11

Who is Jesus? His

Main idea

Jesus is a most important person because through our calendar all the events in history are linked to his birth.

Questions answered

by this program

- What do BC and AD mean?
- When did Jesus live?
- What date was he born?
- Is Jesus a real person?

Bible Base

Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:1-2

For the leader

Our system of dates is based on the birth of Jesus Christ. The initials BC and AD attached to a year refer to 'Before Christ' and 'Anno Domini', which means in Latin, 'in the year of our Lord'. The terms BCE (before common era) and CE (common era) are increasingly being used because the Christian system of dates is used both by Christians and non-Christians.

Open the pack

FAMOUS PEOPLE QUIZ

Why? To introduce the idea of Jesus being perhaps the world's most famous person.

Needed: *Newspaper or magazine photos of famous or well-known people (Look for those your group will know reasonably well. For large groups show them on an overhead projector, otherwise make sure they are big enough for the children to see clearly.)*

Don't tell the children you are about to show famous people. Show each person while children write down or say who it is. Ask the children what these people have in common.

Comment: Today we are going to talk about someone many believe to be the most famous ever. People call themselves by his name, build buildings because of him, and have followed his teachings for 2,000 years. Who do you think it is?

TIME LINE

Why? To establish the idea of the progression of time.

Needed: *A sketch of Jesus in the manger , sketches of historic events the group will relate to such as Captain Cook visiting Australia, the opening of the school/church, Neil Armstrong walking on the moon and the Sydney 2000 Games. Include a future event such as next Christmas.*

Arrange the sketches (minus the manger scene) in order and talk about the dates.

> ***Pose the questions:***
> *How far back do dates go? Can dates be before zero?*
> (Yes, BC) *What does BC mean?* (Before Christ)

Add the 'Jesus in the manger sketch' to the timeline and let it sink in that our dates begin with the birth of Jesus.

> ***Pose the question:***
> *What does that say about the importance of Jesus?*

Dig in

Comment: The Bible is the key book for finding information about Jesus. It tells what it was like in the world when Jesus was born.

Place in History

HISTORICAL FACTS

Let pairs of children find Matthew 2:1 and Luke 2:1-2 and read it to discover historical facts about the time when Jesus was born.

Comment: Other history books tell us about the time that Herod was the King, the emperor was Augustus, and Quirinius was governor. That's the time that Jesus was born. It was a real time in the history of the earth. The birth of Jesus was important enough that all the events that have ever happened have been linked to that day!

THE MOST IMPORTANT

Pose the questions:
What year is it this year? What does that number mean?
(That's the number of years since Jesus was born.)

Comment: Every time you write the year you're really remembering when Jesus was born and how long ago it was. That's how important Jesus is.

Chew on it

SING: JESUS IS GREATER

Needed: Gospelling to the Beat 1 *CD and player*

Sing the song or play the CD while the children clap. Get them to suggest actions and sing the song together.

SO WHAT?

Pose the question:
If Jesus really is the most important person who ever lived, what should we do about it?

Encourage discussion, including things like 'find out as much as we can about him' and 'do what he says'.

Close the pack

MOST IMPORTANT

Pose the questions:
Herod was the king at the time, but who has heard his name mentioned recently? Does anyone remember the name of the man who discovered that the world was not flat? (Columbus). *What about the name of the person who invented the telephone?* (Thomas Edison). *Has anyone heard the name Jesus recently?*

Comment: Jesus must be someone worth remembering because his name is still being talked about when many other important names have been forgotten. Jesus was born (2000) years ago, but we all know his name. He must be worth finding out about. That's what this club is about. We're here to find out about Jesus.

Encourage everyone to come back next session, saying you'll have a surprise for them.

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Who is Jesus? The One

Main idea

Jesus is an important person because God promised he would come hundreds of years before he was born.

Questions answered

by this program

- Why is Jesus different to anyone else?
- What's a prophecy?

Bible Base

Matthew 2:3-6;
Micah 5:2;
Luke 4:16-19;
Isaiah 61:1-2

For the leader

The idea of time is difficult for little children so they don't readily grasp the importance of prophecies made hundreds of years before the event, however they can appreciate that God kept his word in sending Jesus. That Jesus is the Promised One, makes him very important.

It was suggested last session that you promise the children a surprise. Don't let anything prevent you from keeping that promise. It can be something as simple as a sweet or a sticker, something more special, like a Bible Society leaflet, or a cookie you've baked with a message inside.

Open the pack

WHO AM I?

Why? To establish what makes people important.

Divide children into groups, each group with a paper and pencil.
Ask the following questions about important people:

1. What is the name of the President of the United States?
2. Who is our Prime Minister?
3. What is his wife's first name?
4. Who is the captain of (choose a sporting team)?
5. What is the name of Australia's most famous bushranger?

Pose the question:
Why were these people important?
(Because of their position or for what they have done)

GUESS WHO?

Why? To establish what makes people important.

As children arrive pin the name of a famous person on their back. They have to discover who they are by asking the others questions that have a 'yes/no' answer.

Pose the question:
Why were these people important?
(Because of their position or for what they have done)

BABY FACE

Show a picture of a baby and ask, 'Is this a famous person?' 'Why don't we know?'

Comment: Very few babies, if any, are born important. They usually become important when they grow up because of a job they do or a title they get.

Dig in

KEEP YOUR PROMISE

Ask, 'Who remembers the promise I made last week?'

Comment: Isn't it good th ve only had to wait one week!

who was Promised

God made a promise hundreds of years before it happened about a baby who would be very important. When Jesus was born, people already knew what he would do. God had made a promise hundreds of years before. Let's look at that promise before I keep my promise to you.

LOOK IN THE BIBLE

Why? To discover Old Testament promises fulfilled in Jesus.

Help everyone look up the following passages and follow as they are read by volunteers who are good readers or a leader.

Show a picture (perhaps on a Christmas card) of the wisemen who visited Jesus.

Read Matthew 2:1-6

Explain that when Herod the King found out that a special baby was going to be born he wanted to know where. They knew where because this special baby had been promised in a book called Micah written hundreds of years before. We can read the promise because it's in the Bible.

Read Micah 5:2

Comment: God's promise came true. But the promise was not just about where he would be born. It was also about what he would do – his life.

Read Luke 4:16-19

Comment: What Jesus read was something that was also written in the Old Testament hundreds of years before.

Older children could find the promise in Isaiah 61.

Chew on it

SING: JESUS IS GREATER

Needed: Gospelling to the Beat 1 *CD and player*

Enjoy this song complete with actions.

GOD'S BIG PROMISE

Pose the question:
If Jesus was God's big promise, what do you think we should do about it?

Resist the temptation to tell how important it is know Jesus. Encourage the children to think about and verbalise what their response to Jesus should be.

If you sense it is appropriate you could ask for a volunteer to pray that you will all get to know Jesus better.

Close the pack

Jesus is an important person because all the events of history are linked to his birth, also because God promised Jesus would come and he did.

KEEP YOUR PROMISE

Give each person their promised surprise [illegible]g, 'Just as God promised, he gave us someone special and important in Jesus. I can't ev[illegible] you something that special, but I'll keep my promise to you and I hope it reminds you of Jesus.'

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Who is Jesus? A Real

Main idea

Jesus was a real person whose family lived and travelled to places we can visit today.

Questions answered

by this program

- Where did Jesus live?
- What was it like there?

Bible Base

New Testament

For the leader

Young children sometimes have the idea that the Bible stories about Jesus took place in heaven, or some far off galaxy. This session establishes the 'earthliness' of it all by linking Jesus with real places he visited on earth. It will be much more real to your group if you show present day pictures of these places. Check out library books or brochures from travel agents, or photos taken by someone who has travelled in that part of the world.

. . . . . .

Open the pack

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Needed: World map or globe, Copy of Appendix 9, *Bible lands map.*

Explore a map of the world or a globe with the children seeing if they can find places you suggest – places which have been in the news. Find out if there are children in the group who were born overseas or whose family came from another country. Ask the following questions. Invite selected children to come and indicate their answers on the map/globe.

- Where were you born?
- Where were your parents born?
- Where would you like to go?
- Where did Jesus live when he was a man on earth?

Point to the area of Israel/Palestine on the map or globe, then use *the Bible lands map* to zero in on the area where Jesus lived.

SING *JESUS IS GREATER*

Needed: *Gospelling to the Beat 1 CD and player.*

Comment: The words of this song describe what Christians believe about Jesus. These things come from the Bible, the key book for Christians. Christians believe that Jesus is the most important person who has ever lived.

Don't forget the actions as you sing!

Dig in

JESUS' WORLD, OUR WORLD

Why? For the children to realise that the places mentioned in the Bible are real places on earth.

Needed: *Copy of Appendix 9,* Bible lands map, *present day photos of Bible land places.*

Display the map, saying that this is a map of the part of the world where Jesus lived. Explain that the Bible records the names of places Jesus visited, real places people still visit today. As you read these verses (or get volunteers to read them), ask the children to listen for the names of places mentioned and then find them together on the map and discuss the present day ph

Person who lived on Earth

- Luke 2:1-4
- Luke 2:39-42
- Luke 4:31
- Luke 5:1

Choose volunteers to trace Jesus' journey, recorded in Matthew, on the map.

- Matt 2:1 Bethlehem
- Matt 2:14 Egypt
- Matt 2:23 Nazareth
- Matt 3:13 Jordan River
- Matt 4:23 all over Galilee

JESUS' JOURNEYS

Why? For the children to realise that the places mentioned in the Bible are real places on earth.

Needed: *Enlarged copy of Appendix 9,* Bible lands map

Form groups of 2-5 each with a Bible and the Bible lands map. Challenge the groups to look up the verses from Luke and Matthew mentioned above to find nine places Jesus visited or as many as they can in the time. As they find them they can mark them on the map.

Chew on it

Why? To help the group understand that although Jesus lived in places we can visit now, he lived in a different time so many things about those places have changed.

Comment: Jesus lived on the same earth we do. We could get on a plane and go to Bethlehem and Nazareth and Jerusalem today and some people do. They are real places.

Either in small groups or all together think of five things that would be the same about those places now and five things that would be different.

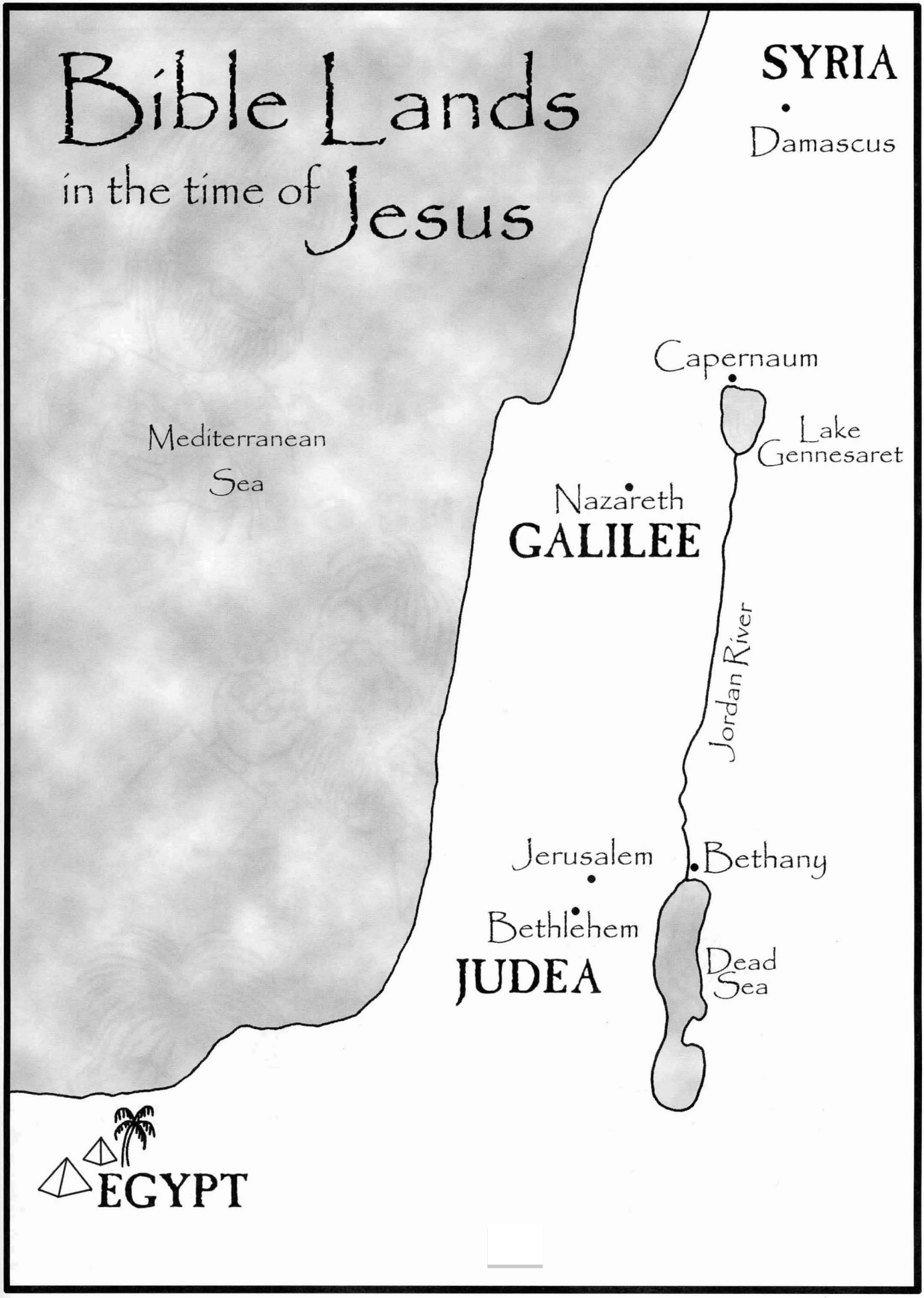
- **Same:** Lake, mountains, rocks, language, climate, animals
- **Different:** Cars, electricity, TV's, government, phones

Close the pack

Comment: Jesus is an important person because all the events of history are linked to his birth.

Jesus is an important person because God promised that Jesus would come years before he was even born.

Jesus is an important person because he did unusual things in real places we can go today.


Bible Lands
in the time of Jesus
SYRIA
Damascus
Capernaum
Lake Gennesaret
Mediterranean Sea
Nazareth
GALILEE
Jordan River
Jerusalem
Bethany
Bethlehem
JUDEA
Dead Sea
EGYPT

14

Who is Jesus? Both

Main idea

Jesus is a person who was both God and man.

Questions answered

by this program

- Can Jesus do magic?
- What did people think when they saw him?
- How does Jesus know how I feel?

Bible Base

John 2:1-11

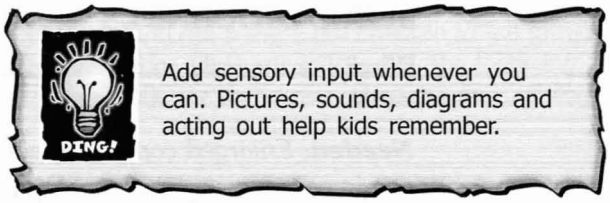
For the leader

Jesus was God from the beginning (John 1:1) but he was also fully human. He faced the whole range of emotions and temptations we do (Hebrews 4:15). You could have passed him in the street without realising he was God because he probably looked much the same as others his age in his part of the world.

Children are often more ready to accept that Jesus was God than that he was an ordinary person. They love superheroes and are happy to accept an all-powerful Jesus, but an understanding of his humanity helps us relate to him as a friend.

If you can get hold of some Potassium Permanganate (better known as Condy's Crystals, available from chemists) try this for impact as you tell the story.

Use a clear jug filled with water and 2 empty glasses. Place 2-3 Condy's Crystals in the bottom of each glass. The children won't notice them but they are concentrated enough to turn the whole glass a purple colour At the appropriate time in the story pour water from the jug into the 'empty' glasses and watch how it turns water into 'wine'



Add sensory input whenever you can. Pictures, sounds, diagrams and acting out help kids remember.

Open the pack

GUESS HOW I'M FEELING?

Needed: *Separate cards with the words 'sad', 'hungry', 'angry', thirsty', and 'tired'. Five separate faces from Appendix 10,* Facial expressions

Divide the children into 5 groups. Give each group an emotion card and get them to develop a short role play about that word. Have each group in turn act out their role play while the others try to guess the emotion.

As each emotion is guessed, display the corresponding face.

SONG: JESUS IS GREATER

Needed: Gospelling to the Beat 1 *CD and player, Copy of Appendix 10,* Facial expressions, *cut into separate faces.*

Sing the song with actions. Afterwards pose the questions:

How do you feel when you sing that song?

Can you think of a song that makes you feel very differently?

Show the cartoons from Appendix 10 and identify the emotions.

Pose the questions:
Do you think Jesus [illegible] *elings like us?*
Is there any evidenc[illegible]

God and Human

Comment: If we can find evidence of Jesus having feelings it will show he was human just like us. Let's check the Bible to see what we can find.

Dig in

You will need to choose activities that show BOTH that Jesus was human and that he was God.

CHECK OUT THE EVIDENCE

Needed: *Separate faces from Appendix 10, Blu-Tack, these Bible references written on separate cards, Bibles*

John 11:35, Mark 11:12, Matt 3:5, John 19:28, Mark 6:31.

Give each group a Bible reference card. They need to find the verse in the Bible, work out which emotion Jesus was experiencing, find the matching picture and display them together.

LIKE US

Invite the group to be detectives and find out how Jesus showed he wasn't just superhuman. He was like us in lots of ways. Read the above verses or ask volunteers to read. As each human emotion is identified, point to the corresponding cartoon. Point out that Jesus often felt like we do. He was a real person.

NOT JUST HUMAN

Tell the story of the wedding at Cana or read it from John 2:1-10. (You could do some ad lib dramatizing.) Make sure the children understand that this was no trick. Jesus is the Great Creator God and turning water into wine is nothing compared to creating the world.

Chew on it

Pose the questions:
What is there about that story that shows Jesus was different?

What would you have thought if you were there?

Comment: As you read other stories about Jesus you will discover that he did all sorts of amazing things. Ask the children if they know what else Jesus did, if not list some. (Use visuals to illustrate wherever possible.) Point out that Jesus was able to do these things, not by tricking people but because he was not just a human being, he was in fact the Son of God who had come to earth in human form.

Many people who saw these things believed in Jesus and followed him.

Read John 2:11 together and point out that when the disciples who were there saw Jesus do this amazing miracle, they put their faith in him and went with him.

Close the pack

Some people put their faith in Jesus when they saw what he could do. Others didn't like what he said and did. They became angry and would not believe. Jesus wants everyone to put their trust in him and follow him, not to be angry and unbelieving or uncaring and ignore him.

You or someone else might like to conclu[illegible] a prayer for understanding of who Jesus really is and for the ability to respond to him as he deserves.

Appendix 10 for Session 14

Facial Expressions