

# Knowing Christ

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**PLEASE NOTE!**

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# Introduction

Christianity is unique, offering men and women, boys and girls the possibility of a personal relationship with the Son of God. Children need to be taught the Word of God, they need to learn the facts of the Gospel, but our ultimate goal is that they will know Christ as Lord and Saviour. These simple evangelistic lessons are about Him, focusing on five of His great “I ams”.

## Teaching Bible truths

As you teach these lessons make sure that you do not get so engrossed in the narrative that you do not teach Bible truths. We fall short of our responsibility as teachers if we only tell children Bible stories. It is essential that children learn the truths those stories were written down to teach us, and that we then take them a step further to show what that truth means to them in their daily lives. Obviously, it is impossible to teach all of these truths in one lesson. Many children know little or nothing, so what we do include should be really thoroughly taught. Teach truths which emerge from the narrative. Do not forget to use all of your programme to teach the children.

Saved children will benefit from this thorough teaching evangelism, but we must also teach them truths which will strengthen, help and guide them in their Christian lives.

## Special emphasis

The teaching of this truth has been woven throughout the narrative, and is also marked out in the lesson plan.

The application of the truth has been highlighted with a line beside the text. You may feel it necessary to adapt the applications to better suit the children you teach. For example, the application may use a boy's name, yet you have only girls present. It could be that the application given is more applicable to older children, while yours are very young. Make the changes you feel are necessary. The important thing is that the Word of God is applied to their lives.

## Make yourself available for counselling

When you present the Gospel message, there will be children who will respond to it independently. They may or may not at a later date tell you that they have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. There will, however, be others who would like some help. They may have questions to ask; they may need help or encouragement in knowing what to say.

As you teach the saved children, there may be times when they would like advice in a difficult situation; they may need clarification on how a particular lesson applies to their daily lives; they may find themselves in a situation where they do not know what the Bible says they should do; they may want to share a difficulty so that you can pray for them, especially if you are the only Christian support they have.

For these reasons it is important that the children know you are available to talk. It is also important that they know when and where to go when they want to talk to you. Finally, it is essential that unsaved children do not confuse coming to the Lord Jesus with coming to you.

In all cases you should not make yourself available at the same time as giving the Gospel invitation, so that the children never get the impression that they cannot come to Christ without coming through you, or that they are saved simply by waiting to speak to you.

### ***An example for use with the unsaved child***

“Do you really want to live for the Lord Jesus, but don’t know how to come to Him? I will be glad to explain it from the Bible; come and see me. I’ll be standing by that tree when the meeting is over. Remember, I can’t take away your sin - only the Lord Jesus can do that - but I will be glad to help you understand better how you can come to Him. Just come and sit with me under that tree.”

### ***An example for use with the saved child***

“If you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour and you have never told me about it, please let me know. I’ll be standing beside the piano after the meeting is finished. I would like to know if you too have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, so that I can pray for you and perhaps help you.”

### **Memory verses**

A Scripture verse to teach the children is suggested for each lesson. If you are teaching the lessons as a series over five weeks it would be advisable to choose two or three verses to teach well, which the children will then remember. If you try to teach all five, the children may not really know any of them well.

### **Practise using the visuals**

It is wise to practise using the visuals before teaching the lesson to children. Become thoroughly familiar with the flashcards and know when you need to use them in the lesson.

In adapting the lessons for Europe, it was necessary to change the order in which some of the pictures are used. You will find it helpful to tape a little tab to a picture which is used out of order, as this makes it easier to find.

### **Additional helps**

Along the left and right margins additional helps are provided, giving background information and optional ideas on how to add interest to your lesson.

These ideas are designed to incorporate different learning styles. For effective learning some children need to see or write, others need to hear or speak, others need to touch or handle, and still others need active participation.

You can use these ideas in your club as time allows.

### **Review questions**

For each lesson some review questions are given. These can be used after the lesson or the following week, before teaching the new lesson.

Review time, if conducted in an orderly way, can be an ideal opportunity to reinforce what you have taught, while still being fun for the children. You can use this time ...

- 1 to find out how much the children are understanding and remembering.
- 2 to help you as a teacher to know what you need to emphasise more so that the children will remember better.
- 3 to provide a time of fun in the class. The children like competition and look forward to this part of the programme. But it is more than just a game: it is a time of learning.

In this textbook only questions on the lesson are included. It would be profitable to include questions also on the songs, verse and whatever else you teach. In this way the children realise that every part of the programme is important.

# Overview

Lesson	Special emphasis	Application	Memory verse
The Good Shepherd Luke 15:1-7 John 10:1-10 Matthew 18:11-14	Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, loves the lost	Unsaved: Ask the Lord Jesus to rescue you and take you into His care	“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep” John 10:1
The Bread of Life Matthew 14:13-21 Mark 6:32-44 Luke 9:10-17 John 6:1-59	Jesus Christ can meet your deepest need	Unsaved: Ask Him to take away all your sin and take charge of your life	“I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger ...” John 6:35
The Resurrection John 11:1-46	Jesus Christ has power over death	Unsaved: Believe in Jesus and He will make you ready to live with God	“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live” John 11:25
The Light of the World Luke 18:31-43 Mark 10:32-34, 46-52 Matthew 20:17-19, 29-34 Luke 24:18 Isaiah 61:1-2	Jesus Christ is the Light of the World	Unsaved: Ask Jesus to take all the darkness of your sin away	“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness” John 8:12
The Way John 13:1-2, 30-38 John 14:1-6	Jesus Christ is the only Way to God and Heaven	Unsaved: Ask Jesus to forgive your sins and prepare you for living with God	“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” John 14:6



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# Lesson 1

## The Good Shepherd

### Scripture for teachers

Luke 15:1-7

John 10:1-10

Matthew 18:11-14

### Special emphasis

Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, loves the lost

### Application

Unsaved: Ask the Lord Jesus to rescue you and take you into His care

### Memory verse

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep” John 10:11

### Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6 and 1-7
- ◆ Prepare two cards to use at the end of the lesson:
  - One with “lost” on one side and “in danger” on the reverse side
  - The other with “found” on one side and “safe” on the reverse side

### Lesson outline

#### *Introduction*

The religious leaders are shocked

#### *Progression of events*

- 1 The shepherd cares for his flock
- 2 One sheep goes its own way
- 3 The shepherd goes to look for the lost sheep
- 4 The shepherd finds the sheep

#### *Climax*

“Come for a celebration!”

#### *Conclusion*

Joy in Heaven over one sinner who turns to God

## Teaching the memory verse

### **Memory verse**

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep” John 10:11

### **Introduction**

How many of you have ever petted a lamb? They are soft and gentle, aren't they? Sheep need special care and protection. Do you know what we call someone who cares for sheep? Yes, a shepherd. The Bible, God's Word, tells us about a very special shepherd.

### **Presentation**

*Read the verse from your Bible, then have the children read the verse with you from the visual.*

### **Explanation**

“*I am the good shepherd*” - Jesus, God the Son, is speaking about Himself. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. But Jesus isn't saying He is a shepherd of sheep - no, He's a different kind of shepherd. Jesus shepherds people! In the Bible God often says people are like sheep. When Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd, He is saying He will do what it takes to bring us to God, making us His own. Then He will take care of us as His sheep, leading us in good ways and protecting us from God's enemy, Satan.

“*The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep*” - A good shepherd would do anything to save the sheep, even give up his own life. The Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd, gave His life on the cross to pay for our sin. He took the punishment of death, then came alive again so that you and I could be saved. All who believe in what the Lord Jesus did on the cross for them will be saved from the punishment of their sin. They will become God's own people - His sheep - and He will always take care of them.

### **Application**

Unsaved: Jesus, the Good Shepherd, came to save you from your sin. If you have never believed on Jesus to forgive your sin, you will hear later in class how you can do that. He wants to care for you, guide you and protect you.

Saved: If you have already believed on Him for forgiveness, you can thank Jesus, your Good Shepherd, for caring for you.

### **Repetition**

“Add two”

Starting with the reference, repeat the verse with the children, adding two words each time. For example, “John 10:11” ... “John 10:11, I am” ... “John 10:11, I am the good” ... “John 10:11, I am the good shepherd. The” ... and so on. Play until you have said the entire verse.



## Lesson

★ **Introduction: The religious leaders are shocked.**

“I’m shocked that He should talk with those people!”

“Doesn’t He know what kind of people they are? You certainly won’t see me talking to them.”

“Humph - it’s not the good people like us who follow Him - it’s the sinners.”

### Flashcard 1-1

The religious leaders talked to each other like this when they saw Jesus Christ spending time with people whom they thought were not good. The religious leaders thought they themselves were better than most people. They spent a lot of time obeying all sorts of little rules they had made. They looked down on other people and even thanked God that they were better than most.

Unlike the religious leaders Jesus Christ was good - through and through. But He cared about people who knew they were not good. He even made friends with tax collectors who collected money for the hated Roman government.

The Lord Jesus knew what the religious leaders were thinking and He had a story He wanted them to hear. It is a story that He wants you to hear too ...

### Flashcard 1-2

★ **Progression of events: The shepherd cares for his flock.**

Once there was a shepherd who had a hundred sheep. He was a good shepherd, so he must have known each sheep by name. He led them to feed on fresh green grass, or to a little stream to drink. He watched carefully to protect his flock from attack by a wild animal. If a sheep or little lamb got hurt, he looked after it.

In the flock there was one sheep who longed for more adventure. Perhaps it was curious about places the shepherd never took the flock.

★ **Progression of events: One sheep goes its own way.**

One day, when the shepherd was not looking, this sheep scampered away. He could explore on his own, over rocks, under bushes. It was such fun to go his own way - at least for a time. But later, perhaps, the sheep tried to return to the flock. Was it this way or that? He scurried here and there but he couldn’t hear the shepherd or find the flock. He was lost. He had gone his own way and was well and truly lost.

Did you know that in God’s Book, the Bible, we read that we are all like that sheep? Listen to this as I read from the Bible: “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way” (Isaiah 53:6). Think about it for a moment. Your mum comes into the living room and says, “Please turn off the TV and go to bed.” To

Use voice tones and gestures to convey pride.





Involve children by pretending to count the sheep - "95 - 96 - 97 - 98 - 99 ... one sheep missing!"

Discuss dangers sheep might face.

Pretend to be the shepherd looking for lost sheep, shading eyes and marching up and down hills. Preschoolers would enjoy pretending with you!

obey her is to go God's way for He commands, "Children, obey your parents" (Ephesians 6:1). But you don't turn off the TV and you don't go to bed. Whose way do you go? Yes, you go your own way! God's way is to always tell the truth, but you have told lies. God's way is to be happy for others who get new toys or clothes, but you are jealous. Yes, "we have turned, every one, to his own way." Everyone here is like the sheep in the story.

### Flashcard 1-3

Would the shepherd miss him? That evening the shepherd probably counted the sheep as they went into the fold for the night.

"90 - 91 - 92 - 93 - 94 - 95 - 96 - 97 - 98 - 99. That's strange," he may have said to himself. "Perhaps I made a mistake."

There were only ninety-nine sheep - one was missing. The shepherd knew which one and he knew its name. We aren't told its name so maybe we can give the lost sheep a name.

*Allow the children to suggest a name and then use it as appropriate during the lesson.*

It was getting dark and the shepherd was tired after a busy day, but he knew what he must do. "I'll go now and search for that little one," he determined. He feared for the sheep as he thought of the darkness, the rocky ledges and the wild animals. Perhaps he shuddered as he thought of the danger his sheep was in.

Did you know that when you go your own way, you too are in danger? Of course it is not danger from thorns, or wild animals. It is even worse. You have gone your own way and that makes you lost from God. This means to be far away from God, unable to find Him. If you go on in your own way you will be lost from Him forever. When you die, you will not live with Him in Heaven. Instead you must be punished forever because you went your own way. Today God wants you to know you are in danger - just as the lost sheep was.

★ **Progression of events:** The shepherd goes to look for the lost sheep.

The shepherd left his ninety-nine sheep and hurried off to begin his search for (*supply name*). What do you think he did?

*Allow children to respond.*

### Flashcard 1-4

Yes, he called the sheep's name. He scrambled over rocks and into valleys. He checked out the danger spots. I'm sure he got more and more tired, perhaps he got cut on thorns. But no bother was too much. He loved that one little sheep.

There is Someone who is very concerned about boys and girls, men and women who have gone their own way and are far away from God. He went to far more bother and suffered far more than the shepherd. It is Jesus Christ, God's only Son. He left Heaven, where He had always

lived, and came down to earth. He always went God's way and did so gladly. He lived on earth for thirty-three years and life was not easy for Him. Then He gave Himself to die. He was nailed to a cross and that in itself was dreadfully painful. But even worse, as He hung on the cross He took God's punishment for sin. He knew that was the only way that lost people could be brought back to God. God's Book, the Bible says, "the Lord has laid on Him (on the Lord Jesus) the iniquity (wrong doing) of us all" (Isaiah 53:6).

The Lord Jesus Himself said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep" (John 10:11). How much He cared for lost people, to be willing to suffer and die. But He did not stay dead. On the third day He came back to life. He is alive today. He can be your Good Shepherd and you can know He cares for you far more than the shepherd cared for his lost sheep.

Anxiously the weary shepherd called again and again. His voice echoed back.

★ **Progression of events: The shepherd finds the sheep.**

And then he heard it - tired, weak and far away. "Baa, baa," came back the faint sound. The shepherd recognised that bleat at once. It was the lost sheep answering his call. Following the sound of the faint bleating the shepherd hurried as fast as he could.

### Flashcard 1-5

"There it is!" The search was over! The kind shepherd must have spoken comfortingly to the frightened, trembling sheep, lifting it carefully in his strong arms. Tenderly he placed it across his broad shoulders. Was the sheep lost any more? No! Why not?

*Allow children to respond.*

It could be the same with you today. You are lost from God. You are in danger of being punished for ever and ever after you die. But the Lord Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd can find you. He can take you into His care. When He does, He takes away all the sin in your life, He keeps you safe from the punishment. He can be your Good Shepherd. But how? God says in the Bible, "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). "Whoever" means anyone - no matter what age or colour. Even if you have been very bad, it means you. You have to call to the Lord - the Lord Jesus Christ. You do not need to call aloud, do it in your heart. Ask the Lord Jesus to rescue you from being lost and to take you into His care forever. Thank Him for being the Good Shepherd who gave His life for the sheep. Then you will be **found** and **safe** just as the sheep was.

*Show the card with these words on it.*

It felt so good to snuggle into the shepherd's shoulders as they made their way homewards.



Encourage younger children to make "baa" sounds with you, softly at first, then increasing in volume as shepherd draws nearer.

Pretend to carry the sheep home.



Help children personalise the truth of God's love by explaining that He made each one uniquely and cares for each individually.

Pretend to be the shepherd sharing the good news with "neighbours" in club or class.



Hold up one finger to emphasise importance of one sinner.



## Review game

### *Lost sheep*

Choose a secret object (any item will do) and tell the children there is a "lost sheep" for them to find in the room or other designated area. Divide the group into two teams. When a child answers their team's question correctly (raise hand to answer), they can guess where the object is. When the object is found, that team has won and the game begins again, as time allows.

### ★ Climax: "Come for a celebration!"

On reaching home, the shepherd wanted everyone in the village to hear the good news.

"Come for a celebration," he called to his friends and neighbours. "I have found the sheep that was lost!"

Do you see how much that one sheep mattered to the shepherd? And you matter to the Good Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ. If you know you are far away from God and you really want to go God's way rather than your own, won't you call on the Lord Jesus today? If you do, something very special will happen in Heaven.

### Flashcard 1-6

#### ★ Conclusion: Joy in Heaven over one sinner who turns to God.

The Lord Jesus told the religious leaders about it at the end of His "lost sheep" story. Perhaps He looked searchingly into their eyes as He said, "I tell you, there is more joy in Heaven over one lost sinner who turns from his own way to God, than over ninety-nine people who don't even think they are lost."

### Flashcard 1-7

Yes, there could be joy in Heaven today - over you.

If you want to leave your own way and be found by the Lord Jesus, just tell Him that now. God promises, "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). The Lord Jesus will be your Good Shepherd forever.

Remember, everyone who stays in their own way and does not call on the Good Shepherd, stays **lost** and in great **danger**.

*Show card with these words on it.*

As you leave today, will you be found and safe or lost and in danger?

## Review questions

- 1 Why did the religious leaders get angry with Jesus? (Because Jesus was talking to people who they thought of as "sinners".)
- 2 How did the religious leaders feel about themselves? (They thought they were better than most people. They worked on obeying all sorts of rules they had made.)
- 3 What story did Jesus tell them to help them see they were lost? (A story about a good shepherd and a lost sheep.)
- 4 How did the sheep become lost? (It went its own way and could not find its way back to the flock.)
- 5 How are we like the lost sheep? (We go our own way instead of God's way.)
- 6 How do we know the shepherd loved the sheep? (He decided to go and search for it. He wanted it to be found.)

- 7 Who is like the shepherd in our story? (The Lord Jesus, God's Son.)
- 8 What did Jesus do so that lost people could be brought back to God? (He died on the cross to take God's punishment for our sin.)
- 9 What is today's Bible verse which shows what Jesus, the Good Shepherd, did for us? ("I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep" - John 10:11.)
- 10 The shepherd found the sheep and took it home. How can you be found by Jesus? (Call on Him and ask Him to rescue you from being lost.)



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# Lesson 2

## The Bread of Life

### Scripture for teachers

Matthew 14:13-21

Mark 6:32-44

Luke 9:10-17

John 6:1-59

### Special emphasis

Jesus Christ can meet your deepest need

### Application

Unsaved: Ask Him to take away all your sin and take charge of your life

### Memory verse

“I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger ...” John 6:35

### Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6 and 2-7
- ◆ Map
- ◆ Wicker basket with small pieces of bread and/or fish crackers

### Lesson outline

#### *Introduction*

Crowds of people wanting to see Jesus

#### *Progression of events*

- 1 Disciples alone with Jesus in the boat
- 2 The crowd follows them around the lake
- 3 Jesus teaches them
- 4 Evening comes and the people are hungry
- 5 Jesus tells His disciples to feed them
- 6 Andrew finds a boy with five loaves and two fish
- 7 The people are seated in groups and Jesus blesses the food
- 8 The disciples give out the food, enough for everyone
- 9 The disciples gather twelve baskets full of leftovers
- 10 Some people want to make Jesus king
- 11 Next morning they find Him in Capernaum

#### *Climax*

“I am the Bread of Life”

#### *Conclusion*

Many people leave without believing

The disciples want to stay with Jesus

## Teaching the memory verse

### **Memory verse**

“I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger ...”  
John 6:35

### **Introduction**

How many times a day do you eat?

*Allow children to respond.*

Do the meals you eat today last through tomorrow? No! You need to eat every day to satisfy your body’s hunger. But did you know you have a different kind of hunger that also needs to be satisfied? It’s a hunger deep inside that no food can take care of. Our memory verse today tells how to satisfy that type of hunger.

### **Presentation**

*Read the verse from your Bible, then have the children read the verse with you from the visual.*

### **Explanation**

“*I am the bread of life*” - Bread is a basic food in many countries around the world. It satisfies your stomach when you are hungry. It gives life to your physical body. Jesus, speaking in this verse, says He is the bread from Heaven. He satisfies a different hunger you have - the hunger to know God and have your sins forgiven. He gives you a different life - everlasting life - the kind of life you need to live in Heaven and to be satisfied, or content, on earth.

“*He who comes to Me shall never hunger*” - When you believe on the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, He comes to live inside you. He satisfies your need for love, joy and peace. The bread you eat for your physical body fills the emptiness in your stomach for only a little while, but Jesus’ life inside you fills the emptiness in your heart forever. He promises to never leave or forsake you.

### **Application**

Unsaved: If you have not believed on Jesus as Saviour, the greatest need you have is to be forgiven of your sin. Listen carefully during our Bible story later to hear how you can receive Jesus, the Bread of Life, and be forgiven.

Saved: If you have already believed on Jesus, you have a need to get to know Him better. Read a few verses of God’s Word and pray each day. As you spend time with Him, you’ll get to know Him better.

Hebrews 13:5b



***Repetition***

“Verse bounce”

Divide the class into two teams. “Bounce” the verse, one word at a time, by pointing from one team to the other. Begin by pointing to the first team which says the reference; then bounce the verse to the other team, which says the first word. Continue bouncing the verse back and forth, one word at a time, occasionally pointing more than once to a group or going a little faster or slower. Encourage teams to avoid “dropping the ball”. Repeat activity as interest and time allow.

“Come” - use beckoning motion.

Young children will experience the secrecy of the departure of Christ and His disciples as they pretend to quietly make their way to the boat.



Pretend to watch the disciples and the Lord leaving - shade eyes, then begin nudging those around you to follow.



## Lesson

★ **Introduction:** Crowds of people wanting to see Jesus.

Great crowds of people were coming and going at the home where the Lord Jesus and His disciples were staying. Jesus wanted to teach the twelve men who He had chosen to follow Him, but there were so many interruptions they didn't even have time to eat.

“Come, let us go to a quiet place and rest a while,” Jesus said.

So very quietly, they left the house, hurried to the lake and climbed into a boat.

### Flashcard 2-1

★ **Progression of events:** Disciples alone with Jesus in the boat.

Their boat sailed smoothly along over the shining waves as the wind filled its sail. How peaceful it was on the lake. There was only the sound of their voices, the flapping of the sails and the lapping of the water against the boat. The disciples were happy to be alone with the Lord Jesus. They understood better than most people how special He was. He was God's only Son who had left Heaven and come to earth as a baby over thirty years earlier. He was a real man and looked just like them, but He was also God. They looked forward to the restful hours they would have together on the other side of the lake.

But the crowd had seen Jesus and His disciples leave the village. They had watched carefully the direction the boat went, then perhaps said excitedly to one another, “Let's follow them!”

★ **Progression of events:** The crowd follows them around the lake.

Immediately little groups began gathering to take the long walk around the lake. As they moved along the lakeshore, more and more people joined them until there were thousands of men, women and children hurrying to see Jesus. Soon the shoreline on the other side of the lake was crowded with people watching for the boat to arrive.

Hot and tired from their long walk, the people were anxious to see the Lord Jesus as soon as the boat docked. They came with questions to be answered and sick friends to be healed. They did not understand very much about Jesus Christ, but they knew He could and would help them.

### Flashcard 2-2

★ **Progression of events:** Jesus teaches them.

The Lord Jesus had come to this place to rest. Surely He had the right to say to the noisy crowd, “Please go home, I'm tired. I need rest.” But He didn't say that. With great love He looked at the thousands of men, women and children. He saw the sick folk, the tired children, the questioning faces. He also saw their hidden inside needs which were even bigger. It is just the same today. He sees that you need food, drink, clothes and a home. He also sees your hidden, deep down needs.

You have a very big need for forgiveness for all the wrong you have done against God. You have disobeyed Him many times. Do you remember when you and your brother were playing together and it turned into a quarrel? You yelled, "I hate you." Listen to what God says about that.

*Read 1 John 3:15.*

When you grumble, tell lies, disobey your parents or watch bad videos, you do wrong against God. He is great and good and right, so He is very, very displeased. He must punish all the wrong done against Him. The punishment you and I deserve is to be put away from God and punished forever when we die. You need to get things put right between you and God and you need to have your life changed - this is the big, deep down need you have.

These people had that need too, although most of them did not think much about it. They simply wanted to ask their questions or have their sickness taken away. The Lord Jesus did that for them. The hours passed quickly, and before they knew it evening had come.

### Flashcard 2-3

★ **Progression of events: Evening comes and the people are hungry.**

Hurrying to the Lord Jesus the disciples said, "This is a lonely place and it is now evening. Send the people away that they may go into the villages and buy food."

The people had gone for hours without anything to eat. They were tired and hungry and far from home.

Thousands of hungry people with no food. Perhaps children were beginning to whine and cry because they were hungry.

★ **Progression of events: Jesus tells His disciples to feed them.**

The Lord Jesus said to His disciples, "They do not need to go away; you feed them."

That is so like the Lord Jesus. He cares about every need you have. Do you remember what your very biggest need is? Yes, it is that wrong you have done against God. The wrong that will keep you away from God forever. You cannot solve that problem, I cannot do it for you, no-one on earth can. But Jesus Christ can. He knew already what He would do for those tired, hungry people. He is God's only Son and He can do anything. But to the disciples this situation seemed impossible.

They must have looked at each other in surprise. They thought, "We should feed this multitude of people. How? There is nothing here but grass, sand and stones."

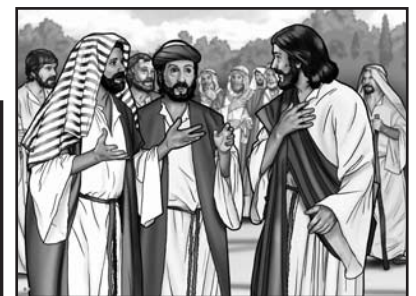
Turning to Philip, one of His disciples, Jesus asked, "Where can we go to buy bread for all these people?"

Philip thought, "It is hopeless; we cannot buy for this group."

Help children personalise sin. Define what sin is and allow them to give examples.

Speak dramatically as you convey the disciples' words.

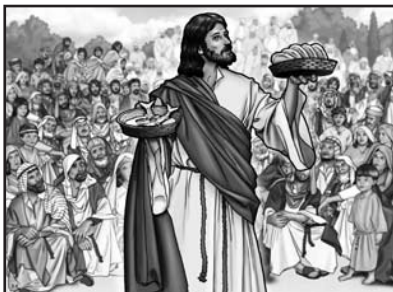
Encourage involvement by allowing children to express hunger feelings.



Repeat numbers with children, holding up five and two fingers as you describe the boy's lunch.



Add wonder to your voice as you express questions the people may have had.



*Commentary on the Gospel of John* by William Hendrickson (Baker Books) suggests the bread and fish were probably distributed in baskets used by the disciples. Edersheim says baskets in common use were made of wicker or willow - the poorest kind.

Show wicker basket. Let younger children touch it.

For younger children, fill the wicker basket with small pieces of bread

He answered the Lord Jesus, "It would cost all the money a man would earn in eight months to buy enough bread for all these people."

"How much food do we have?" Jesus asked. "Go and see."

★ **Progression of events: Andrew finds a boy with five loaves and two fish.**

Andrew, one of the disciples, returned to the Lord Jesus saying, "There is a lad (a boy) here with five barley loaves of bread and two small fish, but that would not feed this crowd."

Even if it had been five big loaves of bread, it wouldn't have been enough! But the barley loaves were the size of little buns!

"Bring the loaves to Me," He said.

### Flashcard 2-4

So the little boy was brought to the Lord Jesus and gladly gave his lunch to Him.

"Make the people sit down in groups," the Lord instructed.

★ **Progression of events: The people are seated in groups and Jesus blesses the food.**

Soon thousands of people were seated in groups on the grassy hillside. The crowd became quiet.

"Why does the Lord Jesus want them seated?" they wondered. "What was He going to do?"

Everyone watched Him.

### Flashcard 2-5

Holding the little boy's food in His hands, He looked up to Heaven and thanked God for the food. Next He broke the five barley loaves of bread and the two small fish into pieces and gave some to each one of the disciples. He probably put the food in small baskets.

★ **Progression of events: The disciples give out the food, enough for everyone.**

The twelve disciples each gave bread and fish to the people seated on the hillside. The first man must have taken some bread and fish and passed it on to the person beside him. The second man took some bread and fish and passed it to the one beside him. But wait! What was happening? There was as much food as when the disciples took it from Jesus' hands! No matter how much food the people took, there was still more food! The crowds sitting around had never seen anything like this. The hungry people ate until they could not eat another mouthful. And still there was food left!

This was a miracle - something only God could do! Then why could the Lord Jesus Christ do it? He is God - God the Son! That is why He could heal the sick in a moment. That is why He could answer whatever question was put to Him. But what about that deep down need you have? Do you remember what it is?

*Allow children to answer.*

Yes, you have done wrong against God and you deserved His punishment. Jesus Christ is the only One who can solve that problem. While He was here on earth He did something that was very difficult even for Him. He gave Himself to take the punishment we deserve from God.

### Flashcard 2-6

He never once disobeyed God His Father. He never yelled, “I hate you.” He never told lies or complained. But He allowed wicked men to nail Him to a cross and as He hung there, God punished His own dear Son for our disobedience. The Bible says, “Christ died for our sins” (1 Corinthians 15:3). Just think how much He loved you and me to do that for us. “The Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). He stayed dead for just three days and then came back to life. He is alive today and He can make things right between you and God. He can forgive all your sin and wrong. What does it mean to forgive? Suppose you do something very mean against your friend - perhaps you smash up his hideout. Later you are sorry and tell him so. If he forgives you, it means he doesn't hold it against you any more. Jesus Christ can forgive all the wrong you do against God, so that God never holds your sin against you again. Isn't it wonderful that He can give you what you need for that big, inside problem you have - just as surely as He could give the people the food they needed.

### Flashcard 2-5

“Gather up the broken pieces of food that are left over so that nothing will be wasted,” Jesus said.

★ **Progression of events: The disciples gather twelve baskets full of leftovers.**

The disciples gathered twelve baskets full.

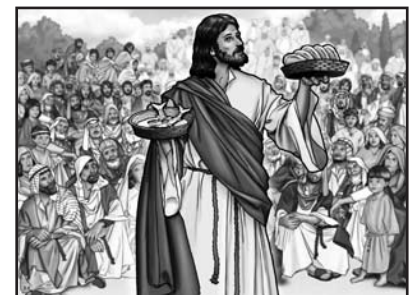
The people began to talk excitedly among themselves. They believed Jesus was the prophet God promised to send into the world. They wanted to make Him king. It would be wonderful to have a king who could feed them by working miracles.

★ **Progression of events: Some people want to make Jesus king.**

As Jesus stood before the people, He knew that they meant to make Him king of their country. But before they could make a move, Jesus left them and walked up the hillside alone.

He had not come to rule a country. He had come to die on a cross and be punished for the sin of the world. He had come to be king of lives, to rule the hearts of people. When you ask Him to come and forgive all your sin and wrong, He does that and you are ready to live with God forever. He also takes charge of your life as your king and helps you to live to please Him. Perhaps you are thinking, “Yes, that is what I want. I want the Lord Jesus in my life, but I don't understand how this can happen to me.” I would be glad to explain more to you at the end of the meeting. Just go to (*designate place*) when the others are

or fish crackers. Give to a “disciple” and let him take it to all those in the “crowd”. Unlike the Lord Jesus' miracle, our supply runs out.



Tiberias - named in honour of Roman emperor Tiberius (*Children's Ministry Resource Bible*, page 1340). *Ungers Bible Dictionary* states the Sea of Tiberias was sometimes used in reference to the Sea of Galilee.

Show Tiberias and Capernaum on a map.

Preschoolers will enjoy pretending to get into the boat.

leaving and I will know you want to talk to me. If you are concerned, don't leave without understanding what the Lord Jesus can do for you. These people left knowing He could feed them but they did not understand much more.

### No visual

★ **Progression of events:** Next morning they find Him in Capernaum.

Early the next morning, the crowd that had stayed behind waited for Jesus. Boats full of people came from the city of Tiberias. They too came to find Jesus. But He was not there!

"Maybe He went to Capernaum," they thought.

Getting into their boats they sailed across the lake toward the city. There in Capernaum the multitude found the Lord Jesus.

Rushing up to Him they said, "Rabbi, Teacher, when did you come here?"

Jesus, knowing they wanted to make Him king of their country, said, "You have not been looking for me because you saw the miracles, but because you were fed with the loaves of bread and were filled. Today you are hungry again and you want more bread. You try so hard to get bread that will last only a little while. The true bread of God is He (a Person) who comes down from Heaven and gives life to the world."

The crowd thought, "If we had this bread, we would never be hungry again. We wouldn't need to earn money to buy bread."

"Lord," they said, "give us this bread."

★ **Climax:** "I am the Bread of Life."

Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life. He who comes to me will never be hungry. He will be fully satisfied. I will never, never send away anyone who comes to Me and believes in Me."

Whatever did He mean? He was not talking about bread that we eat. He was telling the people that He was the answer to their deep down needs. Like you, they too needed forgiveness and to have everything right between them and God. The Lord Jesus was saying, "I can do that, I can meet that need. If you come to me you will never be disappointed." If you come to the Lord Jesus, He will take away all your sin forever. He will always be with you, He will be your King, your Friend and your Helper. He is the answer to that deep down need you have.

★ **Conclusion:** Many people leave without believing.

The people that day would not believe in Jesus as the Living Bread - the One who could save them from their sin and satisfy their heart hunger. They turned and walked away from Him. The people were all mixed up! The Lord Jesus hadn't come to earth to be their king. He had come to save them from their sin.

## Flashcard 2-7

“Will you also go away and leave Me?” the Lord Jesus asked His closest friends.

★ **Conclusion:** The disciples want to stay with Jesus.

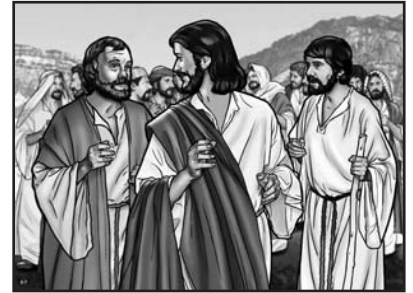
Simon Peter answered, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are sent from Heaven.” Peter had it right! If they wanted to know God and live with Him forever, they had to stay with the Lord Jesus.

No-one else could bring them to God. It is the same for you.

Do you want the Lord Jesus to forgive all your sin and wrong? Do you want Him to be your King and your Friend? Remember what He said: “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me will never go hungry ...” What have you to do? You must come to Him now. You don’t do that with your feet, you do it by speaking to Him quietly in your heart. Thank Him for dying for you, ask Him to take away all your sin and wrong. Then He will come into your life as your King. He is the answer to that need you have. Come to Him today and you will not be disappointed. He promised, “He who comes to Me shall never hunger” (John 6:35).

### Review questions

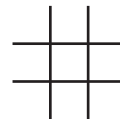
- 1 Why did Jesus and His disciples go by boat to the other side of the lake? (They were tired and were going to rest a while.)
- 2 When Jesus saw the great crowds of people on the lakeshore waiting for Him, how did He react? (He took time to answer their questions and heal sick people, because He loved them.)
- 3 What problem came up among the people? (They were hungry.)
- 4 How much food was there to feed the crowd? (Five barley loaves and two little fish.)
- 5 What did Jesus do with the five loaves and two fish? (He thanked God for them, broke them in pieces and gave them to the disciples to give out.)
- 6 How could five loaves of bread and two fish feed so many people? (Jesus is God’s Son and only He could perform this miracle.)
- 7 Why did some of the people look for Jesus the next day? (They wanted to make Him their king and they wanted Him to feed them again.)
- 8 What does Jesus call Himself in this lesson? (The Bread of Life.)
- 9 What does it mean that Jesus is the “Bread of Life”? (That He is the One who can satisfy our deep down need for forgiveness.)
- 10 Finish this Bible verse and say where it is found. “He who comes to Me shall never \_\_\_\_.” (hunger - John 6:35.)



### Review game

#### *Tic-tac-toe*

Draw the following on a sketch pad, chalkboard or white board.



Divide the group into two teams. Ask one team a question, then the other. The child who answers a question correctly may put his team’s mark (X or O) on the tic-tac-toe board. First team to get three in a row wins.





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# Lesson 3

## The Resurrection

Scripture for teachers

John 11:1-46

Special emphasis

Jesus Christ has power over death

Application

Unsaved: Believe in Jesus and He will make you ready to live with God

Memory verse

“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live” John 11:25

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6 and 3-7
- ◆ Map
- ◆ Linen cloth

Lesson outline

### *Introduction*

Sickness in the home of Jesus’ friends

### *Progression of events*

- 1 Mary and Martha send for Jesus
- 2 The servant tells Jesus the message
- 3 Jesus waits for two days
- 4 Back in Bethany, Lazarus dies
- 5 Jesus arrives and Martha hurries to meet Him
- 6 Martha calls Mary to meet Jesus. Mary weeps
- 7 Jesus weeps and is brought to Lazarus’ grave
- 8 Martha objects to the stone being moved
- 9 Jesus prays and shouts “Lazarus, come out!”

### *Climax*

Lazarus comes out of the cave

### *Conclusion*

Some of the Jews believe

## Teaching the memory verse

### **Memory verse**

“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live” John 11:25

### **Introduction**

An explorer named Ponce de Leon found Florida while looking for the legendary “fountain of youth”. People have always looked for ways to stay young or to keep from dying. But Christians don’t have to worry about those things. Our Bible verse today tells us why.

### **Presentation**

*Read the verse from your Bible - or have an older child do so - then have the children read the verse with you from the visual.*

### **Explanation**

*“I am the resurrection and the life”* - The Lord Jesus Christ, God the Son, is the Creator of all life. He has power over life and death. He proved this when He was resurrected (brought back to life) after dying on the cross. He has power to give not only earthly life, but also eternal life which doesn’t end when a person dies.

*“He who believes in Me”* - Jesus is making a promise to each one who believes in Him - believes that He is God the Son, who died and rose again to take the punishment for sin.

*“though he may die, he shall live”* - The Bible says we are born “dead” in our sins. We have no life inside that can enable us to live with God someday. When you believe on the Lord Jesus, He places that special life within you. Even though your physical body will die someday, the Lord Jesus promises that the real you will go to live with Him in Heaven. Some day your physical body will also be resurrected as He was.

### **Application**

Unsaved: If you have not believed on Jesus to give you everlasting life, you can tell God today that you are a sinner and you believe Jesus died for your sin. You’ll hear more about believing on Jesus, the Resurrection, during the Bible lesson.

Saved: Have you already believed on Jesus? If you have, then remember He is alive - He is living in you! You can put your hope in God, no matter what happens in your life. His new life in you will help you through whatever you face.

***Repetition***

“Crazy stand-ups”

Have those wearing red stand up and say the verse ... those with brown hair ... those who like ice cream, and so on. Continue to play several times with a variety of categories. Keep the game moving from one category to the next, but be sure the children are saying the verse each time.



Bethany - located on the eastern slope of Mount Olivet, about two miles from Jerusalem. Show it on a map.

## Lesson

### Flashcard 3-1

★ **Introduction: Sickness in the home of Jesus' friends.**

The home of Mary, Martha and their brother Lazarus was usually a happy place. But on this day there was sadness and stillness in their home in the village of Bethany. Mary and Martha looked worried. Their brother was very sick. They had done everything possible to make him well, but the sickness became worse and worse.

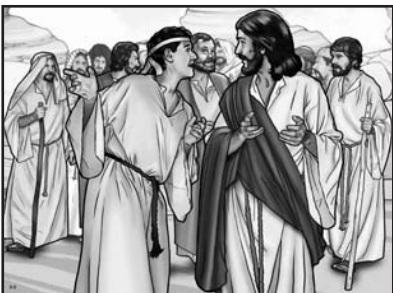
"If only Jesus were here," the sisters said to each other.

He was their best Friend and they were sure He could help. They knew He had made sick people better - in just a moment!

The Lord Jesus Christ could do that because He was God's only Son. He could feed a huge crowd with five little loaves and two fish! He could walk on water and not sink. He could make blind people see. Mary and Martha had often listened to His wonderful teaching. They knew He came from God. He looked like an ordinary man, and He was a real man but He was also God's only Son. Before coming into the world He had lived forever with God: He "was with God, ... and was God" (John 1:1). What a special Friend for Mary, Martha and Lazarus to have.

★ **Progression of events: Mary and Martha send for Jesus.**

"We must send a message to Him," they decided. Perhaps they called a servant and told him to go to the Lord Jesus Christ. They said to the servant, "Just say, 'The one you love is sick.'"



### Flashcard 3-2

★ **Progression of events: The servant tells Jesus the message.**

The servant hurried on his way to find the Lord Jesus Christ. He had to travel quite a distance, but at last he was able to deliver the message. Can you remember what it was?

"The one whom you love is sick."

★ **Progression of events: Jesus waits for two days.**

The Lord Jesus already knew about the problem because as God's only Son He knew everything. He knew who was sick and what was going to happen. Surprisingly He did not hurry off to Bethany at once, but waited for two more days before beginning the journey. He had a very special reason for the delay.

### Flashcard 3-1

★ **Progression of events: Back in Bethany, Lazarus dies.**

Back at Bethany, things went from bad to worse. Lazarus died. Mary and Martha were heartbroken. They could not imagine life without their brother.



Perhaps you have known someone who died and you understand the sisters' sadness. Usually it is older people who die, but death comes to everyone. Have you ever asked, "What happens when you die?"

When someone dies, their heart and brain stop working. They cannot breathe, eat or talk. Their body is dead. But in the Bible God tells us that the real you does not die. After death the real you, your soul, will meet God.

This is something you must think about if you are not ready to meet God. You have done wrong things which displease Him very much. In His Book, the Bible, God tells us that telling lies, losing your temper, disobeying your parents, hurting other people, using God's Name as a swearword all displease God. If you have done any of these you should be afraid of meeting God after you die. Have you ever been very scared when you had to own up to having done something really bad and you knew you would be punished? Perhaps it happened between you and your father, or teacher or scout leader. Think how much worse it would be to stand before God, having disobeyed Him over and over again. He is good and right in everything He does. He must punish all wrongdoing. The Bible says that God will give to each person according to what he has done (Romans 2:6).

But there is a way to be sure of living with God after you die. God tells us about it in the Bible. Listen carefully and you will discover it in the story of Mary and Martha, the two sad sisters.

Many friends came to their home to share their sadness. Of course they couldn't take away their sorrow. Lazarus was dead and no-one could bring him back to the sisters.

★ **Progression of events: Jesus arrives and Martha hurries to meet Him.**

Then the news came that their Friend - their best Friend - was outside the village. Martha hurried out to meet Him.

### Flashcard 3-3

Martha was convinced that things would have been different had the Lord Jesus Christ come earlier.

"Lord, if you had been here earlier, my brother would not have died," she told Him. Then she added, "Even now I know that whatever you ask from God, He will give it to you."

Martha seemed to think that death was not a problem too big for God, or His Son. As the Lord Jesus and Martha talked together, He said some wonderful things, but they sounded rather like a riddle. Listen to what He said.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die ..."

Whatever did He mean? "Resurrection" means to come back to life. He was saying He could bring people back to life. He also said He was

Personalise sin. Define and allow children to give examples.

Speak with emotion.



Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the Resurrection and the Life.

“the life” - He is the One who gives life forever with God. If you want to live with God forever, you must depend on Jesus Christ.

If you know you are not ready to meet God and it really concerns you, remember Jesus Christ is the only One who can help you. Depend on Him. He said, “He who believes in me will live, even though He dies.” The Lord Jesus can make you ready to meet God. With Him you can be sure of living for ever and ever with God. If, at the end of the meeting, you want to talk about believing in the Lord Jesus, please come to me. I will be (*designate place*) and will be happy to speak with you. Remember that the Lord Jesus is the only One who can make you ready for death and what comes after. Without Him, it is all very frightening.

Martha understood that too. She told the Lord of her faith in Him. “I believe You are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.”

Then she turned and hurried home.

★ **Progression of events: Martha calls Mary to meet Jesus. Mary weeps.**

She slipped quietly into the room where Mary and their friends were sitting.

“Mary,” Martha whispered, “the Master has come and is asking for you.”

### Flashcard 3-4

Mary hurried out to meet the Lord. Her friends noticed her leaving and followed, thinking she had gone to weep at her brother’s grave.

Yes, she was weeping, but it was as she kneeled at the feet of the Lord Jesus.

“Lord if You had been here, my brother would not have died,” she cried.

Mary understood that this Friend was very different from the others they had. In what way was He different?

*Allow children to answer and take time to review briefly what the children should already know about Christ.*

He is God’s only Son; He can do miracles; He can make you ready to live with God; He is stronger than death. There are other important differences, too.

### Flashcard 3-7

His death was different. When He was thirty-three years old He was killed by being nailed to a cross. Crucifixion - that is what we call being nailed to a cross - actually happened to many people, but yet His death was different.

Involve children as you pretend to be Martha, entering quietly and whispering the message.

Young children would enjoy “hurrying to meet the Lord” at another place in the room.



As He died, God the Father punished Him for our sin, our wrongdoing. The Lord Jesus Himself never, never did wrong but He took the blame for the wrong we do. As He died, God punished Him for our sin. "Christ died for our sins" (1 Corinthians 15:3). His body was taken from the cross and put in a grave where it stayed for three days. Then on the third day He came back to life. "He was buried and ... rose again the third day" (1 Corinthians 15:4). He really did come back to life and never died again - no-one before or since has shown such power over death. Yes, He is different; there is certainly no-one like Him.

### Flashcard 3-4

Even as she wept, Mary knew that. She seemed to think He had come too late and she was very sad. The friends who stood around cried too. The Lord Jesus looked around and their sadness troubled Him.

"Where have you put Lazarus' body?" He asked.

"Lord, come and see," they answered.

★ **Progression of events: Jesus weeps and is brought to Lazarus' grave.**

As the people led Him towards the grave, Jesus wept. Although He was God, He was also man. He understood and shared their sorrow. And He is still like that! He is in Heaven today, but He understands us very well.

The people saw Him cry. "See how much He loved Lazarus," they remarked.

They led Jesus to Lazarus' grave. It was a cave, a hole in the rock. A large stone lay against the "door" to close the grave. The people waited quietly to see what Jesus would do. "What could He do for a dead man?" they wondered.

### Flashcard 3-5

★ **Progression of events: Martha objects to the stone being moved.**

"Take away the stone," the Lord Jesus commanded.

"Lord!" cried Martha, trying to stop Him from opening the grave. "By this time Lazarus' body is rotting away. It will smell for he has been buried for four days!"

"Didn't I promise that if you would believe Me, you would see the glory of God?" He reminded her. He meant that Martha would see God's great power.

They took away the stone from the grave entrance.

★ **Progression of events: Jesus prays and shouts "Lazarus, come out!"**

Then the Lord Jesus looked upwards and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I know You always hear Me, but I say this for the sake of these people here, that they might believe You did send Me."



Show in your facial expressions and voice Martha's concern about the smell and the fact that Lazarus' death was four days ago. Hold up four fingers.



Shout the command!  
Follow it with silence.

Shh ... pause for effect.



Let children touch a linen cloth which would be similar to the one wrapped around Lazarus' head. Unfurl the cloth as the Lord says, "Let him go."

Then the Lord shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" Anyone in the crowd could have shouted those words, but no-one but Jesus Christ could have obtained any result.

### Flashcard 3-6

★ **Climax:** Lazarus comes out of the cave.

There was movement in the cave. Lazarus got up! Perhaps he stumbled towards the entrance. The silent crowd was amazed and fearful of the strange sight.

Lazarus stood before them alive. His body was wrapped with strips of cloth from head to foot. Another piece of cloth was fastened around his face. Everyone could see that the man who had been dead was alive. Jesus Christ had power over death!

If you believe in Him, He will make you ready to live with God. When you believe in Him, you can be sure that He has taken all the punishment you deserve for your sin. You do not need to be afraid of meeting God. Your soul will go to Heaven the moment you die. The Bible also tells us that when the Lord Jesus Christ comes back to earth He will bring your body back to life and it too will live forever. What a difference He makes; what a difference He made to this sad family.

"Take off the grave clothes and let him go," He told the people who were still staring at Lazarus.

Mary and Martha were overjoyed as they saw their brother alive. He could walk! He could talk! They would never, never forget this exciting day.

★ **Conclusion:** Some of the Jews believe.

Some of the Jews who saw what happened put their faith in the Lord Jesus that day. When they believed in Him, He made them ready to live with God. He changed their lives.

What does it mean to believe? Let's suppose a boy needed to cross a deep, wide river. He knew it was impossible for him because of strong currents. An adult swimmer came along and said, "I will take you across the river, I often swim across." The boy believed in this man and allowed him to carry him across the river. That is believing, it is entrusting yourself to someone else. You must trust the Lord Jesus to do something you cannot do for yourself.

What about you? Perhaps you realise you are not ready to meet God, but you really want to be. You want to live with God forever. The Lord Jesus Christ is the only One who can make that possible for you. Remember what He told Martha: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." If you trust the Lord Jesus and live for Him, you will live forever with Him after you die. You will discover that the Lord Jesus is with you every day of your life too. Mary, Martha and Lazarus discovered how great and wonderful He is, and you can discover that too.



## Review questions

- 1 Why were Mary and Martha sad? (Because their brother was very sick.)
- 2 What message did they ask the servant to take to their special Friend, Jesus. ("The one you love is sick.")
- 3 Why did Jesus not go right away to help? (He wanted to show the people His power over death, so that they would believe on Him.)
- 4 What does it show us about Jesus, when He wept on the way to Lazarus' grave? (He understood and shared the people's sorrow. Even though He was God, He was also man.)
- 5 How long had Lazarus been dead? (Four days.)
- 6 True or false: If anyone in the crowd had shouted, "Lazarus, come out!", he would have come alive again. (False, only Jesus had the power to do this.)
- 7 Why did Jesus die on the cross? (To take the punishment we deserve for our sin.)
- 8 What happened to Jesus's body after He died? (He was put in a grave and came back to life on the third day.)
- 9 What kind of life does Jesus give to those who believe in Him? (Eternal life - life forever with God.)
- 10 Quote one of the "I am" verses you have learned so far. (John 10:11; John 6:35; John 11:25.)

## Review game

***Free Lazarus from the tomb***

Have each team choose someone to be "stuck in the tomb" (with his head, hands and feet pressed against a tree or wall).

Divide the group into two teams. Ask one team a question, then the other. If the answer is correct, the child may help "free Lazarus from the tomb" by pulling one part of his body away from the wall or tree. If incorrect, the other team may try to answer.

Each team can answer a maximum of five questions correctly, which would unstick the head, and both of the hands and feet of their "entombed" person.



# Lesson 4

## The Light of the World

### Scripture for teachers

Luke 18:31-43

Mark 10:32-34, 46-52

Matthew 20:17-19, 29-34

Luke 24:18

Isaiah 61:1-2

### Special emphasis

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World

### Application

Unsaved: Ask Jesus to take all the darkness of your sin away

### Memory verse

“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness” John 8:12

### Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-6 and 4-7
- ◆ Map

### Lesson outline

#### *Introduction*

Walking through a dark house

#### *Progression of events*

- 1 A man who lives in darkness - he is blind
- 2 Bartimaeus sits by the roadside begging
- 3 His friends tell him about Jesus
- 4 Jesus on His way to Jerusalem to die
- 5 Jesus comes to Jericho - Bartimaeus longs to see Him
- 6 Bartimaeus wants to have his sight

#### *Climax*

“Receive your sight!”

#### *Conclusion*

Bartimaeus full of praise to God

## Teaching the memory verse

### **Memory verse**

“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness” John 8:12

### **Introduction**

*Cup your hands together tightly as though you were hiding something. Allow two or three children to peek inside as you open your hands just a little, and have them tell you what they see. They will see nothing.*

What’s inside? Darkness! You can’t see the darkness because every time I open my hands, the light gets in! Light makes the darkness go away. This reminds me of a name Jesus calls Himself in God’s Word.

### **Presentation**

*Read the verse from your Bible, then have the children read the verse with you from the visual.*

### **Explanation**

“I am the light of the world” - Every person in the world is born in the darkness of sin. Sin is like darkness because it blinds you from seeing the truth and keeps you separated from God. But the Lord Jesus is the Light of the World - there is no darkness of sin in Him. He came to break the darkness of sin by dying on the cross. He took the punishment for your sin so you could be near to God and have the darkness of sin removed from your life.

“He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness” (“but have the light of life”). Those who have not received the Lord Jesus as Saviour are walking in the darkness of sin. But when you choose to follow Jesus, believing on Him to save you from sin, He comes to live inside you. He gives you His new life inside - eternal life - so you can live forever with Him. His life inside you is the light that helps keep you from living in the darkness of sin.

### **Application**

Unsaved: If you have not believed on Jesus to save you, you are still in the darkness of sin and your sin keeps you far away from God. You can choose to call on the Lord Jesus today, believing on Him to take away your darkness of sin. Later we will talk more about this.

Saved: If you have believed on Jesus as Saviour, you are a follower of Jesus. As you follow Jesus, let His life inside you shine as a light to help others find their way to God. Look for opportunities to tell your friends, family members and others about Jesus, the Light of the World.

***Repetition***

“Frozen exercises”

Start by selecting an exercise for the children to do. After a few seconds, call out “Freeze!” Have the children remain frozen in that position while repeating the verse. Children can then take turns leading the class by choosing exercises and calling out “Freeze!” Repeat several times until verse is learned.

Preschool  
repetition

***“Soft toss”***

Toss a bean bag or soft object to each child in turn, saying with the children, “Jesus is the light of the world.” You may prefer to let children pass it on to the next one while repeating the verse. Be careful to keep the object in control.

Involve children in an imaginative situation to introduce the concept of blindness. Blindfold those who are willing, or have all close eyes tightly and ask, "What do you see?" (Darkness.)

Jericho - show on a map.

Preschoolers can pretend to be palm trees waving in the breeze. Smelling and feeling flowers with their eyes shut will help them realise that blind people can't see, but they can smell and touch.



Bartimaeus - have children repeat the name with you.

Let children pretend to busily make their way through city streets past "Bartimaeus". Alternatively, share modern examples of ways people rush past those in need.

## Lesson

★ **Introduction: Walking through a dark house.**

Suppose I took you to my house tonight after it was dark, let you in the front door and told you to walk through the house without turning on any lights. Do you think you could do it without bumping into anything? Probably not. But if I turned on the lights you would have no trouble, would you? Have you ever thought what it would be like never to see anything - to be in darkness always?

## Flashcard 4-1

★ **Progression of events: A man who lives in darkness - he is blind.**

The Bible tells us about a man who lived in the beautiful city of Jericho - a city with tall palm trees and fragrant-smelling roses. I'm sure this man liked to smell the flowers and listen to the rustle of the palm trees, as he sat in the warm sunshine. But he could not see the gardens of colourful flowers, the tall, feathery palm trees or the bright sun. He could not see anything. To him the world was always darker than the darkest night - for he was blind!

Did you know that people can have another kind of darkness in their lives? I will tell you about a boy, Mark, who has it. He goes to school by bus and bullies the younger boys on board. He often cheats in games. In school he is very clever at telling lies to get out of trouble. He can see with his eyes - but his life is full of darkness. The wrong we do against God is described in the Bible as darkness! Mark has this darkness in his life. Have you? Perhaps your Mum told you not to eat chocolate until after dinner, but you ate it before the meal. Why does God see that as darkness? He commands you to obey your parents and when you disobey them it is darkness filling your life. Maybe you have a lucky mascot, that you take when you have an exam or when you travel. You depend on that lucky mascot and not on God. Yet God wants no one or nothing to come before Him in your life. Yes, there is darkness in your life for God says "there is none righteous (or without sin) no, not one" (Romans 3:10). So you have a darkness which is even worse than being blind.

★ **Progression of events: Bartimaeus sits by the roadside begging.**

Every morning Bartimaeus, this blind man who lived in Jericho, probably felt his way along the streets from his home to a certain place outside the city. There he sat by the roadside, begging money from the people who hurried in and out of the city during the busy day.

I am sure Bartimaeus did not want to be a beggar, but in those days blind people were not trained for special jobs as they are today. Oh, if he could only earn money like other men! Day after day he sat begging by the hot dusty road. Sometimes there were friendly people who stopped to talk. He was thankful for the friends who took time to visit with him. They were like a newspaper for him. They brought the latest news about themselves and about the town.

## Flashcard 4-2

★ **Progression of events: His friends tell him about Jesus.**

One day, friends of Bartimaeus had the best and most exciting news to tell. It probably happened something like this.

“Have you heard about Jesus of Nazareth?” they asked excitedly.

“No,” answered Bartimaeus, “who is He?”

“Some think He is a messenger of God, a prophet,” explained one friend.

“And some say He is the Saviour, the One whom God promised to send,” added the other. “All of the people in the country of Judea and Galilee are talking about Him. He teaches about God and Heaven, and He does great miracles. Up in Galilee He fed five thousand men from only five little loaves of bread and two small fish. He made people who were dead, alive again! He has made the deaf to hear, and those who could not speak, He made to talk.”

And then they said, “Bartimaeus, He even made a blind man see!”

“He made the blind to see!” thought Bartimaeus excitedly. “I wonder if He could make me see!”

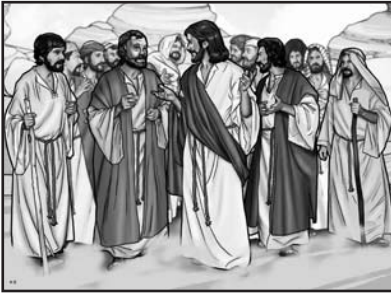
Perhaps from that day on Bartimaeus thought about Jesus, the One who did miracles. Bartimaeus and all the people of Israel were waiting for the promised son of David to come - someone from the family of the great King David who lived long ago. They were waiting for this person to be their great King and Saviour. Could it be that this Jesus who did miracles was this Promised One? Would He come and give sight to Bartimaeus’ blind eyes?

And still day after day Bartimaeus sat begging, still in his darkness. Don’t you feel sorry for him? But what do you feel about the other darkness we talked about - the darkness of sin and wrong? God wants you to be worried and sad about it because this darkness displeases God and keeps you away from Him. God is the very opposite of sin and wrong; He is pure and good. In the Bible we read, “God is light and in Him is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5). He cannot have sin near Him. God is good and right and He will punish **all** sin. He must punish all the wrong you do. This dreadful punishment comes after you die and lasts for ever and ever. Can’t you see that the darkness of your sin is even worse than Bartimaeus’ problem? How did he spend his day? Yes, he sat begging. Then it was spring and time for celebrating a special Jewish feast, the Passover. The road leading from Jericho to Jerusalem, the capital city of Israel, was filled with people going to this important feast.

Have two or more children role-play the dialogue between Bartimaeus and his friends. Provide index cards with simple words they are to say.



Passover Feast - the yearly Jewish feast celebrating the deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt the night the death angel passed over the houses marked with the blood of the lamb.



### Flashcard 4-3

★ **Progression of events: Jesus on His way to Jerusalem to die.**

Jesus and His disciples were on their way to Jerusalem too. The disciples were puzzled and sad because they could not understand the things Jesus had just told them. He had said, “When I get to Jerusalem, the chief priests and scribes will arrest Me and sentence Me to die. They will give Me to the people who hate Me. They will spit on Me and whip Me; then they will kill Me. But on the third day after I die I will rise again from the dead” (from Luke 18:31-33).

The Lord Jesus Christ really was a very special person. Can you remember some of the things Bartimaeus had been told about Him?

*Allow the children to participate.*

He taught about God and Heaven; He fed five thousand men with five loaves and two fish; He made the dead alive, the deaf hear, and the blind see.

He could do these things because He was God. He was God’s only Son who had come to earth from Heaven about 33 years earlier. He was always good, His whole life showed that He had none of the darkness of sin. He looked like other men, but His thoughts, words and behaviour were very different, so different that He was like light in the darkness.

Then why was He telling His disciples He would be killed? They were puzzled for they didn’t yet understand that His death would be something very, very important. Indeed God had planned that His only Son, His dear Son, would die.

In spite of the darkness of sin in our lives, God loves you and me. He sent His only Son Jesus Christ to take the punishment we deserve. The Bible says, “God demonstrates (shows) His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

Jesus Christ was nailed to a cross and died. He did it to put away the darkness of sin that keeps you from God. He showed that He really did put away sin by coming back to life again. He is alive today. He is alive forever. But when He spoke to the disciples about dying, they felt they would never see Him again. Where was He going to die? - Yes, at Jerusalem. That is why He would pass through Jericho.

### Flashcard 4-1

★ **Progression of events: Jesus comes to Jericho - Bartimaeus longs to see Him.**

These were busy days for blind Bartimaeus because many people were travelling to Jerusalem through Jericho. They were good days for begging. Bartimaeus must have wondered, “Will Jesus of Nazareth come through Jericho? I’m sure He could make me see.”

One day Bartimaeus heard happy, excited voices and the sound of many feet. He knew it was a big group. Something unusual was going on!

State Bartimaeus’ thoughts dramatically or have a child prepared to express them.

Young children will enjoy making the sounds of many feet.



Perhaps he called out, “What is happening? Why is there such a large crowd?”

“Jesus of Nazareth is coming!” came the answer from the crowd.

“Jesus of Nazareth?” cried Bartimaeus, trembling with excitement. “I must get to Jesus,” he thought. “But how?”

He could not see Jesus. And in this great crowd of people, Jesus might not see him. What could Bartimaeus do? There was one thing he could do. He could call to Jesus.

So he shouted, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

The people standing in front of Bartimaeus became very angry with him. “Be quiet!” they commanded. But Bartimaeus didn’t pay any attention to them.

He was not going to allow anyone to stop him getting help from Jesus Christ, the only One who could make him see.

People may try to stop you from trusting on Jesus Christ to take away all the darkness of your sin. Someone may say, “Don’t believe that - you’re alright the way you are.” Someone else might say, “If you follow Jesus I’ll not be your friend.” Perhaps an older person will tell you, “You’re too young to think about that.” Don’t let anyone stop you, if you really want Jesus Christ to take away all your darkness. Jesus Christ is the only One who can help you, just as He was Bartimaeus’ only hope.

He was afraid Jesus might pass by without hearing him and helping him!

“Son of David,” Bartimaeus shouted louder than ever, “have mercy on me!”

#### Flashcard 4-4

Jesus stopped walking and stood still. How He loved Bartimaeus. And He loves you and me.

Jesus loved Bartimaeus and said, “Call him; bring him to Me.”

“Bartimaeus, get up! He’s calling you!” the people said excitedly.

★ **Progression of events: Bartimaeus wants to have his sight.**

Bartimaeus leaped to his feet! He threw off his old ragged beggar’s coat and came to Jesus!

As the blind man waited breathlessly, Jesus said in a loving voice, “What do you want Me to do for you?”

“Lord,” said Bartimaeus, realising he was speaking to God, “let me receive my sight.”

He knew exactly what he wanted! He wanted rid of this darkness. Nothing else mattered.

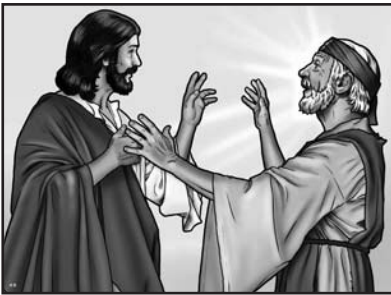


Place hands at mouth and call out.



And what about you? Is it very, very important to you now that all the darkness of sin is taken out of your life? If so, then the Lord Jesus is certainly speaking to you. You cannot see Him but He is real. Tell Him that you want Him to put away the darkness of your sin. Trust Him to do that for you. If you have questions about how this can happen to you, I will show you the answers from God's Book, the Bible. Stay in your seat (*or designate other place*) when the others go and I will know you want to talk about this. I cannot take away your sin but I can try to help you to understand how and why Jesus Christ can take away your sin. Bartimaeus believed that Jesus Christ could make him see.

Of all the people in Jericho, only Jesus Christ could help Bartimaeus and there He was speaking kindly to the blind beggar.



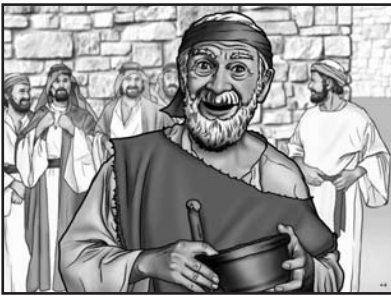
### Flashcard 4-5

★ **Climax:** "Receive your sight!"

A hush came over the crowd. Everyone watched the Lord Jesus.

"Receive your sight!" said Jesus softly.

At that moment it was as though a blindfold was taken from his eyes. Bartimaeus was no longer blind! He could see! He blinked his eyes in the bright sunlight. He saw light! Colour! People! He looked right into the kind, loving face of the Saviour who had healed him.



### Flashcard 4-6

★ **Conclusion:** Bartimaeus full of praise to God.

Bartimaeus' heart was almost bursting with thanksgiving and praise to God, because the darkness was gone!

### Flashcard 4-7

It could be like that for you today. All the darkness of your sin could be taken away. The Lord Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness" (John 8:12).

When you switch on a bright light in a dark room, the darkness goes. When Jesus Christ comes into your heart and life, the darkness of sin goes. He stays with you and in you. You begin to live to please Him rather than living the bad, sinful way.

If you are really sorry for the wrong you have done, tell Him that now. Ask Him to put away the darkness and to come into your life. Thank Him for dying for you. Just like Bartimaeus, you will be very, very thankful for what the Lord Jesus does for you. Life will be different for you too as the Lord Jesus helps you to love and obey Him.



### Review game

#### **Blind vote**

Divide the group into two teams. Ask a question

### Review questions

- 1 Who was Bartimaeus and how did he spend his days? (A blind man who sat by the roadside begging for money.)
- 2 What did blind Bartimaeus hope for after he had heard of Jesus?

- (He hoped Jesus would come to Jericho and help him to see.)
- 3 Why do you think Bartimaeus thought that Jesus could help him see? (Probably he heard about the miracles Jesus had done for others, for example, giving a blind man his sight, feeding 5,000, making dead people alive. Perhaps he knew Jesus must be the promised Saviour.)
  - 4 To what city was Jesus going when He went through Jericho? (Jerusalem.)
  - 5 What did Bartimaeus call out to Jesus? (“Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”)
  - 6 What two kinds of darkness did Bartimaeus have? (Blind eyes and sin in his heart.)
  - 7 What did Jesus do so that we would no longer have to be in the darkness of sin? (He died on the cross, taking the punishment for our sins, and rose again.)
  - 8 What two things happened to Bartimaeus when Jesus said, “Receive your sight”? (His eyes were no longer blind; his sins were forgiven.)
  - 9 How can you get rid of the darkness of sin? (By believing in Jesus and asking Him to come into your life.)
  - 10 Who does Jesus say that He is in this lesson? (“I am the Light of the World.”)

to one team, then the other. When a child in one team gives an answer, everyone closes his eyes and the other team votes on whether they think the answer is correct.

Thumbs up means correct, thumbs down, incorrect. Announce the correct answer, then record the point total for the voting team - one point for each correct vote.

Keep point totals secret until the end, but you may want to indicate which team is ahead throughout the game. The team with the most points wins.



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# Lesson 5

## The Way

### Scripture for teachers

John 13:1-2, 30-38

John 14:1-6

### Special emphasis

Jesus Christ is the only Way to God and Heaven

### Application

Unsaved: Ask Jesus to forgive your sins and prepare you for living with God

### Memory verse

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” John 14:6

### Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5 and 5-6

### Lesson outline

#### *Introduction*

Passover evening in Jerusalem

#### *Progression of events*

- 1 Jesus and His disciples in the upstairs room
- 2 Judas Iscariot leaves shortly after supper
- 3 Jesus talks to His disciples about His Father’s home, Heaven
- 4 Jesus is the only Way to get to Heaven
- 5 What will not get you to Heaven?
  - Going to church
  - Being kind
  - Praying
  - Being good
- 6 Jesus has bread and wine with the disciples

#### *Climax*

Jesus dies on the cross for our sins

#### *Conclusion*

He alone is the Way to God

## Teaching the memory verse

### **Memory verse**

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” John 14:6

### **Introduction**

How many of you like birthday parties?

*Allow response.*

What if I invited you to my birthday party, but I didn't tell you how to get there. Could you come?

*Allow response.*

When you want to go somewhere, it's important to know the way, isn't it? God wants you to know the way to His home in Heaven. Listen to God's Word as I read what Jesus, God's Son, says.

### **Presentation**

*Read the verse from your Bible - or have an older child do so - then have the children read the verse with you from the visual.*

### **Explanation**

*“I am the way, the truth, and the life”* - The Lord Jesus tells us in this verse that He alone is the Way - the way to be able to have a relationship with God and live with Him in Heaven someday. There is no other way. Jesus also tells us He alone is the Truth. As God, He is the source of all truth. He was the only person who ever lived a perfect life, because He understood, spoke and lived only the truth. Jesus also tells us He alone is the Life. Only He can forgive your sin and give you eternal life - the kind of life inside that you need to please God here on earth and live with Him someday in Heaven.

*“No one comes to the Father except through Me”* - The only way any man, woman, boy or girl can have a relationship with God, and eternal life in Heaven, is to believe on the Lord Jesus as Saviour.

### **Application**

Unsaved: Have you believed on Jesus as the Way to God and to Heaven? If not, why not do it today? At the end of the Bible lesson I will explain how you can believe on Jesus and receive everlasting life.

Saved: If you have already believed on Jesus, you know the Way, the Truth and the Life. You know the Lord Jesus because He's living in your heart! This verse assures you that you've chosen the one way to be with God in Heaven someday.

***Repetition***

“Echo mountains”

Divide the class so they are sitting in three groups - loud mountain, medium mountain and whisper mountain. Stand in front of the groups and say the verse phrase by phrase. After you say a phrase, each mountain repeats that phrase, starting with the loud mountain (loud voice), then the medium mountain (normal voice), then whisper mountain (whisper). After the whole verse has been repeated phrase by phrase by all three mountains, rotate the mountains so each group has a turn to be the loud mountain, the medium mountain and the whisper mountain. After using the visualised verse, try it again without the visual.

Pretend to smell foods being prepared.



## Lesson

★ **Introduction: Passover evening in Jerusalem.**

It was evening in the city of Jerusalem. The smell of freshly baked bread and roast lamb seemed to be everywhere. Little lights flickered in the houses. This was the night Jewish families went to celebrate the Passover Feast and remember how God had freed their people from slavery in Egypt many years before.

### Flashcard 5-1

★ **Progression of events: Jesus and His disciples in the upstairs room.**

The Lord Jesus and His disciples had met together in an upstairs room in the city to eat the Passover Supper. The disciples were delighted to be alone with their Master, away from the noisy crowds. There was something different about this night, however; it was very solemn and the Lord Jesus seemed to have something heavy on His mind.

### Flashcard 5-2

★ **Progression of events: Judas Iscariot leaves shortly after supper.**

Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, had left shortly after supper. His place at the table was empty now. The other disciples thought Judas had left on an errand but the Lord Jesus knew that, at that very moment, Judas was telling the Master's enemies where they could arrest Him.

### Flashcard 5-3

★ **Progression of events: Jesus talks to His disciples about His Father's home, Heaven.**

The Lord Jesus spoke to the eleven disciples around the table. "I will be with you only a little longer."

"Lord," asked Simon Peter quietly, "Where are you going?"

Jesus answered, "You are not able to follow Me now, where I am going, but you shall follow Me afterwards."

The disciples' hearts were sad and fearful. Whatever would they do without Him! The Lord Jesus understood their fears. "Don't be worried and afraid," He comforted them. "Trust in God and trust Me too."

Then He told them where He was going. He was returning to His Father's home. He knew all about it because He was God's only Son and had lived with His Father forever before coming to earth as a tiny baby.

### Flashcard 5-4

The Bible tells us that God's house or home is Heaven. The Lord Jesus would soon return to Heaven. He said it was a spacious place with room for many people. God lives there and Jesus Christ His Son is there and that is why it is such a wonderful place. In fact it is too beautiful to describe.



It is God's home and so there is no sin there. Sin is disobeying God. You disobey Him when you tell lies, when you fight with other children. He says you must obey and respect your parents, but you do not always obey. Perhaps you put your tongue out at your mum or call your parents names. Jealousy also displeases God. Are you jealous of someone who is more popular or clever than you? God tells us very plainly in the Bible that nothing impure will ever be in Heaven (Revelation 21:27). God is so good and pure that He can never allow sin near Him.

Yet there will be many people in Heaven!

When our life on earth is finished and we die, there is another life. We do not come back to earth as something else of course. Some people go to Heaven and live with God forever.

Some people go to that awful place of punishment called Hell, and they never live with God.

There are just two possibilities after life on earth.

Perhaps you are very concerned about this. You know that you cannot go to Heaven as you are. Yet you do want to live with God. If you want to speak with me about this at the end of the club please come to (*designate a place*) and I will show you from the Bible how you can be ready for Heaven.

### Flashcard 5-6

Most people want to go to Heaven. These children do. But simply wanting to go there does not mean that you will go.

Suppose you want to go to a nearby town and you take the wrong road. You will not arrive at the town even though you really want to go there. If you take the wrong road, you will not arrive there. If you take the right way, you will arrive in the town.

It is just like that with Heaven. Of course there is not a road leading there, but there is one way to get to God's Home.

### Flashcard 5-2

★ **Progression of events: Jesus is the only Way to get to Heaven.**

Thomas, one of the disciples, wanted to know the way. In fact he was still rather confused about where Jesus was going. He said, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, so how can we know the way?"

The Lord Jesus' answer was simple and clear: "I am the way ... no one comes to the Father except through Me." He was telling them, "If you want to go to Heaven I am the only One who can take you there." You see, the way to Heaven is not a road, but a Person. Jesus Christ is the Way to Heaven. He alone can make you ready to live with God. He alone can forgive all your sins and change your life. When you belong to the Lord Jesus, you are sure of living with Him in Heaven.





### Flashcard 5-6

Let's look again at these children who want to go to Heaven.

★ **Progression of events: Going to church will not get you to Heaven.**

This girl goes to church every Sunday; she never misses. Do you think that prepares her for Heaven? No, even though it is good to go to church, this is not the way to Heaven. My church cannot prepare me for Heaven, no church can. This girl knows about the Lord Jesus Christ, but she does not trust on Him alone to forgive her sin and to prepare her for living with God.

★ **Progression of events: Being kind will not get you to Heaven.**

The girl is kind to others. She shares her treats and is a willing helper. Sadly, she does not belong to the Lord Jesus. Her sin has not been forgiven by Him. He is not in her heart and life. No, she is not on the way to Heaven.

★ **Progression of events: Praying will not get you to Heaven.**

But here is a boy who prays. He always says his prayers before going to bed. Is this the way to get prepared for Heaven?

*Allow children to respond and ask reasons for their answers.*

The Lord Jesus said, "I am the way." This boy needs to see that there is sin and wrong in his life, with which God is very displeased.

★ **Progression of events: Being good will not get you to Heaven.**

The boy is better than most in his class. He is obedient, polite, and does his homework. He doesn't say bad words. He is never in trouble. Is he good enough for Heaven? No. The Bible tells us that on our own we cannot be good enough. "All have sinned" (Romans 3:23). "There is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10).

Being good, saying prayers, being kind, going to church are all very good things to do, but they are not the way to Heaven. Jesus Christ alone is the Way to God. Why?

### Flashcard 5-2

★ **Progression of events: Jesus has bread and wine with the disciples.**

During the meal He explained it once more to His disciples. He took bread and broke it, explaining that His body would be broken for them. He used the wine as a picture too. It was a reminder of His precious blood that would pour out when He died. He would bleed and die for the forgiveness of sins.



### Flashcard 5-5

★ **Climax: Jesus dies on the cross for our sins.**

It happened the very next day. He was nailed to a cross and His body was broken and His blood poured out. He was God's only Son and also a perfect, sinless man, but He died as if He was a criminal. He actually took our sin, all the wrong we do, and was punished in our place. He



loved us so much that He took our punishment. “The Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

★ **Conclusion: He alone is the Way to God.**

He died and was buried, but three days later He came back to life. That is why He is the Way to God in Heaven. He is in Heaven now and if you depend on Him, He can make you ready for Heaven. Then when your life here is finished, He will take you to that wonderful place.

What about you? Where do you want to go when your life on earth ends? If you know that right now you could not live with God, you should be concerned. Jesus Christ can come to you now and make you ready. He can take away all the sin and wrong. You need to depend on Him to do that for you, knowing that He died for you. Tell Him that you are sorry for the way your life is now. Ask Him to make you ready to live with God. He will then come into your life and will be with you every day. You will belong to Him. He alone is the Way to God. He said so very plainly, “I am the way ... no one comes to the Father except through Me.”

### Review questions

- 1 What special event was going on in the city of Jerusalem? (The Passover Feast.)
- 2 What did the twelve disciples do that night? (They had supper alone with the Lord Jesus, away from the crowds.)
- 3 Why did Jesus act differently that night? (He knew the time had come for Him to return to Heaven and be with His Father.)
- 4 What did Jesus have to do first before He could return to Heaven? (Die on the cross and rise the third day.)
- 5 What did Judas Iscariot do? (He told Jesus’ enemies where they could arrest Him.)
- 6 What special place did Jesus tell His disciples about, as they talked together after supper? (Heaven, a beautiful place, God’s home, no sin.)
- 7 Quote an “I am” verse we learned this week. (John 10:11; 6:35; 11:25; 8:12; 14:6.)
- 8 Who is Jesus preparing Heaven for? (Those who believe in Him as Saviour from sin.)
- 9 What are some things boys and girls think they can do to get to Heaven? (Go to church, pray, be kind, be good.)
- 10 What does God’s Word say about how to get to Heaven? (There is only one way - John 14:6.)

Children can know for sure they will be with God someday in Heaven.

### Review game

#### *Connect the dots*

Draw the following on a sketch pad, chalkboard or white board.



Put in grid here.

Divide the group into two teams and name them (e.g. Team “A” for Aardvarks and “B” for Baboons).

If a child answers a question correctly for the team, he may draw two lines, each connecting two dots.

If a line is the final line forming a square, the child marks the team’s initial (A or B) in the square.

The team with the most squares wins.

Copy, cut out and keep in your Bible



## Summary of steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ

### **Make sure the child understands about**

#### **God**

Who is God?  
God made us. He speaks to us through the Bible.  
God is holy and pure. He loves us.

#### **Sin**

What is sin?  
Sin is disobeying God's commands. It is against God.  
Speak about specific sins.  
The child is a sinner by nature and act. (We sin because we are sinners.)  
Sin deserves punishment.

#### **The Saviour**

Who alone can take away your sin?  
God the Son died on the cross for sinners.  
The Lord Jesus rose again from the dead.  
He is Lord of all.

### **Explain how to be saved**

Explain what the Lord wants us to do, and what He will do.  
Use a Bible verse (*John 1:12; 3:16; 6:37; Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23 or 10:13*).  
What does the Lord want you to do?  
What will the Lord do?  
Warn about difficulties.  
Ask: "Do you want to trust Christ, or would you rather wait?"  
Encourage the child to pray audibly (if ready).

### **Speak about assurance of salvation**

Go back to the Bible verse you used.  
Speak about a changed life.  
Tell him what the person who is truly trusting in Christ can know.

### **Give (later) some advice about the Christian life**

Read and obey your Bible.  
Talk to God, our Heavenly Father.  
Tell others what the Lord has done for you.  
Ask God to forgive you when you sin.  
Meet with other Christians.  
Remember the Lord promises: "*I will never leave you*" (*Heb 13:5*).