

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

7-DAY PROGRAMME
FOR CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY



THE KING OF KINGS

A Story Told by Charles Dickens

 SU Scotland

mofac ANGEL KOVA

Watch it on all Digital Platforms NOW.

COPYRIGHT © 2025 BY ANGEL STUDIOS AND KOVA INTERNATIONAL

Contents

Introduction

- 3** About this resource

Sessions

- 7** **Session One:** The Son
- 12** **Session Two:** The Healer
- 17** **Session Three:** Good
- 22** **Session Four:** The Teacher
- 27** **Session Five:** The King
- 32** **Session Six:** The Creator
- 37** **Session Seven:** The Sacrifice



***The King of Kings* is a full-length animated film from Angel Studios that brings the life of Jesus to the screen with heartfelt imagination and biblical faithfulness.**

Inspired by Charles Dickens' short book, *The Life of Our Lord*, the film features Dickens sharing the story of Jesus with his young son, Walter. As the story unfolds, father and son imagine themselves present during Jesus' life.

The words spoken by Jesus throughout the film remain true to Scripture, and through the lens of a child's imagination, we witness his miracles, hear his teachings and see the power of his love and sacrifice. What begins as a simple bedtime story becomes a meaningful journey of discovery.

The King of Kings invites viewers to encounter the hope, truth and redemption of the gospel through the wonder-filled eyes of a child.

About this resource

Overview

This teaching material is inspired by The King of Kings movie and focuses on Mark 1–8, inviting young people to explore who Jesus is through what He says and does. Rather than assuming prior knowledge, the sessions guide participants through the story step by step, allowing Mark’s Gospel to reveal Jesus’ identity clearly and powerfully.

In Mark 8:29, Jesus asks His disciples, ‘But what about you? Who do you say I am?’ It is a question that continues to resonate today. This resource encourages young people to consider that same question carefully and personally, as though Jesus were asking it directly.

The aim of this material is to take young people on a journey through the early chapters of Mark’s Gospel, repeatedly asking, as the disciples did, ‘Who is this man?’ As the sessions unfold, participants are invited to reflect on what they have seen and heard, and to consider their own response to Jesus’ question.

By the end of the programme, the hope is that young people will feel as though they have travelled alongside Jesus in Mark’s account—witnessing His authority, compassion, power and teaching, and be ready to thoughtfully respond.

Teaching overview

In answer to Jesus Question ‘Who Do You say I am?’ this material will encourage exploration of seven key answers that give us insight to the nature and identity of Jesus. Jesus is the son, the healer, he is good, he is our teacher, our king, our creator and our sacrifice.

1. The Son	(Mark 1:1–11), (Isaiah 9:6)	Baptism of Jesus, prophesy about the coming Son
2. The Healer	(Mark 2:1–12)	Paralysed man
3. Good	(Mark 3:20–24), (Matthew 7:15–20)	Jesus is accused by the Pharisees
4. The Teacher	(Mark 4:1–9)	Parables of Jesus
5. The King	(Mark 5:1–20)	Demon–possessed man and the pigs
6. The Creator	(Mark 6:45–51)	Jesus walks on water
7. The Sacrifice	(Mark 8:27–33) (Isaiah 53:4–5)	‘Who do you say I am?’ Jesus prophesies his death

Teaching/aims

- To overview the first eight chapters of Mark’s Gospel with a particular emphasis on the person, characteristics and nature of Jesus Christ
- To encourage a hunger for the word through Biblical literacy, equipping children to engage well with their Bibles long after the event
- To invite children into a relationship with Jesus and their own discipleship, seeing their Christian faith as a life–long journey and ‘walk’ with the Lord

Team time and preparation

We would urge your team to prepare for this teaching and event by also reading the gospel of Mark cover to cover, with particular emphasis on chapters 1–8. Mark is the shortest and sharpest gospel and should not be challenging even for less confident readers, but please recommend to your team to engage with audio-Bibles if the reading feels daunting.

To understand the heart behind the week’s teaching, it would also be beneficial for teams to watch Bible Shorts Series 1, Episode 3 with Dave Martin. This short video will serve as a great introduction for the team and will set the direction of travel for the teaching. Hopefully it will also inspire your team to read Mark’s gospel with the same fresh eyes as the children!

For team devotions at your event, consider reading Philippians 2, which is not only a wonderful treatise on the nature and character of Christ, but also a challenging exhortation on living humbly in Christian community. The chapter ends with the inspiring examples of Christian workers like Timothy and Epaphroditus, to spur your team on to greater service. It is easily my favourite chapter for team devotions on any event and never ceases to challenge me to more servant-hearted leadership.

Finally, the topic of spiritual warfare and demonic activity comes up regularly throughout the gospel of Mark and is also discussed in this teaching. If you have team members who have never engaged with these ideas, it would be wise to do some Scriptural study about this topic together as a team, so they don’t feel out of their depth when leading discussions or answering questions.

Using the material

This resource has several elements that you can draw upon as you prepare your worship and teaching sessions together. Please see this material as a fun pick-n-mix of options to choose from, allowing you to create the most appropriate (and tasty!) teaching for your event.

Worship and prayer

We would of course encourage you to couch this teaching material in a time of corporate worship and prayer. There are a few special prayer and worship activities suggested in the sessions, but it is the prerogative of each team leader and team to incorporate worship and prayer in the ways that suit your event best. If this teaching material is the sandwich filling for your all-together times, then prayer and worship should be the bread that they are placed on!

The King of Kings clips

There are *The King of Kings* film clips to go with each lesson, which you will find in the Vimeo playlist. These are most appropriate for primary age but, coupled with the drama, can be useful and entertaining for any age. You do not have to use the clips, as the drama can also go before and after each main teaching session.

Mark's Gospel reading challenge

Children will explore the book of Mark during the mission week, and we recommend encouraging them to continue reading it at home afterward. You may choose to provide a Bible to children over the week, or supply each child with a copy of Mark's gospel. The focus is on engaging with the story of Jesus and reflecting on what they learn as they read.

Discussion in small groups during the mission week will help everyone understand the chapters and share what stands out to them. For those who need extra support or feel less confident reading independently, offer a daily group reading option with a leader and highlight accessible resources such as audio Bibles or Bible apps so they can continue engaging with Mark after the mission week.

Drama—Waldorf & Statler

Have two teams in Bible costumes (robes, head-scarves etc.) who come in before each video clip with a big bowl of popcorn. These characters are meant to be experiencing Jesus' teaching as if they are there, but responding to it in a modern way, such as eating popcorn, checking their phones and asking about special effects! This is for comedy value, but also to help the kids respond to the gospel of Mark in a fresh way.

Like Waldorf & Statler from the Muppets (feel free to change the names), these two are part comedy hecklers, but also provide some context and response to what's happening in each day's story. Waldorf is the cynical observer, whereas Statler is more intrigued by what Jesus is doing... but we'll see them both take a faith journey through the week. The duo introduce the video clip, sit through the clip, then have an outro. Don't let them be too distracting with their popcorn during the clip!

Additional resources

Several of the activities mentioned in the lessons will have hand-outs and printable versions also available in the teaching material share file. There will also be supplementary materials for more mature children who might want to 'go deeper' than the main sessions.



Each session includes:

<p>Ice breaker</p>	<p>A fun opening activity based on the theme of the day's teaching</p>
<p>Introduction</p>	<p>A brief introduction to the day's teaching</p>
<p>Content</p>	<p>Drama: Waldorf & Statler</p> <p>Video Clip (2–3 minutes): Clips from <i>The King of Kings</i> film are freely available in the Vimeo playlist online.</p> <p>Teaching: One chapter of Mark is explored each day (chapters 1–6,8) with particular focus on a particular event/passage and a characteristic of Jesus.</p> <p>Engagement Activity: Most sessions have a mid-way activity, designed for active learning, to help young people stay engaged and retain what they are hearing.</p>
<p>Response</p>	<p>There is a suggested response activity following each teaching session. Most of these can be done individually or as a group, depending on what's most appropriate for your event.</p>
<p>Testimony</p>	<p>A suggested testimony from a team member can precede or follow your main teaching time. This could be seen as a response to the teaching, or could be shared before the main teaching as well. If you have two worship and teaching sessions in a day, why not use the testimony as the focal point of the morning session?</p>
<p>Reading challenge</p>	<p>Please encourage the young people to read one chapter of Mark's gospel on their own each day, and to use the response sections in the gospel to reflect on what they've read. Children who have difficulty reading independently should be given the opportunity to read with a team member at a set time.</p>
<p>Discussion questions</p>	<p>A set of questions has been provided for small groups after the main session.</p>
<p>Going deeper</p>	<p>For more mature children, or as an optional extra, supplementary activities and sessions are available for each day. These short sessions will challenge those who are ready to start a more robust discipleship journey. Team leaders can also implement elements of the 'Going Deeper' material into the main teaching session, if this is appropriate for your event.</p>

Session 1: The Son

MARK 1:1–11, ISAIAH 9:6

Ice breaker

Guess the leader by showing pictures of their parents or grandparents. Often, we can tell who someone is because they have a family resemblance, they take after their mum and dad! Alternatively, you could do a celebrity version: guess the celebrity by showing photos of their famous parents or grandparents.

Introduction

This week we're going to be looking at the first eight chapters of the gospel of Mark. A gospel is one of the four accounts of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, and Mark was written first. We want to explore this together, but we also think you should read it yourself.



Content

Drama

'Waldorf and Statler' enter and look at the young people

STATLER: Weyhey! This is a bigger group than I thought would be here. What's going on?

WALDORF: Ugh, the unwashed masses (*wafts hand over nose*). There must be some kind of event on. Let's leave, I hate crowds.

STATLER: No, no, no, I want to see what's happening. (*points as if they see someone*) Look, there's someone speaking over there.

WALDORF: A preacher! No thank you, not today. I didn't come on my beach holiday to hear a sermon...

STATLER: Come on, just for a few minutes... so many people are here, he must be a bit famous!

WALDORF: Fine. A few minutes, and then I want a smoothie. It's hot.

(The two sit down with their popcorn and heckle the tech desk until the clip starts)

THE KING OF KINGS VIDEO CLIP 1

Waldorf and Statler turn to each other dramatically, mouths agape.

STATLER: Did. You. See. THAT?!

WALDORF: (*pauses*) I... I... I don't know what I saw. For all we know it was a trick.

STATLER: A trick?! The shining light, the voice, the dove? How could all that be a trick? And who was that guy in the river?

WALDORF: I think they said his name was Jesus? (*muttering to himself*) They must have used mirrors and some stage lighting effect... there must be some hidden special effects machines under here. (*looks under chair*)

STATLER: Special effects and stage lighting haven't been invented yet! Come on, let's go see what Jesus does next.

WALDORF: Alright, but ONLY so I can find out how he did it. There's something fishy going on here...

STATLER: OR something AMAZING!

(They rush out)

Talk

The gospel of Mark doesn't spend any time on big introductions, it drops us right into the action! Mark's writing style is meant to make you feel like you're right there, in the crowd by the river, seeing this all happen with your own eyes. As we look at some of the key stories from the first eight chapters of Mark this week, we want you to imagine you really are there.

So, as I read these verses, let's all imagine ourselves there. Let's read Mark 1:1–11. (*To be read in a storytelling style with a bit of dramatic emphasis. Help the kids to really picture the scene. If it helps them engage, encourage the children to respond with what they are seeing and feeling, as long as it doesn't get too distracting or silly.*)

1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, 2 as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

*'I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way'—*

*3 'a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.'*

Picture yourself out in a wilderness, a dry place. A warm breeze blows past, and there's a dusty path in front of you. What does it feel like? What else do you see around you? Now you hear a voice calling from the distance: 'Prepare the way for the Lord! Make straight paths for him!' Is the voice loud, or quiet? What do you do when you hear that voice?

4 And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the Jordan River.

You walk along the dusty path, over the hills, and more and more people join you on the road. They are hot and dusty and seem like they've been travelling a long time. Soon you've all come down the valley to a wide river—it's much cooler and greener here—and a large crowd has gathered, in the middle of nowhere! Why are all these people here? Some people are even in the river!

6 John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And this was his message: 'After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Now you see why everyone is here—a man is standing in the middle of the river. He looks a bit wild—he has wild hairy clothes and a big leather belt—can you imagine him? But everyone is listening so respectfully to him, even though he looks quite wild, so you listen too. He is helping people into the water and gently lowering them under, why is he doing that? He seems to be talking about someone, a powerful leader who is on their way. You start looking around, is there some kind of king arriving here today?

9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. 10 Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'

Someone does arrive, but they don't look very special. But John—the wild man in the river—seems very emotional and talks with the man. You stretch up on your tiptoes to see. When this man is baptised—goes under the water—everything suddenly becomes very bright, as if the sun were shining a spotlight on this very gathering—on the man in the river. You can't quite tell what is happening, but for a moment you're sure you can hear a voice, not just with your ears, but you hear a voice speak inside your heart. 'This is my Son, with whom I Am well pleased.' It's all over in a moment... what just happened? What are people around you saying? And where is that man in the river... you have to know more!

This is how the whole story of Jesus begins in the book of Mark—you are invited along on an amazing journey, an adventure with this man you saw in the river. And from the very start we are told who this man really is—Jesus, the Son of God.

And God's Son arriving isn't totally unexpectedly for the people there. Remember, right at the start it says the prophet Isaiah wrote about all of this.

*2 as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:
 'I will send my messenger ahead of you,
 who will prepare your way'—
 3 'a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
 'Prepare the way for the Lord,
 make straight paths for him.'*

It says Isaiah is a prophet—does anyone know what a prophet is? (take a few answers) A prophet doesn't just tell the future, a prophet would share God's word, God's messages with the people. That could be a message of comfort, a warning, or even a message about what the future would bring. Being a prophet is like this:

EXAMPLE: (choose a leader and have them write a note that you dictate to them—you speak and they write. The more personal or humorous you can make the note the better—then have the leader deliver the note and the recipient read it out. Ask the kids—who was the letter from? From you! Even though someone else wrote it down and delivered it, we know the letter was really from me. This is what it meant to be God's prophet—they delivered God's messages).

The incredible thing is that Isaiah was a prophet who lived 700 years before Jesus (*show the books of Isaiah and Mark in a Bible*). He was writing something God told him to write. And it came true, many years later!

One of Isaiah's big messages from God was about a coming Son who would be born. Listen to another thing he wrote (Isaiah 9:6):

*For to us a child is born,
 to us a son is given,
 and the government will be on his shoulders.
 And he will be called
 Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Response

Make Isaiah 9:6 poster: write at the top **'The Son (Isaiah 9:6)'** and ask the children, how were the people going to recognise this person when they came? Write clearly the different titles/ characteristics from the verse.

As we look at what Jesus does and says this week, let's keep this poster up and check back on it. Does Jesus match the descriptions here? Is he really the promised Son that Isaiah prophesied about? Can we see a family resemblance between God and his Son Jesus?

Testimony

In this passage God speaks through His prophets, like Isaiah and John the Baptist, but he also speaks directly from heaven so that everyone can hear. God really speaks to us! Have a leader share a time God spoke to them directly—what was the situation, how did God speak and what difference did it make?

Reading challenge: Mark, Chapter 1

Your reading challenge between now and our next Bible teaching time is to read all of Mark Chapter 1! If you struggle to read by yourself, one of our leaders will be (set a location and time) to read the chapter out loud, or you can ask your group leader to read it with you during free time. Get ready for some action, because Jesus doesn't sit still for a moment—in just one chapter he's going to choose his disciples, cast out a demon, heal people... and his fame is starting to grow!

Discussion questions

1. What stood out to you from the Bible story? Do you have any questions about today's teaching or story? What was your favourite bit of this Bible story and why did you like it?
2. John was baptising people in the Jordan river. But what is baptism? Why were crowds coming to be baptised?
3. How did John know Jesus was coming? Why was he preaching about Jesus?
4. Why do you think Jesus chose to be baptised?
5. In a miraculous moment, God speaks for everyone to hear and says, 'This is My Son!' After something like that, why wouldn't everyone just automatically believe in Jesus? Wouldn't a voice from Heaven convince everyone? What would you have thought if you were there? (Be honest!)

Optional activity

Game: Prepare the Way

- Set up a 'wilderness path' in the room or outdoors with obstacles like cones or ropes.
- One child is the 'messenger' (John) and others follow along the path.
- At certain points, the messenger calls out instructions ('Make a straight path! Jump over the rocks!'), and the others have to follow.
- Teaches listening, preparation, and the idea of making way for Jesus.

Session 2: The Healer

MARK 2:1–12

Ice breaker

Psychiatrist—Send someone out of the room, who will be the psychiatrist. Agree as a group what the ‘symptom’ is that the whole group suffers from: maybe everyone has an itchy elbow, or can only answer questions beginning with the letter A, or maybe everyone thinks they are the Team Leader and answers as if they were! (Don’t choose anything too complicated or the icebreaker will take forever). Have the psychiatrist come back into the room. They should ask questions and observe the group until they can guess what the condition is! You can repeat this a few times, sending out new people.

Introduction

Yesterday Mark kicked off our journey with Jesus at the Jordan River. If you read the rest of the chapter, shout out a few of the crazy things that happened after Jesus’ baptism! (take responses) Well today we see that news about Jesus is really spreading, and people from all over are coming to see him and especially to be healed by him.



Content

Drama

Waldorf and Statler start out by peeking in the window or doorway.

WALDORF: Aw, man! It is crowded in there! Is there anywhere to sit?!

STATLER: I think I see a few empty seats, but we're going to have to push through. Come on!

(Added comedy value if the two climb in through a window, or push through a door and tumble in)

WALDORF: It used to be you could just rock up to the Jordan river and see Jesus no problem... lots of standing room... full visibility.

STATLER: We paid good money for camel tickets to Capernaum, so this had better be a good show.

(They take out their popcorn and put their feet up to start watching, heckling the sound desk to go quicker)

THE KING OF KINGS VIDEO CLIP 2

WALDORF: Did they actually cut a hole in the roof! The cheek! You can't queue jump like that, its rude... its illegal!

STATLER: Oh forget about that, did you hear what Jesus said? Your sins are forgiven? What. A. Scandal. Everyone is going to be posting about this *(takes out phone as if to check)*

WALDORF: Personally, I think the whole thing was a fake. Those four are probably in league with Jesus and it was all staged. He's just trying to get more followers.

STATLER: But doesn't everyone in Capernaum know that paralysed guy? Anyway, look at this, it's all blowing up. The Pharisees are pretty mad!

The two wander to the back—just so the kids aren't distracted by them.

Talk

Jesus is becoming more and more famous for all the incredible things he's doing, and even by Mark Chapter 2 we see crowds of people gathering to hear him teach and to be healed or helped by him. Remember, in ancient Bible times they didn't have the doctors, hospitals and medicines we have, they didn't have counsellors to support our mental health, they didn't have grocery stores stocked with food! So people would be desperate to see Jesus, who was helping with all these things. When Jesus comes back to where his house is, in Capernaum, things start to get a little out of hand!

2 A few days later, Jesus entered Capernaum again. The people heard that he had come home. 2 So many people gathered that there was no room left. There was not even room outside the door. And Jesus preached the word to them.

How do you imagine this crowd in your mind? People stuffed in the house, listening at the windows, even stood outside on tiptoe in the street! Where do you imagine yourself? Everyone straining to hear Jesus, just get a glimpse of Jesus. Do we feel this way about Jesus now? Are we desperate for just a few of his words, to see him... even a tiny glimpse? Maybe you've prayed for God to send you a sign, or prayed for something that really mattered to you. People then were feeling just the same as now—they also were desperate for a sign from God, also looking for help for the things that mattered to them. And they ran to Jesus. I think they ran to the right place... and I think all of you are in the right place this week as well as we all listen to Jesus' words together.

3 Four of those who came were carrying a man who could not walk. 4 But they could not get him close to Jesus because of the crowd. So they made a hole by digging through the roof above Jesus. Then they lowered the man through it on a mat.

Remember, this wasn't a modern house in Scotland. Houses in Jesus' day might only have had one or two rooms! Often these houses had flat roofs that you could access by stairs outside. Many people used their roofs to store or dry things, or as a place to sit in the cool evenings, so these four friends must have gone round the back and found the stairs to the roof. Speaking of desperate people, it would have caused a lot of damage and trouble for them to cut a hole in someone's roof! But that was less important to them than getting help for their friend. They believed so strongly that Jesus could help him, they were willing to risk embarrassing themselves, causing a scene and even getting in trouble. As we'll see, this is actually the kind of faith Jesus wants!

5 Jesus saw their faith. So he said to the man, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'

Now you might be thinking—wait, but they wanted the man's body to be healed, so he can move and walk again! But Jesus forgave his sins! Sins are all the things we've ever done wrong: every thought, word and action. Forgiving someone everything they've ever done wrong is a much bigger deal than even healing their body.

EXAMPLE: (For this example fill in the blank with individuals from your mission week, a printable version of this activity is also available in the share file) If I hacked into the (Team Leaders) bank account and stole all their money and savings, so that their family had to become homeless... could (the Assistant Team Leader) forgive me for that... could (the head cook) drop all charges when I get caught? Could (a young person) let me go free for that crime? No! Whose forgiveness do I need? Who do I need to drop all charges? (The Team Leader!)

In the same way, the only one who can forgive us for everything we've ever thought, felt, done or wanted to do that was wrong... the only one who can forgive sin and drop all charges against me... is God. In the end, deep down, all our sin is a rejection of God and his ways.

6 Some teachers of the law were sitting there. They were thinking, 7 'Why is this fellow talking like that? He's saying a very evil thing! Only God can forgive sins!'

WALDORF: (*pipes up*) That's right, only God can forgive sin! Who does this guy think he is, the Messiah?!

STATLER: Sshhhh! I want to hear what happens next.

8 Right away Jesus knew what they were thinking. So he said to them, 'Why are you thinking these things? 9 Is it easier to say to this man, 'Your sins are forgiven'? Or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? 10 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.' So Jesus spoke to the man who could not walk. 11 'I tell you,' he said, 'get up. Take your mat and go home.' 12 The man got up and took his mat. Then he walked away while everyone watched. All the people were amazed. They praised God and said, 'We have never seen anything like this!'

You see, Jesus knew that he was becoming a bit famous, but that most people were coming in order to see him 'do something cool'—everyone wanted to see a trick or a miracle! But Jesus had come to do something much more than party tricks. So when these four friends showed how much faith they had, how much they believed, Jesus chose to show everyone a glimpse of his real identity and his real mission. He was the Son of God, with God's authority to forgive sin. Sin is a bigger and deeper problem even than this man's broken body, and yet Jesus had the power to heal both. And so he did! I bet you could have heard a pin drop as that man picked up his mat and walked away!

There are things we all want and we pray for. Maybe we have a friend or family member who also needs to be healed, just like the man on the mat. And maybe you can be just like those four friends, who risked everything to get this man in front of Jesus. Jesus was showing us today what is most important to him... that our hearts are fixed. The true sickness of humanity is our broken hearts, our sin, which Jesus came to heal.

Response

Pass out plasters (checking in case anyone has skin allergies) to all the children and ask them to write with a pen on the plaster one thing they want Jesus to heal—in their personal lives or in the world. You could have a poster up the front that they stick their plaster to, or they could stick the plaster to themselves as a reminder to pray about what they wrote down!

Alternatively, all together or in their small groups, ask the children to draw a picture of this scene. Ask the children to draw themselves in the scene and ask: I wonder, where would you have been in it? Would you have been in the crowd, been one of the four men bringing your friend to Jesus or been one of the angry Pharisees? Or maybe, would you have been the man, wanting Jesus to heal you and make you better?



Testimony

If any team member has a testimony about spiritual or physical healing, this would be wonderful for the children to hear.

Discussion questions

1. What stood out to you from the Bible story? Do you have any questions about today's teaching or story?
2. Why do you think big crowds were starting to follow Jesus around?
3. The four friends broke some rules and did some damage to get in through the roof! Why did they do this? Does Jesus want us to break things like this? What is Mark trying to show us by including this in the story?
4. How would you define 'sin' in your own words? What is sin?
5. Have you ever forgiven someone, or had to ask for forgiveness?
6. Why do you think the Pharisees were mad at Jesus after all of this? Shouldn't they have been happy or excited?

Reading challenge: **Mark, Chapter 2**

Optional activity

Craft: 'Hands of Healing'

Materials: Paper, markers, scissors.

Instructions: Children trace their hand on paper and write/draw someone or something they want to pray for on each finger. Talk about how Jesus healed, and that we can pray for others today.



Session 3: Good

Mark 3:20–24, Matthew 7:15–20

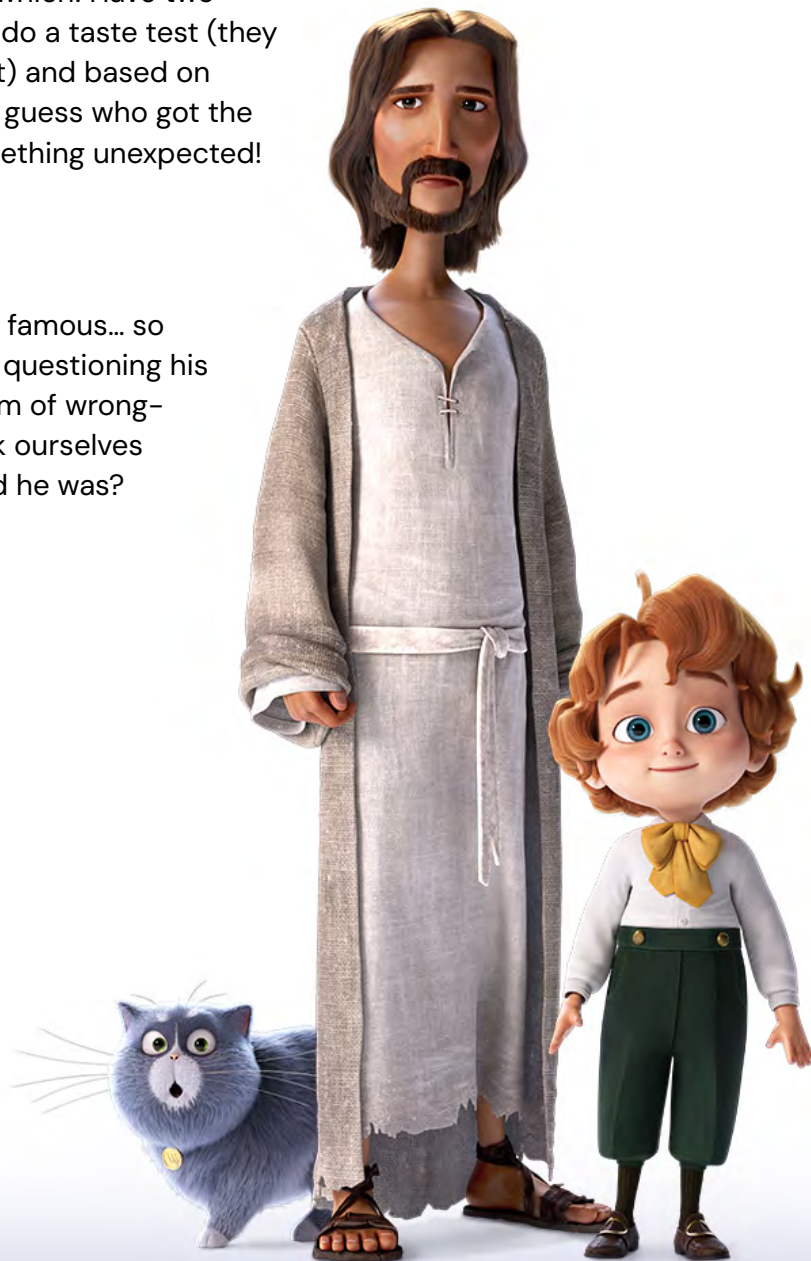
IMPORTANT: Today's teaching talks about demons and the devil, as indeed the entire book of Mark does! Though Christian traditions approach the topic of spiritual warfare differently, the one thing we can't do is ignore it as we read the first eight chapters of Mark. In your teaching and answering questions, strive to explain these spiritual realities gently, simply, and in a way that all denominations would recognise as biblical. Please advise your team to avoid sharing anything that isn't biblical, such as a story they heard or a personal experience. Though these can be true and powerful, we want to stick to Scripture (especially with any tricky topics).

Ice breaker

Good or Bad Taste Test: Prepare plates with mayonnaise and icing, vanilla ice cream and butter, and toffee sauce and gravy. When side-by-side it can be hard to tell which is which! Have two willing volunteers come up to do a taste test (they can be blindfolded if you want) and based on their reactions, the group can guess who got the sweet taste, and who got something unexpected!

Introduction

We know that Jesus is getting famous... so famous that some people are questioning his motives and even accusing him of wrongdoing. And we still need to ask ourselves today—was Jesus who he said he was? Was he good or bad?



Content

Drama

Waldorf and Statler come in, but Statler's nose is in his/her phone, reading something and hardly looking up.

WALDORF: Hey, where should we sit for today's show? *(no response)* Helloooo... *(waves hand in front of their phone)*—I said we need to find a seat or we'll miss it. What are you reading anyway?

STATLER: Well, the drama is really heating up about Jesus. People are saying some terrible things about him.

WALDORF: Well I've been saying from the start. He's got some kind of tech team pulling this all off behind the scenes. I just need to find where they've hidden the cables. *(looks around)*

STATLER: But, what about all the good things he's *saying* and *doing*? Even if the miracles are fake... he really is helping people! And everything he teaches is about kindness and truthfulness and...

WALDORF: Shhh... the show is starting!

(They sit down and start munching popcorn, heckling the tech desk until the clip starts)

THE KING OF KINGS VIDEO CLIP 3

WALDORF: Well, I might not be totally convinced by Jesus, but I'm even less sure about those guys!

STATLER: I think they're just jealous of Jesus' popularity. That's what all this is about! Who has the most followers!

WALDORF: Definitely, Jesus is getting all the attention, and they want a piece of the action.

STATLER: I'm definitely on Team Jesus now. I honestly don't think he's done a single bad since we've been watching him.

WALDORF: You're such a soft touch... what are you, a Jesus follower now? Hmmmm? *(making fun)*

STATLER: Well... I don't know... maybe! Maybe I am! What about you, are you actually siding with the Pharisees? Team Pharisee?!

WALDORF: I'm not on a team. I'm... neutral.

STATLER: Ugh, that's not an answer!

(They walk out together, Statler bothering Waldorf to say what they really think!)

Talk

Has anyone on your street or at your school had a party that got so big and wild, the police were called out? Did you know something similar happened to Jesus? But rather than drinking, fighting or being obnoxious, Jesus attracted a rowdy crowd with his amazing teaching and healings!

20 Jesus entered a house. Again a crowd gathered. It was so large that Jesus and his disciples were not even able to eat. 21 His family heard about this. So they went to take charge of him. They said, 'He is out of his mind.'

Well, this is starting to sound familiar—another huge crowd has gathered around Jesus. He can't even eat his dinner in peace, so many people want to see him! This situation must have caused a bit of a public disturbance, because Jesus' family even come over to try and sort out the situation. I wonder who comes over –Mary, or Joseph, or his siblings? A disgruntled auntie? We don't know, but they all thought Jesus must be a bit crazy to have caused all this commotion.

But is that the right attitude? Is someone necessarily bad or wrong simply because they've caused a stir, or made a commotion? Certainly not—some of history's biggest heroes were so great exactly because they disrupted the status-quo and went against the flow! Can you think of anyone good from history who challenged the norm, fought for changes and caused a stir? (Martin Luther, Martin Luther King Jr, William Wilberforce) *Give the children a chance first, but if no one shouts out answers, prep Waldorf and Statler to shout out a few of these names.*

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: *If you have time, pass out the short biographies of a few of these Christian 'disrupters' for small groups to read about and discuss.*

Some of the leaders in Jesus' day, however, didn't like how he was disrupting everything!

22 Some teachers of the law were there. They had come down from Jerusalem. They said, 'He is controlled by Beelzebub! He is driving out demons by the power of the prince of demons.'

Now this is an even worse accusation against Jesus, much more serious than just 'disturbing the peace!' They're saying he's not just being disruptive and difficult, but that he's actually evil. If you've been reading the chapters of Mark so far, you know that one of the important things Jesus does for people is get rid of evil spirits—demons. Beelzebub is one name they had for the devil.

(This next short section is up to your discretion— if you feel it would be beneficial for your young people to begin thinking about spiritual warfare, this will act as an introduction. Lesson six is about the demoniac and the pigs, so this also helps introduce that passage. However, if you feel your young people are not ready to discuss this yet, you can skip this section).

When we think of the devil or demons, we imagine KPOP Demon Hunters fighting scary monsters with horns and tails, but in the Bible, demons are spiritual beings, which means they don't have bodies or look like anything... we can't see them, we only see their influence. Like we can't see the wind, but we can feel it and we know it's there when we see the trees and grass swaying (actually, demons never appear in physical form in the Bible)! The devil and demons are spiritual beings who work against God and his good plan. I know this is a very different

worldview from what is usually taught in modern-day Scotland, but I think it's fair to say that we all believe evil is a real thing. So maybe a starting point today is to consider that Christians believe good vs evil is a real spiritual battle that we can't always see, but we see the impact of. Let's put a pin in this for now, but if you have questions about spiritual good and evil, you can ask later.

So you see it's a massive claim to say that Jesus is actually spiritually bad. That he is on the bad side and his ultimate goal is for evil in the world? That would mean everything we've seen Jesus do was just to manipulate and deceive everyone, that he never meant to help or teach or show love... that it was all a horrible lie and he really wanted to hurt and trick people, because he hated them. Some people still think about Jesus this way, that he was just a huge fraud and actually a very bad man.

23 So Jesus called them over to him. He began to speak to them using stories. He said, 'How can Satan drive out Satan? 24 If a kingdom fights against itself, it can't stand.

Even though these terrible things are being said about Jesus, he doesn't get outraged or fight the Pharisees... he discusses it with them. And he argues that he can't be evil, because he has been fighting against evil! There's another verse in the Bible that explains this even further.

15 'Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. 16 You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. 18 A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. 19 So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. 20 Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions. (Matthew 7:15–20, NLT)

How do we know someone is evil, that someone or something is bad? The Bible says it's easy—just look at the 'fruit'— you can tell what kind of person they are by their actions. Even if someone is really interesting and persuasive, don't just listen to their words, put on the mute button and think about what that person has done, their behaviour. We can sniff out evil because the proof will be there. People can be complicated and we all make mistakes, but if someone claims to be a good friend or a great leader, but their actions consistently don't match up... if they regularly lie, cheat or hurt people... red flag! Don't listen to that person, don't follow them. But when it comes to Jesus, I don't see any of his teachings, behaviours or actions in the whole Bible that would raise a red flag. I believe his words and his actions line up—He's trustworthy!

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: *Individually, in small groups or all together, make a list of things you know Jesus did. Can you think of anything bad or questionable? Anything that would raise a red flag? Save this list for your small group discussions.*

In his famous book, *Mere Christianity*, CS Lewis wrote: *A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronising nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.*

So today we want each of you to think it through for yourselves. Take a moment to think. Do I think Jesus was crazy, evil or... telling the truth?

Testimony

If appropriate, a team member can share about how they journeyed from knowing about Jesus, to really believing *in* him.

Response

Hand out paper with three yes/no options and a space for any further reflection: *Was Jesus evil? Was Jesus out of his mind? Was Jesus the Son of God? Do you think there is any different option?* Ask the children to fill these out and post them into a post box so their answers are anonymous. Your team should review and pray over these at your team meeting.

Discussion questions

1. Why do you think some people are starting to accuse Jesus and call him bad? (Look at the list you made earlier—is there anything ‘bad’ on there?)
2. What are the signs that someone is ‘bad’—that they want to hurt and manipulate others?
3. How can you tell if someone is lying?
4. Do you think Jesus could have been lying and tricking people? Why or why not? (You can be honest!)
5. Do you think Jesus could have been ‘out of his mind’—a lunatic just claiming to be God?
6. Is Jesus someone you can trust? Why or why not?

Reading challenge: **Mark, Chapter 3**

Optional activity

Craft: **Good Fruit**

Materials: Paper plate or plain paper, sticky notes, markers/crayons, glue/tape

Instructions: Draw or attach a simple tree trunk on the paper plate or paper.
 Cut out sticky notes into fruit shapes.
 On each fruit, the children write or draw one example of something good Jesus did, or a good action they could do themselves.
 Attach the fruits to the tree.

Optional: Hang the trees in the room as a reminder of ‘good fruit’ in actions and character.

Session 4: The Teacher

Mark 4:1–9

Ice breaker

Charades—Ask the children to act out famous (non-biblical) moral stories: The Boy Who Cried Wolf, The Ant and The Grasshopper, The Tortoise and The Hare, The Three Little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood.

Introduction

Have you noticed that although many people come to see Jesus because he can do amazing miracles and healings, they stay because of what he is teaching. Even non-Christians will quote things Jesus taught! Today we are going to hear one of Jesus' famous teachings.



Content

Drama

WALDORF: You'll never guess what happened at the market the other day. I lost my denarius purse, I thought it was stolen by one of those thieving beggars from the city.

STATLER: *(with a superior tone throughout)*— Hm, well, best to turn the other cheek, don't hold it against them.

WALDORF: **Turn the other cheek?** *(swivels head back and forth, touching their cheeks)*
What?!

STATLER: Well you need to **treat others the way you would want to be treated.** You wouldn't want someone accusing you of stealing without proof.

WALDORF: Jeepers, when did you become so philosophical? But anyway, it turns out my money wasn't stolen, I'd dropped it at the fruit stand and the guy ran after me and gave it back!

STATLER: What a **good Samaritan!**

WALDORF: No, he wasn't a Samaritan, I think He was Egyptian.

STATLER: Ah yes, **the truth will set you free.**

WALDORF: Now cut it out, what are you talking about? How come you are so *wise* all of a sudden?

STATLER: It's not me, it's everything Jesus has been teaching! Everyone is starting to quote him. Ooh, he's starting again now, ssshhh!

(They take their seats)

THE KING OF KINGS VIDEO CLIP 4

WALDORF: Well I may have my doubts about his so-called 'miracles', but Jesus is a pretty good teacher.

STATLER: Better than Miss Cooper *(or insert Team Leader's name for banter)* back at school, right!

WALDORF: Yeah—I could listen to Jesus speak for hours... Miss Cooper put me to sleep for hours!

STATLER: Well, it wasn't her fault, you were a pretty poor pupil.

WALDORF: She really was **throwing pearls to the swine**, eh?

STATLER: Ah, I see what you did there! Another Jesus quote!

WALDORF: I won't be **hiding my light under a basket** anymore!

STATLER: Wehey!

(The two exit—feel free to throw in any more Jesus quotes you can fit in!)

Talk

Yesterday we talked about whether Jesus was good or bad, and how can we tell the difference? Is he someone we should trust and follow, or is he a big liar and someone to avoid? Most people fall somewhere between these two extremes—but remember Jesus was also claiming to be God and telling people to believe in him! So with Jesus we really need to know if he was trustworthy or not!

One of the ways we can know whether Jesus was ‘good’ is by paying close attention to the things he taught. And that’s the really interesting thing, because even people who say Jesus wasn’t God and was probably lying about all that spiritual stuff, DO say he was a good teacher, and that people should follow his teachings! How can these two things be true at the same time: Jesus was a HUGE liar but also a GREAT teacher? Do those two conclusions logically go together? Christians, however, believe that Jesus really WAS God’s Son—He was always telling the truth—and that his teachings help prove it! Earlier we heard quite a few of Jesus’ famous teachings. Let’s read them out: *(You could have some young people or leaders prepped with these passages to read out.)*

- Turn the other cheek (Matthew 5:39)
- Do to others (Matthew 7:12)
- Better to give than receive (Acts 20:25)
- Truth will set you free (John 8:32)

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: *If you have time, why not invite a little discussion on these?—you could split the children into small groups to ask what they think about these teachings and how we can put them into practice, or take some comments from the front)*

Jesus also taught using stories called parables (a story with a meaning, often teaching us about God), because everyone remembers a lesson better where there’s a story! The Good Samaritan is probably his most famous parable. Do you know any others? *(e.g. parable of the lost sheep, parable of the wise and foolish builders, parable of the prodigal son)*

ACTIVITY: *Hand out blank sheets of paper and pens or pencils. Another very famous parable is the parable of the sower: let’s read that now. As I read, draw some little sketches of the different seeds and what happens to them.*

(Mark 4:1–9) *Read this slowly, with pauses, so the children have time to draw each seed.*

Again Jesus began to teach by the Sea of Galilee. The crowd that gathered around him was very large. So he got into a boat. He sat down in it out on the lake. All the people were along the shore at the water’s edge. 2 He taught them many things using stories. In his teaching he said, 3 ‘Listen! A farmer went out to plant his seed. 4 He scattered the seed on the ground. Some fell on a path. Birds came and ate it up. (pause) 5 Some seed fell on rocky places, where there wasn’t much soil. The plants came up quickly, because the soil wasn’t deep. (pause) 6 When the sun came up, it burned the plants. They dried up because they had no roots. 7 Other seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up and crowded out the plants. So the plants did not bear grain. (pause) 8 Still other seed fell on good soil. It grew up and produced a crop 30, 60, or even 100 times more than the farmer planted.’ 9 Then Jesus said, ‘Whoever has ears should listen.’ (pause)

Now, the disciples didn't actually understand this story when Jesus told it, they were confused by what it might mean. Maybe you've heard it before or maybe you haven't, but what do you think the parable means? Write down some ideas next to your drawings. What does each type of seed represent? As I read Jesus' explanation, take note next to your pictures again and see how close you were! Don't worry if you got it wrong, not even the disciples—who were with Jesus every day—understood this parable straight away.

(Mark 4:13–20) *Read this slowly, with pauses, so the children have time to take a note each seed.*

13 Then Jesus said to them, 'Don't you understand this story? Then how will you understand any stories of this kind? 14 The seed the farmer plants is God's message. 15 What is seed scattered on a path like? The message is planted. The people hear the message. Then Satan comes. He takes away the message that was planted in them. (pause)

16 And what is seed scattered on rocky places like? The people hear the message. At once they receive it with joy. 17 But they have no roots. So they last only a short time. They quickly fall away from the faith when trouble or suffering comes because of the message. (pause)

18 And what is seed scattered among thorns like? The people hear the message. 19 But then the worries of this life come to them. Wealth comes with its false promises. The people also long for other things. All of these are the kinds of things that crowd out the message. They keep it from producing fruit. (pause to let the young people make a note)

20 And what is seed scattered on good soil like? The people hear the message. They accept it. They produce a good crop 30, 60, or even 100 times more than the farmer planted.' (pause)

Jesus was saying his teaching, God's message, is like a seed being planted in our hearts. But how it will grow depends on us: this week you're all learning a lot about Jesus, seeds are being planted in your hearts, but will they grow into real faith? (Pray)

Testimony

Ask a team member to share about a teaching of Jesus that impacted them in a very real or practical way. Maybe they can identify and share about the different 'stages of faith'—a time they heard about Jesus but did nothing about it or a time when they were distracted by other things...ending up by sharing what it looks like to be the seed bearing fruit—loving Jesus, wanting to follow his teaching, and wanting to tell others about him, which is why they are on the mission team!

Response

In small discussion groups, finish your session with these reflective questions. You could create a chart on a piece of flipchart paper with the four seed types at the top. Use the chart to write down your group's reflections about the different types of seeds and how they relate to the young people's experience. Lots of people hear Jesus' words, yet real faith never grows in their hearts...

- Maybe because they listen to bad influences instead and Satan snatches the message away... *(discuss in small groups or take responses: what does this look like in someone's life? If someone heard Jesus words, but the message was snatched away by an evil influence? What bad influences are out there in the world?)*
- Maybe because they don't want to be bullied... *(discuss in small groups or take responses:*

what would it look like if someone heard Jesus words, but then they got bullied or mocked for it? What would you do if you got bullied?)

- Maybe because they get distracted by everything else in life... *(discuss: what kind of distractions in life would 'choke out' Jesus' message and the choice to follow Him? What distractions might you face when you go home?)*
- But if we let Jesus message take root and grow, a faith can spring up in us that's strong and vibrant, that spreads to more and more people! *(discuss: how can we become like the good soil? How do we help protect Jesus' message in our hearts so that it grows and grows into a strong, flourishing faith?)*

Let's pray to be good soil this week, so that Jesus' teachings are able to take root in our hearts, and that real faith grows in each of us!

Discussion questions

1. What do you like best in Jesus' story? Was there anything you didn't like? What questions do you have?
2. Do you think looking at Jesus' teachings help us to decide whether or not he was trustworthy and good? Why or why not?
3. Can Jesus be both a HUGE liar and a GREAT moral teacher at the same time? Why do some people try and say that?
4. Of all Jesus' teachings we looked at, which one stood out most to you? Why?
5. Where do you think most people your age fall in the parable of the sower? Are they most like the first, second or third seed? Or are more people your age actually like the good soil?
6. When you plant a garden you have to water, fertilise, weed and protect your little seedlings. So how can we all become more like the good soil so that faith grows strong in our hearts? How can we become gardeners for faith?
7. Think about the flourishing plants and picture a field full of flowers or vegetables. (You could show a picture or photo). They are close together, making it harder for weeds to grow. It is easier to stand strong as a Christian if we find other Christians—we can encourage one another to keep going. What might that look like for you, going home from this missions week? *(take opportunity to talk about SU Group in school, or a youth group or church or coming to a future missions week).*

Reading challenge: Mark, Chapter 4

Optional activity

Materials:

Small yogurt pots, or paper cups, cotton wool or kitchen paper, cress seeds, water, markers

Instructions:

1. Put some cotton wool or folded kitchen paper into each pot.
2. Sprinkle a few cress seeds on top.
3. Lightly water the seeds so the cotton is damp but not soaking.
4. Encourage children to decorate their pot with words or pictures about how they want to grow in kindness, love, or faith.
5. Place the pots on a sunny windowsill and keep the cotton damp. Watch the seeds grow over the next few days. Children can take these pots home at the end of the week.

Session 5: The King

Mark 5:1–20

Ice breaker

King for a Day—Pick a few young people to come and sit up the front on a ‘throne’ and say what rules they would make if they were King for a Day. This is even more fun if you give them a crown, robe and decorated throne!

Follow the Leader—If you have more time, choose one person to be ‘the leader’ and everyone else can follow them in a long queue. Everyone has to copy what the leader does as they walk (or run!) around the site: skipping, spinning around, jumping up to touch a certain leaf, greeting the head cook cheerfully, etc, until everyone arrives back at the meeting room.

Introduction

Do you all think our ‘king’ in the game was worth copying? (*if playing the follow my leader*) or Did that King make good rules? Would you do what they said? (*if playing King for a Day*). We all follow someone: it might be our friend, a family member, an influencer or a celebrity. Maybe even a character in a show! In many of our favourite stories, there are heroes and villains, good versus evil! But how would you expect a hero—someone you looked up to—to behave? They have to be strong and good, but most importantly a hero stands up against evil, they fight the baddies! And Jesus does just that, but the baddies might not be who you expect...



Content

Drama

Waldorf and Statler come in, clinging to each other and shaking. Each time they mention something, they should moan 'oohh!' in fear and hug each other.

WALDORF: Oh I wish we had never followed Jesus out here.

STATLER: This is where that crazy guy lives!

WALDORF: I heard he's super strong, he can break iron chains!

STATLER: I heard he howls and moans like... a wolf!

WALDORF: I heard he lives among graves.

STATLER: Let's get out of here!

WALDORF: No wait, Jesus is doing something. We came all this way, be brave!

STATLER: I guess if Jesus is here, we'll be safe? How bad can it be?

(They heckle the tech desk to hurry up with the video, because they're scared!)

THE KING OF KINGS VIDEO CLIP 5

WALDORF: – Well I have to admit, I'm stumped. I have no idea how Jesus did that. Unless that guy was just pretending...

STATLER: – that's commitment to a role, if he was pretending to be tormented for years and years and years! And what about the pigs?

WALDORF: – Well, I felt a bit sorry for the pigs, did Jesus have to do it that way?

STATLER: – haHA! So you admit Jesus did command the evil spirits to go into the pigs! That he has REAL power!

WALDORF: – Well... he definitely did something to the pigs! And the guy seems... normal now.

STATLER: – Yeah, let's go and ask the crazy guy what HE thinks... I wonder what that felt like for him?

WALDORF: – Maybe we should stop calling him 'the crazy guy', I think his name is Steve.

STATLER: – HEY STEVE! HOW ARE YOU FEELING, BUDDY?!

(Waldorf and Statler run out shouting 'Steve'.)

Talk

If you've been reading along in the book of Mark, you'll know that Jesus has faced a lot of evil so far. He frees people from the influence of evil spirits and sends the demons away. Well today is one of the most famous stories of Jesus showing his authority, his power over evil. The definition of authority is: *'the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience.'* We believe Jesus can do all this, that he has all authority, which is why Christians call him the 'King of Kings!'

1 They went across the Sea of Galilee to the area of the Gerasenes. 2 Jesus got out of the boat. A man controlled by an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him. 3 The man lived in the tombs. No one could keep him tied up anymore. Not even a chain could hold him. 4 His hands and feet had often been chained. But he tore the chains apart. And he broke the iron cuffs on his ankles. No one was strong enough to control him. 5 Night and day he screamed among the tombs and in the hills. He cut himself with stones.

Like we spoke about a few days ago, here is another man who is being controlled by an evil spirit. Now if you've been reading the chapters of Mark, you'll know that it doesn't always look the same when a demon is mentioned. Sometimes it has made people unwell in different ways, made some people say or do things, other times no one can even tell that someone is being influenced by an evil spirit until Jesus sends it away. But this poor man is so unwell and so uncontrollable, he has to live alone and is even hurting himself. I would be afraid to be near this man, wouldn't you? But you know who isn't afraid, who actually feels compassion for this man and want to help him? Jesus!

6 When he saw Jesus a long way off, he ran to him. He fell on his knees in front of him. 7 He shouted at the top of his voice, 'Jesus, Son of the Most High God, what do you want with me? Swear to God that you won't hurt me!' 8 This was because Jesus had said to him, 'Come out of this man, you evil spirit!'

Jesus is not afraid of this man or of any evil spirit. Jesus has authority over evil and is able to send it away, even when it seems strong and scary. Remember a couple days ago when we talked about how there really is a spiritual battle of good versus evil? Well, something important to remember is that this battle is not an 'even match' or a fair fight. God is more powerful than the devil and he will always win! Just watch what happens next:

9 Then Jesus asked the demon, 'What is your name?' 'My name is Legion,' he replied. 'There are many of us.' 10 And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. 11 A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. 12 The demons begged Jesus, 'Send us among the pigs. Let us go into them.' 13 Jesus allowed it. The evil spirits came out of the man and went into the pigs. There were about 2,000 pigs in the herd. The whole herd rushed down the steep bank. They ran into the lake and drowned.

Jesus sends the demons into the pigs, who run off crazy. You see, in movies like KPOP Demon Hunters, the demons are like monsters that you have to fight with a sword! Or in even scarier movies, people are terrified and don't know what to do, until a magician, a special priest, a spell or crystal comes in to save them (which actually seems quite silly when you say it out loud). But we have someone so much greater on our side, someone with actual authority, who says he'll never leave us, that he's always by our side: Jesus. And the only weapon we need is our prayers to him. With one word from Jesus, this powerful evil is sent running! Who wouldn't

want to be on Jesus' team? Well sadly, lots of people still don't want to be on Jesus team... even the people who were there when this all happened! Listen to what they did:

14 Those who were tending the pigs ran off. They told the people in the town and countryside what had happened. The people went out to see for themselves. 15 Then they came to Jesus. They saw the man who had been controlled by many demons. He was sitting there. He was now dressed and thinking clearly. All this made the people afraid. 16 Those who had seen it told them what had happened to the man. They told about the pigs as well. 17 Then the people began to beg Jesus to leave their area.

Jesus does something so amazing, so good, yet the people beg him to leave! Maybe they don't yet understand how kind, loving and good Jesus is, how much he cares about each and every one of them. Maybe they were more worried about the money they lost when the herd of pigs ran into the sea than the man who had been set free and restored. So they beg Jesus to leave... and he does. Maybe there's a lesson for us there—if we ask Jesus to leave and push him away, he doesn't force himself on us and demand that we follow him. He has all the authority, but he still gives us the choice. We can choose to have him as our king, or not.

18 Jesus was getting into the boat. The man who had been controlled by demons begged to go with him. 19 Jesus did not let him. He said, 'Go home to your own people. Tell them how much the Lord has done for you. Tell them how kind he has been to you.' 20 So the man went away. In the area known as the Ten Cities (Decapolis), he began to tell how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

Jesus did what the people asked and left the area, but who did he leave behind to spread the word? This man! We don't know his name (maybe it was Steve after all?), but he was completely changed. He had a new king now and he was going to be an ambassador for King Jesus in the same region where he used to be a slave to evil. Many of us think we can fight the demons ourselves: we can change ourselves, be in charge of ourselves, fight evil on our own and be ruler of our own little kingdoms. There is a children's game, 'I'm the King of the castle...' We think we don't need Jesus. But this man knew the truth, because he had lived through it. He had been a slave to sin and evil—like we all are—and it was only with Jesus' help—which we all need— that he became part of God's Kingdom; which we are all invited into!

13 He has saved us from the kingdom of darkness. He has brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. 14 Because of what the Son has done, we have been set free. Because of him, all our sins have been forgiven.—Colossians 1:13–14

Testimony

Ask a team member to share a testimony about themselves or someone they know who had a big life transformation when they started following Jesus. The story should not be about demonic activity, but rather focusing on how Jesus brings us from darkness into light.

Response

Crown Him the King

Pass out a piece of paper with a large simple crown design on it, one per child (printable version available on share file). Encourage the kids to think about areas or situations in their lives they need help in. Ask the children to privately write down these things inside the crown, to show how Jesus has authority and power over every part of our lives and everything we face.

If the speaker would like to share appropriately about their own past or present struggles, how they have sought Jesus' help, this could help the young people be honest about their own needs. After a few moments, pray for everything that has been written down. Encourage the young people to not just ask for Jesus' help with a few things... but with everything in our lives!

Discussion questions

The young people may have a number of questions about demons or spiritual warfare after this session. It could be helpful to also discuss this topic openly in your team meeting, as different leaders may have different understandings. Again, we would encourage that any answers given would be based on Scripture and not personal experience or hearsay.

1. What do you like best in this story? What questions do you have? Were there any bits that scared you?
2. Did you find today's story hard to believe? Why or why not?
3. Have you ever encountered someone who frightened you? Invite stories. Why were people afraid of the man in today's passage?
4. Jesus has authority over every evil, scary thing. What does authority mean? What does authority look like?
5. How can we make Jesus king in our lives, if we can't see him or talk to him like they did in Bible times?
6. Is believing in Jesus the same as making him King, or are there differences?

Reading challenge: **Mark, Chapter 5**

Optional activity

Materials: blocks, LEGO, or cardboard boxes

Optional: small figurines, natural items (leaves, sticks, stones)

Instructions:

Divide into small groups. Each group's task is to build a 'kingdom' that shows what a good and strong kingdom looks like—it could have a castle, homes, gardens, walls, rivers, or anything they imagine. As they build, encourage them to think about and discuss what things King Jesus cares about having in his kingdom.



Session 6: The Creator

Mark 6:45–51

Ice breaker

Will it Float?! Have a large clear bowl of water on a table up front and choose a random selection of items to drop into the bowl. Take votes on which things will float! *(If your setting allows, you can take the last vote on a willing young person—or unwilling team member—and chuck them into the stream or loch to see if they float!)*

Introduction

For those who follow Jesus, his disciples, things are really starting to get serious. They have seen and heard so much from Jesus, and many of them really do believe Jesus is something more than just a teacher. That he might be the promised King—the Messiah.



Content

Drama

Statler comes in wearing a 'vote for Jesus' t-shirt and/or sign that says 'Jesus for King!'

WALDORF: *(embarrassed)*—What are you wearing?

STATLER: After seeing what Jesus did yesterday, turning back evil and kicking out those demons, lots of people are saying he should be the new King!

WALDORF: *(thoughtful)* – I guess Jesus would be a good king for our country but...

STATLER: It's obvious! If Jesus can handle demons, he can definitely take down evil leaders. We have to start getting more votes. *(starts chanting)* Vote for Jesus! Vote for Jesus!

WALDORF: I just don't think that's what Jesus is all about... I've been listening you know and... I don't know. I don't think Jesus just wants votes. He's not like any other leader I've seen.

STATLER: *(pauses)* Hmm, how are you so interested all of a sudden? Sounds like someone's had a change of heart about Jesus!

WALDORF: Oh whatever, come on, he's about to start...

THE KING OF KINGS VIDEO CLIP 6

(During the clip, going out to not distract the kids, W&S could get completely drenched and come back in soaking wet as if they had been in the storm. They are both flabbergasted and amazed)

WALDORF/ STATLER: *(together)* DID YOU SEE THAT?

STATLER: Jesus can control... nature?

WALDORF: The wind just... stopped!

STATLER: He WALKED on the WATER. On. Top. Of. It!

WALDORF: I didn't believe any of it first, but... there's no way to fake that. I think Jesus must be...

STATLER: ...our next King...?

WALDORF: ... something MUCH bigger than just a king!

STATLER: I know what you mean, something BIG is going on here!

WALDORF: You're going to have to make a new t-shirt and sign.

STATLER: but what should it say?

WALDORF: I'm not sure yet...

(They walk off discussing new Jesus t-shirt designs)

Talk

We're coming to the end of our week together now, and I wonder what you've been thinking about Jesus, as we've heard about him? Was he good or bad? A great teacher, or a big liar? Was he God's son, or the world's biggest fraud? Some of you might be somewhere in between... not sure if you believe all the stories and claims, but not really against Jesus either. Lots of people who were there at the time felt the same way. But Jesus didn't want people to stay on the fence! He often challenged those listening—and his disciples—to make a decision about him. And I want to challenge you too today—although Jesus is very patient with us, in the end he doesn't leave us the option of saying, 'I'm not sure', or forever ticking the 'maybe' box. He asks us to make a decision about him. And over the next two days I hope you will really take that seriously. How will you respond to Jesus?

Now just before today's story (earlier in chapter 6) Jesus has done one of his best known miracles—feeding the 5000 with loaves and fishes. And John's gospel says some people in the crowd were so excited about this they were going to force Jesus to become King.

14 The people saw the sign that Jesus did. Then they began to say, 'This must be the Prophet who is supposed to come into the world.' 15 But Jesus knew that they planned to come and force him to be their king. So he went away again to a mountain by himself.—John 6:14–15

Isn't that strange... wouldn't Jesus be happy that people liked him so much? That they even wanted him to be king and were ready for fight for him? Why wouldn't Jesus want to be their King? We even talked about Jesus being King yesterday, so what's going on here? Maybe Jesus was pleased that these people wanted him to be King... but he came to be so much more than that. And what happens next proves to his disciples how much more amazing Jesus really is.

Mark 6:45–51

45 Right away Jesus made his disciples get into the boat. He had them go on ahead of him to Bethsaida. Then he sent the crowd away. 46 After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray.

47 Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus was alone on land. 48 He saw the disciples pulling hard on the oars. The wind was blowing against them. Shortly before dawn, he went out to them. He walked on the lake. When he was about to pass by them, 49 they saw him walking on the lake. They thought he was a ghost, so they cried out. 50 They all saw him and were terrified. Right away Jesus said to them, 'Be brave! It is I. Don't be afraid.' 51 Then he climbed into the boat with them. The wind died down. And they were completely amazed.

Jesus was proving that he really is God—the Creator of the Earth! So a question to think about—do you think God himself would come to earth to rule... one country? Or would God himself come to do something so much greater than that? Would he not be interested in fixing something much deeper, much bigger?

OPTIONAL THOUGHT EXERCISE: King and Creator—The purpose of this thought exercise is to encourage young people to think theologically—to deepen their understanding of the nature of God. On a flipchart or piece of paper, draw two columns and write King at the top of one and Creator at the top of the other. Individually or in small groups, have them think about

some of the powers a human king has (i.e. a king has the power to set laws, the power to punish wrongdoers, the power to command armies). Then in a column next to it, think about the power that only God has (i.e. power over all nature, power to change people, power over life and death). If the young people notice some overlap, or areas where the power of God is similar to a king's, discuss and write down how God's power is different and superior to a king!

If you feel your group is ready, you can wrap up this thought exercise by introducing characteristics of God like omnipotence (all-powerful), omnipresence (all-present), omniscience (all-knowing), omnibenevolence (all-loving), immutability (unchanging), perfect and holy (set apart). You can write these words up for children to see or even pass them out in a hand-out. Of course this will be new and challenging vocabulary, so this is optional, but introducing concepts like these will expand many young people's idea of who God is.

Conclusion: We know from the very start that Jesus said he was God's son—that he was God. He has God's power to heal, his authority to forgive sin, he has authority over evil, he teaches in a new way that no one has heard before and does good everywhere. Genesis 1.1 tells us that in the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth, and so by demonstrating his power over nature—something only God has!—Jesus is now proving his true identity. He is creator. He has God's power over all nature, for he is God.

In the video clip we saw Peter also walk on water with Jesus, which is in other gospel accounts (Mark doesn't record it... Mark is always keenest to tell us what Jesus is doing, rather than any of the disciples). Peter only does this because he's starting to trust that Jesus really is God! And I think what Jesus says to Peter is so important: 'You fell because you doubted.' Jesus is asking for something only God can ask for: our faith, belief and worship. Jesus challenges Peter just like he challenges us: 'don't doubt... don't sit on the fence... believe in me!'

Testimony

Ask a team member or two to share about the time they first came to a real faith in Jesus. It doesn't have to be a dramatic story... just how a regular person came to believe in Jesus.

Response

What is Worship? Worship is something we save only for God: it is our expression of love, reverence and submission to our creator. We can be respectful or excited about kings or celebrities, but we only worship God. **How do we worship?** The key to worship is what's in our hearts; how we're honouring God! The expression of what's in our hearts can happen in many ways: we can worship quietly in contemplation and prayer, we can worship loudly with shouts and dancing, we can worship creatively with craftsmanship and art. The Olympic runner Eric Liddell even worshipped God through his sportsmanship: *'I believe God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast. And when I run I feel his pleasure.'* And throughout the Bible, music has been a key expression of worship, because it combines so many of these areas!

For a simple finish, you can close your time of teaching with musical worship and singing together. But if you have time, assign a few of your leaders to lead different worship responses and allow the young people to choose one that suits them. Just impress on all the young people that for something to be worship, it has to be for God and be an expression of love for him! Here are some ideas:

- **Creative Worship Corner.** Invite young people draw, paint or sculpt Jesus as King, with supplies available. (Exodus 31:3–5)
- **A very quiet prayer space.** In a cosy, secluded spot, young people can write in journals, read Bibles or quietly pray. A response poster could be put up for young people to share their insights about God. (Matthew 6:6)
- **Loud worship**—pre-prepare or ask the children to re-write a football chant into worship for God, even getting pots and pans from the kitchen for percussion. Probably best done outdoors! This may be chaotic, but it could be significant for some young people to be given permission to express themselves in a wilder, louder way. (2 Samuel 6:22a)
- **A worship run in the tradition of Eric Liddell.** Around the site, post verses the group has to run to (similar to an orienteering challenge). These verse-stops act as a break, and be specially chosen to re-emphasise how God has created our physical body, so we can worship him in our activities! (Isaiah 40:31)

Discussion questions

1. What's your favourite bit of the Bible story today? What stood out to you? Do you have any questions?
2. Why don't you think Jesus wanted to be the people's king?
3. What is the greater mission that Jesus had, do you think? What did Jesus go on to do?
4. Have you ever thought about Jesus being the creator? About Jesus not just being God's son, but God? What might it mean to you that Jesus is the creator?
Do you have any questions about what God is like?
5. Let's think about worship, What does worship mean to you? What's one way you can worship God without music?
6. Going home from this mission week, what might worshipping God look like for you? Do you find worshipping God easy or hard? (*maybe flag up some ideas—for instance, point the young people to the YouVersion SU Bible reading plan or Source Bible study tool; suggest worship leaders or bands to search on YouTube or Spotify to listen to...be prepared for sensitive discussion around worship from kids who are in churches where it looks very different to yours*).

Reading challenge: Mark, Chapter 6

Optional activity

Materials:

- Smooth stones or pebbles, markers, paint pens, or crayons

Instructions:

1. Give each child a stone.
2. Ask them to think of one of their favourite parts of creation. Is it the sea, the stars, a forest, or a beach?
3. Decorate the stone to represent that part of creation.
4. When everyone is finished, place all the stones together in a tray or basket to show the different parts of creation that all belong under Jesus' care as King and Creator.
5. Children can take their stone home as a reminder that Jesus has authority over all creation.

Session 7: The Sacrifice

Mark 8:27–33, Isaiah 53:4–5

Ice breaker

Create a fun 'Who Am I?' quiz based on funny things that have happened during your mission week! Using appropriate stories, pictures or videos, challenge the young people to remember who certain things happened to. For example: who won the ice cream eating challenge on Tuesday? Who got a skinned knee on Thursday? Which group was the messiest?

You could also have some of the leaders write down seven words that describe them, then read these out for the children. They have to guess which leader has been described each time.

Introduction

Aw, here we are at the end of our week! Today will finish our learning together from the book of Mark, but it doesn't have to finish yours. We're actually halfway through Mark, which has 16 chapters in total. You can finish this gospel at home if you want, by reading a physical Bible or using an audio Bible or App. But let's finish here at chapter 8 first.



Content

Drama

WALDORF & STATLER: *Walk in together, arm in arm, sniffing and emotional. There should be a bit of a pantomime feel to this drama.*

STATLER: I just can't believe our journey is almost over.

WALDORF: We started out as friends, and now we're more like...

STATLER: Family!

Waldorf & Statler both start to cry.

WALDORF: Without you, I never would have kept following Jesus!

STATLER: Without you, I wouldn't have thought it all through!

WALDORF: Come on, though, it's not over yet—before we part ways we can go and listen to Jesus one more time!

STATLER: and what about the tech desk, oooh, I'm going to miss them so much!

Waldorf and Statler go and hug everyone at the tech desk who they've been heckling all week. They all hug and cry, then sit down with their popcorn. You could have them hand out popcorn bags to everyone for this final clip.

THE KING OF KINGS VIDEO CLIP 7

STATLER: What?! I was already sad enough, but this is the worst! Jesus is going to die?! Nooo! *(wails loudly).*

WALDORF: No, no, it's okay!

STATLER: *(melodramatically)* HOW is it going to be OKAY? Jesus is going to be arrested!

WALDORF: ... and beaten...

STATLER: ... and KILLED on a CROSS! It's TERRIBLE! I thought he was the KING! *(keeps wailing in a pantomime kind of way)*

WALDORF: But remember the last thing he said?

STATLER: JESUS IS GOING TO DIE, STOP REMINDING ME!

WALDORF: No, he said he was going to rise again in three days!

STATLER: *(suddenly thoughtful)* Ooooooh yeeeahhh, I kind of forgot that part.

WALDORF: See, what did I tell you, he's here to do something much bigger!

STATLER: *(grasping at straws)* He's here to... to... to... fix global warming?

WALDORF: No! Jesus is going to defeat death!

Talk

During our week together, we've read a lot about Jesus and the things he said and did. Let's see how good your memory is... we learned that Jesus is... *(speaker can write these up on whiteboard or flipchart where they can be seen and referred to)*

1. The Son of God
2. The Healer
3. Good
4. The Teacher
5. The King
6. The Creator

It's a pretty impressive list, isn't it? If you were to come up with six words to describe yourself, what would they be? For me, I came up with these *(speaker shares six words that describe them)*—but what if instead I had put things like 'handsome/beautiful', 'powerful', 'influencer' or 'empress/emperor'? You would think I was delusional, wouldn't you? Who does he/she think she is? Yet, when we look at this list for Jesus, I don't just laugh it off. It doesn't seem delusional. Actually, it makes me sit back and think, who is this man, really? What has he come to do?

Well by this point, in Mark chapter 8, this is what the disciples are starting to think too! They have seen Jesus do all these things first hand, and they have all sorts of theories about who Jesus really is and why he's here.

Read:

27 Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, 'Who do people say I am?'

28 They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist. Others say Elijah. Still others say one of the prophets.'

29 'But what about you?' he asked. 'Who do you say I am?'

Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah.'

30 Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

For Peter (who hasn't *always* understood perfectly) these ideas have sunk in deep and he knows who Jesus is. The Messiah. The one God promised to send to save his people. Peter has hit the nail on the head ... but Peter's idea of what Jesus the Messiah has come to do, that other half of the question, he doesn't have quite right yet.

31 Jesus then began to teach his disciples. He taught them that the Son of Man must suffer many things. He taught them that the elders would not accept him. The chief priests and the teachers of the law would not accept him either. He must be killed and after three days rise again. 32 He spoke clearly about this. Peter took Jesus to one side and began to scold him. 33 Jesus turned and looked at his disciples. He scolded Peter. 'Get behind me, Satan!' he said. 'You are not thinking about the things God cares about. Instead, you are thinking only about the things humans care about.'

If there was a leader who we really thought was something special, someone we thought could fix big problems, who we trusted, who seemed to have the power to make anything happen...

what would we expect that person to do? To accomplish? Maybe they'd become the leader of a country, an inspiring activist, or win a Nobel Peace Prize. But Jesus says those are things that humans care about... Jesus came to accomplish something that God cares about. To defeat sin, death and the devil, and restore our broken human hearts. He came to save us! And he did it through his sacrifice (write down sacrifice at the bottom of the list).

In Mark 8:27 it says that Jesus and his disciples are travelling along a road, and you can almost imagine Jesus stopping them mid-step, and turning around to ask... 'But who do you say I am?' And I think he wants us to pause, to stop in our tracks and really think, 'who do I say Jesus is?' Not what I've been told, or what other people think, but who do I think he really is? Does he match up to Isaiah's prophesy from the start of the week?

(Bring out the poster you made at the start of the week)

*For to us a child is born,
 to us a son is given,
 and the government will be on his shoulders.
 And he will be called
 Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

IMAGINE: So I want us to just spend a moment of quiet now, close your eyes (ensure they close their eyes): now imagine that we are all on a dusty dirt road together, and at the front of the group walking ahead is Jesus. But he stops mid-conversation and turns around to us. He asks 'Who do you say I am?' What do you answer him? Be honest in your answer, Jesus knows what you're really thinking anyway.

(Allow a few minutes of quiet for the kids to reflect on this)

Here in this week, it's like we've been on that road all together, following Jesus around through these first eight chapters. And after today, we may take different paths, but each and every one of you has the option to still keep journeying with Jesus. Keep talking to him, keep watching what he does, keep listening to his teaching. The disciples were far from perfect and often got things wrong, but the difference between a disciple and everyone else was that a disciple kept following Jesus. And we pray you keep following Jesus after this mission week too, and if our paths meet again next year, we will get to hear about everything you and Jesus have done together!

Let's pray for each other now, that even if we don't have the biggest faith or the perfect life, that we would all keep following Jesus when we go home, seeing what he does, listening to what he says and asking him questions, until we each know deep in our hearts who Jesus is.

Testimony

Ask one of your returning young people or leaders share a bit about how they kept following Jesus between events through the year. They could share any special stories from the past year, or give some 'top tips' about what keeps them close to Jesus.

Response

Split into small groups and each leader should have an empty backpack. Ask the young people what they want to put in the bag for heading home. What memories from camp will they take with them, which friendships or new skills? Lastly, but most importantly, what can they take with them to prepare for a journey with Jesus? Ask the children to write down their ideas on bits of paper for each of these questions, and put them in the backpack.

At the end, ask the leader to remind them that this isn't a journey they're taking alone—they go with the prayers of their friends from the week AND they go with the help of the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit is called the paraclete, the helper and comforter—literally the 'one who comes alongside.' He is always by our side and will be our friend on the road.

Pray together over these backpacks and ask for the Holy Spirit to be present with each young person on their journey with Jesus.

Discussion questions

1. If you were to describe yourself in seven words, what would those words be?
2. Which of this week's teaching sessions (which word about Jesus) stood out to you most? Which is most important?
3. Christians believe Jesus' sacrifice is actually the most important thing about him. But isn't being arrested and killed bad? Why couldn't Jesus live and still save us from sin?
4. It was pretty bold of Peter to try and correct Jesus. What do you think Peter said to Jesus? What did Peter want Jesus to do?
5. What do you think is God's biggest concern? What does God care about most?
6. Are there any questions about the Bible teaching this week? What have you learned that you didn't know before? Are you the same at the end of the week as you were at the start? What has changed for you?
7. Going forward, what might help you keep connected with God? Do any of you want to come back next year? How have you been getting on with the Bible reading challenge? (for those too old to return, maybe discuss future SU events they can go to?)

Reading challenge: **Mark, Chapter 7–8**

Optional activity

Materials:

Small paper bags, markers, stickers, colored paper, small cut-out paper tokens

Instructions:

Each child decorates a bag/envelope. Inside, they place notes, drawings, or symbols representing things they want to remember from the week (friendships, stories, lessons, Jesus as King). Close it and take it home as a 'backpack for their journey.'



THE KING OF KINGS

A Story Told by Charles Dickens



Scripture Union Scotland is registered in Scotland as a charity (no. SCO11222) and as a company limited by guarantee (no.SC54297). Registered office: New Olympia House, 13 Olympia Street, Glasgow, G40 3TA.

mofac ANGEL KOVA

Watch it on all Digital Platforms NOW.

COPYRIGHT © 2025 BY ANGEL STUDIOS AND KOVA INTERNATIONAL