but not see. Have a child/ren try to identify what is in the box (objects might include a shell, sponge, toy animal etc). Then bring the objects into the light to see what they actually are. Talk about what it means to 'grope around in the dark' and what it means to bring things into the light.

Missing the Target:

Have a target set up (maybe a hole in a sheet of card) and soft sponge balls to throw at the target. See how many times children can hit the target. Move the target away until children can no longer reach it and fall short.

Then talk about how in life we often miss the target. Sin makes us fall short of God's plan. However Jesus hits the target for us. His perfect life counts as ours. His death for sin counts as ours. That's great news.

Impromptu Drama – The Bent Woman

Luke 13:10-17

Characters:

- Jesus
- Bent Woman
- Synagogue Leaders

One the Sabbath day Jesus was teaching in the synagogue when he noticed a woman in the congregation who was so bent over she couldn't even look up. When Jesus saw her he felt a wave of pity. He stopped preaching and went over to the woman, laying his hands on her he said, "Woman, you are free."

Suddenly, for the first time in 18 years, she was able to stand tall. She looked into the eyes of Jesus and praised the Lord.

You would think everyone would have been thrilled to see the poor woman healed but the leader of the synagogue was furious. He turned to the congregation and said, "There are six days, six days God has given us to work. If you want to be healed you should see to it on one of those days. The seventh day, the Sabbath is for rest and reverence."

But then it was Jesus' turn to be angry. "How dare you judge this! Each Sabbath all of you untie your animals and lead them out of their stables for exercise and a drink of water. You do that without even thinking! So why can't I free this poor woman from 18 years of chains and let her stand straight in the sun?"

Well the synagogue leader had no answer to this. In fact, he felt quite embarrassed he'd said anything. But the congregation were delighted. They cheered as the woman sang her praises to God and thanked Jesus for healing her.

Talking Points:

Good News/Bad News:

- Just like the lady in our Bible story our only hope is Jesus
- Sin cripples our hearts
- Only Jesus can give us new hearts and make us free from sin
- Sometimes we forget that sin is such a big problem. You might not feel as if anything is really that wrong.
- However because of Adam and Eve's choice against God we are born with sin in our hearts.
- Sin makes us do things that hurt people
- Sin makes us selfish
- Sin causes pain
- God has a plan to fix the sin problem

Bad News:

- All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God – Romans 3:23
- For the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23)

Good News:

- But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- To fall short means that we didn't hit the target God has for us. The bad news is that every one of us has missed that target – we have all sinned.

The Sin Problem:

- Adam and Eve were made perfect. God created them to be like Him.
- Satan tricked them into thinking that if they did what he said they would be equal to God.
- Sin is putting ourselves over God. Sin is always selfish.
- Adam and Eve chose to have sin in their hearts.
- Because we are from Adam and Eve we are born with sin in our hearts. Is that fair? - Not really because you didn't get to choose but sin is never fair.
- Sin causes pain and death. Because we have sin in us, which is seen when we hurt other people, we deserve death forever.
- Jesus came to earth and lived a perfect life. He didn't deserve to die.
- Jesus says that we can be 'in' Him. That means just like a piece of paper inside a book goes wherever the book goes we can be in Jesus and have his death count as our death and have his perfect life count as ours. Isn't that great news!
- When we accept Jesus, we love Him. Jesus is coming back for those who love Him and will take us to Heaven where there will be no more sin.
- Even though we have sinned (missed the target) and will get death as a result, God loves us so much that instead of death He want to give us life).
- That's great news!
Read 1 John 5:11-13, John 3:16, 1 John 1:9 to see how John explains the good news.

Jesus is the Solution!

- Asking Jesus to forgive us when we have missed the target is very easy; it is as easy as going to the door when someone knocks on it and inviting them in.
- Jesus says to us:
"I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to (him or her) and eat with (him or her), and (he or she) with Me,"
Revelation 3:20.
- You can ask Jesus into your heart while you lay in your bed, when you play in the street, when you're at school, when you eat your meals – all the time!
- Jesus wants to be in your life and he cares about you.
- He is the only solution to the sin problem, but more than that – He loves you and wants to live forever with you.
- For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 6:23

Group Discussion:

- Has anyone ever hurt your heart? What happened and how did it feel?
- Look through a newspaper. What stories can you see that show how sin hurts people?
- Why do you think Adam and Eve disobeyed God?
- How do you feel when God says that in place of the death we deserve He will give us eternal life?

- How do you feel when you see pictures of Jesus on the cross – knowing he didn't deserve it but died so that we can live with Him forever?

Application Activity:

'Learn about God's Love' 7. The Nature of Humanity

Arnies Shack DVD 7. Calling Your Name

My World and Take Home Questions:

- What do you think it means to answer the door of your heart and let Jesus in?
- How does having Jesus in your heart change the way you treat people?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

7. A Light In The Darkness

Closing Prayer

Connecting With God **28** Ways

CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

The Big Battle

Great Controversy

All humanity is now involved in a great controversy between Christ and Satan regarding the character of God, His law, and His sovereignty over the universe. This conflict originated in heaven when a created being, endowed with freedom of choice, in self-exaltation became Satan, God's adversary, and led into rebellion a portion of the angels. He introduced the spirit of rebellion into this world when he led Adam and Eve into sin. This human sin resulted in the distortion of the image of God in humanity, the disordering of the created world, and its eventual devastation at the time of the worldwide flood. Observed by the whole creation, this world became the arena of the universal conflict, out of which the God of love will ultimately be vindicated. To assist His people in this controversy, Christ sends the Holy Spirit and the loyal angels to guide, protect, and sustain them in the way of salvation. (Rev. 12:4-9; Isa. 14:12-14; Eze. 28:12-18; Gen. 3; Rom. 1:19-32; 5:12-21; 8:19-22; Gen. 6-8; 2 Peter 3:6; 1 Cor. 4:9; Heb. 1:14.)

Big Idea:

God's has a plan to deal with the sin problem and make us new.

Key Verse:

"So stand strong, with the belt of truth tied around your waist." Ephesians 6:14

Welcome and Prayer

Sing About God's Love: 8. We're Winning

Bible Verse Activity

Object Lesson:

Have children tell the group three things about themselves, two true and one false. Other children have to guess which fact is false. Discuss Satan deceiving Eve by telling her lies.

OR - You will need:

- A clear glass jar or container
- Water
- Red Food colouring (though any colour will do)

- A bottle of Chlorine bleach

Half fill the clear glass container with water.

Talk about how even when God created us we were perfect. But then sin came into the world and we became sinners. All of us have sinned (put in drops of food colouring). Talk about some of the sins that we do and drip in a bit more food colouring (about 5 or six drops should be enough)

Then talk about how the water is not clear anymore and we aren't clean. That we need to invite Jesus into our lives and he cleans us all up.

At this point pour in about a cup of chlorine bleach.

Then say a prayer to Jesus asking him to come into their lives and clean up all the sin. When the children open their eyes the water will be all clear again.

But what happens if we sin again? Will God forgive us and clean us again?

(Drip in a bit more food colouring and watch the water change to clear again)

Jesus died for all of our sins, talk about confession and telling others and you have gone through the whole plan.

Talking Points:

Genesis 3 – Adam and Eve Disobey God:

- God gave Adam and Eve the most beautiful place on earth, Eden,
- Adam and Eve were to care for their home.
- They had lots of fun playing with the animals, they had beautiful gardens and all sorts of wonderful places to explore. It was never too hot or cold. Life was perfect.
- And so they live happily ever after, with God in their beautiful home.
- ...But that was not the way it turned out!
- There was only one object that they had to stay away from. That was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- You would think it would be easy to stay away from that one tree – there were lots of other trees. But, that tree turned out to be a huge temptation.

War in Heaven – Lucifer:

- Before Adam and Eve were created, God's highest angel decided that he no longer wanted to be on God's team. He decided that he would be a better ruler than God. Jealousy and selfishness grew in his heart.
- He made all sorts of promises to the other angels and even convinced some to follow him. Sadly there was a war in Heaven and a third of the angels left Heaven along with Lucifer, their new leader.
- Lucifer became Satan.
- God could have destroyed Satan and his angels but he let the angels choose and he didn't want the angels who stayed serving him out of fear rather than love.
- Satan was confined to one tree. People could learn about evil if they chose. God always gives us a choice.
- Satan was tricky.
- Satan used a disguise. He talked through one of the most beautiful creatures – the serpent. Eve wasn't frightened of the snake – it was pretty.
- It started to talk: "Did God tell you to stay away from this tree?" "Well he said we weren't to eat its fruit," Eve answered.
Satan lied and told Eve that the fruit was delicious, that she would be fine and in fact just like God.
- Satan still lies and tries to trick us into being selfish.

- Eve took a bite....
- She ran back to Adam and got him to try it.
- Things changed.

God Has a Plan:

- Adam and Eve tried to hide when God came to see them. This was the first time they had ever felt scared.
- Sin makes people want to hide from God.
- God knew where they were and with great love and kindness told them that things would be different. Animals would be scared of them, there would be prickles, meanness, crying and hurt. God explained the sin equals death and that they would get older and die. It all seemed hopeless.
- But God then told them He still loved them and had a plan. Someday he would come as a baby, he would grow up living a perfect life and then be killed. His life and death could be their perfect life and death for sin.
- Until he came the sacrifice of a lamb would point to Jesus perfect life and death. It would remind them that sin equals death - that sin is unfair and that sin destroys.
- Although Adam and Eve didn't understand everything, they were thankful and looked forward to Gods plan working out - they had hope for the future.
- Emphasise how sin means the world is not how God created it however He has a plan to pay the 'wages of sin'. Jesus death can be our death, Jesus perfect life can be counted as our perfect life because we can be 'in' Jesus.
- Jesus lived and died for us.

The Battle for Your Life:

- Did you know that there is a battle going on for your life?
- It's not a battle with fighter jets and tanks but it is a battle to show God's character. Jesus is fighting to show that God is fair and kind, while Satan is fighting to make people believe God is unfair and mean.) Jesus death on the cross was part of winning the battle.
- Sometimes with our games, TV, sports and friends it's easy to forget that all around us there is a battle going on for our lives.
- Satan is still trying to deceive people and get as many people to turn away from God as possible.
- Even though he knows that Jesus has won the battle by dying on the cross Satan still wants to destroy as many people as possible and cause as much sadness as possible.
- He's like a little boy who can't have the train set so instead smashes all the pieces.
- However God is more powerful than Satan.
- God work in and through us to win the battle against Satan.
- He gives us special armour to fight the battle.

Dramatization - Dressed for Battle

Ephesians 6:10 – 17

Characters:

- Requires 8 children plus
- two bullies

Props:

- Belt
- Breastplate
- Shoes or boots
- Shield
- Helmet
- Sword

Scene:

Child 1

Is on stage. Two bullies enter and push and shove the child around. The child falls over and begins to cry. The bullies laugh and exit stage.

Child 2

Enters and takes child 1 by the hand and helps him to his feet and says to him.

Child 2: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Children 3 – 8: *Step forward in a line and says line as child 1 stands before them. As they say their lines they help child 1 put on his armour item.*

Child 3: Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist,

Child 4: with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

Child 5: and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

Child 6: take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Child 7: Take the helmet of salvation

Child 8: and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Child 1 turns and faces congregation and raises sword while children 2 - 8 say in unison.

Children 2 – 8 in Unison: So be ready for battle!

Group Discussion:

- Have you ever believed a lie? Did it matter? How did you feel?
- Why do you think Eve believed Satan?
- What do you wish Eve had said to the snake?
- How do you think Adam and Eve felt after they had chosen against God?
- Why do you think God put in place the Salvation plan? How do you feel?
- Do you ever feel afraid of Satan? What points in this lesson can help you not feel afraid of him?
- Discuss ways that you can let Jesus fight for you when you have conflicts or struggles, such as pray to Him for wisdom or strength; claim a specific Bible promise, etc.

Application Activity:

'Learn About God's Word' 8. The Great Controversy

Arnies Shack DVD 8. Big Picture

My World and Take Home Questions:

- How does Satan try and tempt you to choose against God?
- What are some of the things you can do to fight Satan's temptations at school and at home?
- How does it feel knowing that God gave so much to make it possible for you to live with Him forever?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

8. The Big Battle

Closing Prayer

Connecting With God

CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

28 Ways

A Happy Tomorrow

Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ

In Christ's life of perfect obedience to God's will, His suffering, death, and resurrection, God provided the only means of atonement for human sin, so that those who by faith accept this atonement may have eternal life, and the whole creation may better understand the infinite and holy love of the Creator. This perfect atonement vindicates the righteousness of God's law and the graciousness of His character; for it both condemns our sin and provides for our forgiveness. The death of Christ is substitutionary and expiatory, reconciling and transforming. The resurrection of Christ proclaims God's triumph over the forces of evil, and for those who accept the atonement assures their final victory over sin and death. It declares the Lordship of Jesus Christ, before whom every knee in heaven and on earth will bow. (John 3:16; Isa. 53; 1 Peter 2:21, 22; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4, 20-22; 2 Cor. 5:14, 15, 19-21; Rom. 1:4; 3:25; 4:25; 8:3, 4; 1 John 2:2; 4:10; Col. 2:15; Phil. 2:6-11.)

Big Idea:

God has power over death and wants to give you Eternal Life.

Key Verse:

"The Lord himself will come down from heaven. There will be a loud command... And those who have died and were in Christ will rise first." 1 Thessalonians 4:16

Welcome and Prayer

Sing About God's Love: 9. Jesus is Alive

Bible Verse Activity

Reader's Theatre – 1 John 4:9-15

New Century Version (NCV)

Child 1: This is how God showed his love to us:

Child 5: He sent his one and only Son into the world

Child 2: So that we could have life through him.

Child 4: This is what real love is:

Child 3: It is not our love for God;

Child 5: It is God's love for us.

Child 4: He sent his Son to die in our place to take away our sins.

Child 1: Dear friends,

Child 3: If God loved us that much

Child 2: We also should love each other.

Child 4: No one has ever seen God,

Child 5: But if we love each other,

Child 1: God lives in us,

Child 2: And his love is made perfect in us.

Child 4: We know that we live in God

Child 3: And he lives in us,

Child 4: Because he gave us his Spirit.

Child 1: We have seen

Child 5: And can testify

Child 2: That the Father sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world.

Child 3: Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God

Child 4: Has God living inside,

Child 1: And that person lives in God.

The End.

Drama - Jesus Died and Rose Again

Characters:

- Bill
- Sue
- Ray

Props:

- Headstone for 'Twinkles'
- Box of tissues
- Flowers (optional)

Setting:

The three children are standing next to a large stone with 'Twinkles' written on it. The children are all very sad about losing their cat.

Bill: (wiping his eyes) Goodbye Twinkles

Sue: (places arm around Bill) Yes Bill, Twinkles was a very good cat but he can't hear you anymore.

Ray: I can't believe he will never be there to trip over when I open the fridge ever again!

Sue: (laughing sadly) or sneaking down inside my bed on cold nights. Especially when he'd just come in out of the rain.
They all nod and stand quietly for a moment.

Bill: Why can't Twinkles hear us anymore?

Sue: Because he died Billy, you know that.

Bill: But Jesus died and he can still hear us?

Ray: He can hear us, Billy, because he rose again.

Bill: Rose again? But I thought once you died you died?

Ray: Well that's true for animals but Jesus is God. So when he died he was able to live again because he lived a perfect life.

Sue: Yes, he died so that if we die, one day when we are really old, he can make us alive again. So we can go and live in heaven with him.

Bill: (Sadly) But not Twinkles?

Ray: No

Bill starts to cry loudly and Sarah shoots Ray a dirty look.

Sue: How about this, when we get to heaven...why don't you ask Jesus if he can make Twinkles alive again. God can do anything, right? I'm sure he could make Twinkles alive again.

Bill: (drying his eyes) **You think so?**

Ray: Yes, of course he could.

Bill: I miss Twinkles

Ray: Yeah buddy, I know.

Bill: I miss Jesus too.

Sue: But he hears you.

Bill: I know that. But I'd like to see his eyes when I talk to him. Mum always makes me look at her when she talks to me.

Sue: That's because when she talks to you and you aren't looking at her you aren't usually listening. Jesus is always listening and I'm sure he can't wait to talk to you face to face too...because he love you.

Ray: Come on, let's go inside.
All walk to leave the stage

Bill: Do you think Mum will let us get another cat?

Sue: Maybe

Bill: Can we call him Twinkles 2?

The End.

Talking Points:

Jesus Birth:

- Before the creation of the world God made a 'just-in-case' plan. They planned how they would rescue people if people chose to follow Satan's plan.
- "God loved the world so much that He gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life." John 3:16.
- Jesus was born on earth, in a stable. He became human but He was still God too.
- Every Christmas we celebrate and sing about the plan – even though most people have forgotten what we are celebrating.
- Jesus taught people that they could trust God, that God loved them and that God wants to live with them forever.

Jesus Life:

- What's your favourite miracle that Jesus did? Was it healing someone who was sick – like the blind man or the lady who touched his robe? Was it feeding five thousand people or making the winds and waves obey him? Perhaps it was raising Lazarus from the dead or healing that man lying beside the pool on the Sabbath.
- What's your favourite story that Jesus told? Perhaps you like the story of the two boys in Luke 15. What about the Good Samaritan or the lost sheep? What's your favourite thing that Jesus did? What about when he wrote in the sand for the lady that the leaders wanted to stone? Of course – what about him standing before Pilate, having a crown of thorns pushed onto his head and dying on a cross even, being hurt and mocked by his own creation even though he could have left?
- Jesus shows us pictures of God's Kingdom. His kingdom had a very different measure of success than our society has. Rather than being about the powerful and what we call beautiful, His kingdom is about the heartbroken, peacemakers, humble and persecuted. What's more, he says it is these people who can transform the world.
- If you're part of this kingdom, you live in a way that some will say is stupid and foolish. Turning the other cheek? Walking the second mile? Defeating violence with forgiveness, sacrifice and love? Come on! Get real! But Jesus says this is the type of life that changes the world. He says we give our lives away to find real life.

Death defeats Death

- Whenever big bush fires start burning in Australia firefighters start back burning. This means they light a fire that they control that's in the path of the fire that they are trying to stop. When the big fire gets to the fire break it runs out of things to burn and so goes out. Isn't it interesting that firefighters fight fire with fire.

- It's even more interesting, and important, the Jesus fights death, your and my death, with death – His.
- Jesus never sinned but he said "I'll die so that you don't have to."
- Jesus fought death with death. He allowed angry people to put nails in His arms and feet and hang Him from a cruel cross.
- Jesus didn't have to die on a cross. He had way more power than that. However Jesus knew that the consequences of our sin equals death. (Romans 8:28). So either we get death forever and have what we deserve. Or we get what we don't deserve by Jesus giving us His death in our place.
- In the big salvation plan God showed that he could be just, paying the price but also merciful, letting people off, all at the same time.
- Jesus dying on the cross is the ultimate picture of God. Philippians 2:5-8 tells us the Jesus is God but that he humbles himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. In Jesus death we see how much God loves us. Romans 5:8 says "God demonstrates His own love for us, while we were still sinners Christ died for us."
- God loved you so much that He gave His only Son so that if you believe in Him you shall have everlasting life (John 3:16). God left heaven with a passion to win your heart. Through Jesus we can know what God is like. Jesus was both fully God and fully human. Jesus came to deal with the sin problem and make a way where the price or your sin could be paid and instead of eternal death you can choose a growing relationship with Him. God doesn't want to live forever without you.
- Christ's Death in Our Place

He Rose Again:

- Then, on the third day, something wonderful happened. Jesus rose from the dead!
- While the disciples weren't sure after a little while they realised that Jesus had risen.
- Jesus proved that God is stronger than Satan.
- He proved that everyone who belongs to Him will live forever in Heaven, not matter what happens to them on earth.
- God has power over death.

Group Discussion:

- What is your favorite story that Jesus told or your favorite miracle that Jesus did?
- Why do you think God made a 'just-in-case' plan before the world was created?
- What do you think it would have been like to play with Jesus as He was growing up?
- How do you think Jesus felt when people were mocking him and telling him to save himself?
- Jesus could have avoided death on the cross and gone back to Heaven without dying – why do you think He went through the pain of death on the cross?

Application Activity:

'Learn about God's Love' 9. The Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus

Arnies Shack DVD 9. Best Way To Go

My World and Take Home Questions:

- What would it be like to have Jesus as a friend in your class at school? What do you think He would do at lunchtime?
- How can you share Jesus with your classmates?
- How does it make you feel that God loves you so much that Jesus would die on a cross for you?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

9. A Happy Tomorrow

Closing Prayer

Connecting With God
CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

28 Ways

Good Medicine

Experience of Salvation

In infinite love and mercy God made Christ, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, so that in Him we might be made the righteousness of God. Led by the Holy Spirit we sense our need, acknowledge our sinfulness, repent of our transgressions, and exercise faith in Jesus as Lord and Christ, as Substitute and Example. This faith which receives salvation comes through the divine power of the Word and is the gift of God's grace. Through Christ we are justified, adopted as God's sons and daughters, and delivered from the lordship of sin. Through the Spirit we are born again and sanctified; the Spirit renews our minds, writes God's law of love in our hearts, and we are given the power to live a holy life. Abiding in Him we become partakers of the divine nature and have the assurance of salvation now and in the judgment. (2 Cor. 5:17-21; John 3:16; Gal. 1:4; 4:4-7; Titus 3:3-7; John 16:8; Gal. 3:13, 14; 1 Peter 2:21, 22; Rom. 10:17; Luke 17:5; Mark 9:23, 24; Eph. 2:5-10; Rom. 3:21-26; Col. 1:13, 14; Rom. 8:14-17; Gal. 3:26; John 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:23; Rom. 12:2; Heb. 8:7-12; Eze. 36:25-27; 2 Peter 1:3, 4; Rom. 8:1-4; 5:6-10.)

The Big Idea:

God has a rescue plan.

Key Verse:

"Jesus went everywhere doing good. He healed those who were ruled by the devil, for God was with Jesus." Acts 10:38

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ."
2 Corinthians 5:16

Welcome and Prayer

Sing About God's Love: 10. Healing From the Inside Out

Bible Verse Activity

Object Lesson - Accepting Jesus Gift

Give a child a small gift certificate (for a place they can get a treat, etc.) When the child accepts it, ask why they accepted the gift and didn't say no. Ask about how they will use and enjoy the gift.

Interview – Rescue

(Ambulance, Police, Fire Person)

If you are able to have someone who is involved in rescue come in interview them about their job, rescues they have been on and how it feels when they are able to save a person.

Drama - Lost Jack: The Rescue

Characters:

- Joe
- Dave

Props:

- None

Scene:

Little Dave is crying on the stage. Joe walks passed. He stops, looks back then comes to sit down beside Dave.

Joe: Hey Dave, why are you crying? What's wrong buddy?

Dave cries a little more then sniffs and wipes his eyes.

Dave: I lost (sobs) I lost Jack.

Joe places a comforting arm on Dave's shoulder but that only makes Dave cry all the harder.

Joe: Jack? Who is Jack? Is he a friend of yours? We could give him a call.

Dave: (sadly) No we couldn't he wouldn't hear us. He's stuck down the storm water drain and I can't get him out.

Dave begins to howl loudly. Joe looks startled.

Joe: A storm water drain? How long ago? We'd better go home and call someone to help us. Stormwater drains are dangerous. Can you see him down there? Why can't I hear him calling?

Dave: He sunk.

Joe: (Horrified) He sunk? How long ago?

Dave: About 20 minutes ago. I tried to fish him out with a stick but he kept slipping...and then he sunk.

Joe: This is terrible. He's probably drowned by now. What will his parents say? This is awful.

Dave: He doesn't have any parents. It's just me.

Joe: Oh that's so sad. No parents and now he's dead. There must be someone we can tell who will miss him.

Dave: I'll miss him. Uncle Jacob bought him for me for my birthday. I've taken him everywhere with me ever since...

Joe finally twigs

Joe: Who is Jack, Dave?

Dave: Jack is Jackasaurus.

Joe: **What is Jack, Dave?**

Dave: A plastic T Rex

Joe stands up and reaches out for Dave

Joe: Dave, I think Jack has probably washed out to sea by now. Shall we go and see if we can get you another one and the shops.

Dave: (angry) No! I don't want another one. I love Jack!

Joe: But we can get one that looks just the same.

Dave: (cuts in) But I don't want one that looks just the same. I want my Jack. How would you like it if Jesus said that about you? How would you like it if he said, 'Joe's lost...oh well, I won't worry about him. I'll just make another one.'

Joe: Well, I guess I wouldn't like that but...

Dave: There are no buts. Mrs Jensen told us in Sabbath School that God loves us so much that he died for us and rose again so he could rescue us from sin. Well I don't need to rescue Jack from sin but I could use a longer arm and maybe some tongs.

Joe leans over to help Dave up.

Joe: Yes, Jack does deserve to be rescued because you love him. I've got longer arms and so does Uncle Nev. Let's go see what we can do, ok?

Dave: Ok...thanks. Do you think we could get ice-cream after? Jack loves chocolate chip.

The End.

Talking Points:

The Rescue Plan:

- Before the world was created God put in place a 'just in case' rescue plan.
- Jesus came to this planet as a baby, lived, died and rose again to rescue us from sin.

- However Jesus always gives us choice and even in the rescue plan we can choose to be rescued from the problems of sin – or not.
- Imagine if someone were lost in the bush. Rescue teams go out in search of the person. What if that person though didn't want to be found and kept running away and hiding from the rescuers? We would think that was odd, the person would stay lost. Jesus continually seeks us however gives us the choice to be found.
- He promises that when we allow Him to rescue us he will give us a new heart, in place of our sinful heart, and grow us to be more like Him.
- God never forces, we have to accept God's salvation gift.
- The moment we realise we are lost and accept Jesus rescue offer, His perfect life is seen is ours and Jesus death for sin is seen as ours.
- We are saved and that's the best news ever.
- Romans 8:15-17 says that we are adopted into God's family. That's the most important family to be part of.
- When I allow Jesus into my life, He helps me change from a sinner to a child of God who wants to live forever in Heaven with Him. (John 15:5)
- God's love is a gift. A gift is something you can't buy. You can't earn it. But if you believe in Jesus, that He died on the cross for you, you can have the Salvation gift of eternal life.
- That's the greatest rescue plan of all isn't it?

Reader's Theatre:

Narrator: There was a man named Nicodemus, one of the Pharisees. He was an important Jewish leader. One night he came to Jesus and said.

Nicodemus: Teacher, we know that you are a teacher sent from God. No one can do these miraculous signs that you do unless they have God's help.

Jesus: I assure you, everyone must be born again. Anyone who is not born again cannot be in God's kingdom.

Nicodemus: How can a man who is already old be born again? Can he go back into his mother's womb and be born a second time?

Jesus: Believe me when I say that everyone must be born from water and the Spirit. Anyone who is not born from water and the Spirit cannot enter God's kingdom. The only life people get from their human parents is physical. But the new life that the Spirit gives a person is spiritual. Don't be surprised that I told you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it wants to. You hear it, but you don't know where it is coming from or where it is going. It is the same with everyone who is born from the Spirit.

Nicodemus: How is all this possible?

Jesus: You are an important teacher of Israel, and you still don't understand these things? The truth is, we talk about what we know. We tell about what we have seen. But you people don't accept what we tell you. I have told you about things here on earth, but you do not believe me. So I'm sure you will not believe me if I tell you about heavenly things! The only one who has ever gone up to heaven is the one who came down from heaven—the Son of Man. Moses lifted up the snake in the desert. It is the same with the Son of Man. He must be lifted up too. Then everyone who believes in him can have eternal life. Yes,

All present: God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him would not be lost but have eternal life.

Jesus: God sent his Son into the world. He did not send him to judge the world guilty, but to save the world through him. People who believe in God's Son are not judged guilty. But people who do not believe are already judged, because they have not believed in God's only Son. They are judged by this fact: The light has come into the world. But they did not want light. They wanted darkness, because they were doing evil things. Everyone who does evil hates the light. They will not come to the light, because the light will show all the bad things they have done. But anyone who follows the true way comes to the light. Then the light will show that whatever they have done was done through God.

Being born again:

- Have you ever had a toy you like break? How did you feel? What happened to your toy, was it able to be fixed?
- What about broken hearts?
- Because of sin, all of us are broken inside.
- We might not feel broken however sin means we are nothing like what God really made us to be. By ourselves we are broken.
- Did you know that God can make people new?
- Sure they look pretty much the same on the outside. They still have the same body and look the same. However God says he gives us new hearts that make us new people on the inside.
- He even calls this being born again.
- Do you know much about when and how you were born as a baby?
- I'm sure there would have been people very excited to finally meet you.
- Jesus says we need to be born again.
- Sure we can't climb back into our mother, like Nicodemus asks Jesus about, however we can be born new on the inside.

Nicodemus and Re-born on the Inside:

- Nicodemus was an important leader in the Jewish Synagogue. His friends were the people who were becoming jealous of Jesus and were wanting to get rid of Jesus.
- Nicodemus looked at Jesus and saw something different. He knew that Jesus had something he wanted – even though he wasn't sure what exactly was going on.
- He came to talk to Jesus during the night, in secret.
- He said "Teacher, what must I do to be saved?"
- Jesus said "Unless a man is born again, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God!"
- Do you think this is a strange answer?
- Nicodemus wasn't sure if he knew what Jesus was talking about.
- He said:
"But, Master, I am old! How can I be born again? Am I supposed to crawl back into mother's stomach and be born again? I don't think it will work!"
- Jesus is saying that being born again is not about coming out of your mother again. He does say it's about letting the Holy Spirit into your life and letting Him shape your new heart.

Being Born Again:

- Jesus wants to make you new.
- He sends the Holy Spirit to connect with you, give you a new heart and work through you to be a more loving person.
- When you invite the Holy Spirit into your heart Jesus calls it being born again.
- All Heaven celebrates when someone is born again.
- Being 'born of the Spirit' does not mean you're perfect – it does mean you your life belongs to God and that you are allowing the Holy Spirit to work in your life.
- It does mean that you've accepted God's great rescue plan.
- Jesus wants to give you a new heart.

- He wants to work in and through you.
- He wants you to be born again – taking your old heart and accepting Jesus offer of a new heart.
- What stops you asking Jesus to come into your heart?

Group Discussion:

- Have you ever rescued an animal – what happened and how did it turn out?
- Has there ever been a time that you were in danger and someone rescued you?
- Why do you think so many people choose not to accept Jesus rescue plan?
- Why do you think God put together the Salvation plan?
- Why do you think Nicodemus came to Jesus at night?
- Do you know anyone who has changed after they met Jesus? If so, what do you think happened to them on the inside?

Application Activity:

'Learn about God's Love' 10. The Experience of Salvation

Arnies Shack DVD 10.Total Surrender

My World and take Home Questions:

- In what ways should Jesus' gift of salvation and his offer of a new heart change you?
- How do you feel about being 'adopted' into God's family?
- What do you think it means to give your life to Jesus?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

10. Good Medicine

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28 Ways

I Can Be Like Jesus

Growing in Christ

By His death on the cross Jesus triumphed over the forces of evil. He who subjugated the demonic spirits during His earthly ministry has broken their power and made certain their ultimate doom. Jesus' victory gives us victory over the evil forces that still seek to control us, as we walk with Him in peace, joy, and assurance of His love. Now the Holy Spirit dwells within

us and empowers us. Continually committed to Jesus as our Saviour and Lord, we are set free from the burden of our past deeds. No longer do we live in the darkness, fear of evil powers, ignorance, and meaninglessness of our former way of life. In this new freedom in Jesus, we are called to grow into the likeness of His character, communing with Him daily in prayer,

feeding on His Word, meditating on it and on His providence, singing His praises, gathering together for worship, and participating in the mission of the Church. As we give ourselves in loving service to those around us and in witnessing to His salvation, His constant presence with us through the Spirit transforms every moment and every task into a spiritual experience. (Ps 1:1, 2; 23:4; 77:11, 12; Col 1:13, 14; 2:6, 14, 15; Luke 10:17-20; Eph 5:19, 20; 6:12-18; 1 Thess 5:23; 2 Peter 2:9; 3:18; 2 Cor. 3:17, 18; Phil 3:7-14; 1 Thess 5:16-18; Matt 20:25-28; John 20:21; Gal 5:22-25; Rom 8:38, 39; 1 John 4:4; Heb 10:25.)

Big Idea:

Our heart can be a place for God's word to grow.

Key Verse:

"In your lives you must think and act like Jesus Christ." Philippians 2:5

Welcome and Prayer

Sing About God's Love: 11. More Like Jesus

Bible Verse Activity

Impromptu Drama - The Farmer and the Field

Matthew 13

Characters:

- Farmer
- Birds
- Little Plants
- Weeds

Props:

- A seed bag (stuffed with paper to make it look full)
- Rocks

There was once a farmer who had a large sack of seed. It was Springtime and after spending days in the hot sun preparing the soil it was now time to plant.

It was a beautiful sunny morning and the farmer hoisted the bag of seed on his back and went down to his field to plant. He started at one end of the field and followed the path all the way through, up and down the he field he went tossing the seed from the sack.

Hour after hour the farmer sowed his seed and he hoped it would grow. However, some of it fell on the road. Now seed doesn't really grow on the road and, up in the trees waiting, with their eyes on an easy meal was a flock of hungry birds. When the seed landed on the road they hurriedly flew down and pecked up the seeds as fast as they could. The farmer tried to shoo them away but he had so many seeds to plant and the birds were very hungry.

The farmer continued to sow his seeds. While some of it fell on the path some also fell on the stony ground where it had been too hard to plough. These seeds did start to grow but it got really hot among the stones so the little plants shrivelled up and died. Poor little plants!

Some of the seeds fell at the edge of the field where the plough had not reached. These seeds started to grow but all the weeds that surrounded the tiny plants were stronger and hardier. They didn't want these little plants growing amongst them taking their nutrients so they strangled them and they died.

The farmer felt sorry for all his lost seed. And if he had dwelled on them he many have given up. But he was actually a pretty good shot and most of his seed fell on the ground on which he wanted to plant. These seeds grew up strong, healthy and produced grain beyond his wildest dreams.

Interview:

A farmer or Gardener

- What do seeds need to grow?
- What stops seeds growing?
- Do you have any trouble with birds?

Talking Points:

The Power of Seeds.

- Tall trees start off as tiny seeds. It's incredible to think about all the potential locked up in a small seed.
- Some seeds blow in the wind until they find somewhere to grow, others are eaten by birds and then grow after they have done through the bird's digestion. Some seeds get caught and spread on animals while others get sown into fields by special planting machines.
- Whichever way the seed needs to be planted somewhere it will find the right nutrition to grow into a healthy plant.

- All the wonderful potential in the seed is wasted if the seed doesn't get the right conditions to grow.

Jesus and the Seeds:

- In Jesus' story of the farmer and the seeds, the seed represents Jesus' words - good news that Jesus wants people to know.
- Jesus tells us that God is in love with us, that He wants to live with us forever, that He wants to connect with us, that sin is a big problem that leads to death but that he has a plan for life, that people are more important than things. These are all seeds that Jesus wants to plant in our hearts.
- The seeds that fell on the road are like the people who were sitting around Jesus, hearing His words but doing nothing about it. The birds ate the seed as it was sitting uncovered. The good things that Jesus was telling them went in one ear and out the other!

Have you ever sat in school or Sabbath School and just daydreamed or heard the words but you've been thinking about other things so didn't really care what was being said? Some people treated Jesus words just like that. The seeds of Jesus words could not grow in those people's lives. They weren't bad people, they just didn't care. The birds took the seed and it never grew.

- The seeds that fall on the bumpy and stony parts of the field got a chance to start growing - but when the sun came up, the baby plants couldn't get any water from the hard ground. They shrivelled and died. The seeds that fell on the hard stony ground were like the people who heard Jesus, and thought that the things He was teaching them sounded good, but they got distracted and the seed, although starting to grow, could not get what it needed to keep growing.
- Some of the seeds fell in the weedy parts of the field. These seeds sprouted and grew at first, but later the weeds grew up around them and used up all the water and sunlight. Jesus says that they got choked by the 'cares and worries of this world.' Sometimes do all the other things going on in your life stop you focusing on Jesus?
- Lastly, there were the seeds that fell in the good soil - where the ground was soft and watered. These seeds grew up big and strong and made good food that the farmer took home to feed everybody!

The soil Jesus was talking about here is people who hear his word and then have a relationship with Him where they follow what He says. The let Jesus work in and through them and that not only changes them but people around them.

- Which soil do you think your heart is? What happens to you when you learn more about Jesus' love for you? Does it grow in your heart? Does it get choked by worries? Does it get taken by birds? Or, is your heart a place where Jesus' words grow, you let Jesus change you and use you to help others?

Getting Connected: The Vine and Branches:

- Have you ever had an electronic toy that needs to be plugged in to charge? What happens when you can't find a plug? How good is the toy without being connected?
- It's frustrating to be trying to get onto the internet and being unable to connect with the server. You can have the latest computer with the biggest hard drive however if you can't connect then it is very limited.
- Having things connected right is important if you want things to work right.
- Your connection with God is way more important than your computer. Living in connection with Jesus does not just happen by itself. We have to choose to sync with Jesus and allow Him to work in and through us. God wants to connect with you however He doesn't take over, He gives you the choice of whether or not you want to connect with Him.
- When Jesus was talking to his disciples about connecting he didn't have electronic toys to explain how it works. He did have vines and branches. (If a grafted plant is

available for illustration that would be great. Explain how the grafted branch has life and can bear fruit because it is grafted in).

- In John 15 Jesus explains that if we, the branches, remain connected to Him, the vine, then through us He will bear much fruit. The fruits are things like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). If you want to become a person who has these fruits then the key is connection with the vine – God.
- When you are connected to the vine, God, then Jesus promises to work in you. When this happens you find yourself being the person God designed you to be. You find yourself caring about what God cares about. Your heart beats and breaks for what God's heart beats and breaks for. Your heart is then open for God to work in and through.
- Jesus also talks about how He prunes the branches who are connected to Him (v2). Part of being in connection with Jesus is to allow the pruning of things such as pride, jealousy, and bitterness.
- In verse 5 Jesus reminds us that without Him we can do nothing. Sure you can do exams and surf the net without Him, providing He gives you breath. But as far as bearing the fruit of the spirit it all adds up to nothing if it is not Him working in and through us.
- When we are connected to God amazing things can happen in and through us.

How do you Connect?

- The next question then is how do you connect? Well - you can be connected with God in any moment of any day. God wants to connect with you all the time.
- Did you know that you have a pattern on your lips that, like your fingerprints, only belongs to you? There is no one else like you on the planet. Did you know that God wired you up uniquely so that the relationship He has with you is unlike any other on the planet. What makes you feel close to God will be different to anybody else. This means there are as many different ways to connect with God as there are people.
- Paul tells us to **train** in connecting with God. How do you train in godliness? This will be different for each person because God made us all different. However there are some training tips that many people have found useful. By the way, these training tips are for kids, adults, everybody. There is never a spot that you can say to yourself I can stop training in Godliness now. Many people call these training tip 'Heart Building Habits'.

- **Thinking Time:**

Thinking time is about taking quiet, unhurried time – just you and God.

Work out a quiet time that works for you and just spend it with God. Sometimes we might say we are too busy or this is a 'waste of time', however without quiet time we will spend life chasing the wrong things. Maybe you will need to start off small and gradually increase the time.

- **Bible Reading :**

It's not about just knowing more; it's about changing our lives. The Pharisees prayed and studied, but they did so in a big headed way rather than looking for a connection with God. Read a small section slowly and go over it again to see what God might want to say to you.

- **Worship:**

Maybe it's listening to a piece of music that draws you closer to God, maybe it's in nature. Find whatever it takes that brings you to worship God.

- **Keep a Spiritual Diary:**

Some people have found keeping a spiritual diary to be very valuable in

connecting with God. A spiritual diary might include thoughts about how God is working in your life or what you are learning from the Bible. Maybe it will include thoughts and feelings about God. One of the good things about a spiritual diary is that you can look back and see how God has grown you.

- **Prayer:**
Prayer is talking directly to God. Ask Him to grow you. Prayer provides a vital, growing connection to God.
- **Service:**
Being involved in service to others is a heart building habit that is beneficial to many in drawing closer to God. Thinking about others ahead of ourselves is great in shifting our focus from inward to outward and allowing God to work in and through us.
- **Nature:**
For other kids, spending time in nature or singing are great connection points. Other kids connect best to God in quiet time while others connect best to God when serving. All of us connect with God differently.

God wants to connect with you. God wants to hear your voice and work in and through your life. He is the vine, we're the branches. The God of the universe wants to produce fruit through you.

A Heart Check:

- A good starting point for being a disciple of Jesus is to take a heart check. Take some time to think about the choices you make, and the place Jesus fills in your life. It might be useful to talk things through with a trusted adult.
- When we have a healthy 'heart' spiritually we find ourselves wanting to go about life in a way that pleases God. We do things differently because we value what God values and allow Him to work in and through us.
- God is very keen to take your 'stony' heart and give you a new one Ezekiel 11:19. Like David we can say to God "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Psalm 51:10 And guess what – God gets very excited when young men and ladies ask for a new, clean heart. He wants to grow in and through you.

Group Discussion:

- Have you ever planted seeds? Did they grow? What helped them grow and if they didn't what stopped them growing?
- What do you think it means to let Jesus grow in your heart?
- What do you think stops people growing in their love for Jesus today?
- Have you seen God's word growing in people? What changed about them?
- Do you ever take quiet time just to chat with God? If not, what would have to change for you to make quiet time to invite God into your heart?

Application Activity:

'Learn About God's Love' 11. Growing In Christ

Arnie's Shack DVD 11. I Give My Heart to You

My World and Take Home Questions:

- What ideas do you have for making your heart a place where Jesus words can grow?
- How might you be able to connect with God in the playground at school?
- How will you include the things that help you connect with God into your day?

- How might people see God through you this week?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

11. I Can Be Like Jesus

Closing Prayer

Connecting With God

CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

28 Ways

One Big Happy Family

Church

The church is the community of believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. In continuity with the people of God in Old Testament times, we are called out from the world; and we join together for worship, for fellowship, for instruction in the Word, for the celebration of the Lord's Supper, for service to all mankind, and for the worldwide proclamation of the gospel. The church derives its authority from Christ, who is the incarnate Word, and from the Scriptures, which are the written Word. The church is God's family; adopted by Him as children, its members live on the basis of the new covenant. The church is the body of Christ, a community of faith of which Christ Himself is the Head. The church is the bride for whom Christ died that He might sanctify and cleanse her. At His return in triumph, He will present her to Himself a glorious church, the faithful of all the ages, the purchase of His blood, not having spot or wrinkle, but holy and without blemish. (Gen. 12:3; Acts 7:38; Eph. 4:11-15; 3:8-11; Matt. 28:19, 20; 16:13-20; 18:18; Eph. 2:19-22; 1:22, 23; 5:23-27; Col. 1:17, 18.)

Big Idea:

The church is Jesus body and we all have a part to play in this big happy family.

Key Verse:

"You were all baptised into Christ... Now, in Christ, there is no difference between Jew and Greek... slaves and free men... male and female." Galatians 3:26-28

Welcome and Prayer

Sing About God's Love: 12.We Are The Church

Bible Verse Activity

Drama – Going to Church

Characters:

- June
- Stan
- Mum

Props:

- Lego

Scene:

Stan is sitting on the floor of his bedroom wearing his PJs and playing with his Lego. He is supposed to be getting ready to go to church. His sister is calling him but he is ignoring her.

June: Stan...Stan...where are you Stan?
Looking around for Stan. Finally spots him.

June: There you are Stan. Why didn't you answer me? I've been looking everywhere for you! Mum said it's time to go to church now.
Notices Stan in still in his PJs. June reaches to check his forehead.

June: What's wrong Stan? Are you sick? I'll get Mum (yells) Mum...Mum, Stan's sick Mum...Mum?

Mum: What's all the yelling about June I've...(notices Stan's PJs) Stan? What's wrong?

Stan: Stan just shrugs and keeps playing with his Lego. Mum turns to June

Mum: June, can you go make sure you've got everything you need for Sabbath School today? We won't be long.
June looks about to protest but leaves the room. Mum squats down next to Stan.

Mum: Ok, how about you tell me what this is all about hey?
Stan shrugs again.

Stan: Nothing.

Mum: So are you really sick?

Stan: No...but I don't want to go to church today. We have to go up and collect the (insert suitable occasion) flowers for all the old people and I don't want to go up the front. I don't like it when everyone is looking at me.

Mum: (Sighs) You know what, we can't go to church...

Stan: (looking hopeful) Really?

Mum: No, none of us can. Church is not actually a building, it's people.

Stan: Oh whatever Mum!

Mum: No, seriously...When God says 'On this rock I'll build my church' he's not meaning he's going to call in a whole bunch of carpenters and start hammering and nailing stuff together. He's saying that on Jesus he will place all his beloved people. All those who love him and accept his special gift of salvation.

Stan: Well, what does that have to do with me going up the front in church...

Mum: You mean the service

Stan: Ok then...the service

Mum: It simply means you don't have to.

Stan: Really?

Mum: No, you don't have to go up the front if you don't want to. But that doesn't mean you can sit back and do nothing. Perhaps you can help bunch the flowers together before the program. Maybe you can stand at the door and give out flowers to the people that didn't get one. We all have different gifts, Stan, that doesn't mean one is more important than the other. But we do all have to serve in a way that reflects what we are good at...what gifts we have.

Stan: You mean like June and...talking?

Mum laughs

Mum: Well I guess...yes, she is very good at talking.

Stan: So I don't have to go up the front...you're sure?

Mum: No Stan, so long as we are all working together and serving one another then we don't all have to go up the front. We can use our own special gifts. (pause) you ready to go get dressed then?

Stan: Yeah ok...I really do like going to church...I mean God's family.

Mum: That's great Stan...so do !!

The End.

Talking Points:

Pictures of Church:

- What picture first comes into your mind when I say the word 'church'?
- Some of you will think of a building, some a program once a week, some will think of meetings and others will think of getting dressed up. However, today we want to look at what picture the Bible writers had when they thought of the church – they thought of church as a family where people grow closer to God and one another - together. Today we find out about what it means to be a church family.
- God made the church to be like a family. It's God's family on earth.
- This family can be a group of people in one church community or it can be God's children in a whole area. Bigger still, it can be God's family right across the world.
- It includes everyone in the world who loves Jesus, everyone who is learning to follow Him - that's a lot of people.
- God's family includes people from many different churches.
- It includes people in big cities, in little towns, people in the mountains, the desert and the ice of Alaska. God has His family all over the world.

All Kind of People:

- Have you ever been to a family reunion of your uncles, aunts, cousins and other people related to you?
- Isn't it interesting that even among the people related to you there are all sorts of sizes, shapes, hair colours, eyes, noses and attitudes. Yet – they are still part of your big family.
- It's a bit the same with God's family.
- Have a look at the people around you, we're all different. A church family is made up of lots of different people. There are some old and some young, there are ladies and gentleman, there are people with black hair, blonde hair, white hair and no hair,

people with glasses, people with real teeth and false teeth, people with big noses and little noses.

- The idea is that God created each of us different. Even if you're a twin you are still unique and different. God likes variety and He created us all to be special and show a part of His character.
- But together we make up God's big family where we serve, share, worship, connect and grow together and show the world what happens when we are part of a family that has Jesus as the head.

What does this family do?

- The church family doesn't just hang out together. God has given them some special purposes:

Worship:

- The church family is filled with the Holy Spirit so overflows with worship. Not just when they are together but all the time.
- Today we worship famous people, houses, cars or lots of other things – we can even worship toys. Often people today end up worshipping themselves.
- In our church family worship is about all giving glory to God.
- In Romans 12, Paul talks about being a living sacrifice in **all** you do and says that this is worship.
- Worship can happen in many ways: singing, prayer, being amazed at nature; along with our thoughts, actions and feelings that we express to God. It is not simply about something you do on Sabbath or for a short time each week – worship is about your everyday life and making space to thank and praise God in everyday situations.
- In Isaiah 29:13 we are told to worship continually. In the Bible people praised God at work, at home, in jail and even in bed.
- God's family is a big worshipping family.

Fellowship:

- The church family is deeply connected in fellowship.
- Fellowship is the word we use to describe how the people in the church connect with and care about each other.
- In the church family no one should be left lonely.
- God made us to connect with each other and the church family is where we should connect with other people who love God.
- In our church family we are to pray for each other, encourage each other, serve each other and help each other with what we have.
- In the church family people should feel connected like lots of Lego that are all individual pieces but together can make something really special.
- Jesus says people should know us by our love and that people seeing how we look after each other would make people want to connect with Him as well.
- God did not design us to be lonely – He made us to be part of a big family. Family looks out for and cares for each other. It is about reflecting Christ to each other.

Growing in the Word:

- The church family is a place where we grow in knowing God together.
- We can study God's word together and learn more about God, how He works and His salvation plan.
- We don't just learn more information, we can help each other with ideas to apply what we have learnt to being more loving people.
- We can encourage each other to grow and help each other when someone might feel discouraged.

- Sure people can grow by themselves, however God gave us a church family so that we can grow together - it's more fun together.

Service :

- The church family is designed to serve each other, the community and the world.
- The church family does not exist for itself. It is to glorify God and an important part of this is serving.
- Jesus showed us the greatest picture of serving. Serving us even to the point of death on a cross. We are called to be like Jesus and serve others.
- Even more important Jesus says that when we serve others it's like serving Him,
- The church family is called to be Jesus' hands, feet and eyes and make a difference in serving.

Sharing :

- The church family does not keep the good news about God's love to itself.
- It shows and tells of God's love to the world. The big word some people use for this is proclamation.
- If you had very important good news that could save someone's life for eternity would you keep it to yourself? Of course not.
- The church family is to be a group of people who work together to share God's love so that more people connect with God and are saved.
- Most times this is simply allowing God to use you in your everyday relationship with people. Caring about people and then when they want to know what makes you different pointing them to Jesus and helping them connect with Him and His church family.

Jesus the Head:

- Jesus is the head of this big world-wide family.
- Paul writes in Ephesians 4:15, 16, "Speaking the truth with love, we will grow up in every way into Christ, who is the head. The whole body depends on Christ and all the parts of the body are joined and held together in Him."
- The church is God's family, and we are all His children belonging to Jesus body.
- This family is growing to be more like Jesus.
- This family then should reflect Jesus to each other and the world.
- This means we will be a family where people forgive, serve and care about each other.
- Church is not simply about turning up to a building once a week – it's about being a group of people who together are God's family all the time. The apostle Paul describes it as being a body - not just anybody but Christ's body.
- Best of all, Jesus promises that He will return to earth to take His family to Heaven to live with Him forever.

Group Discussion:

- Give each child a piece of paper and ask them to draw a quick picture of what comes into their mind when they think of the world church.
- What picture do you think Jesus would draw of the church?
- Why do you think God wants us to work together as a community?
- Why do you think our society has so many lonely people?
- How can you help other people feel connected?

Application Activity:

'Learn about God's Love' 12. The Church

Arnies Shack DVD 12. Love One Another

My World and Take Home Questions:

- What ideas do you have for making other people feel like they belong at church, school or in your family?
- Think of someone you know who might be lonely – what can you do to help them feel a part of community?
- What can you do to make your church a more caring community?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

12. One Big Happy Family

Closing Prayer

Connecting With God 28 Ways

CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

The God Squad

Remnant and Its Mission

The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ, but in the last days, a time of widespread apostasy, a remnant has been called out to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This remnant announces the arrival of the judgment hour, proclaims salvation through Christ, and heralds the approach of His second advent. This proclamation is symbolized by the three angels of Revelation 14; it coincides with the work of judgment in heaven and results in a work of repentance and reform on earth. Every believer is called to have a personal part in this worldwide witness. (Rev. 12:17; 14:6-12; 18:1-4; 2 Cor. 5:10; Jude 3, 14; 1 Peter 1:16-19; 2 Peter 3:10-14; Rev. 21:1-14.)

Big Idea:

People who are loyal to God have a special work to do. Jesus calls us to be faithful to the end.

Key Verse:

"Many people are invited. But only a few are chosen." Matthew 22:14

Welcome and Prayer

Sing About God's Love: 13. Standing For Jesus

Bible Verse Activity

Object Lesson – The Remnant

You will need:

- 2 packets of marshmallows (or other lolly easy for a child to pick up with their mouth).
- 4 bowls (2 containing potting mix, 2 clean)
- Have two children come up. Their job, using only their mouths, is to carry the clean marshmallows from the clean bowl to the bowl containing potting mix.
NOTE: They think it is a race. Your job is to stop them when there are a few marshmallows left in the bowl.
- When you call stop, give the children a prize then ask them to sit down.

- Ask “Who wants a marshmallow?”
- Take one out of the dirty bowl, “Now who still wants a marshmallow?”
- Explain how the Bible says that during the last days most people's hearts will be polluted with selfishness. However God will have a special group of people who are loyal to Him, do what He asks and tell the world that Jesus is coming soon.
- The Bible calls these people the remnant.
- Remnant means the part that remains when most of something has gone.
- In the Bible remnant means the group of people who remain with God even when everyone else has turned away.
- Fortunately people are not like marshmallows. We have a choice as to which group we want to be part of.

Drama – The Remnant

Characters:

- Kai
- Chris
- Dan
- Alex

Props:

- A bunch of party invitations
- School bags and uniforms
- Football/rugby ball

Setting:

Kai is watching the school gate waiting to give out his birthday invites. Children are filing passed talking to one another. Kai spies one of his friends and calls out to him.

Kai: Chris, hey Chris!
Chris turns and comes over.

Chris: What's up Kai? How was your weekend?

Kai: It was awesome. Mum and I planned my party for next month. Here's your invitation. (Hands Chris the invitation) I hope you can come. It's going to be great!

Chris: Cool! I will check with my Mum and get her to tell your Mum.
Another couple of boys walk passed.

Kai: Dan, Alex, hey wait up!
The two boys turn back and join Kai and Chris.

Dan: Hey Kai

Alex: Hi guys!
Kai hands the other two boys his invitations.

Alex: What's this?

Kai: It's my party invitations. It's going to be choice! Bring your water guns and Mum said we can start out with a water fight then play some footy.

Dan: Cool, I just got a new super soaker for my birthday.

Kai: (A little hurt) Did you have a party and not invite me?

Dan: Nah man, Mum said I couldn't have a party this year because it's my turn next year.

Kai: Aww Dude, that's stink! Anyway, get your Mum's to tell my Mum if you are coming. It's going to be heaps of fun. We are having pizza for tea.

Chris: Pizza! Yum...my fav is Hawaiian!

Kai: Yeah well, I'm sure there will be lots to eat and we can play all night. Because...it's a sleepover!

All the boys make excited sounds and hi five each other.

Alex: Wow, you are so lucky Kai. I can't wait for the party!

Dan: Do you want to come play footy with us before school?

Kai: Can't...sorry, gotta keep an eye out for the rest of the boys (fans out all the other invitations). I want to get all these out before school. Mum said my school bag is like a black hole and if I put any of these babies in there they might get lost. I don't want anyone to miss out!

Chris: That's true. Ok, will see you at the bell.

Dan: Thanks for the invite.

Alex: Yeah, thanks heaps. It's going to be awesome!

The End.

Talking Points:

God's Remnant:

- Did you know that through history God has always had a group of people who stay loyal to Him and followed Him even when everyone else had turned away from God. They found their strength in God even when it seemed like the whole world had turned evil.
- Noah and his family were a small group of people who followed God and did as He asked even when everyone else had turned away from God and laughed at Noah for following God.
- The children of Israel were to be God's followers and show the world God's love. Often, even the children of Israel turned away and worshipped other God's. People like Daniel and his friends still remained loyal to God.
- Elijah stood for God even though it seemed everyone else was against Him. God cared for Him and sent ravens to feed Him.
- In the New Testament Jesus set up His church to be His special people to show the world His love.
- The Roman government wanted to destroy the Christian Church and did terrible things to the people who loved Jesus. Even then, people still stayed loyal to God and followed Him.

- Later, even the church became selfish and powerful and did their own things instead of what God wanted. Still God had a group of people who didn't agree with what was going on and so fled and did things as God asked.
- God then called people like Martin Luther who started what is called the reformation when they tried to get the church to change. Luther, and men like him, wanted the church to follow what God had outlined in the Bible. The powerful church tried to get rid of Martin Luther but couldn't stop more people agreeing with him and a new church started.
- Today many people don't follow God. The Bible says that the love of many will grow cold.
- In a world where most people have cold hearts God still has a group of people who have hearts that are full of Him. They love God and ask Him to work in and through them. Like people all through history they are loyal to God and follow Him whatever it takes.
- They are God's remnant.

God's Followers:

- God's people have a special assignment for the last days of this world's history.
- Jesus said Earth would become a bad place just before He came back. Most people would forget about God and do whatever they want. People would be very selfish.
- Amongst all this selfishness there will be a group of people who follow God's commands and are faithful to Him.
- They are not selfish, instead they are trying to give God's message of love to as many people as possible – to save as many as possible.
- They will have a special job of telling the world the Jesus is coming back.

The Special Message:

- The book of Revelation, the last book in the Bible that tells about what's going on in the last days. Revelation says there will be a group of people who love Jesus and follow Him wherever He goes.
- Three angels then give a special message that this group of people will then tell the world.

Message One:

Love God and give Him glory because the hour of His judgement has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water. (Revelation 14:7)

- Even when it looks like everyone has forgotten God, God is still in charge.
- The remnant will remind the world that God loves people wants to save them.
- They will remind everyone that God is in control. That He created the world.
- When people are worshipping themselves, celebrities, money or anything else, the remnant will remind the world that only God deserves our worship.

Message Two:

Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great. (Revelation 14:8)

- Babylon is used as a symbol in the Bible for selfishness.
- It comes from the tower of Babel story in Genesis 11 where people were building a tower to make a name for themselves.
- They wanted to bring glory to themselves rather than God.
- On that same piece of land is where the real kingdom of Babylon was. Nebuchadnezzar, the king that we meet in the story of Daniel, says look at Babylon that I have made. Once again it was about worshipping self.
- Babylon is about taking away God's glory and making glory for ourselves.

- The remnant will tell the world that God really is real, that He deserves our glory and all these man made systems of worship, including churches that worship themselves instead of God, will fall.

Message Three:

Don't worship the beast. (Revelation 14:9)

- The last message is again a reminder about worship.
- The beast stands for Satan who, ever since he left Heaven, has been trying to take the worship that belongs to God.
- The remnant tell the world not to be tricked by Satan and to be careful of who and what they worship.
- Our worship belongs to God.

Group Discussion:

- Have you ever been part of a special club, maybe a secret club at school or maybe a group like Adventurers or Pathfinders? How does it feel to be part of a special group?
- What do you think most people worship today? Why do you think they choose to worship other things over God?
- What do you think it means to follow Jesus wherever He goes?

Application Activity:

'Learn About God's Love' 13. The Remnant and its Mission

Arnies Shack DVD 13. Stand Up, Stand Strong

My World and Take Home Questions:

- How can you worship God this week?
- How can you encourage your friends to stay loyal to God and follow Him when so many things are competing for our worship?
- Who can you show God's love to this week and let them know that God loves them.

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

13. The God Squad

Closing Prayer

Connecting With God

CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

28 Ways

Many Parts

Unity in the Body of Christ

The church is one body with many members, called from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. In Christ we are a new creation; distinctions of race, culture, learning, and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, must not be divisive among us. We are all equal in Christ, who by one Spirit has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another; we are to serve and be served without partiality or reservation. Through the revelation of

Jesus Christ in the Scriptures we share the same faith and hope, and reach out in one witness to all. This unity has its source in the oneness of the triune God, who has adopted us as His children. (Rom. 12:4, 5; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; Matt. 28:19, 20; Ps. 133:1; 2 Cor. 5:16, 17; Acts 17:26, 27; Gal. 3:27, 29; Col. 3:10-15; Eph. 4:14-16; 4:1-6; John 17:20-23.)

Big Idea:

The Church is Jesus Body – we have a part to play in His church.

Key Verse:

"This work must continue until we are all joined together in the same faith." Ephesians 4:13

Welcome and Prayer

Sing About God's Love: 14. Together

Bible Verse Activity

Object Lesson:

Provide a couple of different jigsaw puzzles to work on. Time the children to do a puzzle and see if adding more children into the groups improves the time.

Reader's Theatre - 1 Corinthians 12:12-28

Reader 1: Our bodies have many different parts which work together to make one body.

Reader 2: It is the same with the body of Christ

Reader 1: Which is His church.

Reader 3: We come from different places,

Reader 2: Racial groups

Reader 1: And backgrounds.

Reader 3: Some of us are rich

Reader 2: And some of us are poor.

Reader 1: We are all very different

Reader 2: But the Holy Spirit has fitted us all together into one body

ALL: And together we make up God's church.

Reader 4: Our bodies have many parts and they must work together to help us move.

Reader 2: What if our foot was to sulk and say

Reader 3: "I am not part of the body because I can't do what the hand does";

Reader 2: And what if your ear was to feel sad because it wasn't able to see like your eyes?

Reader 4: Is the ear less important to us than the eye...

Reader 1: Suppose the whole body was an eye,

Reader 2: Then how would we hear?

Reader 4: Or what if we were one big ear,

Reader 3: How could we smell?

Reader 1: Fortunately that isn't the way God made us.

Reader 4: He has made many parts for our bodies and has put each part.

ALL: Just where He wants it.

Reader 1: What a strange thing a body would be if it had only one part!

Reader 4: It is the same with His body the church –

ALL: Many parts, one body.

Reader 2: The eye would never say to the hand

Reader 3: "I don't need you"

Reader 2: Neither would the head say to the feet

Reader 4: "I don't need you"

Reader 2: As they are all important.

Reader 1: Sometimes the parts that seems to be the weakest and least important are really the most necessary.

Reader 2: If one part suffers,

Reader 1, 3, 4: All the other parts suffer with it

Reader 2: And if one part is honoured

Reader 1, 3, 4: All the other parts are glad.

Reader 1: So I tell you now today, all of you together make up the body of Christ.

Reader 2: Even though you are all very different people God loves each of you infinitely,

Reader 3: You are all important

Reader 4: And necessary parts of His church.

ALL: Which is His body.

The End.

Interview:

If possible have a doctor or nurse come in and interview them (or have a child interview them) about how the body works together.

Talking Points:

1 Corinthians 12:12-28

God's Plan for His Church:

- The Bible is full of stories that show God trying very hard to have a relationship with us and build a community. In the Old Testament God is trying to build a community that follows His plan and shows everybody what happens when people live by His guidelines.
- In the New Testament the church is set up to be a community that shows the world what happens when a group of people live together following God's plan.
- In the book of Revelation we read about a community that follows God whatever happens and then we read about us all being together with God, in community, just like He planned from the very start.
- Today our society seems to be all about self. We seem to be about getting more things, more power, more money to look after ourselves – it seems we don't have time to look after people and build community. However, the Bible tells us that we are not on the planet for ourselves but for God's purpose and one of His purposes is for us to grow a deep relationship with Him and with other people.
- We think that getting things for ourselves will make us happy. However, Jesus says we are only truly happy when we are in community with God and other people.
- Jesus says people should know us by our love and that people seeing how we look after each other would attract people to Him. If I was to walk down the street and ask people what they knew about our church do you think they would say 'I know those people really love other people and care about each other?' – I hope so.
- God did not design us to be lonely – he made us to be part of a community. Community looks out for and cares for each other. It is about being Jesus to each

other. Sometimes it's as simple as giving another person a cup of water. It's about everyone here knowing they are part of a group where people really look out for them. Church is not about turning up to a building once a week – it's about being a group of people who together are God's community all the time. The apostle Paul describes it as being a body- not just anybody but Christ's body.

- In Acts 2:42 we read about the early church and community. They were fellowshiping, eating and praying together.
- In verse 44 it says that they cared for one another deeply. In verse 45 it says they cared about people more than things. In 46 it says they valued fellowship and hospitality and their lives were becoming more connected.

Working Together:

- While we are all different, our scripture reading tells us we have the same purpose. We are to work together. We are to serve together, learn about God together, tell other people about God together, worship together and care for each other together. Doing it all together is a really big deal for God. Paul says, working together is very, very important.
- Jesus thinks working together is so important that just before He went back to heaven He prayed for the church and for His children, that's you and I, to work together. In John 17:20-25 He prayed that just like He and God the father are together - but different, we also would work together, even though we are very different.
- Unity does not mean we all have to be the same, it doesn't mean we have the same opinion on everything – God made us all different for a reason. However, it does mean we will have the same purpose – (Walk to piano if nearby and play a chord – if you do not know piano get shown which notes beforehand). If I play these three notes together they sound great – they are all different but together they make a lovely sound. However, I only have to add one more note that doesn't work together with the other three and it no longer sounds right (play another note that doesn't fit with the chord). When we are loving God and loving each other as a community we will work together to glorify God.
- Working together is much better and far more fun than trying to get the job done by yourself. There are things like maths tests that you have to get done by yourself. However, church is not a Maths test – in church we all need to co-operate, put our skills together and work as one body. If you've got a whole pile of dishes to get done does it feel better doing them by yourself or having a few people working together? God made us different - but he made us to work together.

Gifts:

- God created us to be good at different things, and no one is good at everything. This is how God wanted it to be so that we would all need to work together if things are to work best. Even more than this, Paul reminds us that God gives us spiritual gifts. A spiritual gift is a special ability given to you by God, through the Holy Spirit, that is to make the church a better church and bring Glory to God. This means God has designed each of us to do something special in the body of Christ 'the church' (We will look at gifts more in guide 22).
- God made you to be part of a bigger plan – His community. As you look at this play think about your part in this community and how you can encourage other people.
- Paul says we are like a body and when all the bits work together it is amazing. It takes all of us to make church work right. You are a very important part. If you decide your part is not important and stop, then that makes our church body sick.
- Paul says, You are Christ's body – that's what you are – you must never forget this!
- Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it - 1 Corinthians 12:27

Group Discussion:

- Have you ever had a part of your body stop working? What part was it and what happened?
- Why do you think Jesus calls His church a body?
- How can you make the church a friendlier place?
- How can you serve in your church family?

Application Activity:

'Learn About God's Love' 14. Unity in The Body of The Church

Arnies Shack DVD 14. Stand and Be United

My World and Take Home Questions:

- Do you think people see Jesus love reflected through you?
- What can you do to be Jesus' hands, heart and feet to people in your home, church and school this week?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

14. Many Parts

Closing Prayer

Connecting With God

CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

28 Ways

Healing Water

Baptism

By baptism we confess our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and testify of our death to sin and of our purpose to walk in newness of life. Thus we acknowledge Christ as Lord and Saviour, become His people, and are received as members by His church. Baptism is a symbol of our union with Christ, the forgiveness of our sins, and our reception of the

Holy Spirit. It is by immersion in water and is contingent on an affirmation of faith in Jesus and evidence of repentance of sin. It follows instruction in the Holy Scriptures and acceptance of their teachings. (Rom. 6:1-6; Col. 2:12, 13; Acts 16:30-33; 22:16; 2:38; Matt. 28:19, 20.)

The Big Idea:

Baptism is about telling everyone that your heart belongs to God.

Key Verse:

"You were all baptised into Christ... This shows that you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:26, 27

He who believes and is baptized will be saved. Mark 16:16

Welcome and Prayer

Sing About God's Love: Disc2-1, God's Offer of Life

Bible Verse Activity

Object Lesson:

Show a variety of logos from popular companies (see below for examples). Ask: Why are they identifiable? What can you tell me about these companies?

Baptism is a symbol. What does it stand for?



Impromptu Drama – Jesus is Baptised

Matthew 3:13-17

Characters:

- Jesus
- John
- Crowd

Props:

- Stuffed dove (or laminated picture)

Jesus found John down by the Jordan River. John was preaching to a large crowd and baptising many people. Jesus joined John in the water and asked John to baptise him also.

John was horrified, "No my Lord! It is I who should be baptised by you!"

But Jesus shook his head, "John, you need to do this for me. All God's plans are coming together now, in this act of baptism. This is the beginning of what is to come."

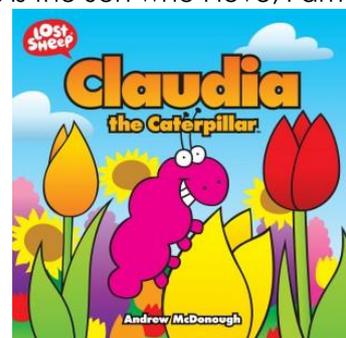
So John agreed. John gently lowered the Saviour into the Jordan River and as he rose from the water the heavens opened. God's Spirit came down through the clouds and landed on Jesus' shoulder. Then everyone heard the voice of God say, "This is the Son who I love, I am so proud of him."

Read the story - Claudia the Caterpillar

By Andrew McDonough

Blurb:

She was born to fly she longs to fly but will Claudia ever fly? An epic saga of courage faith and aerodynamics guaranteed to have you living life to the full and jumping off the cubby house. Based on John 3:1-16 this is a great story for teaching kids about new life in Christ like a caterpillar transforms into a butterfly.



Talking Points:

Jesus Example:

- Jesus got baptised in the Jordan River by John the Baptist.
- Did he need to be washed clean from sin? – No
- Did he need to say that he was following Jesus? – Of course not.
- Jesus got baptised to be an example to us.
- Jesus tells us to go and make disciples of people from all nations, He then tells us to baptise and teach them about God's love (Matthew 28:18-20)

What does baptism mean?

- Baptism is a special symbol of the washing that has taken place inside of us when we ask Jesus into our lives to be our Saviour.
- It shows people that your heart belongs to Jesus, a little bit like a wedding.
- At a wedding, the bride and groom don't start loving each other on that day, they get married because they love each other already. At the wedding they promise before God and friends that they will love and look after each other. At a baptism we are saying to family and friends, and before God, that our heart belongs to Jesus.
- It is a symbol of Jesus death and resurrection. Going down into the water (death) and coming out of the water (resurrection). So when we get baptised it shows that we accept Jesus' death for our sins and that we are excited about Jesus having the power of death.
- Baptism is a symbol of being born again. Going down into the water symbolises getting rid of our old lives and we come out clean and refreshed with new life. It is a symbol of a clean, fresh start.
- Does baptism mean I will be perfect? No, you will still make mistakes and sin is still in our hearts. It does mean we are giving our lives to Jesus, for Him to work in and through us.
- Baptism is a demonstration of your decision to allow Christ to work in and through you. It is not about being perfect.
- Baptism is us telling everyone that we belong to Jesus and that we want to grow to be more like Him.

Why should I get baptized?

- To follow Jesus example and what he asked us to do.
- To publicly show our commitment to Jesus.
- To show our acceptance of Jesus' life, death and resurrection.
- To demonstrate a commitment that allows the Holy Spirit to use you more in serving in the church, community and world.

When should I get baptized?

- I love Jesus already very much, why do I have to wait until I am older?
- There is no right age to be baptised however it is important to talk to your parents, wise people who care about you and your pastor about what baptism means and when might be the best time for you.
- Some churches baptise babies. This is not such a good idea because they don't remember it and can't make a choice for themselves.
- So, it might be a good idea to study the Bible with your parents, or some other adult you trust, and start getting ready for baptism.
- Maybe you could be part of a special child commitment ceremony. Being part of a child commitment ceremony shows you love Jesus and that you want to prepare for baptism later.

- Jesus says that being baptised is part of showing who your heart belongs to and that people who belong to Him will be saved. If you are not baptised yet, but love Jesus then don't think you won't be saved – Jesus can already see who you belong to.

Group Discussion:

- Have you ever been to a wedding? Why do you think people get married?
- How can you tell when a man and lady love each other?
- Have you ever watched people get baptised? Why do they say they're getting baptised? What changes about them?
- What places have you seen people get baptised?
- Has anyone you know well been baptised? Why did they get baptised?
- Have you ever thought about getting baptised?

Application Activity:

'Learn About God's Love' 15. Baptism

Arnies Shack DVD 15. They Choose Jesus

My World and Take Home Questions:

- What do you think it means to give your life to Jesus?
- What difference do you think loving Jesus makes in a person's life?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

15. Healing Water

Closing Prayer

Connecting With God

CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

28 Ways

A Meal of Memories

Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a participation in the emblems of the body and blood of Jesus as an expression of faith in Him, our Lord and Saviour. In this experience of communion Christ is present to meet and strengthen His people. As we partake, we joyfully proclaim the Lord's death until He comes again. Preparation for the Supper includes self-examination, repentance, and confession. The Master ordained the service of foot washing to signify renewed cleansing, to express a willingness to serve one another in Christlike humility, and to unite our hearts in love. The communion service is open to all believing Christians. (1 Cor. 10:16, 17; 11:23-30; Matt. 26:17-30; Rev. 3:20; John 6:48-63; 13:1-17.)

The Big Idea:

Jesus wants you to remember what really matters. He loves you, died for you and wants to spend forever with you.

Key Verse:

"Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you show others about the Lord's death until he comes." 1 Corinthians 11:26

Welcome and Prayer

Sing About God's Love: Disc 2.2 Remember Me

If possible, set up a communion service for the children. Have someone explain the significance of the service as children participate in the object lesson that Jesus asked us to do in remembrance of Him.

Bible Verse Activity

Object Lesson - The Last Supper

Materials:

Picnic basket, thermos filled with grape juice, picnic tablecloth with French bread sticking out of basket. Cut some corporate Logos from newspapers and magazines and glue them to sheets of paper. Some possibilities are the McDonald's Logo, Nike, Coke, Disney, Apple etc. Try to choose logos that would be recognized by your age group. You can also use common signs like a stop sign, male and female toilets, \$, etc. Place all of these items in the basket.

Activity:

(Show the children the items but do not open the picnic basket to see the contents yet.)
 What do you think of when you see these items? Most of us think of a picnic!
 Lay out the picnic tablecloth on the floor and set the basic in the middle of it. Invite the children to join you around the basket.

Application:

One night, Jesus had supper with his disciples. We call it the Last Supper. What do you think they ate at the last supper? Jesus took two things at the supper and used them as symbols. Take out the sheets with symbols you have created and see if the children can guess what each symbol represents. Lastly, take the bread and pour the grape juice into a clear cup or glass. Ask the children what these things represent.

Explain the significance of the broken bread and the wine. Explain how they are symbols to remind us something important. The last Supper reminds us that Jesus' body was broken and his blood was shed so that we might have forgiveness from our sins.

www.creativeyouthideas.com/resources/object-lessons/symbols/

Impromptu Drama - The Lord's Supper

John 13:12-15 and Luke 22:14-20

Characters:

- Jesus (speaking)
- 12 Disciples (non-speaking)
- Narrator

Props:

- Table set with food for the Passover
- A special cup of juice to pass around
- Plate of special bread
- Costumes (optional)

Setting: *Jesus and his disciples are in the upper room. Jesus is just finishing washing the last of his disciple's feet.*

Narrator: And after Jesus had finished washing his disciples feet he put his robe back on and said,

Jesus: I am your teacher. I have washed your feet. You should also wash each other's feet. I have done this as an example for you. So you should do what I have done for you for others.

Jesus and his disciples move to sit at the Passover meal.

Narrator: The time came for them to eat the Passover meal. Jesus and the apostles went together to the table. Then Jesus said to them,

Jesus: I wanted very much to eat this Passover meal with you before I die. I will never eat another Passover meal until it is given its full meaning in God's kingdom.

Narrator: Then Jesus took a cup of wine. He gave thanks to God for it and said,

Jesus: Take this cup and give it to everyone here. I will never drink wine again until God's kingdom comes.

Narrator: Then he took some bread and thanked God for it. He broke off some pieces, gave them to the apostles and said,

Jesus: This bread is my body that I am giving for you. Eat this to remember me.

Narrator: And the same way, after supper, Jesus took the cup of wine and said,

Jesus: This wine represents the new agreement from God to his people. It will begin when my blood is poured out for you.

The End.

Talking Points

- We call the last meal that Jesus ate with His 12 disciples "The Lord's Supper." It is also called the communion service or ordinances
- Jesus asks us to do so in remembrance of Him

Service:

- With dusty feet the disciples arrived at the upper room where they were going to be celebrating the Passover.
- The Passover was a special meal to celebrate the children of Israel being brought out of slavery in Egypt.
- Usually someone would wash the dust off the feet of each person before the meal would begin. At this meal no one wanted to be the one washing feet as the disciples were competing to be the most important.
- Would they ever learn that in God's kingdom true greatness is shown by being a servant?
- Jesus, God become man, quietly arose, took the servant's towel, poured water into a basin and knelt to wash feet. The Master was a servant.
- When he had finished He said; "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you." (John 13:14-15.)
- When we wash each other's feet it symbolises that we following Jesus in being a servant. We humble ourselves and show that we are willing to serve.
- We are also reminded that if we have a problem with someone else to talk with that person before the communion and hopefully things can be sorted out and then those two people can wash one another's feet. What a great picture of serving one another (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). Paul reminds us to check our hearts before the communion service.
- Foot washing also symbolises renewed cleansing. It is a reminder of baptism and that Jesus wants to wash our hearts clean (John 13:10). It reminds us of our need for God's forgiveness.
- It is also a reminder of Jesus, leaving heaven to come to this world. He became the greatest servant (Philemon 2:7).

Bread:

Matthew 26:26

"While they were eating, Jesus took some bread. He thanked God for it and broke it. Then he gave it to his followers and said, 'Take this bread and eat it. This bread is my body.'"

- In John 15:1 Jesus calls himself the bread of life.
- The bread is not really Jesus but a symbol of taking Jesus into your life and being connected with Him.
- In Jewish custom, before celebrating the Passover, families removed all leaven from their homes. Leaven, which makes bread rise, was considered a symbol of sin (1 Corinthians 5:7).

- During this time people confessed and repented of all sin including pride, jealousy and selfishness.
- It was after this they were ready for Passover.
- At the Passover they ate unleavened bread.

Grape Juice:

Matthew 26:27, 28.

“Then Jesus took a cup. He thanked God for it and gave it to his followers. He said, ‘Every one of you drink this. This is my blood which begins the new agreement that God made with his people.’”

- Jesus wanted us to remember that on the cross His blood flowed for us.
- Drinking the juice reminds us that Jesus took the death we deserved so that we can have life forever with Him.

Jesus Coming Again:

“For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes” (1 Corinthians, 11:26).

- At the Lord’s supper Jesus said that He would not drink of this fruit of the vine until He does so with us in Heaven (Matthew 26:29).
- When he said this Jesus was saying the same words as a Jewish young man would say to a girl he had just got engaged to. He would not drink grape juice between the engagement and the wedding banquet. It was a symbol of waiting for great things to happen.
- Communion reminds us that God is in love with us and wants us all to be together forever in Heaven. The church is called God’s bride and in Heaven there will be a big wedding banquet where Jesus will drink grape juice again (Revelation 19:9).

Group Discussion:

- What’s the best meal you’ve ever eaten?
- Does your family have any special celebration meals? What do you celebrate and what makes that meal special?
- How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus washed their feet?
- What do you think Jesus meant when He said that in His kingdom, the greatest is a servant?

Application Activity:

‘Learn about God’s Love’ 16. The Lord’s Supper

Arnies Arnies Shack DVD 16. The Most Important Thing

My World and Take Home Questions:

- How do you think it would feel to have Jesus wash your feet? What ideas do you have for serving people around you – maybe someone in your street or church?
- Is there anyone who you have a problem with who you need to chat to and try and mend the relationship? How might you start a conversation like that?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

16. A Meal of Memories

Closing Prayer

Connecting With God

CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

28 Ways

My Gift From God

Spiritual Gifts and Ministries

God bestows upon all members of His church in every age spiritual gifts which each member is to employ in loving ministry for the common good of the church and of humanity. Given by the agency of the Holy Spirit, who apportions to each member as He wills, the gifts provide all abilities and ministries needed by the church to fulfil its divinely ordained functions. According to the Scriptures, these gifts include such ministries as faith, healing, prophecy, proclamation, teaching, administration, reconciliation, compassion, and self-sacrificing service and charity for the help and encouragement of people. Some members are called of God and endowed by the Spirit for functions recognized by the church in pastoral, evangelistic, apostolic, and teaching ministries particularly needed to equip the members for service, to build up the church to spiritual maturity, and to foster unity of the faith and knowledge of God. When members employ these spiritual gifts as faithful stewards of God's varied grace, the church is protected from the destructive influence of false doctrine, grows with a growth that is from God, and is built up in faith and love. (Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:9-11, 27, 28; Eph. 4:8, 11-16; Acts 6:1-7; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; 1 Peter 4:10, 11.)

Big Idea:

God gives each of us special gifts so that we can serve Him

Key Verse:

"So enjoy the work you have to do here on earth. Whatever work you do, do your best."
Ecclesiastes 9:9, 10

Welcome and Prayer

Sing About God's Love: Disc2.3 Use it or Lose It

Bible Verse Activity

Drama – Arty the Ant

Setting:

Arty's bedroom, bare necessities like army barracks. Very tidy. He rises and makes his bed carefully smoothing it out perfectly during the narration. Narrator stands stage left.

Narrator: There was once an ant called Arty. Everyday he woke up early in the morning and spent the whole day finding and collecting food for the nest. Everyday was the same, up at dawn, work all day and go to bed exhausted at night. Then one morning Arty thought:

Arty: I am tired of working all day. I think today I'll stay home and watch the grass grow and eat that chip crumb I found under (insert Pastor's name) bed.

During narration Arty retrieves the crumb from under his bed, lies down and begins eating looking very pleased with himself.

Narrator: So Arty collected his crumb and settled back for a quiet day, wondering to himself why he hadn't thought to have a day off earlier. Well, as all of you know, Ants are very organised insects and it wasn't long before someone realised that Arty was missing. And Alex Ant, Arty's older brother – who was a soldier Ant, was sent to look for him.

Light fades down off Narrator and onto the Ants.

The sound of knocking is heard. Then Alex ant enters stage right.

Alex: (frustrated/concerned) Arty, what are you doing lying there in bed...are you sick?

Arty: No. (picks off more chip) It's my day off.

Alex: (Angry) Day off!! We don't get day's off in Summer. We have a strict schedule to follow. Now get up. We need to hurry and catch up to the others.

Arty moans and puts a pillow over his head.

Arty: (moves pillow to hugging position) All I do is hurry... (in fake voice). It's quick Arty, there's a piece of Taco over there or Hurry Arty, there's a sun flower seed over there...get it before that pigeon does – As if I can take on a pigeon.

Alex: (lecturing) Now Arty, the nest needs you...

Arty: (annoyed) No they don't. They won't notice if I stay home. There has to be at least 10,000 others doing the same job as me. I am sure they can manage with 9,999 today. Besides, who are you to tell me to hurry. All you do is stand around all day...

Alex: (defensively/annoyed) I might look to you like I stand around all day. But just last week our nest was stepped on by (insert Pr wife's name) while she was hanging out the washing. If I hadn't given her a good nip we'd all have been turned into ant paté. You workers all run away while we soldier ants run towards the danger.

Arty: (sadly) You are right. I'm just a worker and not important like you are. So who will care if I stay home today.

Alex: We are all important. If you and all the other workers stopped gathering food, all us soldiers would starve. We need you, all of you to look for food. What if today

was the day you were going to find ½ a snicker's bar and you chose to stay home instead.

Arty: But I don't like snickers...I have a nut allergy.

Alex: Well, dairy milk then...The point is you are an important part of the nest. The Queen depends on you to help search for food. Because when Winter comes it will be too late. We all have to work together so we can keep the nest going. What if tomorrow the other 9,999 worker ants decided to stay home while you work? Where would that leave you?

A pause while Arty thinks to himself.

Alex: Come on Arty, I'll help you find your spot in the line. It isn't too late to catch up.

Arty: Am I really that important to the Queen?

Alex: Of course you are!!

Arty: (getting out of bed, both head for door) OK then, but will you teach me how to nip? I'd like to have a turn at...

Talking fades out as they leave the stage.

Voice Over:

We are all parts of God's body. It takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other, and each needs all the others, Romans 12:5.

Talking Points -Spiritual Gifts

(Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12, 1 Corinthians 7:7, Ephesians 4:8-15)

- Isn't it fun to get a gift? Have you ever tried to work out what's in a gift before you've opened it? You shake it and try and tell by the size of the gift what it might be.
- Did you know that God says He gives every believer at least one gift that can be used to serve Him.
- He calls them Spiritual Gifts.
- Spiritual Gifts are the special abilities God gives to each believer so that they can build up the church and glorify Him. God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well.
- Spiritual gifts include teaching, encouraging, mercy, leading, hospitality and lots more.
- You can't earn spiritual gifts or deserve them, that's why they are called gifts! Ephesians 4:7 says that they are an expression of God's grace to you. God has carefully selected each believer's Spiritual Gift and place of service in the body.
- God wired you up to make a unique contribution to your church family. He gives you talents and gifts and then asks you to use and develop them (Matt 25:14-30). The Bible says, 'We are God's workmanship, created in Christ to do good works.' (Ephesians 2:10) You are not an assembly-line product made for the \$2 shop. You are a custom-designed, one-of-a kind masterpiece.

An Unopened Gift:

- Have you ever been given a gift that you did not open?

- Did you just leave it all wrapped up and think I might open it one day but can't be bothered now?
- Perhaps you got a gift that you knew what it was and so to keep it safe you put it away and never used it?
- Perhaps you didn't really like your gift and you wished you had something else so you put the gift in a draw and never go it out to use it.
- This doesn't matter that much if it's a toy, clothes or something for around the house.
- It does matter if you don't use your spiritual gift.
- Why? – because if you leave your spiritual gift unopened, we all miss out.
- The church is missing one of the gifts God gave it to work right.
- You miss out because you don't experience your gift.
- We miss out because the church family is a gift short.
- The world misses out as it doesn't see the church working quite right.
- Sadly, we can get so caught up with life that we never get around to opening the gifts God has given us.
- Paul says that if there is anywhere people should be working together, it should be in our church. In fact Paul calls the church a body where we should all be working together.
- Here's the thing – we all have a spiritual gift and God has designed you in a special way to use your gift. If you don't know your gift, or if you're not using it, then the church misses out, you miss out, and God misses out by not having the part happen that he made you for.

Working As A Body:

- What jobs do you have around your house. In my family my jobs are to _____.
(Explain your jobs)
- Imagine what would happen if I didn't care anymore _____ I need to do my jobs so my family works right.
- It's a little bit the same with the church family - you need to know and do your part in the body so that church works right.
- Paul says we are like a body and when all the bits work together it is amazing (Ephesians 4, and Romans 12).. It takes all of us to make church work right. You are a very important part. If you decide your part is not important and stop, then that makes our church body sick.
- Think about what has God made you good at? What can you do that helps this church body work better?
- It's only when we do what we are good at together that we end up being what God really wants us to be.
- By ourselves we can serve God and that's very important – however together we can combine what we do well with what God has designed other people to do well and that will be much more effective.
- By ourselves we can worship – but together we can worship in a really special way that glorifies God and encourages each other.
- By ourselves we can grow closer to God – but together we can encourage each other and help each other grow.
- There are no insignificant ministries in the church. Some are up front and some are behind the scenes, but all are valuable.
- What happens when a part of your body fails to function? What if your liver decided to start living for itself saying: 'I'm tired of what I do around here – I don't want to serve in this body anymore – I want a year off to be fed – I've got to do what's best for me.' What would happen? Your body would die.
- Today churches are dying because of Christians who are unwilling, for various reasons, to serve. They sit on the sidelines while the Body suffers.

- When people use their gifts, ministry happens and the whole body benefits. Church becomes an exciting place.
- Your spiritual gifts were not given for your own benefit but for the benefit of others, just as other people were given gifts for your benefit. The Bible says, 'A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church' 1 Corinthians 12:7.
- When we use our gifts together we all benefit. If others don't use their gifts, you get cheated. Have you taken the time to discover and develop your spiritual gifts?
- No one of us has all the gifts and this is also how God made it. God made it that we need to rely on each other, as a community, so all the gifts can work together. Take this bulletin (hold up a bulletin) – it shows lots of bits working together.
- Someone needed to design it, lots of people were needed to send in information about their areas to put in it, someone needed to print it, someone needed to hand it out and this is only a small part. If parts decide to stop working, then the other parts suffer. God designed this community so it would be at its best when we are all working together.
- When we serve together as a community– everyone wins. You and I are part of a community that is doing what God planned for it to do – that's lots of fun and it glorifies God. God made you and I to be part of a bigger plan – His community.
- Church is all about growing, serving, worshipping and sharing together. I want to be part of a church body like that where together we add to each other and together we are something bigger than what we could be by ourselves.

Knowing Where to Serve:

- God created us to be good at different things, and no one is good at everything. This is how God wanted it to be so that we would all need to work together if things are to work best. Even more than this, Paul reminds us that God gives us spiritual gifts. Paul says that understanding spiritual gifts is very important for the church body.
- Imagine a duck, rabbit and eagle all attend the same animal church. At nominating time the rabbit was given the job of teaching swimming, the eagle was given the job of leading walks through the bush and the duck was to hunt for food to bring to the church lunch. All could do the job of the other animal but it would not be what they were best wired up for.
- God created you different to any other person on the planet. You care about some things more than others.
- Maybe you get excited about teaching children, caring for the homeless, riding horses, helping people grow spiritually, computers – whatever.
- What you are passionate about will give you a clue as to what ministry you might best be involved in or perhaps even start. Don't just try to think of 'spiritual' things. Whatever gets you excited in life could be the area that God has designed you to serve in. Think of whatever attracts your interest and then pray about how God might be shaping your ministry.
- Sadly some people ask, 'But what if I don't have anything in my life that I am passionate about?' It may take a while to find, however somewhere in your heart there is a passion for some cause or situation.
- God has also given each of us a unique personality or personal style. It is the way we deal with, the world around us.
- For example, we can be extroverts or introverts. Extroverts get their energy from being with people. Introverts get their energy from being alone and find too much time with people draining.
- Some people are more into feeling with other want all the facts.
- Your personality helps you know how to serve? When we know our personal style we can seek out ways to serve where we are most likely to experience a good 'fit'.

- You were created with special things you can do that are different from the person sitting next to you. When you know what you are best at, you can serve in that area and make a big difference.
- It doesn't mean you won't do things you don't like – sometimes there are jobs that just have to be done. However, when you know what makes you special you can use your gifts in being a more useful part of the body.
- Make time to pray about where God wants you to serve. Maybe it might mean getting involved in a few different areas to give things a try and see which area fires you up.

Give It a Go – Use Me.

- The best way to work out where to serve is give it a go.
- Pray for God's leading as you discover your ministry area. Try various areas of serving in your church. See what areas fire you up. See what areas other people in your family affirm you in.
- 2 Timothy 1:6 reminds us to fan into flame the gift of God which is in us.
- Do you know your spiritual gifts? If not, now is the time to begin. Pray about your gifts, explore different gifts and examine how things go.
- When was the last time you prayed a 'use me' prayer? Have you seriously prayed it?
- God will use your words to encourage people. He will use your heart to show kindness. He will use your hands to serve and when He does, you'll experience the thrill of being used by God.

Group Discussion:

- What's the best birthday present you've ever been given? What made that gift so special for you?
- Have you ever been given a gift you didn't want and just left it?
- Have you thought about what Spiritual Gifts God might have given you?
- Where do you think it would be fun to get involved with around the church?
- Have you already been involved in serving in the church? How did you serve? Was it fun?
- Can you think of anyone who has the gift of:
 - Helping others,
 - Kindness
 - Teaching
 - Being a leader
 - Gift of giving
- What would your friends say you get excited about?
- What do you think are the main reasons people do not serve in the church and what would it take to change this?

Application Activity:

'Learn About God's Love' 17. Spiritual Gifts and Ministries

Arnies Shack DVD 17. Ordinary to Amazing

My World and Take Home Questions:

- What ideas do you have to serve in your home? It's a great place to start practising serving
- Do you think people look at you and think 'that boy/girl has a serving heart'?

- How might you be able to serve in your school? Can your spiritual gifts be used there?
- What can you do to serve in the church – can you get involved with helping in a ministry?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

17. My Gift From God

Closing Prayer

Connecting With God

CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

28 Ways

Someone to Show Me the Way

The Gift of Prophecy

One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church and was manifested in the ministry of Ellen. G. White. As the Lord's messenger, her writings are a continuing and authoritative source of truth which provide for the church comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction. They also make clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested. (Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:14-21; Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 12:17; 19:10.)

Big Idea:

God chooses people to be His messengers.

Key Verse:

"Have faith in the Lord your God. Then you will stand strong. Have faith in the Lord's prophets. Then you will succeed." 2 Chronicles 20:20

Welcome and Prayer

Sing About God's Love: Disc 2.4 God sends Us Guides

Bible Verse Activity

Object Lesson:

- Play a game of Chinese Whispers where you communicate a message by whispering to each other around our circle.
- Have each member pass on the message to the next person one at a time.
- When the message has gone all the way around the circle, ask the first person to read the message they were given to the group to determine how well the message made it around the circle. If you have time do a few more rounds and see how good at it the group can become.
- What needed to happen for the message to go around the circle exactly as it started?
- How does God get messages to His people?

Talking Points:

- God has always used people to deliver messages for Him. The Bible calls these people prophets.
- God gave us the Bible to tell us about Him however He also gave us special people to highlight how God works to us.
- In the Bible you will find many prophets including Moses, Deborah, Jonah and Simeon. All of these prophets and many more had different messages to deliver. Some were messages for their time that show us how God works. Others delivered messages that covered the earth's history right down to our day.
- Samuel was a prophet.
- When he was just a boy God called him.
- At first he didn't know that it was God who had spoken to him.
- Samuel learnt to listen to God and deliver His message.
- Maybe one day God will call you to show others how they can know Jesus better.
- One of the most interesting prophecies in the Bible was given to Daniel. Daniel was just a teenager when God used him to deliver one of the most interesting messages ever and one that makes a difference for us now.
- Let's find out about this prophecy.

Impromptu Drama - King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2

Characters:

- Nebuchadnezzar
- Wise men (as many as you would like)
- King's guards (two or three)
- Daniel
- Daniel's three friends

In the second year the Nebuchadnezzar was King he woke up after having a really bad dream. He couldn't go back to sleep so he called all his wise men in. Each one came as quickly as they could. They stood before the king stifling their yawns and wondering why he'd called them in the middle of the night.

The King sat before them on his throne still wearing his night clothes. He was looking most disturbed.

"Men," he said, "I've called you in because I had the most horrible dream. I know it's important and I need you to tell me what it means."

There was silence as the wise men waited for him to go on. But the king said no more. The leader of the wise men stepped forward timidly.

"Oh great King. Could you please tell us what you dreamed? That way we can tell you what it means." He tried to smile encouragingly but he was very afraid.

"No!" King Nebuchadnezzar shook his head and banged his sceptre on the floor. "No, I have decided I want you to tell me both what I dreamed AND what it means!"

The wise man's face turned white with fear, "But King, we don't know what you dreamed. If you could just tell us what you saw..."

"No!" roared Nebuchadnezzar, "I want you to tell me. And if you can't then... then I'll kill you all and burn your houses to the ground!"

The head wise man looked very defeated at this. He knew that he couldn't do what the king asked so he replied, "Oh King," he sighed, "No one had ever asked such a thing from anyone before. There is no one who can do this thing for you. Only a God can do what you

ask and they are not interested in people like us." So Nebuchadnezzar signed all the death warrants and they were taken away for execution.

When the guards came for Daniel, who was still only a wise man in training, he asked, "Hey, what's going on?"

The lead guard replied, "You are all going to die because none of you could tell the king what he dreamed and what it meant. He's really angry!"

So Daniel went to the king and asked for one more night then asked his friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to pray for him while he slept. That night God gave Daniel the king's dream. Daniel dreamed about a huge image all made of different metals. Then of a mighty rock that flew through the air and smashed it to pieces. The rock then grew and grew until it became a huge mountain. After he dreamed the dream God whispered to Daniel all the things the dream meant.

When Daniel woke the next morning he went to the king told him all that God had shown and shared with him. After Daniel had told him everything the King fell on the ground before Daniel and said, "Your God is the God of all gods, the Master of all kings. And he solves all mysteries, I know, because you've solved this mystery." The King promoted Daniel to the highest position in the land and gave his three friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego important jobs throughout Babylon.

Talking Points:

Who was Nebuchadnezzar?

- Nebuchadnezzar was the king of Babylon.
- 2 500 years ago Babylon was the most powerful Empire on the planet.
- Nebuchadnezzar thought he was pretty clever and was very quick to get rid of people who he got annoyed with.
- God gave Nebuchadnezzar one of the most important dreams in the history of the planet.
- Have you ever woken up in the morning knowing you had a dream but not been sure what it was about or what it meant?
- Nebuchadnezzar couldn't remember what his dream was but he knew it was important.
- He got upset when his wise men, magicians and astrologers could not tell him the dream.
- He decided to have them all killed.
- Daniel who was being trained to be a wise man would have been included in the killing of wise men –Daniel didn't think it was a good idea.
- He and his friends prayed to God and asked God to show the dream.

Who was Daniel?

- Daniel was a boy living in Jerusalem. He was clever, nice and good looking.
- Jerusalem was attacked by the Babylonians – they took captive the clever, good looking boys.
- He was taken back to Babylon where he was given a new Babylonian name.
- He had to go to Babylonian school and was told to eat Babylonian food. He didn't think eating the king's food would honour God so he and his friends asked to have just simple food and water. They told the guy in charge of looking after them to check in ten days to see if they were doing better on their food – they were doing much better.
- For Daniel honouring God and doing what God said was more important than any of the riches Babylon could give him.

The Dream:

- Explain how God showed Daniel 2 500 years ago what would happen and how the Kingdoms came and went just as God said they would.
- The Kings/Emperors of Babylon, Meda-Persia, Greece, Rome thought they ruled the world. They did not really think about it being God who put them there.
- We live in the feet of iron and clay that does not mix – all around us we see where people are not mixing together very well.
- A stone smashed the statue and a mountain grew up. All the other kingdoms, no matter how powerful, end up being nothing.
- Explain how only God's kingdom will last forever.
- We can put our trust in lots of things and people however only God's kingdom will last forever. What an amazing prophecy.
- He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. Daniel 2:21

God's Messenger:

- In the 1800s God chose a lady named Ellen White to be His messenger.
- Ellen was only 16 when God chose her.
- She had only attended school for three years. An accident with a stone hitting her had caused her to be unwell and miss school.
- God doesn't always choose the people we think are the smartest and most gifted. The biggest thing for God is a willing heart.
- But Ellen loved God deeply and even though she was not confident and didn't think she was good at anything she obeyed God and He worked in and through her to guide people to love Jesus more.
- God used Ellen in many ways to encourage people in growing to love Jesus. She wrote books and letters about how much she loved Jesus and encouraged other people to love Him to.
- God gave her special dreams called visions. She wrote down what she saw and heard and was then able to encourage people with what she had seen. She had visions that showed her how to be healthy, how to love Jesus, how to help the church grow around the world and what would happen in the future.
- She taught us to put the Bible first and to follow its teachings.
- She married James White and together they were key leaders in starting the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
- Even though Ellen White died long ago we still have her books today and they can still help us understand how to follow God.

Group Discussion:

- What's the strangest dream you've ever had?
- Have you ever had a dream you couldn't remember?
- How about if you were told your Kingdom would be given to another King?
- How does it make you feel when you think about God being in control even when things look out of control?
- Why do you think God often choose people who didn't think they were gifted enough to be His messenger?

Application Activity:

'Learn About God's Love' 18. The Gift Of Prophecy

Arnies Shack DVD 18. Treasures

My World and Take Home Questions:

- What do you think it means when we say Jesus is the King?

- How do you feel about knowing that the King of the Universe wants to hear your voice and be part of your day?
- How might you be able to help people grow in their connection with God?
- God is way bigger than we can possibly imagine yet he cares about you and wants to be part of your life. How does that make you feel?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

18. Someone to show Me the Way.

Closing Prayer

Connecting With God

CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

28 Ways

Signs

Law of God

The great principles of God's law are embodied in the Ten Commandments and exemplified in the life of Christ. They express God's love, will, and purposes concerning human conduct and relationships and are binding upon all people in every age.

These precepts are the basis of God's covenant with His people and the standard in God's judgment. Through the agency of the Holy Spirit they point out sin and awaken a sense of need for a Saviour. Salvation is all of grace and not of works, but its fruitage is obedience to the Commandments. This obedience develops Christian character and results in a sense of well-being. It is an evidence of our love for the Lord and our concern for our fellow men. The obedience of faith demonstrates the power of Christ to transform lives, and therefore strengthens Christian witness. (Ex. 20:1-17; Ps. 40:7, 8; Matt. 22:36-40; Deut. 28:1-14; Matt. 5:17-20; Heb. 8:8-10; John 15:7-10; Eph. 2:8-10; 1 John 5:3; Rom. 8:3, 4; Ps. 19:7-14.)

Big Idea:

God Wants the Best Life for Us

Key Verse:

"With all my heart I try to obey you, God. Don't let me break your commands. I have taken your words to heart so I would not sin against you." Psalms 119:10

Welcome and Prayer

Sing About God's Love: Disc 2 -5, Follow the Signs

Bible Verse Activity

Object Lesson:

Follow the Recipe

- Show children bread, or something else they will have a general idea of the recipe for. **Can you tell me how to make a loaf of bread?** Students should begin to list ingredients to gather, like flour, water, yeast, etc. They might also give instructions, like, "mix it well," or, "let it rise," or "bake it," etc.

- **If we forget to do one of these things, will the bread still turn out?** It might not. The recipe needs to be followed. Teach children how God has a 'recipe' for loving Him and loving others.

Impromptu Drama - Woman Caught in Adultery

John 8:3-11

Characters:

- Jesus
- Adulterous Woman
- Pharisees (group of about 5 or 6)

Props:

- Stones

Jesus was teaching in the Temple surrounded by swarms of people when a young woman was dragged in screaming and begging for mercy. The Pharisees dropped her on the ground in front of Jesus and said, "This woman was caught in adultery. Moses' law says that people who commit adultery must be stoned. What do you say we should do with her?"

Jesus looked up at them sadly. He knew what they were doing. They were trying to trap him into saying something that disagreed with the law so they could bring charges against him. But Jesus said not a word. Instead, he just squatted down in the dirt and began writing with his finger.

Each of the religious leaders craned his neck to see what the Rabbi was writing. Some of them began to shift their feet uncomfortably. The arena grew very quiet. Then Jesus rose and dusted the dirt from his knees. He looked around at the men who had dragged the poor woman in and said, "Whoever of you who has never sinned should throw the first stone."

No one said anything. In fact, some of the men had started to slip away. A few of them still remained and stood rather half-heartedly holding their stones. Jesus just nodded to them then knelt down again and continued to write. Soon those men had gone too.

As the last man left Jesus turned to the cowering woman and asked her, "Where are all the men who accused you?"

The woman looked up for the first time and was amazed to see that only she and Jesus were left. Everyone else had gone.

"There's...there's no one left," she said still not quite believing it.

Jesus took her by the hand and helped her to her feet then whispered gently to her, "Then neither do I condemn you. Why don't you go home and leave this sin behind you."

Talking Points:

The lady in the story:

- The lady was caught doing something wrong. All of us do things that are wrong.
- The leaders, who were getting jealous of people liking Jesus, decided that they would trick Jesus by getting him to either say that wrong things didn't matter or that this lady should be killed for doing wrong things.
- Jesus didn't fall into their trap. He quietly started writing in the sand the things that each of them could be in big trouble for. Jesus knows our hearts, even when we think no one else knows and that we have got away with it.
- This story shows us that all of us have done silly, bad things that hurt others and God's heart.
- All of us need God to forgive us, and He wants to.
- When we understand how much God loves us and wants to forgive us we want to change and let God work in and through us.

- Jesus told this lady that he didn't think she was a worse person for silly choices. Instead he wanted her to live a new life.
- God doesn't make rules to trick and catch us. He makes rules so that we will have the best life possible.

The Ten Commandments - A plan for wise choices

- Imagine if there were no rules. Sounds fun doesn't it.
- Eat whatever you want, when you want with no limit or treat.
- Go to bed when you want and play as much as you want.
- Skip school whenever you want.
- It might sound fun for a little while however it would turn crazy pretty quickly wouldn't it?
- Imagine if there were no road rules and everyone just drove around doing whatever they pleased – it wouldn't work out well would it?
- In (Exodus 19-20) God gives the Ten Commandments as a guideline to how things can work best.
- The words God uses are the same sort of words husbands and wives said to each other at their weddings in Jesus time.
- God is saying that he loves us and that in the Ten Commandments are the basic ideas to make things work best in a relationship with us.

Tell the story of Moses going up onto the mountain and God writing with His own finger.

- The Ten Commandments are basic rules for loving God and loving people. When we follow these, it brings good to our lives.
- God's Word and God's ways are good for us. They are to guide us to live the best way possible.

God Wrote:

Deuteronomy 5:6-22.

1. **You shall have no other gods before me.** Make God the MOST important!
 2. **You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above, on the earth beneath or water below.** Nothing is to be worshipped as if it is God. God wants you to understand that He is greater than the things He has created.
 3. **You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.** Do not talk about God like he is ordinary – say nice things about Him.
 4. **Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.** God wants to have special time with you. God wants us to take a break to remember what is really important. He has a special day for us to remember that life is about worshipping, serving, connecting, sharing and growing in knowing Him.
 5. **Honor your father and mother so that you may live long and all may go well with you.** Obey, love, listen, help and care about your parents.
 6. **You shall not murder.** Don't kill – God values life and everyone is valuable to God.
 7. **You shall not commit adultery.** Don't take someone else's husband or wife. Families are really important to God.
 8. **You shall not steal.** Don't take what belongs to someone else. Respect other people and the gifts God has given them.
 9. **You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.** Don't tell lies. Don't hurt people with what you say. Be a person who people can trust to tell the truth.
 10. **You shall not covet ... anything that belongs to your neighbor.** Don't get jealous of what someone else has. Be satisfied and content with what God has given you.
- What if you break one of these laws?
 - Well, none of us are perfect and we do things that hurt other people. Be quick to ask God and others for forgiveness.

- These laws show us how much we need Jesus' forgiveness.
- God does not love us less and just like the lady in our story today He wants to forgive and work in us to live the best way possible.

Group Discussion:

- What rules can you think of at home that are good for you?
- What rules must we follow in our community, that are good for us?
- Why do you think your Mum or Dad (caregiver) have rules that they want you to follow?
- Why do you think God gave rules?
- Which of God's laws do you think is the most important?

Application Activity:

'Learn about God's Love' 19. The Law of God

Arnies Shack DVD 19. God's Way

My World and Take Home Questions:

- Is there one law that particularly stands out to you that you want to ask God to work in you to change?
- How will you honour your parents this week?
- How can you put God first this week?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

19. Signs

Closing Prayer

Connecting With God

CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

28 Ways

God's Special Day

Sabbath

The beneficent Creator, after the six days of Creation, rested on the seventh day and instituted the Sabbath for all people as a memorial of Creation. The fourth commandment of God's unchangeable law requires the observance of this seventh-day Sabbath as the day of rest, worship, and ministry in harmony with the teaching and practice of Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath. The Sabbath is a day of delightful communion with God and one another. It is a symbol of our redemption in Christ, a sign of our sanctification, a token of our allegiance, and a foretaste of our eternal future in God's kingdom. The Sabbath is God's perpetual sign of His eternal covenant between Him and His people. Joyful observance of this holy time from evening to evening, sunset to sunset, is a celebration of God's creative and redemptive acts. (Gen. 2:1-3; Ex. 20:8-11; Luke 4:16; Isa. 56:5, 6; 58:13, 14; Matt. 12:1-12; Ex. 31:13-17; Eze. 20:12, 20; Deut. 5:12-15; Heb. 4:1-11; Lev. 23:32; Mark 1:32.)

Big Idea:

God Wants to Spend Time With You.

This program will need to be especially adapted in regard to the understanding of the children you have. If they have never heard of the Sabbath simplify even more than what is done here and focus on Sabbath as part of God's creation.

Key Verse:

"The Sabbath day was made to help people... (Jesus) is Lord even of the Sabbath." Mark 2:27, 28

Welcome and Prayer

Sing About God's Love: Disc 2 -6, His Time is Our Time

Bible Verse Activity

Object Lesson Options:

Choose an object lesson or lessons from the options below and intersperse throughout the program as needed. Object lessons are a great way of mixing the program up and keeping attention.

Object Lesson 1:

Choose an exercise activity like push ups or sit ups or holding up a light weight and have members of the group do as many repetitions as they can without a break. Talk about the feeling of fatigue and how our muscles need rest from activity. For body builders rest is as important as activity because that is when the muscle is actually growing following its tearing down in the gym. Explain that Sabbath includes rest.

Discuss: Why do most sports have a half-time break? Of course it's for refreshment and thinking about how they will play after the break. For a sports team, time out provides an opportunity to have a drink and refocus on the team plan. Reality is you need time out to think about what really matters and what the game really is.

Object Lesson 2:

(Adapt to appropriate flag)

- Hold up a red piece of material and ask if anyone minds if I jump on it? It might seem silly but no one minds.
- Hold up a blue piece of material and ask the same question.
- Repeat for a white piece of material.
- Then get a flag (In this example Australian or New Zealand) and then explain how you would not jump on the flag. It is special. While really it is just pieces of material it stands for something significant. It stands for our history and our identity. The Sabbath might look like just another number on the calendar however God has made it a special day. It reminds us who God is, who we are and what life is all about.

Object Lesson 3 - Getting the Balance Right

You will need:

- \$168.00 in play money

Suggested Scripture verse to use is Psalm 90:12.

This is a suggested dialogue. Feel free to adjust it according to the children you minister to.

I have here \$168.00 in play money. It just so happens that there are 168 hours in every week, so each dollar will represent one hour. How do you "spend" your time? (Count the bills as you go through the following options.)

Let's say you get about 8 hours of sleep each night. Multiply 8 hours times 7 days and you get 56 hours. Let's set aside \$56 from our stack.

Next comes school. Let's say that averages out to 7 hours per day. That'll equal another 35 hours taken out of your week. We'll set aside \$35 for that.

Everyone needs to eat, so we've got to allow time for that. Let's say you eat 3 meals a day and average 20 minutes per meal. That equals an hour a day or 7 hours for the week. I'll set aside 7 more dollars.

Homework? Most nights you probably have homework to do. Let's say it averages 5 hours per week; there's another \$5.

Watching TV. Many people do more, but let's say you watch 2 hours of TV each week day and extra hours on the weekend. That'll add another 20 hours, so we'll set aside another \$20.

Playing, including video games. Once you start playing, especially a video game, it's hard to stop. Let's say you average 2 hours per day on video games. That equals another 14 hours so I'll set aside another \$14. That only leaves us with \$31 dollars; not a whole lot for a week.

Wasting time is also very easy to do. Let's say that you waste 1 hour a day which will add another 7 hours so I'll set aside another \$7. Now we're down to \$24.

Time on the computer including Facebook, internet, email, etc. Even if it's only 30 minutes a day, that equals another three and a half hours. Let's round that to 4 and set aside another \$4.

How about sports activities? If you're on a sports team or in band or chorus, you have to practice. Let's say that adds another hour each week day plus a few hours on the weekend. That adds another \$8. Now we're left with \$12 for the week.

The question is, out of all that time you've "spent," how much of it is spent with God or even thinking about God? God can be a part of the things above, but you have to acknowledge and recognize that he is there while you do those things. But let's look at this from a different perspective.

What are some things you can do to "spend" time with God? (Let the children give some suggestions. Figure up the amount of "dollars" each week they can represent and count out the bills.)

- Read the Bible (15 minutes a day = \$1.00)
- Pray (15 minutes a day = \$1.00)
- Go to Sabbath School and worship service (\$2.00 - \$4.00 depending on the number of services attended.)
- Memorize verses from the Bible (15 minutes a day = \$1.00)
- Add others as the children think of them.

Think of how you spend your time. Are you spending your time wisely?

God says in Psalm 90:12 that it is important to number your days. That means you need to use your time wisely and take time to draw near to him. As you do, he promises to draw near to you.

If you find you're doing something that is a waste of time, consider giving it up and spending that time with God instead. For example, is spending time with God more important than watching TV? If you give up one thirty-minute TV program and spend that time with God instead, it will give you a little over two hours (\$2) each week and would be time well spent.

Will you make a choice this week to spend time with God every day?

Object Lesson 4:

Show the children a tray with at least ten objects on it including toys, general nic-nacks etc. After about 4 seconds put a cloth over the tray and see who can remember the most. Talk about how we forget things easily so God gave us the Sabbath to remember what is really important.

Object Lesson 5 - Refreshing The Power

You will need:

- Flashlight
- Batteries

Show the children the flashlight. Turn it on and ask them what makes it work (batteries). Ask them what would happen if you left the flashlight on for a very long time (the batteries would go dead and it would no longer work). Explain that if the batteries are recharged on a regular basis, then it will continue to work for a long time. People also need to be recharged,

both physically and spiritually, to continue to work well. Our spiritual battery recharger is a holy day called the Sabbath. If on a weekly basis we recharge our spirits, we will remain stronger through the rest of the week.

Talking Points:

Creation:

- Tell the story of the very first Sabbath as part of the creation week. Imagine what Adam, Eve and God would be doing. Explain how God didn't need a rest but He asked us to rest and celebrate what He had done.

Points you may wish to include:

- The creation story, at the very start of the Bible, highlights the idea of Sabbath. In Genesis 2 we are told that God especially blessed the seventh day and made it holy. This means He highlighted this time as a special date every week between Himself and His creation.
- Even in a perfect world, without sin, God still put in place the idea of Sabbath. Did God need a rest? No, He made Sabbath as a special time for us to remember our relationship with Him, other people and creation.
- Sure, God wants to be part of our life everyday however with all the things that take up our time we can forget what is the most important – loving God and people. Sabbath gives us a break to remember what really matters.
- In the fourth commandment, Exodus 20:8-11, God asks that we remember that Sabbath is a celebration of creation. He also asks us to give even the animals a rest on the Sabbath. In today's world creation is often seen as a resource to be used to make money. As the planet is destroyed by pollution and over-production, the Sabbath should make people stop and think about our job of caring for creation. What if one day a week we didn't take from the environment? What would happen if people took some time to think about how we cared about creation? Maybe that would change how we treated our environment during the week.

Sabbath gives us Freedom:

- The 10 commandments are recorded again in Deuteronomy 5. This time the reason given for remembering the Sabbath is not creation but rather that God brought the children of Israel out of slavery and into freedom.
- The Sabbath is a weekly reminder that God has done everything He can to bring you from the slavery of sin and into the freedom of his forgiveness.
- In the story of Adam and Eve, they did not need to rest from what they had done, they were celebrating and enjoying what God had already done.
- You and I can't do anything to earn God's love – it's about what God has already done. On Sabbath we celebrate God's love.

Sabbath Healing:

- Tell the stories of at least one of Jesus' Sabbath healings. Matthew 12:9-14, John 5:1-18, Mark 1:29-31, John 9:1-16, Luke 13:10-17, Luke 14:1-6.

Points to Include:

- People are more important than things.
- The religious leaders were upset with Jesus healing people on the Sabbath as he was not sticking to their rules.
- They thought it was working to heal someone on the Sabbath and so they said healing someone would have to wait.
- Jesus said that the Sabbath was the perfect day to heal someone as people are what the Sabbath is all about.

Connecting:

- Society tells us that to get things we need money and that time equals money. time = money = things = happiness. Even though more things doesn't equal more happiness advertising keeps trying to trick us into thinking that it does.
- The Sabbath is about reminding us that time does not equal money and that happiness is not found in things. Instead meaning is found in serving, growing in connection with God and people, sharing and worshipping.
- With the rest that comes from not doing school, homework and jobs comes time for building connection with God and people.
- Sabbath is the perfect day to remember that people are way more important than things. The Sabbath is a reminder that relationships are what matter. The Sabbath is the perfect opportunity to celebrate the five reasons you are on this planet for – Worshipping, Serving, Sharing, Growing and Connecting.

Serving:

- The Sabbath is the perfect day for serving. It is a reminder of how God serves us.
- It is the perfect day for serving in your church family.
- It is also the perfect day to think about and plan how you will serve in your community and world.

Sharing:

- The Sabbath is a great day to share Jesus with other people.
- You can share Jesus by being his hands and feet to other people.
- You can share Jesus by telling people about why you love Him.

Worshipping:

- The Sabbath is the perfect day for worshipping God.
- With your church family you can sing, pray and celebrate God together.
- The Sabbath is a sign of worship to God as it shows loyalty to Him, trust in Him and following what He asks.
- Every day is a great day to worship God, grow, serve, connect and share.
- Sabbath is special as it gives us a whole day to remember what is really important.
- God invented the Sabbath as a special day to celebrate this community and what it means to be a part of His body. It is a day where we can forget about the things we have to do all week, like school. Instead, Sabbath is about spending special time growing community with God and the people around us. The Sabbath is a special day to remind us about how important community with God and each other really is and to remind us we were created for a bigger purpose than just looking after ourselves.
- Sabbath is a day to especially connect with God and other people. It is the day to celebrate what we are made for. Take a break from school, shopping and homework to grow in knowing God, serve other people, connect with family and friends, share what we have and worship God.

Group Discussion:

(Choose the questions you think would work for your group – or create your own questions.)

- Do you think it's important for us to take a special day to remember ?
- Do you think animals need a Sabbath?
- When you think of the word freedom, what is the first picture that comes to your mind?
- What do you think people are slaves to today?
- Why do you think God invented the idea of Sabbath?
- What are some ideas you have for making the Sabbath a celebration?
- Why do you think Jesus chose the Sabbath day to do so many of his healings?
- Do you think God got it right when He asked us to take a day off from earning more money or doing more study?

- What do you think Jesus meant when He said that the Sabbath was made for man rather than man for the Sabbath?
- If you were to make an advertisement for the Sabbath what would be your top three points?

Application Activity:

'Learn about God's Love' 20. The Sabbath – page 31.

Arnies Shack DVD 20. We Worship You

My World and Take Home Questions:

- What do you think your family could do to take better care of the environment?
- What ideas do you have for making Sabbath special? How might you be able to make a difference for someone in need this Sabbath?
- What can you do to show your family that they are special this coming Sabbath?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

20. God's Special Day

Closing Prayer

Connecting With God

CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

28 Ways

My Beautiful Yard

Stewardship

We are God's stewards, entrusted by Him with time and opportunities, abilities and possessions, and the blessings of the earth and its resources. We are responsible to Him for their proper use. We acknowledge God's ownership by faithful service to Him and our fellow men, and by returning tithes and giving offerings for the proclamation of His gospel and the support and growth of His church. Stewardship is a privilege given to us by God for nurture in love and the victory over selfishness and covetousness. The steward rejoices in the blessings that come to others as a result of his faithfulness. (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15; 1 Chron. 29:14; Haggai 1:3-11; Mal. 3:8-12; 1 Cor. 9:9-14; Matt. 23:23; 2 Cor. 8:1-15; Rom. 15:26, 27.)

Big Idea:

God asks us to look after what He has given to us and to use it all for His Glory.

Key Verse:

"The earth and everything in it belong to the Lord. The world and all its people belong to him." Psalms 24:1

Welcome and Prayer

Sing About God's Love: Disc 2.7 what's Mine is Yours

Bible Verse Activity

Activity:

Have children sit in a circle with each child having an A4 piece of paper. Place a pile of tokens in the middle of a circle. While a song is playing children can take tokens from the middle or one another, one at a time. At the end each child must contribute 10% of their tokens back to the middle. The person with the least tokens is then to be given tokens from each person in the circle (they can choose how many tokens they give to that person but at least one).

Discuss how it felt to be accumulating tokens and how it felt to be giving tokens away. Explain how in life God owns all the tokens and trusts us to use them wisely for Him.

Impromptu Drama - The Alabaster Jar

Mark 14:3-9

Characters:

- Jesus
- Woman
- Simon
- Other Guests

Props:

- Perfume bottle
- Meal setting (optional)

It was almost the Passover week and Jesus was in Bethany having dinner at Simon the Leper's house. While they were eating a young woman came in. She was carrying a very expensive bottle of perfume. She quietly picked her way through the crowd. When she reached Jesus she began to cry. Opening the bottle she poured the sweet smelling liquid over his head and feet.

Some of the guests were appalled by her behaviour. They thought it was a waste of money for her to do such a thing. They wondered why she hadn't given the money to the poor. But Jesus said, "Leave her alone! She has done something wonderful for me. The poor will always be around but I will be gone soon. She understands more than all of you. She has pre-anointed my body for burial. What she has done for me will never be forgotten."

Talking Points:

- This story of the lady who washed Jesus feet showed what happens when we understand and appreciate what Jesus has done, is doing and will do for us. We can't help but respond by being thankful and wanting to give our best back to Him – it all comes from Him anyway.
- Jesus told a story about a guy who thought the opposite. Rather than give to others He thought everything was for Himself.

The Rich Fool:

Tell the story of the rich fool in Luke 12:13-21

- God sent the rain to grow his crops
- He thought what he got must be all for him
- He thought he was in control but was not even in control of his own heartbeat
- When he died people got his stuff anyway. He could have been generous in life because how much stuff he had didn't matter when he had died.
- We might think he was successful, Jesus calls him a fool because he put all he had into himself and did not store up treasure in Heaven.

Read Luke 12:34

Discuss what treasure in Heaven is. (People matter forever)

Time – Talent – Treasure:

- When you think of what a successful person looks like what car would they be driving? Where would they live? What would they look like? Our society is very good at measuring people by what they own. However the Bible reminds us that your value is not linked to what you own. In fact you own nothing and that everything you will ever have is from God and for God.
- Today we are learning about Stewardship. Stewardship is a big word that simply means the management of something important. Biblical Stewardship involves us managing what God has given to us. God has provided you with time, talents, treasure and many other resources which He asks you to steward well for Him. Stewardship is about working in partnership with God to look after His things.

Time:

- It is important to look after the use of the time God has given us just as we look after God's money. Our time should include doing things that matter forever. That's caring about people, serving in our family, church and community, sharing with others, worshipping God and making time for God to work in and through us.
- It is okay to do other things like playing football or playing video games (you can do these things to God's glory when you get exercise, have fun with and be kind to other children), but we need to remember that we need to make sure our time is used to make a difference for eternity.
- God deserves our very best – whether time or money, and we should strive to be good stewards of what he has given us. We are all given Time to use for God's glory. What might you do with your time that uses it wisely and makes a difference for eternity?

Talent:

- God has wired you up with talents, gifts, experiences and style so that you can make a special contribution in the world. We are called to steward our talents in a way that serves our family, church, world and glorifies God.
- God wired you up to make a unique contribution to your church family. He gives you talents and gifts and then asks you to use and develop them (Matt 25:14-30). The Bible says, 'We are God's workmanship, created in Christ to do good works.' (Ephesians 2:10)
- While we have different gifts, style, and passions, all of us are called to look after each other and especially those who cannot look after themselves. Every Christian must ask: 'What am I doing to help less fortunate people?' We sometimes forget that Jesus asks us to be His hands and feet. We forget that when we give help to the least person it's as though we've done the same thing to Jesus. (Matthew 25:46)

Treasure:

- Somehow we've been tricked into thinking that money will buy us whatever we need, including happiness. Sadly it often takes people to end up in old age homes with big bank accounts but empty hearts to realize that happiness is not decided by the size of your bank account.
- Jesus talked more about money than any other topic. At least two-thirds of Jesus' parables deal with money. There are over 2,300 biblical passages that refer to money! Jesus realised that our attitudes toward money show our hearts. Money has an incredible ability to control us.

Serving Two Masters?

- God is not against you having nice things; however, He is against things having you!
- Jesus explains how no one can serve two masters. You can't serve God and money, but many people try. Jesus claims that money has the greatest potential to replace God in your life Matt 6:19-24. Money is seen as a goal itself and traps us.
- The problem is not money in itself. Money can do great good when used by a steward who has a well-ordered heart. When Jesus is your master, money serves you. Proverbs 14:21 reminds us that Satan can also give you money. The big deal is, are you using it to serve God's purpose? Many people have been tricked by money's power and now spend their life consumed with how you will get more of it?

If All Belongs To God:

- We need to stop and remember that one hundred percent of the money you will ever have belongs to God and He has blessed us with it for His purpose.
- Sometimes we think that ten percent belongs to God and the rest is ours. However, reality is that all of it is His. He asks us to return a tithe of ten percent as a symbol of our giving control of our finances to Him. Tithing goes against the accumulating, me-first trend of our society. When we return our 10% and give an offering to the church,

the body of Christ of which God is the head, we do so in a way that steps out in faith. Giving 10% of the money God has given us back to the church is a way of guarding our hearts against greed.

- Does God need our money? No – it's all His already (Romans 11:35). Does He give us the privilege of partnering with Him? Yes. God doesn't need you to give, but He knows that you need to give. He knows that if we don't give our hearts can very easily become self-absorbed and greedy.

Heart, Head and Pocket:

- There are three levels we need to consider when dealing with money:
- **The heart:** We need to make sure our heart is right and that we love God first.
- **The head:** We need to carefully plan our use of money, or it will control our lives.
- **The pocket:** As we manage the blessings God places in our hands, we need to find ways of putting His kingdom first.
- Revelation 18:11-19 reminds us that in the end money all burns! Jesus says to store up your treasure in heaven. That treasure is people. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

Partnering With God:

- Being a good steward is about caring for everything that God has given us to look after. This includes our planet.
- How can you be a good steward of our environment?
- Perhaps you can recycle, be careful not to waste or plant some trees.
- Being a good steward also means looking after the body God has given me.
- This means eating good food, drinking plenty of water, getting good sleep, exercising, playing and staying fit and keeping clean.
- I also need to steward my brain.
- This means feeding my mind on good thoughts and being careful of what junk I put in.
- Being a good steward is about being God's partner to take care of all His things.

Group Discussion:

- What do you think it means to be successful?
- Why do you think so many people love money so much?
- What do you think Jesus meant when He told us to store treasure in Heaven?
- What ideas do you have for using your time to make a difference for eternity?
- What talents do you think God has given you? How can you use those talents in serving others?
- What ideas do you have to guard against money ruling your life?

Application Activity:

'Learn about God's Love' 21. Stewardship

Arnie's Shack DVD 21. SHINE – Serve Him

My World and Take Home Questions:

- If you get pocket money how will you use that this week to help others? How will you give your 10% back to God?
- How will you use your time this week to be God's hands and feet?
- How will you use your talents to serve others?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

21. My Beautiful Yard

Closing Prayer

Connecting With God

CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

28 Ways

My Temple

Christian Behaviour

We are called to be a godly people who think, feel, and act in harmony with the principles of heaven. For the Spirit to recreate in us the character of our Lord we involve ourselves only in those things which will produce Christlike purity, health, and joy in our lives. This means that our amusement and entertainment should meet the highest standards of Christian taste and beauty. While recognizing cultural differences, our dress is to be simple, modest, and neat, befitting those whose true beauty does not consist of outward adornment but in the imperishable ornament of a gentle and quiet spirit. It also means that because our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit, we are to care for them intelligently. Along with adequate exercise and rest, we are to adopt the most healthful diet possible and abstain from the unclean foods identified in the Scriptures. Since alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and the irresponsible use of drugs and narcotics are harmful to our bodies, we are to abstain from them as well. Instead, we are to engage in whatever brings our thoughts and bodies into the discipline of Christ, who desires our wholesomeness, joy, and goodness. (Rom. 12:1, 2; 1 John 2:6; Eph. 5:1-21; Phil. 4:8; 2 Cor. 10:5; 6:14-7:1; 1 Peter 3:1-4; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; 10:31; Lev. 11:1-47; 3 John 2.)

Big Idea:

God wants the best for us now.

Key Verse:

"You should know that your body is a temple for the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is in you... So honour God with your body." 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20

Welcome and Prayer

Sing About God's Love: Disc 2.8 Trash In Trash Out

Bible Verse Activity

Object Lesson:

Describe a pet and what that pet does without saying the name of the animal. Have children guess what it is. Explain how you could tell what the pet was by what it did and didn't do. Connect to the point that when Jesus works in us we will do and not do different

things. Jesus will work in and through us and we will want to do things that make us more like Him.

Object Lesson:

Have the children sit in a circle, choose a letter from the alphabet and then have children say a healthy food/drink that starts with that letter. Keep going around the circle with the last person who can think of a food/drink being the winner.

Drama - Granny Smith Vs French Fry

Characters:

- Chip
- Con Sumer
- Stage Hand

Props:

- Granny Smith
- Apple and Chip costumes
- 3 Chairs
- Microphones
- Signs: Applause, Mmmm Yummy!, Laugh, yah!, Ohhh!, Yes!

The set is to look like a talk show. Each character is sitting in a chair. Chip is comfortably holding a microphone and Granny is knitting with the microphone in her lap. A voice over announces the start of the show and a stage hand with a sign saying "applause" walks past indicating for the audience to clap.

Off stage: We'd like to welcome you all to tonight's addition of "Know Your Food" with special guests Granny Smith and French Fry. Please welcome everyone's favourite food host Con Sumer.

Con walks onto the stage wearing a suit and tie. He is holding a microphone and is waving charismatically at the audience.

Con: Hi everyone! Glad you could make it to tonight's addition of "Know Your Food". (sits down). We have two very special guests for you this evening. Please make welcome our first guest, the apple of my eye, the staple of the fruit bowl and the filling in everyone's favourite pie...Granny Smith! (begins clapping enthusiastically)

Stage hand holds up sign saying "applause". Granny Smith peeks over her glasses and waves graciously at everyone.

Granny: (putting down the knitting) Oh thank you, you are too kind. It is so lovely to be here on the show today.

Con: And on my left is the food everyone keeps their eyes on, And a regular chip off the old potato. The ever popular French Fry!

Stage hand holds up sign saying "applause". Granny Smith peeks over her glasses and waves graciously at everyone. Chip stands and raises his hands above his head encouraging the audience then sits down.

Chip: Yes it's a pleasure to be here. But call me Chip, all my friends do! (heartily shakes Con's hand)

Con: (to Chip) Thanks Chip (to both) It is such a wonderful opportunity to have you both here today. Granny it is a privilege to meet you for the first time today. Is it

true that you are a descendent of the apple eaten by Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden?

Granny: Ohh Con, I don't know about that...but it is possible I guess, I am an apple and our flesh is so juicy and sweet that I think anyone would have a hard time resisting us whether there was a talking snake there or not. We really do have a wonderful crunchy, fresh texture.

Con: Ohhh Granny, you are making my mouth water just thinking about it!! I have read that most people eat about 19 pounds of fresh apples a year. That's a lot of apples.

Granny: Yes Con, that is about 1 apple every week. But that doesn't include things like apple pie, apple juice, apple salad, apple strudel, baked apples...

Stage Hand holds up a sign "Mmmmm Yummy"

Con: Wow, you had better stop there Granny. Or you will be making the whole audience hungry.

Granny laughs and picks up her knitting again. Con turns to Chip.

Con: So Chip. Is it true that you are the most popular vegetable on our tables today?

Chip: Well, I don't like to brag but it is true. Survey's show that about 1/3 of all the vegetables eaten by our audience today would be a potato and most times they are fried like me. Without a doubt I am the most popular of all fruits and vegetables. Hey Granny, it's a good thing there are no such things as Chip Trees or Adam and Eve might have chosen me instead huh!?! (laughing)

Stage hand holds up sign saying "laugh". Granny Smith peeks over smiling trying to fake amusement.

Granny: (peering over glasses at Chip) I think that would be rather unlikely Mr Fry, considering you have to be chopped, deep fried and heavily salted before you taste good. Unlike apples which are ready to eat straight from the tree, chocked full of vitamins, minerals and fibre. Apples are the perfect healthy snack.

Stage hand holds up sign saying "yah". Granny Smith waves at the audience saying:

Granny: Ohh thank you, you are all too kind.

Con: So how many apples should we be eating each week Granny?

Granny: The old saying is right Con, An apple a day keeps the Doctor away. If you eat one or two apples a day the vitamins, minerals and fibre in apples will reduce the bad cholesterol in the blood which can cause strokes and heart attacks. It can also reduce your chances of getting a number of different forms of cancer and diabetes. They also help control asthma and heart disease.

Con: Wow Granny, it sounds like you really are a wonder food.

Granny: Yes Con and you don't just have to eat whole apples to get all the benefits. You can drink the juice too. 12 ounces of 100% apple juice every day can improve the health of your lungs and can help keep your memory working well when you get old.

Con: That is a breath of fresh air Granny. So Chip, what health benefits can we expect to get from eating you?

Chip: Ummm, well, we taste real good. Did I mention that people spend more than \$75 billion on fried food every year!

Con: That is a whole lot of frying Chip.

Chip: We are very popular. Everyone loves the taste of fried, oily food it's so...

Granny: Yes Chip, but oil is the enemy. Oil makes up 20% of the calories in every French fry and when you pick up a box of French Fries 1/3 of the weight of that box is actually oil and not potatoes. Isn't it true Chip, that there are almost no nutrients in French Fries at all? That there are no health benefit from eating you at all?

Chip: (uncomfortable) Ummm, well, did I mention that we taste real good?

Granny: Yes, you did. What you didn't mention is that fried food is one of the largest causes of obesity in this country!!! Chip, you are making people in this county fat!!

Stage hand holds up sign saying "ohhhh". Granny Smith waves her finger at Chip.

Chip: (nervous laugh) Did I mention that we taste real good?

Con: It's ok Chip. I am sure you taste great. So let's hear it Chip. What are your benefits?

Chip: (crying in funny way) It's true, it's all true. There are no benefits in eating me. I am so loaded with fat that I'll clog your arteries and cause heart attacks. I make people fat which increases their chance of getting diabetes (begins howling and sobbing loudly in a funny fashion) I'm a bad, bad chippy...owwooww

Con hands Chip a hanky and he blows his nose loudly on it. Granny begins feeling bad. She gets up and goes over to Chip and puts her arm around him. He begins sobbing on her shoulder. She pats him on the back.

Granny: It's ok chip. You do taste real good.

Chip: (through tears) I do don't I?

Granny: It's just you are a sometime food, not a often food like me. The audience can have you every now and again for a treat and that is just fine...Isn't it audience.

Stage hand holds up sign saying "Yes" and "applause".

Granny: (holding up chips hand) Chips are great...sometimes!!

Stage hand holds up sign saying "yah"

Con: Well, there we have it folks. If you want a tasty vitamin filled snack, have an apple. But you can treat yourself to chips sometimes. Maybe once a week on special occasions for a reward!

Stage hand holds up sign saying "applause".

Con: You heard it here tonight. Thanks for coming along and joining us tonight for "Know Your Food" Good night!!

Off Stage: And that is the end of tonight's addition of "Know Your Food" with Con Sumer. See you all again next week!!

Chip, Granny and Con all wave and the stage hand continues to hold up sign saying "applause".

Chip, Granny and Con exit

The End.

Talking Points:

Jesus Working in and through you:

- God wants us to have fun but not the kind of fun that hurts people or leads us away from Him.
- So we think about how we treat others and how we treat ourselves.
- We will be people who forgive quickly, who don't get angry easily and who are patient with people who might be slower than us, like little brothers or sisters.
- We will be people who encourage others, offer help and someone who other people can depend on.
- We will be known for our kindness and thoughtfulness.
- We will give people an example of Jesus.

Being Careful of what goes in

- As Christians we want to feed our brains on good things.
- This means we will be careful of what electronic games we play, what TV shows and DVD's we watch, what music we listen to and what we read.
- Games, music and shows that are full of fighting or where people are turned into objects are not usually good for us to feed our minds on.
- A lot of music today is about people using each other for selfish reasons or boys using girls as toys – that's not good to feed our minds on either.
- There are lots of games, music and shows that can be really helpful in making us better people.
- Feed your mind on good things.

Looking after the body God gave you

- Looking after your body is very important. How we feel has lots to do with how healthy we are.
- People look after their bodies for a whole lot of reasons. The way and why we look after our bodies says a lot about who we are?
- For some it is to get the right body so they can be attractive – lots of boys want to have great abs. Other people are worshipping their own body.

- God has given you an incredible body so that you can use it to honour Him. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says, 'Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?' Paul says in 1 Corinthians 6:20, 'you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body'.
- Staying healthy includes:
 - Plenty of play, fresh air and sunshine.
 - Exercise – riding your bike and playing sports are great.
 - Eating good food including fruit, vegetables and nuts and being careful of not eating too much "sometimes" food.
 - Drinking plenty of water. Our body is 60-70% water. 9-13 year olds need 7-8 cups a day.
 - Getting plenty of sleep and taking some time to give your brain a rest during the day.
 - Keeping yourself clean by having showers, brushing your teeth and washing your hair.
 - Only putting helpful things into your body and avoiding harmful drugs like cigarettes, alcohol and other crazy drugs.
 - Belief. Did you know that people who believe in God live longer and better.
- Being healthy is a part of worshipping God. When we forget God we end up worshipping what He has created instead and often that is ourselves.
- God wants to work in and through you and staying healthy is a part of that plan.
- Our God of love wants the very best for us. Follow His guidelines so that you can give your best for Him.

Group Discussion:

- Who is the kindest, most caring person you know? What do you think makes them like this?
- What are some good things you can put into your mind?
- Who is the healthiest person you know? What do they do to stay healthy?
- Do you think it matters if children are healthy or not?
- Why do you think so many people make unhealthy choices like eating lots of 'sometimes' food when they know it is destroying their health?
- What do you think it means to honour God with your body?

Application Activity:

'Learn About God's Love' 22. Christian Behaviour

Arnies Shack DVD 22. Building Our Lives

My World and Take Home Questions:

- Who can you be Jesus to this week?
- What is one step you can take this week that will help you be healthier?
- What ideas do you have for getting more exercise?
- Have you invited God to live inside your body?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

22. My Temple

Closing Prayer

Connecting With God 28 Ways

CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

Goose Family

Marriage and the Family

Marriage was divinely established in Eden and affirmed by Jesus to be a lifelong union between a man and a woman in loving companionship. For the Christian a marriage commitment is to God as well as to the spouse, and should be entered into only between partners who share a common faith. Mutual love, honor, respect, and responsibility are the fabric of this relationship, which is to reflect the love, sanctity, closeness, and permanence of the relationship between Christ and His church.

Regarding divorce, Jesus taught that the person who divorces a spouse, except for fornication, and marries another, commits adultery. Although some family relationships may fall short of the ideal, marriage partners who fully commit themselves to each other in Christ may achieve loving unity through the guidance of the Spirit and the nurture of the church. God blesses the family and intends that its members shall assist each other toward complete maturity. Parents are to bring up their children to love and obey the Lord. By their example and their words they are to teach them that Christ is a loving disciplinarian, ever tender and caring, who wants them to become members of His body, the family of God. Increasing family closeness is one of the earmarks of the final gospel message. (Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 19:3-9; John 2:1-11; 2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:21-33; Matt. 5:31, 32; Mark 10:11, 12; Luke 16:18; 1 Cor. 7:10, 11; Ex. 20:12; Eph. 6:1-4; Deut. 6:5-9; Prov. 22:6; Mal. 4:5, 6.)

Big Idea:

God loves families and wants homes where everyone feels safe and loved.

Key Verse:

"Love never ends." 1 Corinthians 13:8

Welcome and Prayer

Sing About God's Love: Disc 2.9. That's a Promise

Bible Verse Activity

Object Lesson - Marriage and Family

You will need:

- 3 – 6 large bouncy balls

Call one child to the front then get them to stand in the middle have three to six children throw the bouncy balls at his/her body and legs. Tell him/her she needs to keep away from the bouncy balls.

Stop the game and ask the child how hard it was to keep from getting hit.

Then call up another group of children. Have them stand around the child and ask the children throwing the bouncy balls to start again. The job of the second group is to keep the child in the centre from getting hit.

Now ask:

- Child in the middle:
- How many times did you get hit this time?
- Did you feel 'safer' surrounded by the other children?

The other children:

- How many times did you get hit?
- What if you all took turns being in the middle?
- What if the 'troubles' you face in your life...what if you had someone to face them with? Would that be better?
- What if it all got too much? Would it be good to have some people you could turn to?

In the Bible it says:

"The Lord said, 'It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper.'" Genesis 2:18
God knows that life is much happier when we live it in community with family. He wants each of us to have a special support group who support and love us. And at times we can take turns at being strong for each other. We believe that family is important and should be loved and respected as part of our beliefs because God created it especially for our benefit.

Drama - Home and Family

Characters:

- Jan
- Joe
- Bob

Props:

- Large box of Lego

Setting:

Lego all over the floor. Two boys are wrestling and obviously angry at each other. Their sister walks in and tries to break them up.

Jan: Hey...hey guys! Stop it, let go!
Boys let go, stand up and look at each other angrily.

Joe: He broke my Lego toy. I'd spent ages making it yesterday and he smashed it all up!

Bob: How was I supposed to know you wanted it still? It was just in the box and I wanted the wheels off it. I didn't smash it all up. All I did was take the wheels...

Joe: And the long blocks. You took the long blocks too!

Bob: Yeah, ok...so I took the longs too. But you weren't playing with it anyway.

Joe: (Pushes Bob) Just because I wasn't playing with it then doesn't mean you could just go smash it.

Bob: (Pushes Joe) It's Lego, you can't expect it to stay together forever. Don't be so selfish!

Boys start pulling and pushing at one another again. Jan intervenes.

Jan: Hey, stop it...I just broke you up already. Now let's discuss this.

Both boys fold their arms and glare at each other.

Jan: You know what Mum says about this. Just because she's out doing the shopping and left me in charge doesn't mean you can be all stupid. Mum says that we are family. That means we are all on the same team. We need to help and support each other not tear each other down.

Joe: But he broke my toy!

Jan: Yes, he did. (turns to Bob) Perhaps it would have been kinder if you had asked him if you could use the pieces from his toy first...

Bob: But we are supposed to share them!

Jan: Yes, that's true too. But don't you think it would have been kinder to ask. How would you feel if it had been your toy that Joe broke...and don't tell me you've never broken down one of his toys before?

Bob: (sheepish) Well...I guess

Jan turns to Joe

Jan: And I bet there have been times that you have broken Bob's toys before.

Joe: I guess.

Jan puts an arm around each of the boys.

Jan: Look, I'm not saying we always get it right. I mess up too. The great thing about being family is that we have each other. Maybe next time try and think about each other. Think about how you would feel if it happened to you.

Joe: You mean like the golden rule?

Bob: Do unto others what you would have them do unto you?

Jan: That's the one! But this is more special. This is your brother so he is more than just an 'other' he is family and family is extra important.

The boys look at each other again for a moment then Bob reaches out to shake hands.

Joe: I'm sorry we fought dude.

Bob: Me too...hey, what about we go outside and kick the footy?

Joe: Yeah, it's stopped raining. Let's go!

Boys run from the stage

Jan: But hey...what about all this Lego on the floor? (pause) Oh well, I guess they are my brother's and we are all on the same team. Mum will be home soon and I don't want her to step on any of these pieces...they can hurt. That's the stink thing about being left in charge I guess. (sigh)

Jan bends down and starts packing up the Lego.

The End.

Talking Points:

God's Building Blocks:

- There's an old saying that goes "You can choose your friends but you can't choose your relatives."
- It's true – sometimes family can be very frustrating. Sometimes brothers and sisters can be very annoying. Sometimes you might want to trade your Mum or Dad
- However God designed families for a reason. They are to be the building block of His church and community.
- Family was God's idea from the beginning.
- Families are meant to look out for each other, care about each other and be on the same team.
- Family was created to be a powerful building block where we experience a little bit of what it means to be together. Just like God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are perfectly together.
- Marriage is an especially important part of being a family.
- A good marriage shows other people a little bit of how God works.
- Sure, no family is perfect, just think of all the crazy families that we find in the Bible, however each family can be a place where God's love shines in and through.

Growing Fruits of the Spirit:

- Did you know that your family is the perfect place to practise growing fruit of the spirit?
- Playing with your younger brother or sister can certainly be a good place to practise patience and longsuffering.
- Maybe you need to practise self-control or kindness to another member of the family who doesn't even deserve it.
- In your family is the perfect place to start serving. Sometimes it can be the hardest place to start serving as serving means you have to be humble and some people don't like that.
- The family can be a place with lots of happiness. Sadly, for some people, it can be a place of terrible hurt.
- Sadly, sometimes families don't work like God planned. Sometimes families can be very mean to each other and hurt each other either physically or hurt one another's hearts. It's sad when families fight with each other instead of caring about and supporting each other. It's sad when someone when a part of the family is selfish and even cruel.
- When this happens God is not glorified. When this happens we need good churches who support and look after the people who are not cared about.

- So, how do you make your family a better place? Is your family a better group because you're part of it?

Home is the Soil:

- What happens at home really does matter.
- Imagine that you're a pot plant (demonstrate with a real pot plant and watering can if possible).
- What happens if I pull this plant out of the soil?
- Of course it will start to die. So then I pour some water on. How useful will that water be?
- My plant is still dying so I get a bigger watering can. How about now?
- What if I add nutrients to the water?
- The point is that Home, the soil, is really important. Church and School can be watering cans. They are vital but work best when the plant is in the good soil of a healthy family.
- Deuteronomy 6 reminds families to focus on God when they wake up, when they eat, walk along the road (drive) and when they go to sleep. This is how the Bible says we are supposed to pass on our faith from one generation to the next.

Group Discussion:

- Why do you think God invented families?
- What words do you think family members would use to describe you?
- How about if we were made to be by ourselves like many reptile who are not usually into family. What would we lose by not being part of a family?
- Which family member tests your patience the most?

Application Activity

'Learn About God's Love' 23. Marriage and the Family

Arnies Shack DVD 23. Garden of Love

My World and Take Home Questions

- How can you show God's love to the family member that annoys you the most?
- How can you make your family a better place to part of?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study

23. Goose Family

Closing Prayer

Connecting With God

CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

28 Ways

Out on a Limb

Christ's Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary

There is a sanctuary in heaven, the true tabernacle which the Lord set up and not man.

In it Christ ministers on our behalf, making available to believers the benefits of His atoning sacrifice offered once for all on the cross. He was inaugurated as our great High Priest and began His intercessory ministry at the time of His ascension. In 1844, at the end of the prophetic period of 2300 days, He entered the second and last phase of His atoning ministry. It is a work of investigative judgment which is part of the ultimate disposition of all sin, typified by the cleansing of the ancient Hebrew sanctuary on the Day of Atonement. In that typical service the sanctuary was cleansed with the blood of animal sacrifices, but the heavenly things are purified with the perfect sacrifice of the blood of Jesus. The investigative judgment reveals to heavenly intelligences who among the dead are asleep in Christ and therefore, in Him, are deemed worthy to have part in the first resurrection. It also makes manifest who among the living are abiding in Christ, keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and in Him, therefore, are ready for translation into His everlasting kingdom. This judgment vindicates the justice of God in saving those who believe in Jesus. It declares that those who have remained loyal to God shall receive the kingdom. The completion of this ministry of Christ will mark the close of human probation before the Second Advent. (Heb. 8:1-5; 4:14-16; 9:11-28; 10:19-22; 1:3; 2:16, 17; Dan. 7:9-27; 8:13, 14; 9:24-27; Num. 14:34; Eze. 4:6; Lev. 16; Rev. 14:6, 7; 20:12; 14:12; 22:12.)

Big Idea:

Jesus is on our side.

Key Verse:

"We do have a high priest who sits on the right side of God's throne in heaven." Hebrews 8:1

Welcome and Prayer

Sing about God's Love: Disc 2. 10 the Judges Chamber

Bible Verse Activity

Object Lesson - Jesus' Special Work in Heaven

You will need:

- A book with Jesus' picture pasted on the front
- A picture(s) of children from the audience

Say something like:

- Satan is still trying to prove that God is unjust.
- Satan knows he isn't going to win so he's trying to hurt God by saying that we, his children, shouldn't be able to go and be with God in heaven. And that would hurt God because he loves us.
- The great thing is that we have the God of the universe on our side. He is stronger and smarter than Satan and He has a plan. You'll remember that we learned that Jesus died on the cross and gave his perfect life for us. We learned that all we have to do is accept Jesus' gift and we can live with him forever.
- Now say Satan is accusing this boy (hold up a picture of the boy). He says, "This boy has sinned. I've seen him sin lots of time. He is mine!"
- Has this boy sinned? – of course yes, we all have sinned.
- So does he deserve to go to heaven?
- Yes, he does deserve to go to heaven because Jesus says he can. This boy has asked Jesus into his heart so now he is 'in' Christ (slide the picture inside the book with Jesus' picture on the front)

Read:

- In the Bible it says,
"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17
And
"This is what God has told us: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life." 1 John 5:11&12
- So where is the boy? (He is in the book. He is in Christ)
- We can't see any of the boy's sins because he is 'in' Christ and all we can see is Jesus.
- Anyone who wants to can join this boy 'in' Christ. We can add more and more pictures and each of these people will be 'in' Christ too.
- That is what Jesus is doing right now. So, if you accept Jesus, then you are no longer 'on trial' in heaven. Jesus takes your place because you are 'in' him and forgiven. All anyone can see now is Jesus' perfection.
- Jesus has done so much for us. To be given God's grace is a wonderful gift. Though we can't be perfect yet – we will be made perfect when Jesus comes back for us, we can allow Jesus to work in and through us now. Jesus will grow us and people will see Jesus working through us and think, "Wow, that person is kind, generous and loving. I would like to be like them too." Then we can tell them all about Jesus and they can be saved as well.

Additional Activity:

- At the end of the program you could print pictures out of each child (or you could ask the children to write their names on a piece of paper) and put them into the book with Jesus' picture on the front as a way of showing they would like to be 'in' Christ too.

Drama - Jesus' Special Work in Heaven

Characters:

- Mum
- Joe

Props:

- Old box of 'Photos'
- Assignment book
- Old photo of Great Grandfather

Setting:

Mother and son are working on a family tree assignment together

Mum: Now this is your great grandfather Lieutenant Arnold Jackson. He was a New Zealander and fought with the ANZAC in the Second World War.

Joe: Who were the ANZACs Mum?

Mum: ANZAC stands for the Australian New Zealand Army Corp.

Joe: And why were they fighting?

Mum: Well, some men, using their armies, were trying to take over the world and were killing and hurting lots of innocent people.

Joe: So great grandpa beat him?

Mum: Yes, but sadly in the first world war your great grandpa, along with many other very good soldiers, died too. That's why your great grandma decided to come back home. She didn't want to raise her children in New Zealand without him and all her family were back here.

Joe: So what happened when he died?

Mum: So many people died in the war. They couldn't bring everyone's loved ones home so they buried them in the countries where they died. Then, back home, they built memorials in all the towns and cities. The main memorial is in Auckland. I went there and found your great grandfather's name once many years ago when I went there for a holiday. He was listed there with all the other brave men who fought and died for their country. I even attended the ANZAC service.

Joe: What do they do at an ANZAC service?

Mum: Well, they celebrate the lives and sacrifice of all the fallen soldiers that we appreciate what they did for us. And we promise to remember them.

Joe: I guess that's a good thing...to remember them.

Mum: Yes, they say these words at the ceremony, "age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn, at the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them." Then everyone present repeats, "we will remember them."

Joe: What does that mean?

Mum: It means that they won't ever have to know what it is like to get old and sore, they won't have to suffer any more and that we promise to never forget them.

Joe nodded

- Mum:** You know there is someone else who keeps a special book and your name is in it?
- Joe:** Really?
- Mum:** Yes, in the Bible it says that Jesus has a special book called 'The Book of Life' and he writes the names of everyone who loves him into it. Then, one day, he will call us all to heaven to live with him.
- Joe:** How do you know you are in the book?
- Mum:** Easy, if you love Jesus and ask him into your heart, like I know you have, then you're in!
- Joe:** What about Great Grandpa, is he in the book?
- Mum:** Well, according to our family records he was a baptised church member which means he gave his heart to Jesus too. So...yes, I think he will be.
- Joe:** I'm glad my great grandfather fought for our freedom and that one day when we get to heaven I will be able to meet him.

The End.

Talking Points:

- On ANZAC day we promise to never forget the soldiers who gave their lives.
- Jesus promises to never forget His children.
- Even though God hates sin He does not hate sinners and has done everything He can to make a way so that we can be made perfect and live with Him forever. The only part He can't do is make the choice for us. God doesn't force us, He gives us the choice to love Him or not.

In The Wilderness:

- When Moses lead the children of Israel out of Egypt and into the wilderness, God wanted to show that He was with them.
- So, God told Moses and the children of Israel to build a special temple, called the Sanctuary, right in the middle of their camp (Exodus 25:8)
- The Sanctuary was to show them that God was with them and to remind them that He would save them.
- It was a model of how the salvation plan in Heaven works.
- Because the Sanctuary was in the middle of the camp with candles burning all the time at night the glow coming from the Sanctuary, when everything else was dark, reminded them that God was at the middle of their camp and wanted to be with them.
- The Sanctuary had a big courtyard that went all the way around the main section. When an Israelite walked into the courtyard of the Sanctuary the first thing he/she would see was the Altar of Burnt Offering. All day long people who had sinned would bring a lamb to sacrifice. Sadly an innocent lamb would be killed to remind the people how sin destroys. The sacrifice of an innocent lamb pointed toward when Jesus would come and even though innocent would be sacrificed for our sins. He would die in our place. That's why Jesus is called the Lamb of God. John the Baptist

called Jesus “the Lamb of God” and said that Jesus would take away the sin of the world.

- They would also see a big bronze bowl of water, called the laver. The priests used the water to wash their hands and feet before they entered the Sanctuary. This was a symbol of Jesus washing our sins and cleansing our hearts. Baptism is symbolic of Jesus washing us clean.
- Then when you went into the Holy Place you would see the Table of Shewbread. Twelve round loaves of bread were placed on this table at the beginning of each week. The priests would eat the old bread after it was replaced. This was a symbol of how God provides for each of the twelve tribes of Israel. Jesus is our ‘bread of life’.
- You would also see the seven branched Lampstand. It was made of pure gold and was the only source of light for The Holy Place. The lights were kept burning 24 hours a day 7 days a week. They were never to go out.
- Jesus is the light of the world who cares for you, and wants to be with you, all day everyday.
- The Altar of Incense stood right in front of the curtain that divided the two rooms of the Sanctuary. Each morning and evening the priest placed incense on this golden altar that would burn continually. The sweet smell would fill the room and ascend to God.
- This is a symbol of Jesus life being like a sweet smelling incense that goes up to God. It also symbolised our prayers going to God and that He loves to hear us talk to Him.
- The next part of the sanctuary is the Most Holy Place. Inside the area was a wooden chest called The Ark of the Covenant. It was covered inside and out with gold. It held the Ten Commandment stones. Two gold carved angels sat on the top of the Ark with their wings spread over a special place on the top called the “Mercy Seat.” This is where God’s visible presence hovered.
- Only the High Priest would go into this part of the Sanctuary on a special day each year called the Day of Atonement. This was when the High Priest would symbolically take the sins of the camp and by sprinkling blood on the mercy seat would symbolise what Jesus was going to do for us and all the camp being made right with God.
- Everything about the Old Testament Sanctuary – the building itself, the articles of furniture, and the services – all pointed people to Jesus and His work to save sinners.

Our Sacrifice and High Priest:

- In the Old Testament Sanctuary(the one in the middle of the camp) priests oversaw the sacrifices made for sin. The sacrifices pointed to the fact that Jesus would come and He would be the sacrifice for sin.
- The priests also oversaw judgement of those who did the wrong thing. The book of Hebrews says that Jesus is our High Priest in Heaven (Hebrews 7:26 and 8:1,2).
- He is both our sacrifice for sin and the one who makes things right for us. When we put our trust in Jesus his dearth for sin and perfect life become ours. We don't have to be scared of judgement and missing out on Heaven because we have Jesus in our place.
- Don't think of Him as someone who is wanting to make us feel guilty when we sin. No! He's our High Priest who has given Himself as a sacrifice for our sins so that we can be forgiven.
- Why not ask Jesus to come into your life right now.

Impromptu Drama – Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10

Characters:

- Zacchaeus
- Crowd (four or five children. More if you like)
- Jesus

Props:

- Something for Zacchaeus to stand on to make him stand above the others, maybe a stepladder or a chair.

As Jesus entered the city of Jericho crowds of people lined the streets. Everyone wanted to be near Jesus. People called his name and sick people came out hoping they might get close enough to him that he might heal them.

In the crowd was Zacchaeus. He was the head tax collector. Zacchaeus was very rich and no one liked him because he used to steal their money. Now Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus but unfortunately for him he was a very short man. He tried to get to the front of the crowd but when the people saw who was pushing them they would sneer at him and block his way. Zacchaeus could hear the shouts and calls from the people and knew Jesus was getting closer and closer. He was desperate to see. If only he was taller.

It was then that Zacchaeus noticed the large sycamore tree that a section of the crowd had gathered under. It had a large branch that hung over almost to the road. If he was quick enough he might be able to climb it before Jesus arrived.

Without a second thought Zacchaeus ran over to the tree and began climbing. He was just scooting out onto the branch when Jesus came into view around the corner. Zacchaeus peered out through the leaves. He felt pleased he'd made the effort. He wouldn't miss a thing from here. Though now he figured there would be no chance that Jesus would talk to him. So many people were calling his name. Why would he look up in the tree?

But Jesus came to a stop right under Zacchaeus' branch. Zacchaeus held his breath as Jesus looked up.

"Zacchaeus, what are you doing up there?" Jesus asked, "Would you come down please? I'd like to have dinner with you this evening if that's alright."

Zacchaeus couldn't believe his luck as he shinnied down the tree and ran over to stand before Jesus. But the people in the crowd who heard were not happy.

"Why would you go and have dinner with this crook, Jesus?" A man asked, "I'd be honoured to have you at our place." Many in the crowd agreed. But Jesus just turned and looked into Zacchaeus' eye. Instantly he knew what to do.

"It is true what they say about me. I have not been fair but to make up for it I will give half of everything I own to the poor and if I'm ever caught cheating again... I'll give back four times what I owe."

Jesus looked down and smiled at Zacchaeus "Well done son of Abraham. Today you have restored what was lost to you, your dignity. Today is the day of your salvation. Let's celebrate together in your home." And Jesus and Zacchaeus walk off through the crowd together to have tea.

Talking Points:

Story Summary:

- Jesus noticed Zacchaeus, even though he was small in size, was unpopular and was a very dishonest tax collector.
- Jesus hates sin but loves sinners. He asked Zacchaeus to have a meal with Him.
- Zacchaeus had a choice. He could say yes to Jesus or keep things as they were and tell Jesus He didn't want Him to come to His house.
- Zacchaeus connected with Jesus and his life changed.
- He paid back the money he had overcharged in taxes, with extra and became a new person.
- So, when you sin Jesus doesn't hate you. He's waiting for you to connect with Him and then He works in and through you to do right things.
- Jesus is wanting to spend forever with us in Heaven. All we have to do is accept His invitation – just like Zacchaeus accepted His invitation to have a meal with Him.

Group Discussion:

- How do you think you would feel if you were one of the children of Israel in the camp and had to sacrifice a lamb for your sins?
- Why do you think some people are scared of God?
- Why do you think Zacchaeus said yes to Jesus coming to his home?
- What do you think made Zacchaeus change and become a new person?
- What are some ways you can spend time with God this week?

Application Activity:

'Learn about God's Love' 24. Christ's Ministry on the Heavenly Sanctuary

Arnies Shack DVD 24. All To You

My World and Take Home Questions:

- How do you feel knowing that God wants to be 'with' you?
- What do you think would change if you could see God with you in the playground or at home?
- How can you share with others the good news that Jesus is your Friend?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

24. All To You

Closing Prayer

Connecting With God 28 Ways

CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

Get Ready!

Second Coming of Christ

The second coming of Christ is the blessed hope of the church, the grand climax of the gospel. The Saviour's coming will be literal, personal, visible, and worldwide. When He returns, the righteous dead will be resurrected, and together with the righteous living will be glorified and taken to heaven, but the unrighteous will die. The almost complete fulfillment of most lines of prophecy, together with the present condition of the world, indicates that Christ's coming is imminent. The time of that event has not been revealed, and we are therefore exhorted to be ready at all times. (Titus 2:13; Heb. 9:28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11; Matt. 24:14; Rev. 1:7; Matt. 24:43, 44; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; 2:8; Rev. 14:14-20; 19:11-21; Matt. 24; Mark 13; Luke 21; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 Thess. 5:1-6.)

The Big Idea

Jesus will return, those who have died loving Jesus will be raised to life and together with those who are living and who love Jesus will be made new and go with Jesus to Heaven. This will be the most amazing day of your life. Jesus gives us signs along the way so that we will know when this will happen.

Key Verse:

"Look, Jesus is coming with the clouds! Everyone will see him... Yes, this will happen!"
Revelation 1:7, 9

Additional Verse:

Behold this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us. Isaiah 25:9

Welcome and Prayer

Sing About God's Love: Disc 2 – 11 He's Coming

Bible Verse Activity

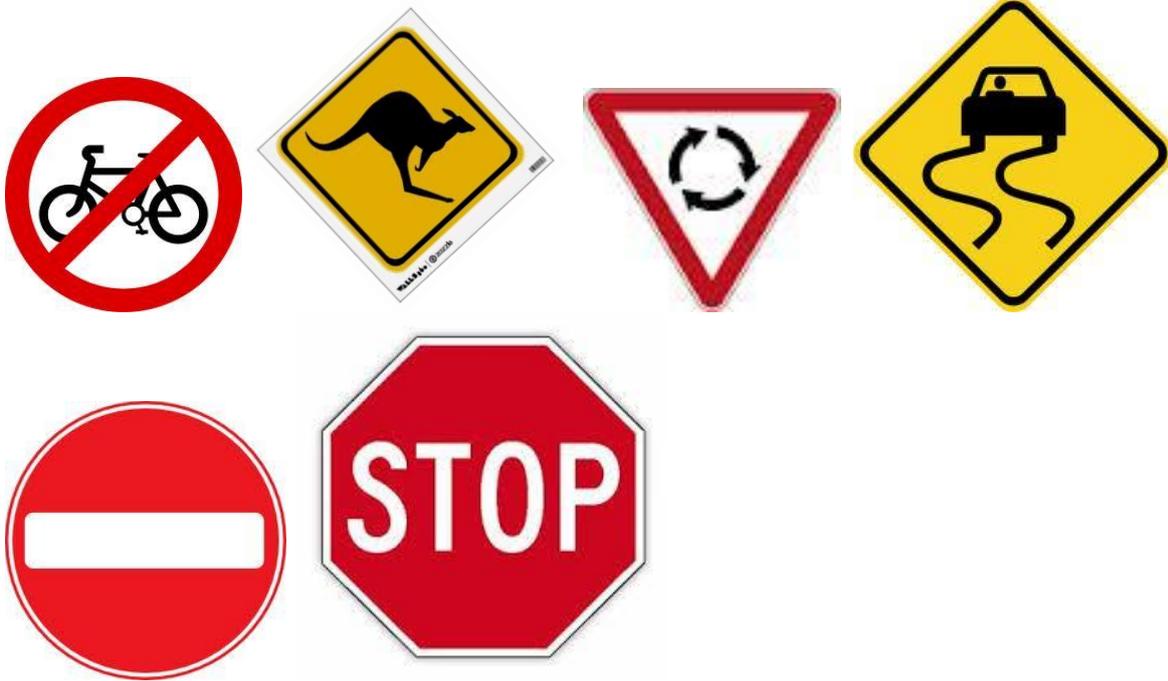
Object Lesson - Signs of the Times:

Hold up some different picture signs (examples below) and ask the children what they are warning them about.

Are there warning signs that you go past on your way to school?

Does your school have any warning signs?

Then explain how at the end of time they will see certain signs and these signs will be telling them that Jesus is coming back soon.



Interview:

If possible interview a survivor of the Tsunami or a disaster about how they know what's happening, what warnings they have and how they know if it is going to happen again.

Talking Points:

Summary

- In our program about prophecy we learnt about the dream Nebuchadnezzar had. It showed the kingdoms that were going to rule the world in the future. Do you remember how in that dream a stone came along and crashed into the feet?
- The stone represents Jesus' coming.
- In the dream all the other Kingdoms were crushed and the stone became a mountain.
- This dream reminds us that it doesn't matter how powerful men think they are God is in control and more powerful.
- It also reminds us that Jesus will come back, just like he promised.
- Everything else in the dream happened just as Daniel had explained to Nebuchadnezzar. The next part of the dream, Jesus Coming, will happen as we...

Why Is Jesus Coming Back?

- Jesus is coming back to finally sort out the sin problem. When he died on the cross he paid the price for sin but as you know bad things still happen. Sin is still in our world and needs to be dealt with.
- The Bible says Jesus paid the ransom (Matt 20:28) – a ransom the price you pay to get something back.
- Jesus will come back and collect what he paid the ransom for – that's people.
- When he comes back he will raise the dead people, who have died loving him, to life.

- Some people may not know the name of Jesus or have even heard about him but they have shown by their loving actions that they have let Jesus work in their lives and love through them. The Holy Spirit has worked in their hearts even if they had never learnt the name to call it.
- Jesus makes us new and the old parts of us that caused us to be selfish are got rid of. It will still look like you, but a perfect version of you!
- He then takes us to Heaven to live with Him while he sets about getting rid of sin on the earth and making everything new.

When Will this Happen?

- For a long time people have been trying to work out exactly when Jesus would come back. About 170 years ago, in 1844, a big group of people thought that they had worked it all out and were ready for Jesus to come. Some thought He was coming back in the year 2000, others thought it would be last year.
- Matthew 24:36 reminds us that no one knows exactly when.
- While the Bible tells us that we won't know the day or the hour Jesus has given us signs to help us know where we are up to.
- Just like signs on the road let you know what is happening, Jesus has given us signs to let us know what is happening.

What are some of the Signposts that Point to Jesus' Coming?

- In Matthew Jesus tells us that there will be wars and earthquakes. He says this is just the start of everything and tells us to make up our minds not to be worried (Luke 21:14)
- So as we see more **wars** and **natural disasters** we know it's a sign that Jesus coming is getting closer.
- **Famines** – It's sad to think that every three seconds somewhere in our world a child dies of hunger. Sin causes greed, war and destruction that lead to hunger. Famine is another reminder of how dangerous sin is and a reminder that Jesus will come (Matthew 24:7-8).
- Another Sign is what we are doing right now – preaching about Jesus' Kingdom. Jesus tells us that the **Gospel of the Kingdom** will be preached in all the world. Matthew 24:14.
- In 2 Timothy 3:1-5 Paul, who wrote lots of the New Testament, gives us some more Signs.
- *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money....lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God! 2 Timothy 3:1-5*
- So some more Signs are:
 - Lovers of themselves
 - Lovers of money
 - Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God

What will Jesus Coming Be Like?

- **You Won't Miss it** – Rev 1:7 tells us that every eye will see him. This will be the biggest thing ever in the history of the planet.

“Christ's return will be one outrageously unmistakable event – one that you certainly won't be reading about in the morning paper.”

Clifford Goldstein

- Romans 16:17 and 18 says it will be like an earthquake. Matt 24:27 and 30 says it will look like lots of lightening and have big trumpet sounds. Matt 16:27 says there will be lots of angels. This is going to be the most amazing thing you've ever seen!

What does Jesus tell us to do?

- Be Alert, Keep Watch - Matthew 24:42 -44
- Be on your guard; – Matthew 24:13 Mark 13:23
- Check your heart: The big deal is your heart condition:
- *Those who perish in the final judgment will not die from the fire and brimstone that will rain down, but from cold and unloving hearts – hearts that were never transformed by the love of Jesus.* EGW
- Encourage Each Other – Hebrews 10:25

Group Discussion:

- What's the most unusual sign you've ever seen?
- Why do you think Jesus gave us Signs pointing toward his coming?
- What do you think Jesus means when he tells us to stay alert?
- What do you think it means to allow Jesus into your heart?
- Why do you think Jesus tells us to watch and be ready?
- Which Signs do you see happening today?
- What do you think it will look like when Jesus comes back?

Application Activity:

'Learn about God's Love' Page 25. The Second Coming

Arnies Shack DVD 25. Be Ready

My World and Take Home Questions:

- How can you encourage someone else in their love for Jesus?
- What do you think it means to love God with all your heart?
- What do you think will be the best part about being with Jesus forever?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

25. Get Ready

Closing Prayer

Connecting With God 28 Ways

CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

Heaven's Flowers

Death and Resurrection

The wages of sin is death. But God, who alone is immortal, will grant eternal life to His redeemed. Until that day death is an unconscious state for all people. When Christ, who is our life, appears, the resurrected righteous and the living righteous will be glorified and caught up to meet their Lord. The second resurrection, the resurrection of the unrighteous, will take place a thousand years later. (Rom. 6:23; 1 Tim. 6:15, 16; Eccl. 9:5, 6; Ps. 146:3, 4; John 11:11-14; Col. 3:4; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; 1 Thess. 4:13-17; John 5:28, 29; Rev. 20:1-10.)

Big Idea:

God Has Power over Death and Wants to Give You Eternal Life.

Key Verse:

"The Lord himself will come down from heaven... And those who have died and were in Christ will rise first." 1 Thessalonians 4:16

Welcome and Prayer

Sing about God's Love: Disc2-12, We're Going Home

Bible Verse Activity

Object Lesson:

- Have children blow up a balloon but not to tie it off – if available use bread bag clips to keep the balloon pinched.
- Have the children then draw a face on the balloon and give it a name. At a signal from the leader, everyone releases their balloon and watches what happens.
- Talk about what happened to the balloons as they flew around?
- Explain how this is a bit like with people who when they are no longer able to breath more air they die. Job 27:3 says: "As long as I have life within me, the *breath* of God is in my nostrils."
- God's plan is not for us to die – sin causes death. God made a plan so that we can live with Him forever.

Impromptu Drama - Lazarus

John 11:1-50

Characters:

- Jesus
- Disciples
- Messenger
- Mary
- Martha
- Mourners
- Lazarus

Props:

- Stone for cave door (optional)
- Grave clothing for Lazarus

When Jesus heard of this he sent back a message saying to them, "Don't worry. Lazarus will be fine. This situation will be used to show God's glory!" And he didn't return to them.

Two days later Jesus said to his disciples, "Right, let's go back to Judah now. Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep and I am going to wake him!"

When Jesus and his disciples finally arrived in Bethany Lazarus had already been dead for four days. Martha heard that Jesus was coming so she ran out to meet him. She sobbed loudly, "Oh Jesus, I know if you had been here our brother wouldn't have died."

Jesus was saddened by Martha's grief, "Don't cry, your brother will be fine!"

Martha nodded and wiped her eye, "I know that. He will live again when he is resurrected at the end of time."

But Jesus shook his head, "You needn't wait that long. I am here now and I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me, even though they might die, can live again... do you believe me?"

"Of course I do," Martha whimpered, "All along I have believed you are the Messiah and Son of God."

Mary and Martha led Jesus to Lazarus' tomb. They all stood together and wept.

The Jews who were watching on muttered, "If he'd loved Lazarus so much, why didn't he get here in time to save him? He's healed plenty of other people."

This made Jesus angry, "Move the stone!" he demanded.

But Martha leaned over and whispered, "But Jesus, you can't. He will smell really bad by now!"

Jesus fastened her with his eyes, "Didn't you believe me when I told you that I could raise him again?" Martha didn't reply so he turned back to the others, "You heard me, move the stone!"

So they did.

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and prayed, "Father, I know you hear me when I call. You are always listening, but this crowd does not believe that you sent me. Please show them," then he shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" And Lazarus did come out. Still dressed in his death wrappings with his face covered he stood at the entrance to his tomb. The people froze in amazement. They had never seen anything like this before. Jesus had to remind them of what to do next.

"Well go ahead and unwrap him. Let him loose!"

So they did and everyone rejoiced to see Lazarus alive again.

Talking Points:

Death:

- While we have all sorts of ways of trying to avoid it, unless Jesus comes first, everyone will die. Like a big game of monopoly we can go around the board year after year getting more things and upgrading however when the game is over, no matter how much you collected, it still all goes back into the box. Where are you going? Is there any hope beyond death?
- Many people go about life just like it is a big game and that the winner is the one with the most stuff. They go through life very fast trying to be what our society calls successful but don't know where they are actually going.
- Walt Disney, the creator of Disney, is frozen and hoping one day science can bring him back. We really don't like death.
- Death takes away the people we love. In a perfect world there would be no death. Death was not part of God's original creation. When sin came into the world death came as part of the choice.

We have hope:

- While death is very sad and we weren't designed to say goodbye to the people we love, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 reminds us that we don't have to worry like the people who have no hope. God has power over death and He has a very exciting plan for us.
- Death is the result of sin. The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life – Romans 6:23. One definition of sin is separation from God (Isaiah 59:2). We are all born into sin so people die because they are separated by sin from God who is the only source of eternal life.
- When we die our bodies return to dust – Genesis 3:19. Our breath returns to God. This means God does not forget us and is waiting to make us new again.
- Jesus says we simply sleep until He comes and He has the power to wake us up new and with no sin. Everyone who has gone to sleep trusting their life to Jesus gets woken up together as one big family. What an incredible picture. Can you imagine how amazing that day will be? Who are you looking forward to seeing again? Who will you look for first? Think of the amazing people you will meet? Then we go to Heaven while the world is made new. We have forever to spend with God and forever to spend with the people who love God. It's hard to imagine just how amazing that will be.
- Jesus' death on the cross means the price for sin has been sorted out. In Jesus' death, God made a way where we can choose to live with Him forever. He doesn't force us to choose his way. He wants it to be our choice as a response to His love for us.
- Sure it's sad when people die. Sure it's sad to see people getting older or sicker. On the outside people might be slowing down but the big deal is what is happening in their hearts. 1 John 5:11 reminds us that he who has the son has life.
- Just like Jesus raised Lazarus to life, Jesus has power over death. God, who is more powerful than death, is in love with you and wants to spend forever with you. If he comes before any of us die, great – that's exciting. If people die first, that's sad but not the end of everything. God has done all he can to make a way to live with you forever.
- The greatest aspect of Heaven is being in full relationship with God. Jesus reminds you in John 14:1-4 that He's preparing a place for you right now so that where He is you can be too. The Bible is full of God pleading for you to love Him so that He can live with you forever, just as He planned.

Group Discussion:

- Have you ever been to a funeral? Has someone you care about died? How did you feel?
- What do you think Jesus means when He calls death a sleep?
- When you get to Heaven is there anyone from history, maybe a Bible character, who you like to meet? Why do you want to meet them and what would you ask them?
- Why do you think God wants to give you eternal life?

Application Activity:

'Learn About God's Love' 26. Death and Resurrection

Arnies Shack DVD 26. It Was For Me

My World and Take Home Questions:

- How does knowing that Jesus will give your life for eternity change how you live life now? (While school and sport are important the most important thing is knowing Jesus).
- How might you be able to encourage someone who is sad about a person they care about dying?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

26. Heavens' Flowers

Closing Prayer

Connecting With God

CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

28 Ways

Into the Fire

Millennium and the End of Sin

The millennium is the thousand-year reign of Christ with His saints in heaven between the first and second resurrections. During this time the wicked dead will be judged; the earth will be utterly desolate, without living human inhabitants, but occupied by Satan and his angels. At its close Christ with His saints and the Holy City will descend from heaven to earth. The unrighteous dead will then be resurrected, and with Satan and his angels will surround the city; but fire from God will consume them and cleanse the earth. The universe will thus be freed of sin and sinners forever. (Rev. 20; 1 Cor. 6:2, 3; Jer. 4:23-26; Rev. 21:1-5; Mal. 4:1; Eze. 28:18, 19.)

Big Idea:

God has a plan to fix the sin problem forever. Jesus will come again and take us to Heaven. We can then live with Him forever.

Key Verse:

"[God] will wipe away every tear from their eyes... All the old ways are gone." Revelations 21:4

Welcome and Prayer

Sing About God's Love: Disc 2-13, No More Bad Stuff

Bible Verse Activity

Object Lesson 1:

Have some children hide and get someone to look for them. Have the child seeking announce 'coming ready or not'. In the debrief time chat about how Jesus searches for us now (Luke 15 stories). Then talk about how there will come a time when He will come back in a way that we can all see Him (no one will be able to hide from Him) in real (not just with our hearts). This is when we will be made new, without sin in us.

Object Lesson 2:

You will need:

- 5 self-standing candles
- Some matches or a lighter

I think if everyone were to be completely honest, they would say that being in complete darkness is not pleasant. How wonderful to know that the Bible says that Jesus is the Light of the world. Revelation 21:23 says that "the Lamb is the light (of Heaven)." Share this fun Bible object lesson with your kids to help them learn this important truth.

Here's what you do:

The object you will use for this lesson will be 5 self-standing candles. Line the unlit candles in a row on a sturdy table facing the children.

Present the candles to your children and ask the following questions to help stimulate discussion:

1. What do I have here: (Wait for response such as 5 candles.)
2. What are some uses for candles? (Wait for responses.)
3. Is it fair to say that the main job of a candle is to give light? (Wait for a response of "Yes.")
4. You're right. Candles give off light. However these candles, if they were lit, would not give off a very strong light.
5. Ask a child to read Revelation 21:23. Use a version that uses the word light.
6. Say the following: Wow! This verse says that Jesus, who is the Lamb of God, is the light of Heaven. Now that's what I call a powerful light! Let's learn a little more about this interesting verse and my candles here so that we can get to know more about God. Let's learn 3 important points about this truth.

Point 1:

Every morning on Earth, the sun rises to give us light, but in Heaven the Bible tells us there will be no sun because Jesus will be the Light of Heaven. (Light one of the candles.) He will be all the light we ever need.

Point 2:

Let's think about this Light that we will one day see in Heaven:

1. The Light of Jesus will give us joy. (Light a second candle.) We will forever be reminded of how much Jesus loved us enough to give His life for us and to die for our sins.
2. The Light of Jesus will make everything beautiful. (Light a third candle.) We will be like dazzling jewels that reflect His love for us.
3. The Light of Jesus will give us understanding. (Light a fourth candle.) Just think of all those questions you've had while on earth. They will all be answered. In Heaven you will understand everything.
4. The Light of Jesus will change us. (Light a fifth candle.) The body we have now will change when we get to Heaven. We will be glorified just like Jesus!

Point 3:

To see the Light of Jesus someday in Heaven will be amazing. Jesus is the Light, (Blow out the first candle.) the King of kings, (Blow out the second candle.) the Lord of lords, (Blow out the third candle.) our Saviour and Almighty God. (Blow out the fourth candle.) Our lights will never compare the glorious light of Jesus! (leave the fifth candle lit)

Talking Points:

The Promise

John 14:1-3 (Promise) 1 Thessalonians 4:16 (Dead raised), Revelation 1:7 (Every eye will see Him).

- Before Jesus went back to heaven, He gave His friends very good news. He promised he would come back again. In this promise Jesus uses the same words a young Jewish man would say to a young Jewish lady when he got engaged to her. He would tell her that he was going back to his family farm to build a room for her (the generations all lived together on the farm) but that he would come back for her and have a wedding. Jesus loves us and promises to come back for us - he also promises a wedding (Revelation 19:7-10).
- Talk about how we can know Jesus and have Jesus in our hearts now but how being with Him in Heaven will be so much better.
- Have someone tell a story from their perspective of why they are longing for Jesus to come (maybe they can see a missed love one or tired of seeing people hurt). Most importantly talk about seeing their friend Jesus who they have talked to lots but now see in real.
- Talk about what it is like to talk with a friend or grandparent on the phone and emails and how it is so much better when you are actually with them. With Jesus it's even better because while we can talk with him now and even have him in our hearts we will be able to see Him, actually walk with Him and live with Him in a place with no pain or sadness as he will give people new hearts that don't want to do bad things.
- Jesus wants us to be with Him in His house in heaven. He has been preparing a special place for you and one day soon He will come back and take us there together with everyone who loves Him.

Our Sad World:

- Look at our world – while there are lots of great things, beautiful animals and nice people there are also very sad things that are a result of sin (maybe show newspaper clippings of sad events). Sin has caused big problems. People are at war, people are hurt by disease, people are mean to each other. The environment is being ruined. Jesus tells us that when we see people who care only about themselves, when we see lots of wars, earthquakes and destruction that we can be reminded that these are signs pointing to the fact that he will come again and solve the sin problem.

That Day:

- Every eye will see Jesus come back (Revelation 1:7). Imagine a cloud getting bigger and noisier as angels worship God with singing and trumpets. Imagine looking into the sky and seeing Jesus coming back. What do you think people will be doing when they see this happening?
- All of us will see Him! It will be bright like lightening and loud like thunder.
- After Jesus comes back, there won't be any more sadness, or pain, or sickness, or death. Won't that be great? That's why we should be happy that Jesus is coming soon!
- **What about those who don't want to go? (You need to be very careful about how you explain this point if you feel it needs including – especially with younger children)**
- Jesus never forces anyone to love Him He always gives the choice. Sadly some people choose not to love Jesus and wouldn't like to live in a place that is all about serving, connecting, growing and worshipping. These people choose to have their lives ended forever – some even cry for the rocks to fall on them.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you.

And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." John 14:1-3

Group Discussion:

- What is the biggest problem you have ever solved? How did you work out the solution?
- Who is someone you love who lives a long way away from you. How do you feel when you see them in real?
- What are some great things about our world? (nature, nice people)
- What are some sad things about our world?
- How do you feel when you think about Jesus making a special place for us?
- Are you looking forward to seeing Him come back in the sky? What are you looking forward to most about Jesus coming back?

Application Activity:

Learn About God's Love. 27. The Millennium

Arnies Shack DVD 27. Just Jesus

My World and Take Home Questions:

- What are some ideas you can think of that will help you be ready to meet Jesus?
- How does knowing that Jesus is coming back for you change how you treat other people?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

27. Into the Fire

Closing Prayer

Connecting With God

CHILDREN'S EVANGELISM SERIES

28 Ways

No More Walls

New Earth

On the new earth, in which righteousness dwells, God will provide an eternal home for the redeemed and a perfect environment for everlasting life, love, joy, and learning in His presence. For here God Himself will dwell with His people, and suffering and death will have passed away. The great controversy will be ended, and sin will be no more. All things, animate and inanimate, will declare that God is love; and He shall reign forever. Amen. (2 Peter 3:13; Isa. 35; 65:17-25; Matt. 5:5; Rev. 21:1-7; 22:1-5; 11:15.)

Big Idea:

Heaven is your very best day forever!

Key Verse:

"The saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever – yes, for ever and ever." Daniel 7:18

Welcome and Prayer

Sing About God's Love: Disc2-14, What Time is Forever AND Disc 2- 11, He's Coming.

Bible Verse Activity

Activity:

- Have children write or describe their perfect day to an adult. When the children are together describe the perfect day and see if the children can guess whose perfect day you are describing. Link into ideas of Heaven where there will be no pain, hurt or crying.

Impromptu Drama - The Great Feast

Luke 14:15-24

Characters:

- Richman
- Invited guests (3)
- Servants
- Uninvited guests

Props:

- A party setting (optional)

There was once a rich man who was planning a lavish dinner party. He delivered fancy invitations to all his guests and everyone said they would come. The day of the dinner party arrived and he sent out his servants to collect his guests. But as each servant arrived at the homes of those the rich man had invited each one of them had an excuse.

The first man said, "Oh, was that today? I'm so sorry. I can't come because I just bought a new house and I need to go and make sure everything is in order."

A second man said, "Awww, I'd love to come but I just bought a herd of cattle and I need to make sure they are all healthy before the truck arrives to pick them up!"

Still a third man said, "I can't, I just got married and I really need to get home to my wife."

The servants couldn't believe their ears. They went back home to the master of the house and explained what happened and that no guests were coming because they were all too busy.

"Fine then!" said the Master in an angry voice, "Go out into the streets. Just ask anyone. All the homeless, the drugies, the prostitutes and the misfits. Bring them all back here and we will have a feast to remember. I can't let all this good food go to waste!"

So the servants did what they'd been asked to do. They went to all the alley ways and rough streets and picked up everyone they could. But when they returned there was still more room.

"Go now to the country roads and lanes. Drag everyone in. I don't want a single bite left for those who we originally invited!"

And it was the most joyous party anyone had ever been too.

Talking Points:

- Jesus told this story to remind us that He has a big banquet in Heaven that he doesn't want us to miss out on.
- Sometime we can get busy doing all sorts of things, even good things, and miss the most important thing – being with Jesus.
- What will being with Jesus at the great wedding banquet be like?
- What will Heaven be like?

Pictures of Heaven:

- There is a story about a man from an African village who attended a United Nations meeting. He returned to his village and reported what he had seen. As he told stories of hot and cold water coming from taps, flushing toilets, holes in the wall where money came out and high rises with hundreds of rooms on top of each other, connected by little rooms that went up and down, he was met with total disbelief. People thought he was making it all up.
- When Marco Polo returned to Venice, after many years exploring, his friends thought his long journeys had driven him mad. Marco had travelled to a city full of silver and gold. He talked of huge lizards ten paces long with wide jaws that could swallow a man (crocodile). He talked of big nuts the size of a man's head but with milk inside (coconut). Polo protested that "It was all true, every bit. In fact, I have not told you half of what I saw." It's hard to imagine what we have not seen. It would be hard to describe to other people what we had seen if they had nothing to compare it to.

- Some people imagine Heaven as sitting on a cloud playing a harp. People wonder if they would even want to be in such a place. While there will be lots of music there will also be lots of playing – with other people and with animals, we can chat with people from history and spend as much time as we want with our friends without having to do homework. Imagine the very best day you possibly can – Heaven is more than that. The best part of Heaven is that we get to be with and see God without sin in the way – mind you seeing Jesus scars will remind us about what sin cost Him.
- In the Bible some writers were given glimpses of Heaven. Like Marco Polo's they try to describe it but can't find the words to describe something that is beyond imagination. In vision they looked and saw a place so fantastic that words could describe only a fraction of it. We, like Marco's friends, are left to try and imagine things we've never seen. 1 Corinthians 13:12 reminds us that for now we see through a glass dimly. Eternity with God will be more wonderful than we can possibly imagine. Dwight Nelson describes our first five minutes in eternity as the most exciting five minutes of our existence.
- In the book of Revelation, John says Heaven is like a big wedding celebration: The city is like a "bride adorned for her husband" (Revelation 21:2). He also says Heaven is a place full God's light. "They need no lamp, nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light." (Revelation 22:5) Revelation 4 and 5 describes Heaven as a place full of worship with everyone singing – we will have perfect voices then so it will sound great.
- Some pictures of Heaven in the Bible are of an amazing city with streets of gold. Other pictures are of a beautiful countryside with all sorts of animals playing together.
- What we know for sure is that there will be no hurt or tears there. There will be no sickness or death there. Heaven puts things back right and gets things back to what God planned. A place where God can enjoy being with His people.

Imagine:

- Imagine life where we are always on a fun holiday. Where kids don't have to go to school and mums and dads don't have to work. Unless of course they want to go pick some fruit, or bring back some of the other yummy food that will be in Heaven. Mums won't have to iron shirts, make lunches and race through the supermarket. Dads won't have to pay bills, worry about work, insurance or mow the lawn. They will have time to play, laugh, tell stories and smile.
- Imagine a place where people are not in a rush and have forever to get to know each other. Imagine a place where there are no ambulance sirens, no hospitals and no funerals.
- Imagine the best zoo you've ever been to. Take away the fences, make the animals all like each other and have all the creatures playing together and with you. How much fun will that be?
- Imagine swimming with dolphins, whales and amazing fish who are not scared and want to play with you.
- Imagine playtime with no bell to tell you it's time for class, no bullies, no cheating, no people being mean or any tears – and certainly no detention.
- Imagine meeting Heroes from the Bible – Daniel, Esther, Jonah, Moses, Noah and Mary and having all the time you need to listen to their stories. Imagine meeting people who have loved God throughout history.
- Imagine listening to the angels tell stories of how they cared about you even when you didn't realise it.
- Heaven is even better than what I can imagine.
- Imagine looking at Jesus' kind eyes, curling up on his lap and listening to his voice as he tells stories about how much he loves you.
I can only imagine.

Living With a Forward View:

- Have you watched a recording of a sporting event where you already know the result. It means you watch without worrying. You know who is going to win and even if things are looking grim it's OK, you know how it all works out. Do you ever jump to the end of a book to find out what is going to happen? Does it then change how you read the book?
- Paul found his motivation for living and serving Jesus in knowing the end of the game. 'I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus,' (Philippians 3:13-14). Paul reminds us that we know how the world will end – he then says "Now that you know it – live like it matters." It means we study without making our study the most important thing for which we live. It means we study hard to become the best we can be while still remembering our marks are not the most important thing.
- To live with a forward view means remembering that our achievements, possessions, homes, cars and gadgets are temporary – as things God gives us in this present life to help us prepare for and appreciate greater realities that await us. It means to view this world not as the living room in which to live as though Christ may never come, but as the waiting room to the New Earth, where we really belong.
- While Heaven is fantastic beyond description, the Bible spends far less time talking about eternity than it does telling people that eternal life is available right now as a free gift from God.
- Philippians 3 and 4 remind us that we can be citizens of Heaven today and that knowing the realities of Heaven changes how we live our lives right now. We can claim eternal life in this very moment. Even though death may interrupt if for a while, this same new life will one day continue through eternity. (2 Corinthians 4:16)
- It means living now like we will in Heaven. Heaven is all about growing in knowing God – why not grow in knowing God better now. Heaven is all about growing in deeper connection with one another. Why not make the time to value people, care about them and get to know them now. Heaven is all about serving God and one another for eternity – why not serve God and people now.
- Serve in your home, church and community. Remember what you do for people is as if you did it to God. Heaven is all about worship. Why not make time to adore and praise God now. Heaven is all about people – you have eternity to share with them but only a lifetime to reach them. When we grow, serve, share, connect and worship we are doing the things that matter for eternity. We are living a small piece of Heaven now.
- People are the currency of Heaven. Jesus tells us in Luke 12 to store up treasure in Heaven where thieves, rust and moths can't get to it. Storing up treasure in Heaven is caring about people. You can store up treasure in Heaven by serving people, listening to them, caring about them and sharing Jesus with them. You can be Jesus hands, voice, heart, eyes and ears right now and provide a little taste of Heaven to someone else right now.
- Live now like you will in Heaven.

Group Discussion:

- What food are you most hoping will be at the great banquet in Heaven?
- What things do you think crowd out God's banquet invitation today?
- What animal do you think you will play with most in Heaven? Why?
- Who are you looking forward to spending with in Heaven and why?
- What do you think will be the most exciting thing about Heaven?
- Look around you – what can you see that will be taken to Heaven? Remember that people are way more important than things.

Application Activity:

'Learn About God's Love' 28. The New Earth

Arnies Shack DVD 28. All To You

My World and Take Home Questions:

- How can you be a 'taste of Heaven' for somebody today?
- How do you feel knowing that God has a plan to make everything right again?
Does it change how you live today?

28 Ways Take Home Bible Study:

28. Register with Jesus

Closing Prayer

