



Holy Spirit

MEETING AIM

To discover that the Holy Spirit is with us all the time and comforts and guides us.

BIBLE PASSAGE

John 14:16-17,26; John 15:26

BACKGROUND

This session plan is designed to be used in a home setting or online using video-calling software. You could also run it in person if you wish.

The Holy Spirit can be a difficult person to understand for children whose thinking is concrete. God the Spirit will be too abstract an idea for the younger children we work with. However, it never hurts to introduce the idea that God is with us all the time, comforts us and guides us. Children will know the love shown by family and friends, and they can know that God loves them too – he is with us by his Spirit even when no one else is around.

STARTING OUT

5 MINS

Start your time together with some simple refreshments (if you can). Chat together about the people who look after them – these could be parents, carers, other family members, childminders, teachers etc. What are the nice things they do for the children?

PLAY

10 MINS

You will need: home free-play equipment (such as kitchen or gardening toys)

Set out your free-play equipment and encourage the children to play as they would like to. Compliment the children as they show love and kindness to each other. How do they look after each other? Let the children lead the play and join in if they invite you to.

If you're meeting online, give the children some scenarios to act out in front of their cameras – what would you cook someone to make them feel better? How would you comfort someone when they are sad?

BIBLE STORY

10 MINS

Explain to the children that you're going to hear about some of the things that Jesus told his friends when they were all together in a room. He was telling them what would

happen after he died and came alive again. He was going to go back to heaven and would send someone else to be with his friends, called the Holy Spirit!

Imagine together what it might be like to be sitting with Jesus, listening to him tell them lots of exciting things. How might they feel? Jesus told his friends all about the Holy Spirit, who is God. Practise saying this story-rhyme together to discover what Jesus said about the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit loves to help us, to help us, to help us.

The Holy Spirit loves to help us.

He will always be with us!

He will show us what is true, what is true, what is true.

He will show us what is true.

He will always be with us!

He wants to teach us everything, everything, everything.

He wants to teach us everything.

He will always be with us!

He'll help us tell about Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.

He'll help us tell about Jesus.

He will always be with us!

If the children are interested, you can make up some actions together to go alongside the rhyme.

CHATTING TOGETHER

5 MINS

Chat about the Bible story using some of these questions:

- What is it like having someone to look after you and help you?
- What is it like having someone make you feel better when you're sad?
- How might the Holy Spirit help us with these things? (You will need to give some examples here, as the children may not be able to make the mental leap between the physical and spiritual in this instance.)

CREATIVE TIME

10 MINS

You will need: art materials

Give out the art materials (if you're working online, make sure everyone has access to at least some paper and some felt-tip pens or crayons). Ask the children to draw pictures of the times when people help them or when they help others. They could

also draw pictures of when someone teaches them something new – to catch a ball, to make cupcakes, to tie a bow.

As you work, chat together about what the children are drawing, and about the Bible story too. If you can, tell the children a story about when the Holy Spirit has helped, comforted or taught you something new. (Or ask one of the other leaders to do this.)

When you have finished, let any of the children who would like to, show everyone their picture and tell you about it.

PRAYER

5 MINS

You will need: pictures from 'Creative time'

If you're meeting together in person, place all the pictures from 'Creative time' in the middle of the floor and gather around them. If you're online, ask the children to hold their pictures in front of their camera.

Say a simple prayer thanking God for all these times when we have been helped. Encourage children to shout out any individual examples they have drawn. Then thank the Holy Spirit for always being with us, and for helping and comforting us.

ALEX TAYLOR

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Encounter

MEETING AIM

To hear how the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' friends at Pentecost.

BIBLE PASSAGE

Acts 2

BACKGROUND

This session plan is designed to be used in a home setting or online using video-calling software. You could also run it in person, if you wish.

If in Session 1, Jesus words about the Spirit were perhaps too abstract for younger children to grasp, then here we see the physical impact of the coming of the Holy Spirit. We can see the wind and flames of the physical manifestation of the Spirit, together with the impact on Jesus' followers – courage, boldness, eloquence and the ability to speak other languages. Be ready to chat about the impact of the Spirit on your own life, in age-appropriate terms.

STARTING OUT

5 MINS

Start your time together with some simple refreshments (if you can). Chat together about time you have been scared to do something. What helped you to feel brave?

PLAY

10 MINS

You will need: yellow, orange and red paper; child-safe scissors

Show the children how to cut out a flame shape from the coloured paper. Help any children with the scissors if they haven't yet developed the fine motor skills. As you cut out the flames, chat together about any fires the children have seen – these could be bonfires, firepits or wood burners. Go on to talk about the benefits and dangers of fire. Be aware that some children might have had a bad experience of fire, or even have been burnt.

Once you have a large number of flames, put them all together and pretend to sit around your 'fire'. Warm your hands, perhaps sing any songs you know as campfire songs.

BIBLE STORY

10 MINS

You will need: flames from 'Play'; shakers (such as food containers half-filled with dried beans or lentils)

Make sure the children have their flames from 'Play' and give out the shakers. If you're working online, ask parents or carers to find something that would make a noise like the wind (such as wafting tea towels or buttons in a plastic box).

Practise making the noise of a strong wind together by shaking your shakers. Start quietly and then get noisier. Be aware that some children don't like loud noises, so give lots of warning beforehand and let them leave the room if they want to. Once you're ready, tell this story:

Jesus' friends were a bit scared. Jesus had told them to wait for a new friend, and then had gone back to heaven. They felt a little bit alone, and they were locked in a room together, praying. *All huddle together and mime praying.*

Suddenly, they heard a noise like a strong wind. Make your blowing wind noise with your shakers. They saw what looked like flames dance around in the air, before touching each of them on the head. *All wave the paper flames in the air before touching them carefully on each other's heads.*

Just like Jesus had promised, the new friend had arrived! He is called the Holy Spirit. And like Jesus, he is God. Even though Jesus' friends couldn't see him, they were filled with his power. All the friends rushed outside. They were all talking in different languages. The Holy Spirit had given them the power to do so! Encourage the adults to shout out any words they know in a different language. *The children can join in too if they know phrases in another language.*

Everyone who heard them were confused and amazed! Peter, one of Jesus' friends, told everyone all about Jesus. And lots of people started to follow him! *All shake your shakers, wave your flames and shout: "Hooray!"*

Now the Holy Spirit was here, Jesus' friends started to tell everyone about Jesus. The Holy Spirit helped them to find the right words. He gave them power to make people better. He made them brave. And the Holy Spirit is with us now!

CHATTING TOGETHER

5 MINS

Chat about the Bible story using some of these questions:

- Which part of the story do you like the most?
- How did the friends of Jesus feel when they had the Holy Spirit with them?
- How might the Holy Spirit help us today? (You will need to give some examples here, as the children may not be able to make the mental leap between the physical and spiritual in this instance.)

CREATIVE TIME

10 MINS

You will need: flames from 'Play'; paper; child-safe scissors; sticky tape; crayons or felt-tip pens

Make a flame headband by cutting a strip of paper long enough to fit around a child's head (join two strips together if necessary). Tape the band to the right size. Ask the children to decorate their flame. They could write their name, draw something from today's story or simply draw patterns or use nice colours. Tape the flame to the front of the headband, so that it is sticking up in the air.

PRAYER

5 MINS

You will need: headbands from 'Creative time'

Put on your flame headbands. If you're working in person, stand in a circle; if you're online make sure everyone is in front of their camera. Ask the children to chat with God about today's story, and leave a period of silence. (Leave as long as you can, though this might only be a few seconds – that's OK!)

Ask the children to shout out times when they would like the Holy Spirit to be with them this week. Prime the adults to start the ball rolling if the children are struggling to think of anything. Finish by thanking God for sending the Holy Spirit to be with us.

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Spirit Father Son

MEETING AIM

To see the Spirit, Father and Son all together.

BIBLE PASSAGE

Luke 3:21-22

BACKGROUND

This session plan is designed to be used in a home setting or online using video-calling software. You could also run it in person if you wish.

The Trinity is a complex idea, most likely beyond the children we're working with (and perhaps beyond us too!). However, it's good to introduce the idea through play, so that children can build on stories and understanding as they grow in age and faith. Let this session be a time of wonder and excitement about God being loving and three-in-one!

STARTING OUT

5 MINS

Start your time together with some simple refreshments (if you can). Chat together about time all your family have been together. Be sensitive to the fact that some children may have missed relatives during the pandemic and may not yet have met them again.

PLAY

10 MINS

You will need: water play equipment

Show the children the water play equipment you have provided and invite them to play as they wish. You might want to go outdoors where spillages matter less! If you're online, ask parents and carers to provide a bowl of water and a couple of toys. And some cover-up materials too!

BIBLE STORY

10 MINS

You will need: bowl of water; two dolls or play people (such as Playmobil); picture of a bird or a small toy bird

Give some background to this story, about how Jesus' cousin, John, was trying to get people ready to be God's friend again. He was baptising people as a sign that they were sorry. If your children have seen any baptisms in church, ask them what they know about it. Go on to tell this story:

John was very busy. God had told him to get the people ready to be his friends again. He told people that they had to say sorry to God for all the things that they had done wrong. And he was washing them in water to show that they were clean and ready to meet with God. This is called baptism. Show the water and one of the dolls / play people and talk about how you do baptism in your church tradition.

John baptised lots of people. Dip the doll / play person in the water. Then, Jesus came along. Show the other doll / play person. John baptised Jesus too. Dip the Jesus doll / play person in the water. And something very special happened. Jesus came out of the water and prayed. The sky opened and the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a bird called a dove. Show the picture or toy bird.

And then a voice from heaven said: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

What a surprise! Here is God – Jesus, God the Holy Spirit (the dove) and God the Father (the voice from heaven).

Prince Jonathan ran out into the fields where he knew David was hiding. He took with him a young boy, three arrows and a bow. *Place David behind a rock; stand the servant figure next to Jonathan.*

Prince Jonathan shot his three arrows to the side of the rock. Then he sent the young boy to find the arrows. *Place the matches to the side of the rock. Run the servant towards the rock and move the matches and figures as needed.*

As the young boy got close to the rock, Prince Jonathan shouted out: "Go beyond the rock. I have shot the arrows a long way away. Run fast to get them." (This was a sign to David that he should run a long way away.) The boy ran beyond the rock, doing what Jonathan had said.

At last, the boy found the arrows and brought them to Prince Jonathan. He returned to the king, but Prince Jonathan stayed to find his best friend, David. They hugged each other and cried because they were so sad. They promised to remain friends. They asked God to keep them safe. Then David ran away.

CHATTING TOGETHER

5 MINS

Chat about the Bible story using some of these questions:

- Which part of the story do you like the most?
- Which part surprises you the most?
- Do you think John was surprised when the sky opened? Why? Why not?

CREATIVE TIME

10 MINS

You will need: bowls of water from 'Play'; dolls or play people; toy birds or pictures of birds; cover-up equipment
bowls of water from 'Play'; dolls or play people; toy birds or pictures of birds; cover-up equipment

PRAYER

5 MINS

You will need: dolls or play people and toy birds or pictures of birds from 'Creative time'

Ask the children to hold their doll / play person and say this prayer:

"Thank you, Jesus, that you came to earth to show us what God is like. Thank you that you showed us we can be your friend."

Ask the children to hold their toy bird or picture and say this prayer:

"Thank you, Holy Spirit, that you are with us all the time, just as you are with Jesus in our story. Help us follow God's ways. Make us feel better when we are sad. Help us to love everyone around us."

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Breath of life

MEETING AIM

To discover how Jesus gave the Spirit to his friends when he had come alive again.

BIBLE PASSAGE

John 20:19-23

BACKGROUND

This session plan is designed to be used in a home setting or online using video-calling software. You could also run it in person, if restrictions allow.

As with the other sessions in this series, the children in our groups may not be able to grasp much of what is going on here, but the more we can help children explore now, the better we prepare them for deeper understanding later. Even if children are young, they can still cope with, indeed deserve, more stories than just a sanitised version of Noah's ark and Christmas.

Here, Jesus has only just come alive again, and he is already preparing his friends to receive the Holy Spirit. Whether this is just a 'down payment' for what happens at Pentecost, we don't know. The Spirit had already been active throughout the Old Testament. However, this new intake of the Spirit enables Jesus' followers to play their part in changing the world.

STARTING OUT

5 MINS

Start your time together with some simple refreshments (if you can). Chat together about the last time the children were surprised. Perhaps it was a day out, a surprise visitor or an unexpected visitor.

PLAY

10 MINS

You will need: music and the means to play it

Think about different facial expressions and what they might mean. Ask the children what their faces might look like if they were happy, sad, surprised, confused, scared etc. Get the children to pull the appropriate face. Then think about how you might walk around if you are happy, sad etc. Play some music that reflects a particular emotion and ask the children to dance around in the way that they think best fits the music.

BIBLE STORY

10 MINS

You will need: music and the means to play it

Explain to the children what had just happened before this story starts. Jesus had died and been buried. But three days later, he had come alive again! He had appeared to his friend Mary. Mary told all of Jesus' other friends what had happened. Now, that evening, they were confused, afraid and had locked themselves in a room.

Play some music that sounds nervous or jittery. Ask the children to huddle down as if they are scared, matching the music. Then tell this story:

Jesus' friends were a bit scared. They had watched Jesus get arrested. Then he died, and they were very sad. All make sad faces. But then Mary, one of Jesus' friends, said that Jesus was alive! All make a confused then a happy face. Play some happy music and dance around.

But in the evening, they were still a bit scared. Play your jittery music and huddle down again.

Suddenly Jesus appeared and stood in the middle of the room! Play some music that might indicate surprise. All make shocked faces. He said hello to everyone. Then he said:

"I am sending you, just like the Father sent me."

And then he breathed on them. Play some soft, swishing music. All dance around as if being blown by the wind.

"Have the Holy Spirit," Jesus said.

Everyone was very excited! Play some exciting music and dance around cheering.

CHATTING TOGETHER

5 MINS

Chat about the Bible story using some of these questions:

- Did you like the different pieces of music? Which was your favourite? Why?
- What is it your favourite part of the story?
- What do you remember about the Holy Spirit?

CREATIVE RESPONSE

10 MINS

You will need: art materials

Give out the art materials (if you're working online, then make sure everyone has access to at least some paper and some felt-tip pens or crayons). Ask the children to draw a picture of the Bible story. What do they remember? What would Jesus have looked like? What about the disciples' faces?

As you work, chat together about what the children are drawing, and about the Bible story too. If you can, tell the children a story about when the Holy Spirit has helped, comforted or taught you something new. (Or ask one of the other leaders to do this.)

When you have finished, let any of the children who would like to, show everyone their picture and tell you about it.

PRAYER

5 MINS

You will need: something that can make a breeze, such as a fan or a hairdryer, or the ability to open a window or go outside

Create your breeze using whatever you have chosen to make it. If you're opening a window or going outside, make sure it's safe you to do so.

Ask the children to stand in front of the breeze and imagine they are there with the friends of Jesus, and Jesus is breathing on them. What do they want to say to Jesus? How might the Holy Spirit be able to help them?

Finally, ask the group to think of something that they would like to ask for help with, then pray this prayer:

"Holy Spirit, thank you that you are always with us. Please help us to..." and leave a space for children to finish the prayer.

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Samuel

MEETING AIM

To wonder why we might choose to follow other people, rather than God.

BIBLE PASSAGE

1 Samuel 8

BACKGROUND

This session plan is designed to be used in a home setting or online using video-calling software. You could also run it in person, if restrictions allow.

Samuel had served God since childhood, but now in his old age, the faithfulness of the people – and his own sons – seem to be slipping away. It is the dishonest actions of his sons that lead the elders of the people to demand a king. They looked at the nations around them and wanted what they had. Even though Samuel warns them of what this will mean – they basically will lose their current freedoms – the people still want a king. Both Samuel and God are rejected.

Those in our groups might sit on either side of this argument. They may feel rejected – cut off from friendship groups or be mourning relationships lost during lockdown. Or they may be looking at lives of others and thinking the grass is greener. Be sensitive to children with both these outlooks as you explore this story.

STARTING OUT

5 MINS

Start your time together with some simple refreshments (if you can). Chat about what the children have done this week.

PLAY

10 MINS

You will need: pictures of people in positions of leadership – politicians, royalty, celebrities, teachers, fictional characters (such as the Avengers); pens and paper
Print out the pictures and show them to your children or share your screen so that everyone can see. Decide together whether these are good leaders or not. What makes someone a good leader? Once you have looked at all the pictures, create a blueprint for a good leader. You could make a list of attributes together, or ask the children to draw a good leader, and then share what they have come up with.

BIBLE STORY

10 MINS

You will need: Bible; list or pictures from 'Play'; pens and paper

Before you start reading the Bible, give a bit of background about Samuel. He was dedicated to God when he was just a baby, and he grew up in the place where the people of God worshipped him. He became the leader of God's people, and God helped him as he led. But now Samuel is old...

Read 1 Samuel 8:1-3 and measure Joel and Abijah against your list or pictures of what a good leader is. How do they measure up? What do the children think life was like, living with these two as leaders? How might Samuel have felt?

Read 1 Samuel 8:4-9 and ask the children if they would have done what the elders of Israel did. Then read verses 10-18 and ask the children to write down what the king would do to the people, or draw what kind of a person Samuel says a king would be. Compare the words and pictures and ask who might be the worst of the two options to be in charge: a king or Samuel's sons, Joel and Abijah.

Finish the chapter and ask the children to think about why the people wanted to be like other countries and have a king.

CHATTING TOGETHER

5 MINS

Continue exploring the story by asking the children these questions:

- What does this story tell you about God?
- What does this story tell you about people?
- God said that by asking for a king, the people were rejecting him. Why might the people have rejected God? Why did they want to be like everyone else?
- Does any of this story remind you of anything from your life or community?
- Have you ever felt rejected?

CREATIVE TIME

10 MINS

You will need: art materials; paper

Provide a range of art materials for the children to choose from – whatever you have available. If you're working online, then make sure children have access to at least felt-tip pens or crayons and some paper.

Encourage the children to create a picture or write something in response to what they have discovered through the Bible story. Give them the opportunity to create what they would like to. You can use this opportunity to carry on your chat about the story. When hands are busy, this is often the ideal time for children's minds to start processing what they have discovered, and also make a connection with God. Indeed, the end result is not the most important thing, so it doesn't matter if everyone has finished their artwork or not. The most important thing is to provide a time and space when a child can meet with God and reflect with him about what he's saying to them.

If children would like to show and explain what they have done, then let them, but don't force anyone to share who doesn't want to.

PRAYER

5 MINS

Finish by giving children the chance to chat with God about what he has been saying to them. Read these prayer prompts, leaving 20 seconds or so in between each one to let the children respond quietly or finish the sentence in their heads.

I'm sorry, God, when I have looked at what other people are doing and wanted to follow them.

I'm sorry, God, when I have not chosen the best path to follow.

Thank you that you are always there for me, especially when...

Walk with me this week and be with me when I have to make difficult choices. Help me to follow you when I have to...

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Saul

MEETING AIM

To discover that God chooses the ones he wants to choose, no matter how difficult they are to find.

BIBLE PASSAGE

1 Samuel 9-10

BACKGROUND

This session plan is designed to be used in a home setting or online using video-calling software. You could also run it in person, if restrictions allow.

In session 1, we discovered that the people of God asked Samuel for a king and that God agreed. Now we see the process begin of finding that king. God guides Samuel to Saul, in what seems like a very unlikely combination of events. Lost donkeys lead Saul to Samuel; God tells Samuel that Saul is the one; Samuel anoints Saul; Samuel tells Saul what will happen next (including goats, bread and musical prophets); Samuel summons the nation to Mizpah and chooses Saul to be king; Saul hides among the baggage before being proclaimed king by the people.

It's a long, improbable story, but is worth dwelling in with children. They will discover much about God, about Saul and about themselves.

STARTING OUT

5 MINS

Start your time together with some simple refreshments (if you can). Chat about what the children have done this week.

INTRO ACTIVITY

10 MINS

You will need: pictures of people in positions of leadership – politicians, royalty, celebrities, teachers, fictional characters (such as the Avengers); pens and paper
Print out the pictures and show them to your children or share your screen so that everyone can see. Decide together whether these are good leaders or not. What makes someone a good leader? Once you have looked at all the pictures, create a blueprint for a good leader. You could make a list of attributes together, or ask the children to draw a good leader, and then share what they have come up with.

BIBLE STORY

10 MINS

You will need: Bible; list or pictures from 'Play'; pens and paper

Before you start reading the Bible, give a bit of background about Samuel. He was dedicated to God when he was just a baby, and he grew up in the place where the people of God worshipped him. He became the leader of God's people, and God helped him as he led. But now Samuel is old...

Read 1 Samuel 8:1-3 and measure Joel and Abijah against your list or pictures of what a good leader is. How do they measure up? What do the children think life was like, living with these two as leaders? How might Samuel have felt?

Read 1 Samuel 8:4-9 and ask the children if they would have done what the elders of Israel did. Then read verses 10-18 and ask the children to write down what the king would do to the people, or draw what kind of a person Samuel says a king would be. Compare the words and pictures and ask who might be the worst of the two options to be in charge: a king or Samuel's sons, Joel and Abijah.

Finish the chapter and ask the children to think about why the people wanted to be like other countries and have a king.

CHATTING TOGETHER

5 MINS

Continue exploring the story by asking the children these questions:

- What does this story tell you about God?
- What does this story tell you about people?
- God said that by asking for a king, the people were rejecting him. Why might the people have rejected God? Why did they want to be like everyone else?
- Does any of this story remind you of anything from your life or community?
- Have you ever felt rejected?

CREATIVE TIME

10 MINS

You will need: art materials; paper

Provide a range of art materials for the children to choose from – whatever you have available. If you're working online, then make sure children have access to at least felt-tip pens or crayons and some paper.

Encourage the children to create a picture or write something in response to what they have discovered through the Bible story. Give them the opportunity to create what they would like to. You can use this opportunity to carry on your chat about the story. When hands are busy, this is often the ideal time for children's minds to start processing what they have discovered, and also make a connection with God. Indeed, the end result is not the most important thing, so it doesn't matter if everyone has finished their artwork or not. The most important thing is to provide a time and space when a child can meet with God and reflect with him about what he's saying to them.

If children would like to show and explain what they have done, then let them, but don't force anyone to share who doesn't want to.

PRAYER

5 MINS

Finish by giving children the chance to chat with God about what he has been saying to them. Read these prayer prompts, leaving 20 seconds or so in between each one to let the children respond quietly or finish the sentence in their heads.

- I'm sorry, God, when I have looked at what other people are doing and wanted to follow them.
- I'm sorry, God, when I have not chosen the best path to follow.
- Thank you that you are always there for me, especially when...
- Walk with me this week and be with me when I have to make difficult choices. Help me to follow you when I have to...

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Jonathan

MEETING AIM

To learn about best friends, David and Jonathan.

BIBLE PASSAGE

1 Samuel 20

BACKGROUND

This session plan is designed to be used in a home setting or online using video-calling software. You could also run it in person, if restrictions allow.

David has been chosen by God to be the next king of Israel, because the current king, Saul, has disobeyed God. David is young, handsome and brave, he's also a battle-winning hero who is cheered by the people for killing more enemies than King Saul. The jealous king wants David dead, but the king's son, Jonathan, loves David "as he loved himself" (verse 17). Jonathan might have expected to be king after his father, but instead he works with God's chosen king..

STARTING OUT

5 MINS

Start your time together with some simple refreshments (if you can). Chat about what the children have done this week.

INTRO ACTIVITY

10 MINS

You will need: paper; sticky tape or masking tape; instructions for making paper spears (visit: <https://bit.ly/3tSi8hX>)

Explain that today's story involves lots of fighting, and that in Old Testament times most soldiers fought with spears. Make one paper spear each and practise throwing it safely.

BIBLE STORY

10 MINS

You will need: paper spears from 'Intro activity'

Explain that everyone needs to be ready to run in this story – there is danger all around! All practise running on the spot (make sure you have an alternative for children who struggle with movement).

Teach the other actions: hide = hide behind something; promise = shake hands with yourself; kill = throw spears (if you're meeting person, the children will have to retrieve their spear after everyone has thrown them). Begin the story:

There are three people in this story: King Saul, his son Jonathan and David the king-in-waiting, who has been chosen by God. All three are good at fighting Israel's enemies, who are everywhere! KILL them! *Everyone throws spears.*

As soon as David met Jonathan, they said they'd be best friends for ever – that's a PROMISE! *Shake hands.*

David was brilliant at winning battles, much better than King Saul. When Saul heard the crowds cheering David, he was madly jealous. He tried to KILL David! *Everyone throws spears.*

David saw the king's spear whizz past his head and thought: RUN! *Everyone jogs on the spot.* David ran home, but the king sent soldiers after him: RUN! *Continue running.* David ran to the desert but the king followed him: RUN! *Continue running.* David had to talk to his friend Jonathan, so he raced back into town: RUN! *Jog on the spot then stop to get your breath back!*

David said to his best friend: "Your dad's trying to kill me – I PROMISE!" *Shake hands.*

Jonathan said: "I'll go and find out what mood he's in, I PROMISE! Shake hands. If he's still angry, I'll warn you – in God's name, I PROMISE!" *Shake hands.*

Jonathan swore he would always be on David's side – PROMISE! *Shake hands.* David swore he would always love his best friend, Jonathan – PROMISE! *Shake hands.*

Then Jonathan told David his plan: "Stay here and HIDE!" *Everyone hides.* They planned a secret signal with a bow and arrow, and Jonathan went back to have dinner with King Saul.

"Where's David?" said the king, when he saw the empty place at the table.

"Er..." said Jonathan. "He had to go and see his family in Bethlehem."

"WHAAAT?" yelled Saul. "Liar! You're as bad as he is! And you're on his side! He's going to die! And I'll KILL you!" *Everyone throws spears.*

Jonathan was angry and sad, but he hurried to warn David – RUN! *Everyone jogs on the spot.* He shot an arrow past David's hiding place: this was the secret signal that David's life was in danger and he needed to escape.

David and Jonathan hugged each other and cried, because they had to say goodbye. David cried hardest, and Jonathan said: "As God is our witness, we and our families will be best friends for ever. I PROMISE!" *Shake hands.*

CHATTING TOGETHER

5 MINS

Discuss the story using these questions:

What do you notice about this story?

- Which part of the story did you like best?
- How did it feel to act like David?
- What questions would you like to ask King Saul or Jonathan?
- What do you think God was doing in this story?

CREATIVE TIME

10 MINS

You will need: embroidery thread in a variety of colours; scissors; instructions for making friendship bracelets (try: <https://bit.ly/3sYjicA>)

Show children how to start off their friendship bracelets. Once everyone has settled into the rhythm of knotting threads, chat about the friendship of David and Jonathan and wonder about all those promises they made to each other. Wonder why these bracelets are called friendship bracelets. What does David and Jonathan's friendship tell us about God? Share the good things we learn about God through our friends.

PRAYER

5 MINS

You will need: paper spears from 'Intro activity'

Explain that, when we get things wrong, which we all do because we're only human, the Bible calls this 'sin'. The word literally means 'missing the mark', as if we've tried to hit a target and missed it. So today you're going to say sorry to God for when you have missed the target of being good friends. Ask the children to think about the times when they have been unkind or when they have let their friends down, while they try to hit this target with the spears.

Take it in turns to throw a spear. Then say:

Father, we are sorry for those times when our friendships have missed the mark. Help us to be good friends. Amen.

CLAIRE BENTON-EVANS

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David

MEETING AIM

To remember what God has done for us.

BIBLE PASSAGE

1 Samuel 17

BACKGROUND

This session plan is designed to be used in a home setting or online using video-calling software. You could also run it in person, if restrictions allow.

Saul is king of the Israelites and they are at war with the Philistines. The Philistines were a great threat, with their champion fighter, Goliath, and it seemed impossible to defeat them, with no equal champion to fight back. David remembered that they didn't need to worry about their size if God was on their side, though. What has God done in your life to make you confident of God's protection, help and love in the present and the future? What about in the children's lives? The pandemic may have thrown this into clearer focus for you and the children in your group or family.

STARTING OUT

5 MINS

Start your time together with some simple refreshments (if you can). Chat about what the children have done this week.

INTRO ACTIVITY

10 MINS

You will need: six empty cans and something to stand them on; a tennis (or similarly sized) ball

Like David defeating Goliath with just a sling and a stone, your group are going to try target practice! Arrange the six cans in a pyramid: three at the bottom, two on the second row and one on top. You could play this in teams or individuals, depending on the size and ability of your group. The aim of the game is to see who can knock all the cans down in the lowest number of throws.

If you're online, children can use whatever is to hand. Make sure they don't use anything breakable or valuable, and their throwing area is safe.

BIBLE STORY

10 MINS

You will need: 'armour' (cardboard armour would be ideal); 1kg bag of flour or sugar; crown; beard; one sheep; food; five smooth stones and sling (or sling shot)

Tell the story of David and Goliath, by asking the children to act it out as you tell it. Ask a leader to be Goliath and give the other parts to the children (if you're online, ask the actors to get their own props or mime holding or wearing them), asking them to act out what you're describing in the story:

The Philistines and the Israelites were preparing for battle, and both armies were camping each side of a valley. The Philistines' champion soldier was a man called Goliath. *Ask someone to be Goliath. Give them some armour to wear for the part!*

Goliath was HUGE. He was about 3 metres tall. *Compare this to your height.*

The Bible tells us that he had a bronze helmet on his head and wore armour of bronze weighing 5,000 shekels. *This is about 57kg. Show the bag of flour or sugar and explain that it's 57 times this weight!* The point of his spear weighed 600 shekels! *This is about 58kg – 58 bags of flour or sugar.* His shield bearer went ahead of him. *Ask another child to be the shield bearer, and give them a shield.*

Saul was king of the Israelites. *Ask a child to be Saul and give them a crown and some armour.* Some of the soldiers in his army were David's brothers. *Invite a few to come and be David's brothers. Stand Goliath on one side and Saul and David's brothers on the other.*

Goliath kept challenging the Israelites: "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." *Either give this to Goliath to shout out, or ask them to look threatening while you read it.* Saul and the Israelites were terrified! *They look terrified.*

Jesse and his son David were at home, away from the battle. Jesse was an old man and David was his youngest son, and David was too young to be in the army, so instead he tended the sheep. *Ask for a Jesse and a David. Give Jesse a beard and David a sheep.*

One day Jesse sent David to the army camp to take food to his brothers. Jesse sends David away with some food. When David got to the camp, both armies were gearing up for battle. *Goliath and the brothers do so.*

Goliath kept shouting out his threats. Saul told his armies: "Whoever kills this man will marry my daughter and never have to pay taxes again!" David heard this and went to Saul and said: "Why are you afraid? We have God on our side! I will go and fight him."

Saul and David's brothers told David he couldn't, he was too young and too small. But David explained: "When I was a shepherd I protected the sheep from lions and bears. God will help me defeat this Philistine just like he helped me defeat the lions and bears."

Saul was persuaded and let David go to fight Goliath. He tried to give David his armour but David refused. *Saul tries to give his armour to David.* He said: "Goliath has armour, but I have God on my side!" Instead David took five smooth stones and a sling. *Give David these.*

As Goliath and David went to battle each other, Goliath laughed at David. Goliath does so. David took out his sling and shot a stone at Goliath. *Make sure they mime this bit with no real stone-shooting!* It hit Goliath in the forehead and Goliath fell down and died! *Encourage Goliath to be as dramatic as they want! Everyone cheers.*

With a single stone (and help from God), David defeated Goliath and the Israelites won the war against the Philistines!

**CHATTING TOGETHER**

5 MINS

Discuss the story using these questions:

- What have you discovered about Goliath? The Israelites? David?
- Why did David trust God?
- Do you think it would be difficult to trust God if you were about to face Goliath?
- What does this story tell you about God?

CREATIVE TIME

10 MINS

You will need: large roll of paper (lining paper would be ideal); pens

Ask the child who played David to lie down so you can draw around them. Draw around the child and write US in big letters on the inside. (If you're working online, do this beforehand.) Remind the group that David was about to do a very scary thing, but he knew that God would be with him. Ask the children to think about what God has done in the past that can remind them that he will be with them in the future. If you have an example from your own life, then share that with the children. Write or draw all the children's ideas inside the person-shape.

PRAYER

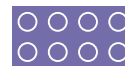
5 MINS

You will need: stones; marker pens

Ask the children to take a stone and a pen each, and write on their stone: "God is with me." When they've finished, ask them to hold them in their hands. Ask them to think about the things that feel big, scary or even impossible. Invite them to close their eyes to pray together, and ask that God would help you all remember him when you're scared and that God would help with the scary things we all face, and that God would remind us that he is with us.

ALEX TAYLOR

is resources editor for *Premier Youth and Children's Work*.



Samuel

MEETING AIM

To show that we cannot lead without willingness and cooperation from people – sometimes people will be unwilling to listen so we need to learn when to be humble and step back.

BIBLE PASSAGE

1 Samuel 8

BACKGROUND

This session is designed for you to do online in a group video call (on something like FaceTime or Zoom). Make sure you have parental permission to do this, as well as following your church's safeguarding procedure.

Samuel has been leading the people of God for some time, but now the people present him with a demand for a king. They want to be like the people around them. Not only is this a rejection of Samuel's leadership, but of God's. When they entered the promised land, God knew that they wouldn't be able to resist the influence of the other nations around them, and so it has proved.

JOINING THE SESSION 5 MINS

As people join you online, ask them to share what they have been doing during the past seven days."

INTRO ACTIVITY 5 MINS

Split the young people into smaller groups. Explain that they have five minutes to come up with a political party name and manifesto to present to the other groups. The idea is that they are campaigning to run the country, youth group or church (choose which would be most appropriate for your group). Explain that they will then have two minutes to convince the rest of the group to vote for them.

Once each team has spoken, ask them to vote for one of the other groups by messaging you. Stipulate that they are not to vote for their own team. Ask them how it felt to be making decisions for such a wide group of people. Did they find that there was a certain group that they wanted to help more?

Announce the results. Ask the winning

team if they really think they will be able to be in charge or would they want someone else to do it. Ask the losing teams if they would be willing to go along with what the others have decided and follow them.

BIBLE EXPLORATION 10 MINS

Ask everyone to read through 1 Samuel 8 quietly by themselves (or they can listen to it with headphones, if they prefer). Give people a few moments to mention anything that stood out to them. Then listen to it again, either asking a young person or another leader to read.

Split into two groups as your video conferencing allows, one group discussing why the Israelites would want a king, the other talking about why having a king might be a bad idea. Get the groups to feed back to each other. Do they think that Samuel made the right decision?

Explain that Samuel was dealing with a difficult situation and was doing his best to follow God's will and get the Israelites in tune with that. He made the best decision he could; his final choice of judges, his sons, had been a massive failure.

So he took the cry of the people to God and handed it over to him.

CHATTING TOGETHER 5 MINS

Continue your discussion about the Bible passage using these questions:

- If you were Samuel, how would you feel about the people's demands and response?
- What would you have done in Samuel's position?
- How might God have felt about the people's attitude?
- What does this story tell you about leadership?

CREATIVE RESPONSE 10 MINS

Get all the young people to find some space on their own and to make themselves comfortable – lying down with their eyes closed. Say you are going to tell them a story and they have to imagine themselves in that story, focusing only on your voice and the story you are telling.

Start by telling them to breathe in and out slowly, to feel the floor beneath them. Tell them to answer the following ques-

tions in their heads. Read the following slowly, giving the young people time to think and reflect. Ask them to imagine themselves in the desert, sand everywhere; can they feel it between their toes? Can they feel the hot sun on their neck? They are in the Israelite camp – what can they smell? Tell them to imagine they are now in a city. How did they get there? Who led them there? What does the city look like?

They have a home and a family; what is their job? What does the front of their house look like? They hear rumours that they are going to be attacked; how do they feel? What are the other people in their street doing? What can they see from their window? What can they hear? Who is going to save them? They pray to God; what is their prayer? God has sent them judges in the past but now they want a king. What do they want their king to look like? When he speaks, what does he say? How does his voice sound? How does he lead the people? What are his values? What does he stand for? How does he treat his people? How does he worship and honour God?

He saves them from the invading force. How does he do that? Does he lead his men into battle? Does he negotiate? Does the mere thought of him scare off the enemies? Is he the answer to their prayers? How do their neighbours respond to him? What do they think? Do they celebrate with them? Do they remember that he is a gift from God? Do they remember that he is an answer to prayers? Or has he replaced God as their saviour?

Bring the activity to a close by asking the young people to share their thoughts and reflections on that. How do they feel about the Israelites' demand for a king?

PRAYER 5 MINS

You will need: pens and paper

Encourage the group to write a prayer to God. They should talk to him about what they discovered and learned today about themselves, God and their relationship with him.

If anyone would like to, get them to read out their prayer to the rest of the group.

This session was inspired by ideas from the *Premier Youth and Children's Work* archive, adapted by **ALEX TAYLOR**.



Saul

MEETING AIM

To discover that God uses everyone, even those who feel the most unprepared.

BIBLE PASSAGE

1 Samuel 9-10

BACKGROUND

This session is designed for you to do online in a group video call (on something like FaceTime or Zoom). Make sure you have parental permission to do this, as well as following your church's safeguarding procedure.

This is a fairly long story, and you'll need to practise reading out the long passage of 1 Samuel 9-10 before the session. However, in this long story, young people may well discover something of themselves in Saul – a man who saw himself as the least important person in the least important family. For the first part of his reign, God uses this reluctant king greatly.

JOINING THE SESSION 5 MINS

As people join you online, ask them to share what they have been doing during the past seven days. Chat together about any big surprises they have had, or the biggest surprise they can remember from the past few years.

INTRO ACTIVITY 10 MINS

Challenge the group to come up with some examples of unsung heroes. These are people who do a lot of work but might not necessarily get the recognition they deserve. Examples might include members of music groups who aren't the lead singer, the workhorse defender in a football team or an actor that takes on supporting roles, rather than being the star.

Gather a few suggestions and say that you're going to choose a leader from this group of people. Who would they choose and why?

BIBLE EXPLORATION 10 MINS

You will need: pens and paper; retelling of 1 Samuel 10 (visit: <https://bit.ly/3dPZguA>)

If you did Session 1, ask the group to review what happened in 1 Samuel 8, where the people demand a king. Explain that the next part of the story is quite long, so you're going to halve it and explore the two parts in different ways. Read out 1 Samuel 9:1-17 and ask half the young people to note down what they discover about Saul and the other half to write down what God does in this story.

Go through what the young people have discovered. Wonder together why God chose Saul, and how elaborate the events are that lead up to Samuel meeting Saul.

Read 1 Samuel 10:1 and then share your screen to show the retelling of 1 Samuel 10. Decide together what this next chapter tells you about Saul and about God's actions.

CHATTING TOGETHER 5 MINS

Continue your discussion about the Bible passage using these questions:

- How might Saul have felt when he discovered he'd been chosen by God to be king?
- In 1 Samuel 9:21, Saul says: "But am I not a Benjamite, from the smallest tribe of Israel, and is not my clan the least of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why do you say such a thing to me?" He even hides when the time comes for him to be crowned (10:20-22). Have you ever felt like that? That you're not good enough to do what you've been asked?
- What do you think might happen when Saul becomes king?

CREATIVE RESPONSE 10 MINS

You will need: art materials; paper

Make sure everyone has access to some art materials – whatever they have in their home. Ask the group to think about times in their lives when they have felt too unimportant to succeed or take on a role or project. Or they can think of a situation where they have felt unprepared or that they didn't have all the right resources, tools or support. Encourage them to create a piece of artwork that reflects both the answer to that question and what they feel God is saying to them. It can be abstract or realistic, however they would like to work.

If you have any reluctant artists, then they can write or film their response instead.

At the end of the activity, if anyone would like to share what they have done, encourage them to hold up their artwork to their camera and tell the rest of the group what they were thinking about.

PRAYER 5 MINS

You will need: artwork from 'Creative response'

Ask everyone to look at their artwork (or writing or video) from 'Creative response' and chat with God about what he has been saying to them. Encourage them to stick their creation up in their house and to come back to it every day this week to continue their conversation with God.

Finish by praying for the group, that God would give them confidence and all the tools they need to be or do what he has in store for them.

ALEX TAYLOR

is resources editor for *Premier Youth and Children's Work*.



Jonathan

MEETING AIM

To highlight instances of injustice and the importance of speaking out against them.

BIBLE PASSAGE

1 Samuel 20:1-7,27-42

BACKGROUND

This session is designed for you to do online in a group video call (on something like FaceTime or Zoom). Make sure you have parental permission to do this, as well as following your church's safeguarding procedure.

You can't help feeling sorry for David. He's been anointed as king but still seems a long way from the throne, acting as a servant to the current king, who God has already rejected. If that wasn't bad enough, Saul is becoming increasingly paranoid and is lashing out at the people around him. David, in particular, has become a target for Saul's rage. Fortunately for David, he has a friend with enough courage to speak up for him. This session will prompt your young people to think about other tyrants, and how ready they are to confront them.

JOINING THE SESSION 5 MINS

As people join you online, ask them to share what they have been doing during the past seven days. Ask if they have seen anything particularly unjust over the past week. What did they do about it (if anything)?

INTRO ACTIVITY 10 MINS

Ask for a volunteer and put them in a breakout room. In the volunteer's absence, choose someone in the room to be the 'leader'. Everyone else must copy the leader's movements, but quickly, so that it's difficult to tell who the leader is.

Bring the volunteer back in. Challenge them to identify the leader, based on how the rest of the group are behaving. Allow three guesses. The leader should become the volunteer for the next round. Play as many rounds as time allows.

You could explain that some leaders influence people well and look after them. Other leaders give people a really hard time. Standing up to leaders like that can be hard.

BIBLE EXPLORATION 10 MINS

You will need: Bibles; large sheets of paper and marker pens, or whiteboard feature

Prepare three large sheets of chart paper. Label one of them 'Jonathan', another 'David' and the third 'Saul'. You could draw a simple picture of each of them in the middle of the paper (just a stick drawing is fine). Alternatively, create three columns on your whiteboard feature, with the three headings at the top.

Read 1 Samuel 20:1-7,27-42 as a group. It's quite a long passage, so perhaps have two or three people take it in turns to read.

Ask the young people what they find out about David, Saul and Jonathan from this passage. Invite them to suggest their thoughts while you write them on the sheets of paper. Or they could add their suggestions themselves on the whiteboard. After a few minutes, look at each of the papers and read out some of the most interesting comments.

Next, ask the young people who they think is the hero of this story, and why. Also, point out that God is never mentioned in this passage. Why is that? What do they think God would have thought of this whole episode?)

CHATTING TOGETHER 5 MINS

Use the following questions as a starting point for discussion, following on from the reading from 1 Samuel:

- Is it fair to say that Jonathan is the hero of this story? What does he do that is heroic?
- What can we learn from this?
- Why doesn't God intervene to stop Saul treating David so badly? (After all, God has chosen David as king, so why isn't he protecting him?)
- There are plenty of other tyrants and bullies in the world now. Why doesn't God stop them?
- What can we do to stand up to bad leaders and stop them treating people unfairly?

CREATIVE RESPONSE 10 MINS

You will need: large sheets of paper and black and red marker pens, or whiteboard feature; examples of injustices

Label three sheets of paper with 'World', 'Britain' and the name of your town. Arrange these behind you so that the young people can see. It might also help if you provide the group with some examples of injustices. You could try CSW, Open Doors or Amnesty International for some useful material.

Encourage the young people to think about where they see injustice in the world, their country and their local community. Write their suggestions in black pen on the three sheets of paper. Next, ask the young people to reread the problems they've identified and to suggest some ideas of how these situations could be changed. Write these in red pen.

Finish by discussing which of these ideas the group could actually put into practice. Encourage them to do those things.

PRAYER 5 MINS

You will need: tea lights; matches; heatproof surface

Ask the young people to each think of a person or a group of people who are suffering as a result of injustice. (They may already have someone in mind, following 'Creative response'.) Invite everyone to light a tea light as a sign that they are praying for God to bring justice to this situation.

Next, invite everyone to light a second tea light, this time for themselves: encourage them to pray quietly that God will give them courage to confront injustice in his name.

Perhaps finish with a spoken prayer of your own, asking God to help you all to bring his justice in an unfair world.

SIMEON WHITING

is an experienced youth worker, a writer and a PhD researcher.



David

MEETING AIM

To explore God's help in overcoming challenges.

BIBLE PASSAGE

1 Samuel 17

BACKGROUND

This session is designed for you to do online in a group video call (on something like FaceTime or Zoom). Make sure you have parental permission to do this, as well as following your church's safeguarding procedure.

It's *always* a challenge to find fresh approaches to very familiar passages, but God's word is so deep and living that there is always something new he can say to us through it. This passage has some great principles for young people to cling on to, bearing in mind what David knew about his future at this point – and of course that he didn't know he would become arguably the most famous king of all time and a major player in God's story throughout the world. As with many of the stories of God's plans being worked out, they take time and patience.

JOINING THE SESSION

5 MINS

As people join you online, ask them to share what they have been doing during the past seven days.

INTRO ACTIVITY

10 MINS

You will need: pens and paper

Challenge the group to send create Bible stories out of emojis and post them into the chat function of your video-conferencing app. If the group can't do this for any reason, then ask them to draw the emojis they want to use.

Once someone has posted or shown their emoji story, everyone else should guess what it is. If you're working with a group with little or no Bible knowledge, then ask them to create the storylines of recent films or TV programmes.

BIBLE EXPLORATION

10 MINS

You will need: Bibles; pens and paper

Help the young people to find 1 Samuel 17 and explain some of the backstory:

Samuel has grown up into a wise and revered prophet. He led Israel under God for a time, but then the people declared that they wanted a king, like all the other countries around them had. God was unhappy, because this meant that they were rejecting him. But in the end, he sent Samuel to announce Saul as the new king. Saul started well, but he started to go his own way, rather than God's, and so God chose David to replace him. At this point, David has been anointed the new king, but Saul is still on the throne.

Read 1 Samuel 17:1-3 and ask the group to think about how the Israelites and the Philistines would have felt at this point. Invite them to draw an emoji that represents their answer. Encourage anyone to share the reason why they chose that particular emoji. Discuss any differences there are.

Do the same with the rest of the passage:

- After verse 11: the best emoji for Saul and the Israelites
- After verse 30: David and David's brothers
- After verse 40: David and Saul
- After verse 44: Goliath
- After verse 54: David, Saul and the Israelites

Once you have finished, create a WhatsApp group chat for the characters in the story. Using the emojis that you chose, think about what Saul, the Israelites, David and David's brothers might say in a WhatsApp conversation.

CHATTING TOGETHER

5 MINS

Use these questions as a guide to discussion, though try to be attentive to the questions the group may have, or significant points that the conversation takes.

- What do you think David learned from all this?
- What have you discovered about God through this story?
- Where are you in this story?
- In what ways might you be more like David?

CREATIVE RESPONSE

10 MINS

You will need: art materials

Encourage the young people to create a picture of what they have discovered about God and themselves today. This could be something about their relationship with him, about how God looks after them in all situations, and can be relied upon. Give the young people free rein to do what they like. As you work together, continue your conversations from 'Chatting together'.

Once everyone has finished, if anyone would like to share, give them space to do so. However, be aware that the end product here isn't the most important thing in this activity. Creating something with their hands will help the young people process what they have been exploring.

PRAYER

5 MINS

You will need: any emojis drawn during the session; pens and paper

Explain that you're going to pray using the emojis that you have drawn, and any others that the group might want to draw now. Have a time of quiet where people can show the emojis they want to use to pray to their camera (if they don't want to do this, if this seems too personal, that's OK).

Finish your prayer time by asking what emojis you might use to praise God and think him for always being with you. Encourage everyone to draw those and show them to their cameras.

JOEL TOOMBS

is an experienced mentor, writer and volunteer youth worker.

Together 2020/2021

MONTH	SERIES TITLE	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	ALL-AGE SERVICE
SEPTEMBER	Jesus meets...	Mary and Martha	The Canaanite woman	Zacchaeus	Mary Magdalene	Zacchaeus
		Luke 10:38-42	Matthew 15:21-28	Luke 19:1-10	Matthew 28:1-10	Luke 19:1-10
OCTOBER	Abraham	God chooses Abram	God's promise	A son for Abraham	A wife for Isaac	God chooses Abraham
		Genesis 11:26 - 12:9; 13:14-18	Genesis 15:1-6	Genesis 18:1-15	Genesis 24	Genesis 11:26 - 12:9; 13:14-18
NOVEMBER	Reimagining church	What is church?	Living stones	Passing it on	Community	What is church
		Mark 3:13-19	1 Peter 2:1-10	John 1:29-42; Matthew 28:19-20	Acts 2:42-47	Mark 3:13-19
DECEMBER	Unwrapping Christmas	Mary and Joseph	Shepherds	Wise men	Herod	Christmas
		Matthew 1-2; Luke 1-2	Luke 2:8-20	Matthew 2:1-12	Matthew 2:1-8,16-18	Matthew 1-2; Luke 1-2
JANUARY	Jesus' miracles	The man through the roof	The centurion's servant	The storm	The large crowd	The man through the roof
		Luke 5:17-26	Luke 7:1-10	Luke 8:22-25	Luke 9:10-17	Luke 5:17-26
FEBRUARY	Exodus	Moses	Passover	Ten Commandments	Promised land	Moses
		Exodus 3:1 - 4:23	Exodus 11,12 (Exodus 5-10)	Exodus 19,20 (Exodus 14)	Numbers 13, Joshua 3	Exodus 3:1 - 4:23
MARCH	Easter 1	Palm Sunday	The servant king	Last Supper	Good Friday	The servant king
		John 12:12-19	John 13:1-20	Mark 14:12-26	John 18,19	John 13:1-20
APRIL	Easter 2	Easter Sunday	Jesus and Thomas	On the beach	Ascension	Easter
		John 20:1-18	John 20:19-31	John 21:1-19	Acts 1:1-11	John 18-20
MAY	First kings	Samuel	Saul	Jonathan	David	
		1 Samuel 8	1 Samuel 18:6-16	1 Samuel 19:1-7	1 Samuel 17:20-51	
JUNE	The Holy Spirit	God, person and gift	Encounter	Spirit, Father, Son	Breath of life	
		Various verses	Acts 2; Ephesians 1:13-14	Romans 8:1-16	John 20:19-23 (and others)	
JULY	Jesus' teaching	Beatitudes	Prayer	Worry	Ask, seek, knock	Prayer
		Matthew 5:1-12	Matthew 6:5-15	Matthew 6:25-34	Matthew 7:7-12	Matthew 6:5-15