

AN INTRODUCTION TO

**JESUS' LIFE AND MINISTRY**



THE  
**JESUS**  
**SESSIONS**

JESUS  
SESSIONS



**So the Word became human  
and made his home among us.  
He was full of unfailing love  
and faithfulness. And we have  
seen his glory, the glory of the  
Father's one and only Son.**

**JOHN 1: 14**



# INTRODUCTION TO THE JESUS SESSIONS

*The Jesus Sessions have been developed by Ava Jordan-Curasi (Youth and Children's Ministry Co-ordinator, Seapatricks/Banbridge Parish), Tim Burns (Diocesan Youth Officer in Down and Dromore) and Christina Baillie (Diocesan Youth Officer in Connor).*

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**The Jesus Sessions have been created to give an introduction to Jesus' life and ministry. It supports young people to consider who Jesus is to them and how this could impact their life.**

The resource is designed for a group setting, with sessions expected to take around 90 minutes. The content in each session can be adapted for your group and in respect of any Covid-19 guidance in place.

Each session has the following elements:

## BIG IDEA

The Big Idea summarises the key theme of the session and what we hope young people will learn.

## CORE BIBLE PASSAGE

This is the main Bible passage that will be used through the session.

## GAMES

Here are a few games which can be played that relate to the theme of the session. Depending on Covid-19 restrictions, you may need to adapt some of these to suit the current guidance.

## ACTIVITY

There are a variety of activities included to get young people talking and exploring the themes together.

## TALK

We have included the key points of the talk so you can write your own talk for your group if you would like. Alternatively there is a full script which you can use. Often we have integrated opportunities for discussion and activities through the talks. This has been done to keep young people active participants in the session and help them remember what we have learnt.

## DISCUSSION GROUPS

We have included questions which would work best with small group discussion.

## WORSHIP

There are several worship songs which tie into the theme of this session. You could plan a section to sing together or use these songs in the background during discussion.

## REFLECTION / RESPONSE

For several sessions we have included a reflection or response. This can allow young people to engage and share how the session has connected with them.

## PRAYER

We have included a suggested prayer to be read by a leader or young person.

# THE SESSIONS

Each session follows a similar pattern with each element leading to the next and being connected to the theme for that session. The session will start with Games and Activities followed by a Talk and then an opportunity to respond through Discussion Groups, Worship, Reflection and Prayer.

The Big Idea and Core Bible Passage are to help in your preparation of the session.



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# 1. INTRODUCTION: WHO IS JESUS?

JESUS



THE  
**JESUS**  
**SESSIONS**

# 1. INTRODUCTION: WHO IS JESUS?



## BIG IDEA

**Introducing Jesus as  
someone worth following**



## CORE BIBLE PASSAGE

**John 1:1-18  
specifically verse 14**



## GAMES

### 1. WHO AM I?

Write the name of a famous person on an individual post-it note. Each player gets a post-it note and must attach it to their forehead without seeing the name. The participants must then ask questions to the group to help them identify who they are.

*With social distancing in place, leaders could prepare the post it's in advance placing them at seats young people will sit at. The names could be shorter to make them easier to be seen from a greater distance. For example: Cher, The Queen, Adele, Bono, Drake, Jay-Z, Zendaya, Santa, Messi.*

### 2. CHARADES

Using a list of famous people, get young people to play Charades in two teams. The teams get a turn to guess as many names as possible from one person acting it out. Each turn is 1 minute long.

### 3. FISHBOWL GAME

This is a great game to play online and in person. Get every participant to write the names of three famous people. Collate them in the chat. The leader reads through all the names once at the beginning of the game.

Divide participants into two teams. There are three rounds. For each round the teams take it in turns to see how many names their team can guess correctly. Each turn is 1 minute long. The round is finished when all the names are

guessed. The first round involves the participant speaking to explain who the person is. They can speak as much as they want without saying the person's name. The second round involves participants only using one word to describe the person. The third round involves acting out to describe the person, no words!

To share the names with those describing or acting, the main leader can use the chat function to share one name at a time with the participant. It could be helpful to have a second leader marking off the guessed names so you get through them all.

### 4. GUESS WHO - OVERSIZED VERSION

Why not play an oversized version of Guess Who? For this you can use our resource to print off faces which you can use for the game. Or you can make your own!

**THE WORD  
BECAME FLESH  
AND MADE HIS  
DWELLING AMONG  
US. WE HAVE SEEN  
HIS GLORY, THE  
GLORY OF THE ONE  
AND ONLY SON,  
WHO CAME FROM  
THE FATHER, FULL OF  
GRACE AND TRUTH.**

JOHN 1:14



## ACTIVITY

Get the young people in pairs or threes. Give them 5 minutes to write down everything they know about Jesus. Ask for some feedback to the full group. As you are gathering feedback, get a leader to note down everything on a flip chart. Having everything available to the group will help with a later discussion.

### CORE POINTS OF TALK:

- Explore who is Jesus and why is he important?
- Consider who is Jesus to you?
- Jesus is God.
- Jesus was Creator.
- Jesus is God on earth.
- Through Jesus, we see what God is like and so it is worth exploring his life - Jesus is God - verses 14 and 18.



## FULL SCRIPT OF TALK

Have you seen any of the Auto Complete Interviews online? This involves a celebrity responding to the most Googled questions about themselves. The company could type in, "Is Jennifer Lawrence..." and see what are the most popular questions that start like that. It might be something simple like, "Is Jennifer Lawrence in the Hunger Games" or something more interesting like "Is Jennifer Lawrence an expert in zoology". It's an interesting way to do an interview and to find out what kind of questions people type into Google!

I wonder what you think comes up if we Google - who is Jesus? What type of auto complete questions could we find. When I did it, the auto complete suggestions included; Who is Jesus' Father? Where was Jesus born? How did Jesus die?

But there were two really interesting questions: Who is Jesus and why is he important? And who is Jesus to you?

These two questions are going to be the focus of our next 6 sessions. We want to explore who Jesus is and why he is important, but perhaps the most vital question is - **who is Jesus to you?** We want to explore together whether Jesus is someone worth following. As we build a picture of God, come in human flesh living on earth, we will give you space to think about this and ask you to respond. There is lots to explore and learn as you find out about Jesus. It is a great opportunity to ask us leaders questions about what it means to follow Jesus in our lives as you learn more about him.

But first here are a few key elements about who Jesus is and why he is important. We want to explore John 1 to see what we can learn about who Jesus is and what that might mean for us.



### READ BIBLE PASSAGE:

**Read John 1:1-18 in their small groups from the activity. If you have time, read it in 2 different translations. You could provide printed copies of the Bible passage to encourage young people to make notes as they consider what is shared.**

Firstly, it's helpful to realise that Jesus isn't mentioned in this passage at first glance. But this reference to the Word connects to what we know of Jesus. The Word, the original language uses the word Logos, and it describes structure or order to the universe, this logic is actually centred in a person, God becoming flesh with us. It has been said that these verses and describing Jesus in this way shows the lived out reality of God, the whole character of God in practice, living like us. This means the part of God known as the Word, became flesh, became human to show everyone what God is like. Jesus is fully God and he is important because he shows us the character of God.

You can see this really clearly when we read *John 1:14 and 18*:

Verse 14 says: *"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."* (NIV)

Verse 18 says: *"No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known."* (NIV)

Through Jesus, we see what God is like and so it is worth exploring his life.

## DISCUSSION:

*In the same small groups, highlight the parts of the Bible passage which talk about Jesus. What do you think John 1 says about who Jesus is? How does it compare to what you wrote down together earlier? Is there anything you can add to your list?*

Jesus was part of creating the world. Verse 3 shows how Jesus was involved in creating everything we get to enjoy. He was part of the creative team and you can examine his life to see other examples of his creative power. When Jesus heals, you can often see him create something from nothing, or even creating eyesight from mud! Jesus is creator and he is important as he is the source of our creativity and cared for us in his creation.

Jesus sets an example for us all to live by. *Romans 8:29 (MSG)* says: *"God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him."* As you read and hear more about Jesus and how he lived, you could consider whether his life is the example you would like to follow. Jesus gives us

an example in how he loved others, sacrificed himself and brought hope. This idea of bringing hope is shown by this idea of light into darkness. Jesus is our example and He is important as he shows us a great way to live.

You might want to think about a time where you've woken up and it's pitch black. You reach around for your phone and once you manage to hit the home button, the light is blinding! It's not even that powerful of a light but in comparison to the darkness, it can take your eyes a moment to focus. Light is powerful in the midst of the darkness. It's interesting to think about Jesus being described as the light in the darkness. We can think about the hope that Jesus brings in the midst of difficulty, hopelessness and loss. Jesus is our light, and He is important as he breaks in and overcomes darkness.

One of the most important parts of the Christian faith is that God, in Jesus, came close. This is different to other religions or faiths. But we know our God draws near to us and came alongside us because of Jesus. He did not oppose becoming a human like us and living alongside us to show us what God is like. He didn't demand to be separate. God is with you today. Jesus is a God who came close, and He is important as he wants to be with us.

So we have begun to see who Jesus is, and how he is important. So you might begin to think about who is Jesus to me? You might consider what difference this makes to my life. Is Jesus someone you want to follow into an adventurous, full life? Is Jesus someone who could bring hope and purpose to your life? We hope you can continue to explore these ideas together and you can be open to what God might speak to you.



## DISCUSSION GROUPS

What have you learnt about who Jesus is?  
Why do you think Jesus is important?

Take a moment to think about who Jesus is to you - you might want to share this with your group or allow a moment individually.



## WORSHIP

*The Creed* - Hillsong  
*The Name of Jesus* - Chris Tomlin  
*All Hail King Jesus* - Bethel  
*Revelation Song* - Kari Jobe



## PRAYER

Let us turn our eyes to the Lord of glory, come, Lord Jesus. Jesus, servant of God, you bring justice to the nations: come, Lord Jesus. You love your people with a faithful love: come, Lord Jesus. You were lifted up on the cross that you might draw all people to yourself: come, Lord Jesus. You bring hope and joy to those who walk in the valley and shadow of death: come, Lord Jesus. You have freed us so that we might be free forever: come, Lord Jesus. You, O Christ, are our justice, our peace and our redemption: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.



## RESPONSE

Why not use this call and response to allow young people to respond and share that they are open to exploring following Jesus.

**LEADER:** As we share together, we seek to learn more about Jesus and will offer opportunities to respond.

**RESPONSE:** We are open to explore who Jesus is and what this means for us today.

**LEADER:** God loves each one of us and we are excited to discover how this affects our identity.

**RESPONSE:** God loves us for exactly who we are. Give our heart courage to be open to loving you.

**LEADER:** God you want your people to ask you for help, we know you are always there.

**RESPONSE:** Help us to try speaking to you God, willing to bring our worries to you.

**LEADER:** God you are here with us yet you have always existed and created our world.

**RESPONSE:** We are glad that you do not change and create good things.



**LEADER:** You work through your Holy Spirit, here, today, among us.

**RESPONSE:** Give us wisdom to notice you God. We are open to notice you present here.

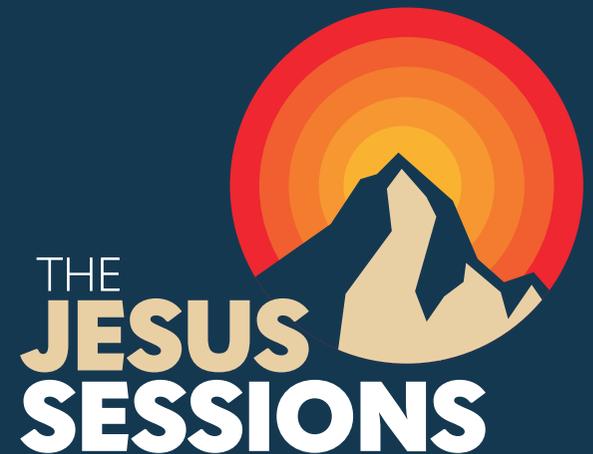
**LEADER:** God wants us to be in community to love one another and grow faithfully.

**RESPONSE:** Let us explore faith together and encourage one another.

### FOLLOW UP:

*Why not share the Fuel resource or Uncover resource and encourage young people to work through John's gospel in their own time.*

# 2. FULLNESS OF LIFE *PART 1*



## 2. FULLNESS OF LIFE PART 1



### BIG IDEA

**Following Jesus is more than a good life, it is a life lived to the full**



### CORE BIBLE PASSAGE

**John 10:7-11**



## GAMES

### 1. TREASURE HUNT

There are many versions of treasure/scavenger hunts! A few favourites would include; photo or video scavenger hunts, virtual hunts, or hiding sweets, because who doesn't love finding hidden sweets!

### 2. ONLINE SCAVENGER HUNT

GeoGuessr is a scavenger hunt that can be played online - if needing a scavenger hunt to play while on a video call.

### 3. SIGNS

Signs is a version of a scavenger hunt that works great in large spaces with many rooms. The leader will want to hide blank pages (white printer paper works great). These hiding spots should include a variety of difficulty making some extremely easy and some very difficult to find. Before the young people are released to find pages each participant (or small team of 2 or 3) creates an easy to write sign for example; a star or a checkmark. The teams will then be released and upon finding a sheet of paper they will put their mark on the paper. After the allotted time the leader will then collect all of the pages (always fun to have the group join you as you reveal the hard to find sheets). The winners are revealed after counting which person or team has signed the most pages. (If playing with teams, only give the team one pen as they need to stay together.)



## ACTIVITY

Providing paper and pens, divide your young people into groups and let them pull out portions of the passage, *John 10:7-11*, that stands out to them. Allow each group to communicate what they found interesting. A few example discussion questions include; What is happening? What does this mean? Is there a contrast? Is there a comparison? What do you learn about God? How can you apply this to your life? What questions does this passage bring up? Anything you do not understand?

### CORE POINTS OF TALK:

- *God wants you to Know a full life.*
- *Good life vs. Full life.*
- *Not being limited by society's good life, rather engaging with God's full life.*
- *This is an invitation to actively participate in your own spiritual success story.*
- *You never know where a "Yes" to God will take you!*
- *God knows us and has a plan for us!*

**GOD  
WANTS  
YOU TO  
KNOW A  
FULL LIFE.**



## FULL SCRIPT OF TALK

*John 10:7-11* highlights many different aspects of the character of God, about the sacrifice that Jesus made by dying on the cross, and how the devil is a thief! Today we will be focusing on verse 10. *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full". (NIV)*

How can we tell what is the good life vs. what is the full life? The motivation behind our actions can help us recognise if we are striving for a good life or a full life. A good life is self-centred, materialistic, and pursuing what we feel will satisfy. A full life recognises that what is achieved is not what gives value, rather it is Christ that gives value. Christian salvation is not dependent on our good works rather it is on being dependent on Christ. The abundant life is modelled after Jesus, the things he taught, and the way he lived. Jesus modelled humility, kindness, and service. As we dedicate our lives to the Lord we focus on serving the Kingdom of God rather than the kingdom of ourselves.

This is pretty contrary to what society tells us. A few minutes on social media points to the good life being about what kind of car you have, an expensive house, being popular, the latest clothes and makeup, and don't forget the sunny holidays! Society tells us that we have earned these things! Treat Yourself, they say. After all.... *"You have to take care of yourself..."* While having these things are not bad (I love a sunny holiday) we can not be fooled into thinking that as believers this is what we should strive for. Jesus came so that we may have life, but remember how the devil comes to steal, kill

and destroy? Our focus can not be limited to achieving these good things, but by allowing God to use us to do amazing things for the Kingdom of God.

*Hebrews 12:1-2* says *"To run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him, he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."* (NIV) Jesus did not find joy in being crucified, but His joy came in knowing that the price He was about to pay, for our sins, would allow us to spend eternity with Him in heaven. The Bible says in *Proverbs 21:21* *"Whoever pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honour."* (NIV) Both these passages remind us that following Christ is something we have the privilege to actively participate in. Following Jesus is an incredible adventure. You never know where your "Yes" to God will take you!

### SHOWCASING ADVENTURES/STORIES

This is a great opportunity to ask those within your church to share their story from when they had said Yes to following God & what came from it. Allowing this to have a real variety to reflect what is relatable. The believer that prayed in faith for something, a person that obeyed God even though they were unsure, someone that said yes to Jesus even when others around them did not understand. Although we think a local perspective would be more significant, below are a few examples that can be used.

**SERVING OTHERS** - *When churches were closed in England, due to the coronavirus, a minister used his time to deliver pizzas. He donated all of the money to the local food bank and*

*it provided him with an opportunity to see his parishioners. When ordering the pizza those from his church would request for him to deliver it. He was then able to chat for a few minutes to encourage and pray for them.*

**GIVING TO GOD** - R. G. LeTourneau, an American business man, gave 90% of his salary and company profits to God and lived on the other 10%. The Lord blessed R.G. abundantly both financially and with great success. He is known throughout the construction world as, *"The Dean of Earthmoving,"* and is still considered to have been the world's greatest inventor of earthmoving and materials handling equipment.

**TAKING A STAND** - Every year in America there is a day of prayer where students gather at their school's flagpole to pray. As Hayden arrived at his school's flagpole he thought he would pray until someone else joined him. Normally there is a large crowd and teachers often join in as well. Eventually, he realized no one else was coming. He was alone. He was also very visible to everyone at school and those driving by. He asked God to use him. *"God, as people drive by, let them wonder, let their hearts be pricked". Hayden had no idea that someone had taken a photo of him at the flagpole that day. By the time that he came home from school; hundreds of people were posting about prayer, God and the brave teenager at the flagpole.*

When we think about focusing on serving the Kingdom of God rather than our own wants it can be a natural reaction to worry about what we may lose out on! I want to challenge us to think about what we will miss out on by not following God's plan. Especially when we think about how He is the author of our faith! After all, the One who created us knows our needs,

our dreams, desires, and our giftings more than we do ourselves! "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (NIV)

In discussion groups look at the differences between a good life and a full life.



## DISCUSSION GROUPS

During this exercise, have your young people decide if each statement falls under the good life or the full life. Depending on the motivation some of these might fall under both. We hope this discussion time will be valuable as they engage with this topic.

1. Focused on accumulating wealth.
2. Being liked.
3. Focused on being successful.
4. Working hard.
5. Finding your purpose.
6. To have everything you want.
7. Vital to have the latest trends.
8. Focusing on being happy.
9. To be in control of my life.
10. Pursuing career.
11. Putting people down to gain acceptance for others.
12. Honouring the person that I have a relationship with.
13. Enjoying things that God has given us (sports, video games, friendships) but not finding one's identity in them.
14. Choosing to follow Jesus regardless of what others are doing.
15. Not ignoring those in need.

What did you connect with from the 'Full Life'?

Do you think living to the full matters?  
(Why or Why not)

How can a person be intentional to live a life to the full?



## WORSHIP

**Jesus** - Chris Tomlin

**What A Beautiful Name** - Hillsong Worship



## REFLECTION AND INVITATION

Adventure implies challenge and requires a 'yes, I'm in' response. Have you chosen? Do you think you are currently living a life to the full? Where are the areas that you are choosing Good life vs. full life?

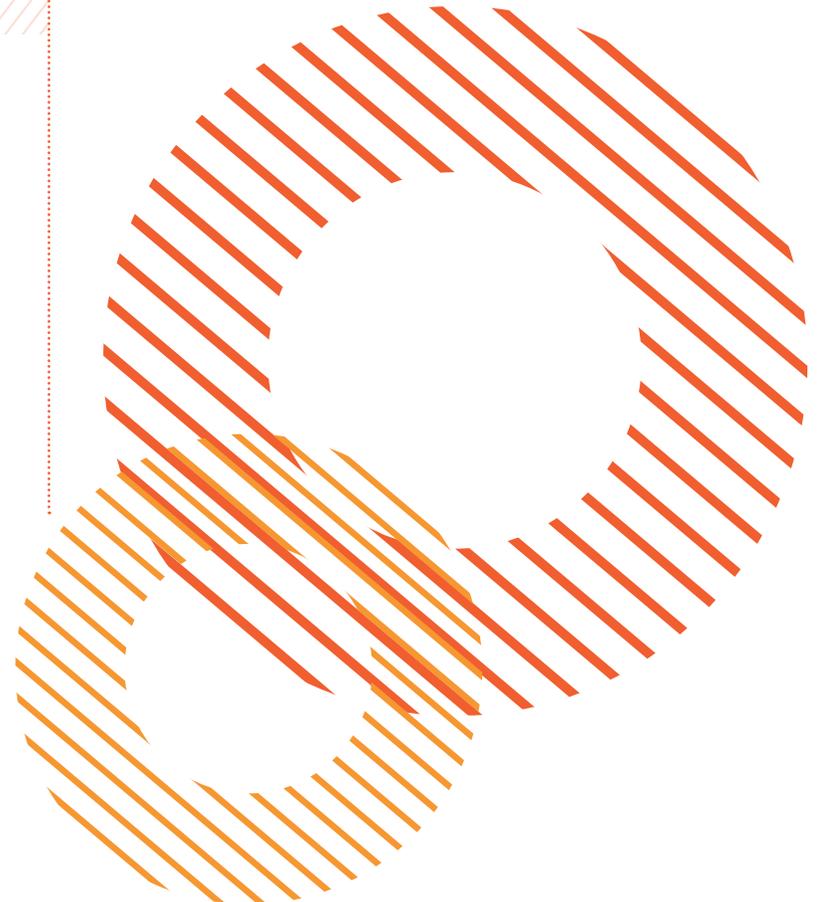
Provide a moment for reflection and invitation. Perhaps having notecards present so they can jot their thoughts down, and where they would like to focus on having a full life.

Song to softly playing during reflection  
**I have Decided - Elevation.**

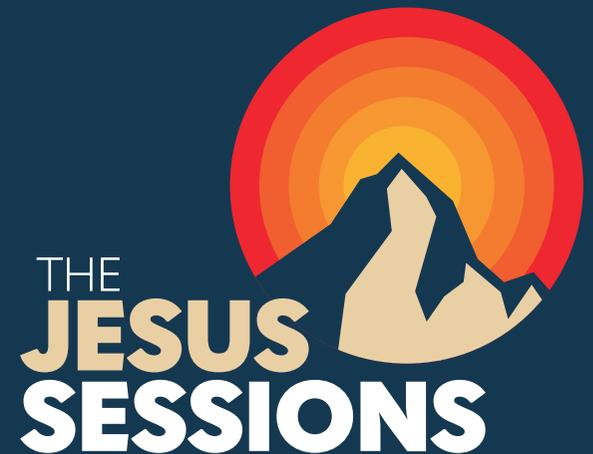


## PRAYER

Dear God, it is amazing to think that the creator of the universe desires for each one of us to not just have a good life, but a full life! Lord, please show us the areas in our lives where we have settled for a good life. We ask that throughout this next week that you help direct us in ways where we can say Yes to you, Yes to living a full life. God help us to pursue you to our fullest. Amen.



# 3. FULLNESS OF LIFE *PART 2*



## 3. FULLNESS OF LIFE PART 2



### BIG IDEA

**We are called to live a full life, this includes sacrifice**



### CORE BIBLE PASSAGES

**Matthew 7: 12-14**  
**Romans 5:3-5**



## GAMES

### 1. THE WIN WIN GAME

A game for two (preferably) or more teams, pairs or individuals. The aim is to win as much money as possible from the 'banker' (the facilitator). The banker and the teams keep a tally of debits and credits. Each team (or pair/individual) must select 'Co-operate' or 'Defect' in each round. Money is awarded or taken by the banker according to the scoring key below. Play as many rounds as it takes for people to reach a conclusive view about the advantages or disadvantages of co-operation. <https://www.businessballs.com/winwingame.pdf>

### 2. ZOMBIE DICE

In Zombie Dice, you are a zombie. You want brains and the 13 dice are your victims. Whoever collects 13 brains first wins. Each game takes 10 to 20 minutes and can be taught in a single round. Each turn, you take three dice from the box and roll them. A brain symbol is worth one point at the end of the round, while footsteps allow you to reroll this particular dice. Shotgun blasts on the other hand are rather bad, cause if you collect three shotgun blasts during your turn, it is over for you and you get no points. After rolling three dice, you may decide if you want to score your current brain collection or if you want to push your luck by grabbing new dice so you have three again and roll once more.

### 3. GIANT PASS THE PIGS

You have two large inflatable pigs. On your turn you throw the pigs simultaneously in the hope

they will land in scoring positions. You can then quit while you're ahead or push your luck and keep on rolling to try to gain more points, risking the chance or rolling a "pig out" (where the pigs land on opposite sides, resulting in the loss of all points for that turn) or "oinker" (where the two pigs land touching each other, where you will lose all points accrued in the game up until that point). If you throw a "piggyback" (one pig on top of the other), you will be eliminated from the game completely! Some of the many ways of scoring points include the "Trotter" (a pig lands on all four of its trotters in a standing position), "Leaning Jowler" (a pig lands jowl on the table supported by an ear and a front trotter), and "Snouter" (a pig lands on its snout and two front trotters). If both pigs end up in the same position you will quadruple the points earned. Once a player has finished their turn (one way or another) they pass the pigs to the next player to begin their turn. The first player to 100 points wins (although you could agree to play to a predetermined total score).

### DISCUSSION:

*Last session we looked at how following Jesus means experiencing life to the full. We compared this to what it looks like to live the good life. Ask the group to discuss the following in pairs: What is the difference between 'the Good Life' and a 'Full Life'?*



## ACTIVITY

Take feedback and note down answers from the discussion on a flipchart. Integrate answers into the introduction for the talk.

### CORE POINTS OF TALK:

- *Jesus invites us to the full life that puts him at its centre.*
- *Living the full life requires sacrifice so that you may know God more.*
- *Choosing to follow God means choosing to be part of his restoration plan for us and the world.*
- *Following Jesus introduces us to a life giving process of discovering wholeness in Christ.*

**JESUS INVITES  
US TO THE  
FULL LIFE  
THAT PUTS  
HIM  
AT ITS  
CENTRE.**



## FULL SCRIPT OF TALK

Choosing a full life sounds risky, uncomfortable and uncontrollable. The good life holds the 'promise' of life on my terms, lived in my way, of ease and control, something that makes sense in the world we live in. In the good life we look to ease discomfort, we look to fill our wants with stuff, with action, with people, the good life invites us to live in a disposable and selfish way.

The full life that Jesus invites us to offers none of those things, it invites us to live with our hurt, to embrace our brokenness and to look beyond immediate satisfaction towards something / someone much greater and much more satisfying. It invites us to a process of transformation, of discovery and fullness but it does not promise ease, wealth or comfort. Jesus calls the way to full life the narrow road, *Matthew 7: 12-14*. These verses are part of the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus introduces us to what it looks like to live a full life with God. Vs 12 is one of those over quoted and misused verses, (*do unto others...*) when Jesus says it, it isn't about being nice or sharing, which is the general use of the verse but it references everything that Jesus has just spoken about in the sermon on the mount. It is an invitation to a different way of life, it is an invitation to live as Jesus does, to live out the Kingdom of God here on earth. To share with the world around us the beauty, sacrifice, immediacy, comfort, peace and joy of life with God. And then Jesus says, but this is not easy, in fact, life like this takes us down the road less travelled, the narrow road.

## DISCUSSION:

*Why might this road be a difficult one to follow?*

*Visual: Counter cultural.*



## READ AND DISCUSS:

*Philippians 2:1-10*

*What stands out to you from the passage?*

*What does it tell you about Jesus?*

We walk this road because we know Jesus walked this way. When we look at Jesus' life, we see how He lived a full life.

Jesus invites us to this life and it is one of adventure, and because it is an adventure at times it is difficult. It requires us to sacrifice comfort so that we can experience life more deeply with God. It invites us to not give up even when we really want to, when we feel like God might not be there or when the narrow road feels too hard.

This life to the full means one full of joy but also full of sacrifice, disappointment and pain. It means one where we experience the fullness of all those things, but in the middle of it all we know we are not alone, God is with us, this is fullness of life. It invites us to use our fragile faith in moments when all we want to do is turn away and to trust and hope that God is with us.

Sacrifice is an active choice, it is counter cultural and counterintuitive - we choose the adventure of following Jesus when all around us and even that which is in us shouts 'choose yourself, choose comfort'. Sacrifice offers us an opportunity to pursue what is better. We sacrifice having our own needs met or making ourselves the centre of the world. Instead we choose being active participants in the restoration of all things to Jesus (*Philippians 2: 9-11*). In this we accept that our comfort comes second, because as we choose him His kingdom comes alive for us and for those around us.

Following God does not mean an absence of suffering *Philippians 2: 7-8*. But suffering is something which we experience which allows us to trust God, it can be an effect of our sacrifice. It isn't always. Suffering doesn't mean we have

made a mistake in the adventure or that we aren't living a full life. Suffering is part of the adventure - *Romans 5:3-5*.

We will make mistakes and our lives will not be perfect, all our issues will not be solved but as we continue on the adventure with God, we will encounter more and more the depth of God's love and mercy to us. We are people in process, we are not complete, but as we move through life with God choosing him, we encounter more of our restoration to life through God.

It is in these moments, those choices to keep going, to keep trusting even when life is difficult, that we discover God is not dead, we are not alone. It is here our lives begin to reflect the hope of God to the world around us so that others may know him and the joy and fullness of life in him. We are in process, we are not complete and that is where the adventure lies, finding wholeness in Christ.



## DISCUSSION GROUPS

*Why do you think Jesus invites us onto the narrow road?*

*Why is sacrifice such an important part of life with God? What does it lead to?*



## WORSHIP

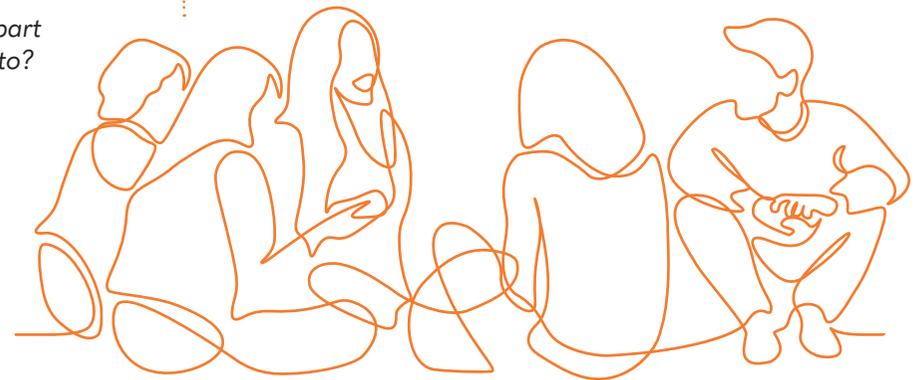
*Yet not I but through Christ in me* - CityAlight  
*Cornerstone* - Hillsong Worship



## PRAYER

*Lord Jesus, as I seek to live with you, may I know that when life is difficult you are with me, that I am not in the wrong place. But that as I choose to follow you in those moments I discover the beauty of your presence with me.*

*Lord, renew my heart, restore my hope, revitalise my spirit, let me see that life with you brings fullness. Lord, may I be willing to sacrifice my life to you so that I may know through the depth of your love for me true life, and that I may be part of your plan of salvation and restoration for the world to you. In your precious name, Amen.*





## RESPONSE

### **Lectio Divina - Philippians 2:1-10**

Lectio Divina is latin for 'Divine Reading' and is a tradition of reading and meditating on passages of scripture, intended to promote communion with God and to increase biblical knowledge. There are four stages in this process, however control to it is settling into God's presence in stillness and silence before you begin. This moves the process of the Lectio Divina from being about reading to listening to what God is saying to you through the bible.

The first stage is lectio (reading) where we read the Word of God, slowly and reflectively so that it sinks into us. Any passage of Scripture can be used for this way of prayer but the passage should not be too long.

The second stage is meditatio (reflection) where we think about the text we have chosen and ruminate upon it so that we take from it what God wants to give us.

The third stage is oratio (response) where we leave our thinking aside and simply let our hearts speak to God. This response is inspired by our reflection on the Word of God.

The final stage of Lectio Divina is contemplatio (rest) where we let go not only of our own ideas, plans and meditations but also of our holy words and thoughts. We simply rest in the Word of God. We listen at the deepest level of our being to God who speaks within us with a still small voice. As we listen, we are gradually transformed from within. This transformation will have a

profound effect on the way we actually live and the way we live is the test of the authenticity of our prayer. We must take what we read in the Word of God into our daily lives.

Take time to go through these four stages with the group. Choose a passage in the bible that you think is appropriate for the group and use it in this process. Read the scripture slowly through 3 separate times, allowing space after each reading for silence, also explain each stage as you come to it.

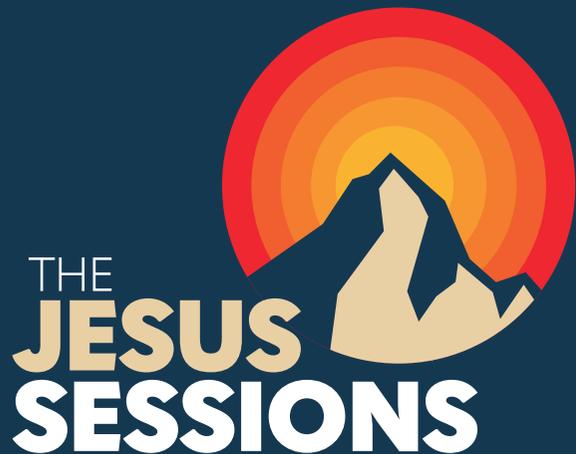
Allow space at the end to pray.



**THEREFORE IF YOU HAVE  
ANY ENCOURAGEMENT  
FROM BEING UNITED WITH  
CHRIST, IF ANY COMFORT  
FROM HIS LOVE, IF ANY  
COMMON SHARING IN THE  
SPIRIT, IF ANY TENDERNESS  
AND COMPASSION, THEN  
MAKE MY JOY COMPLETE  
BY BEING LIKE-MINDED,  
HAVING THE SAME LOVE,  
BEING ONE IN SPIRIT AND  
OF ONE MIND.**

**PHILIPPIANS 2:1-2**

# 4. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN: ABUNDANCE AND GENEROSITY



## 4. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN: ABUNDANCE AND GENEROSITY



### BIG IDEA

**Out of the overflow of experiencing the abundance of God, we are to live generously**



### CORE BIBLE PASSAGE

**Ephesians 3:14-21**



## GAMES

### 1. SWEET ABUNDANCE GAME

The aim of the game is to give away as many sweets as possible to the other team. The team with the least amount of sweets is the winner. Instructions can be found at the link below. <https://www.youthworker.com/articles/the-more-you-give-the-more-you-get-candy-race/>

### 2. EMPIRES

Each person is given a small piece of paper and pen. Everyone in the group writes down the name of a famous person. It can be someone real or made up, as long as everyone in the group knows who they are. The name each person writes down is 'who they are' for the rest of the game. The leader collects all the names and reads out every name. The leader will only read out the names once at the beginning of the game. All participants should try to remember all the names read out. Starting with any player, one person makes a guess at who someone is. For example; 'Sam, are you Elvis Presley?' If they guess wrong, it is that person's turn to guess someone else. If they guess correctly, the individual joins their Empire. The person who guessed correctly has another turn. Once another person joins an Empire, they can work together as a team. This process continues as Empires build up and people are guessed.

If someone has guessed several people, their Empire could grow to include many others. However if they are guessed, their whole

Empire is transferred to the person who guessed them. At the end, there will be two Empires left. The person to accumulate everyone into their Empire wins.

### 3. MR BEAST VIDEO

Why not share a video from Mr Beast - he is a YouTuber and philanthropist. He often does videos which involve huge amounts of money given away or extreme displays of generosity. For example inside a shop, anything you can fit in the circle you can keep.

**FOR THIS REASON I KNEEL  
BEFORE THE FATHER, FROM  
WHOM EVERY FAMILY IN  
HEAVEN AND ON EARTH  
DERIVES ITS NAME.  
EPHESIANS 3:14-15**



## ACTIVITY

Here are a variety of quotes about generosity. Ask young people to read them out.

- “God will not be outdone in generosity”  
Saint Ignatius of Loyola.
- “No-one has ever become poor by giving”  
Anne Frank.
- “The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away” Pablo Picasso.
- “Generosity is doing something for someone else expecting nothing in return” Simon Sinek.
- “For it is in giving that we receive.” Saint Francis of Assisi.
- “You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.” John Bunyan.

Which of these quotes connects most with you? What do you like/dislike from them?

### CORE POINTS OF TALK:

- God is Generous.
- We can experience God in his abundance now and in heaven.
- People who follow God are called to live generously and churches should be communities of abundance.



## FULL SCRIPT OF TALK

When we experience someone being generous towards us it can really make us take notice. Often people look out for themselves and are kind to those they like, willing to help out but rarely are generous. Generosity, or being generous is when someone gives or is willing to give more than is necessary or even expected. It means to go above and beyond.

I wonder if you can think of a time where you experienced generosity. Perhaps it was your Birthday or Christmas and someone bought you a gift which was incredibly generous, they'd gone beyond what you had expected. Perhaps it was generous in how thoughtful the gift was and how much it really was something you couldn't wait to use or play with. Perhaps you've experienced generosity through someone's kindness, perhaps a stranger holding the door open, someone buying your hot chocolate for you or a friend listening to something which feels heavy or difficult.

When we experience generosity, a few things happen. It tells us something about the other person. It changes us. We are grateful and sometimes surprised. It often makes us want to 'pass it on' and do something above and beyond for someone else. I wonder if these things can help us consider who God is and understand more about Jesus' life, death and resurrection. We will start to build a picture of the Kingdom of Heaven. This means how things will be when Jesus is King over all and his victory defines our whole world. Firstly, God is generous. This is a beautiful truth and we'd love you to think about this and reflect on what it tells us about God.

## READ BIBLE PASSAGE:

Read Ephesians  
3:14-21.

All good things that we experience are a gift from God. We can see his generosity in every part of our lives. Generosity being a part of God's character tells us who He is and helps us understand Him more. A clear way we can see God's generosity is through his role as Creator. God created this world for us, to live in and enjoy! God didn't just create something basic. He went above and beyond. There is beauty everywhere and there are resources to help us live well. God has generously provided for us in this world.

We see God's generosity clearly in his actions of sending Jesus, his only Son to us. *John 1:14 & 16 (NIV)* says, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth... Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given.” God could have allowed us to continue to try and live by the Law to deal with our sin. But instead He goes above and beyond by sending his Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life and take on what we were due.

Jesus mirrors the Father's generosity by how he lived. In so many encounters with others, we see Jesus act with generosity, in healing, in kindness,

in love. In *Ephesians 2*, it talks about how even before we sought to follow Jesus, God has been generous to us in sending Jesus. We have been saved by Jesus coming to die, taking on the punishment for our sins, going far above and beyond to give us freedom and a secure hope. God was going to do whatever it took to save us, and he did the most generous thing we can imagine.

So there is this big story and ark of God's generosity to us through Jesus. We are saved and given freedom, new life through this act of abundance. But sometimes life now can be hard. In *Romans 5* it highlights this, not denying that our lives can be difficult, even as those who follow Jesus, like we talked about in the last session. But amidst our pain, we can get glimpses at God's provision and abundance to us. *Romans 5:3-5 (NIV)* says, "Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." This shows that Christians aren't immune to difficulty but God is generous to us in the midst of pain. He pours out love and gives us hope.

One of the largest aspects of our hope as Christians is being confident in what is to come. We know that God has more of his generosity in what he has prepared for us. "Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven—and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when you'll have it all—life healed and whole" *1 Peter 1:4-5 (MSG)*. God's generosity will be apparent

in our experience after death. The hope of heaven captures a lot of our ideas about abundance in a beautiful way. It will be above and beyond anything we can possibly imagine. Abundance without restriction. Beauty without brokenness. Eternal life with God. Fullness of who we are and God continually demonstrating his generosity to us.

Therefore, followers of Jesus seek to live generously. As churches we hope that our communities would demonstrate abundance and generous living. This comes from seeing God's example and wanting to follow Him. It comes from an overflow of what we have received from God. We are called to respond to what God has done for us and let that affect how we live. In *Matthew 5:48 (MSG)* it says, "Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you." This can make such a difference to others and our communities.

If we all decided right now, to respond to God and live generously, just imagine the impact we could have together! Part of this generosity means how the church should act towards others. God longs for all people to follow Him. Therefore the church should have this same aim as it's vision. The church should long to share God's generous hope with all people.

Yes, this call from God isn't just to be generous when things are easy or with the people we

## DISCUSSION:

*Sometimes we can get stuck in thinking about what we don't have. We might be jealous of what others have and even want to hold tightly to anything extra we have. A different way to live allows us to consider how we can be generous with what we have, even if it doesn't feel like a lot or other people have more. Read Mark 12:41-44 to the group and then ask the young people to work in pairs to think about the story and answer the question, what do we have extra that we could share? They can give examples of how they and their family already share the extra they have.*

like but even with those who we find difficult or don't really like that much. *Romans 12:20-21 (MSG)* says, "Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness. Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good." Our challenge might feel big, but we are reminded about the generosity of God, his abundance to us and it spurs us on. God has gone above and beyond for us, so let us do the same.



## DISCUSSION GROUPS

Has someone ever been generous to you?

What happened? How did you feel?

What ways can you be generous to those around you?

How have you experienced God's generosity?



## WORSHIP

**Build your Kingdom Here** - Rend Collective

**Generous Giver** - Vintage Worship

**Yours is the Kingdom** - Hillsong

**Hear the call of the Kingdom** - Keith Getty



## PRAYER

How can we respond? How can we demonstrate abundance in our lives? One way we can care for others and follow God is through an abundance of prayer! Prayer is one of the key ways of following God, learning more about Him and becoming like Him. It also helps us love our friends, families and communities as we bring them and their concerns to God in prayer. This needs to include prayer for enemies and those we find difficult (*Matthew 5:43-48*).

We can demonstrate abundance in prayer by praying persistently, day after day. *Colossians 4:2 (ERV)* says, "Never stop praying. Be ready for anything by praying and being thankful".

Who or what could you commit to praying for consistently? Remember praying doesn't need to include fancy words, happen in any particular place or last long. What steps could you put in place to help you commit to praying regularly? If you knew someone had been praying for you each day for a week, would this feel abundant? If not, how persistently would this need to be to feel abundant?



## RESPONSE

Invite everyone to spend some time quietly reflecting on what you've heard and discussed. Encourage everyone to close their eyes and sit comfortably. We used this passage in the first session so it should feel familiar to young people. But encourage them to connect who Jesus is with the idea of God's generosity.

Slowly read through *John 1:14, 16-18 (MSG)*

*The Word became flesh and blood,  
and moved into the neighborhood.  
We saw the glory with our own eyes,  
the one-of-a-kind glory,  
like Father, like Son,  
Generous inside and out,  
true from start to finish.*

*We all live off his generous bounty,  
gift after gift after gift.  
We got the basics from Moses,  
and then this exuberant giving and receiving,  
This endless knowing and understanding—  
all this came through Jesus, the Messiah.*

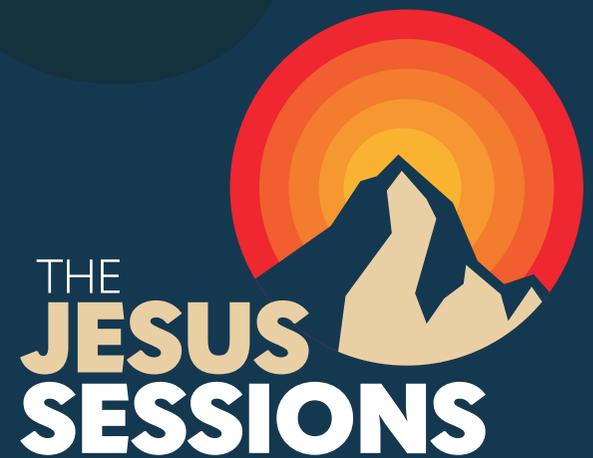
*No one has ever seen God,  
not so much as a glimpse.  
This one-of-a-kind God-Expression,  
who exists at the very heart of the Father,  
has made him plain as day.*

## CLOSING PRAYER:

*Father God, we are glad that you are generous. You want to give good gifts to everyone. Thank you for the best gift of sending Jesus to show us what you are like. Thank you that through his life we can see abundance and generosity so clearly. Help us to consider how we could live like Jesus in our lives. In Jesus Name, Amen.*

# 5. JESUS' JUSTICE

# JESUS



## 5. JESUS' JUSTICE



### BIG IDEA

**The justice which Jesus brings values the vulnerable, voiceless, poor etc. He calls us to do the same.**



### CORE BIBLE PASSAGE

**John 8: 1-11**



## GAMES

### 1. TRADING GAME

Christian Aid Trading Game highlights how inequality can occur through global issues. It is suitable for a group of 15 to 30 players. <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/schools/trading-game>

### 2. FIRST WORLD PROBLEMS

First world problem scattergories. Divide the group into teams and ask them to think of first world problems under these headings: *School, Home, Online and Travel.*

Divide the group into teams of no more than 4. Have all the letters of the alphabet individually placed in a hat (excluding XYZQU).

Draw out a letter and give the teams 1 minute to come with as many answers as they possibly can starting with that letter, using the heading first world problems.

Once a minute is up ask each group to share their list of answers (only the ones that have not yet been shared). For any answer not repeated by another group that team gets 1 point. DO two or three rounds.

### 3. JUST-ICE GAMES

Curling with ice cubes. Removing different items that have been frozen in a cup, first person to get them all out wins.

A play on words, however create a number of games using ice cubes. These can include pass the ice cube, where the group are split

in smaller equal number teams and they have to pass the ice cube down the line using chop sticks. Ice cube curling: set up a target on the floor or on a table and the person who gets closest to the centre wins. Ice cube stacking: the tallest ice cube tower wins...



## ACTIVITY

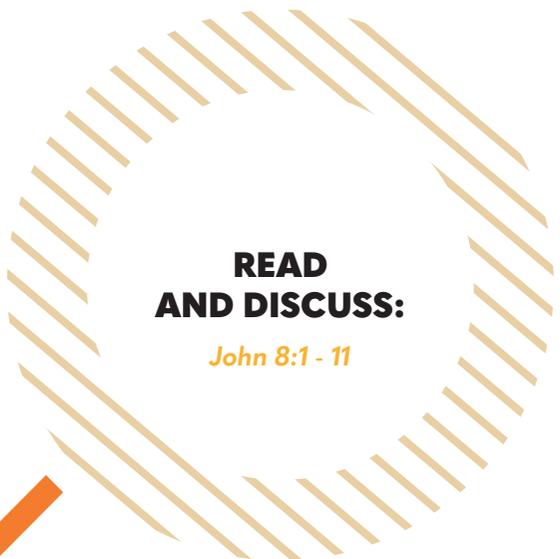
Why is justice important in our world? What do you think God's justice looks like? Take feedback and write it on flipchart paper.

**THEN JESUS STOOD UP AGAIN AND SAID TO THE WOMAN, "WHERE ARE YOUR ACCUSERS? DIDN'T EVEN ONE OF THEM CONDEMN YOU?"**

**"NO, LORD," SHE SAID.**

**AND JESUS SAID, "NEITHER DO I. GO AND SIN NO MORE."**

**JOHN 8 10 - 11**



**READ  
AND DISCUSS:**

*John 8:1 - 11*

*What stands out to you from this story about Jesus?*

*How do you think the woman felt?*

*How do you think her accusers felt?*

*What does it tell you about Jesus' justice?*

**CORE POINTS OF TALK:**

- *The scribes and Pharisees form of justice sought the right answer.*
- *Jesus' justice was concerned with the restoration of the person.*
- *Jesus does not forgive the woman lightly, his justice invites her to walk with God for the rest of her life.*
- *Jesus' justice is transformative and for everyone.*
- *We are invited to be part of that transformation.*



**FULL SCRIPT OF TALK**

In this incredible story the scribes and the Pharisees haul a woman who has been caught in adultery in front of Jesus, we don't know any more of her story than that or how they caught her. They approach Jesus under the illusion of seeking justice, *'this woman has been caught in adultery, what should we do Rabbi, tell us?'* It would have been customary to bring something like this before a Rabbi for a decision. In reality they are out to trap Jesus, if he declares the woman as innocent they can easily say his teaching is in contradiction to the law of Moses and contrary to God's law, entirely discrediting him. If he says stone the woman they discredit him and the reputation he had built as merciful and loving, the friend of the destitute and rejected, and also if he says stone her he would also be challenging the Roman authority (Israel where part of the Roman empire at that time and it was only through Roman law that someone could be sentenced to death), therefore setting Jesus up as a rabble rouser and a revolutionary. They have plotted and schemed and worked themselves into position and now they can pounce and using this woman they think they have the perfect opportunity to trap Jesus.

*What will Jesus do? What does his justice look like?*

*So Jesus takes his time, he writes in the sand.*

But they continued to push Jesus for an answer and he said, *'let him who is without sin be the first to throw a stone'*. And starting with the oldest they all walk off, eventually leaving the

woman and Jesus. He had cut through their self righteousness to their hearts. It is significant that the oldest left first, they know more the depth of sin they carry. But even here Jesus isn't about condemning them, he shed light on the dark parts of their lives so they may look up and see the light and the goodness of God.

Jesus then stands up and speaks to the woman, *'has no one condemned you?... Then neither do I. Go and sin no more.'*

He doesn't forgive her lightly, he doesn't say what you have done doesn't matter, what he does here is to offer the woman hope. Jesus' Justice is one of restoration, he offers the woman the opportunity of life with God. He invites her to see the forgiveness and grace of God in her life, his presence with her. Then with God move away from the life she had and walk with God for the rest of her life, allowing God to transform her and lead her from death to life.

But his justice doesn't stop with the woman, he extends it to the scribes and Pharisees. They had the authority, they were the legal experts of their day, they knew the law, they used the law and they passed judgement by it. Their use of the law was critical and condemnatory, their justice was judgment. They saw their authority as providing the right to stand over others and judge and punish, they were not concerned with the person but about appearing right.

In this story, they had removed the woman's humanity and her value, she was an object in their game with Jesus and a thing that needed to be dealt with by the law. She was voiceless, who she was and her life were of no interest to them beyond the act she had been caught in.

Jesus' approach to the women is different, what he does here is reveal the true purpose of the law which is the restoration of people to God. This is done as we look to love God and love others. His response to this situation is radical. In the law he sees people, in this woman he sees someone who is created and loved by God, in the scribes and Pharisees he sees the same thing. He understands that they are broken and in deep need of an encounter with a God who desperately loves them. Their actions are not his focus, it is their hearts and the restoration of their lives. In this he looks towards restoration of both the woman and the scribes and pharisees. He exposes their judgement as that done by broken people on broken people and He looks to speak to their humanity. In his reply to them he asks them to reflect on their own lives, he invites the pharisees to see their deep need and to look to God for restoration. For the woman his interaction with her invites her to the same journey, to walk with God and allow him to transform her. This is what Jesus' justice looks like.

In this story Jesus justice reveals that a person's humanity is not based on rightness, it is not removed when they do wrong, but it is held by everyone because we are all created by God and loved by God and that his invite is, no matter who you are or what you have done is come to me to experience the depth of life, love, mercy, justice and hope that is available to all.

This is played out through so much of Jesus' ministry and sometimes we lose sight of that. It is difficult and messy when we really think about God asking us to show his love to everyone, including the unlovely.

At its heart the justice that Jesus shows us is more than just activism, more than being 'woke', the justice that Jesus reveals is truly transformative and it is for everyone. We are invited to enjoy his justice and restoration in our lives and to be part of living his justice in the lives of others in their restoration to God.



## DISCUSSION GROUPS

*What is Jesus' understanding of justice?*

*How does injustice impact our relationships and society?*

*What is Jesus' solution to injustice?*

*How does the gospel shape our understanding of justice?*

*What situations need God's justice in our immediate sphere? In our local community? In our country? In our world?*

*What's one step you want to take to act more justly?*



## WORSHIP

*God of Justice* - Tim Hughes

*O Holy Night* - Carol by Adolphe Adam



**GOD OF JUSTICE,  
SAVIOUR TO ALL  
CAME TO RESCUE  
THE WEAK AND  
THE POOR  
CHOSE TO SERVE  
AND NOT BE  
SERVED  
JESUS, YOU HAVE  
CALLED US  
FREELY WE'VE  
RECEIVED  
NOW FREELY WE  
WILL GIVE**

**GOD OF JUSTICE -  
TIM HUGHES**



## PRAYER

*Lord, open my eyes that I may see the needs of others. Open my ears that I may hear their cries; Open my heart so that I may be moved with compassion; Let me not be afraid to defend the weak because of the anger of the strong, Nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich. Show me where love and hope and faith are needed, And use me to bring them to those places. And so open my eyes, my ears and my heart, So that I may live as a person of your justice today. Amen.*



## RESPONSE

### **How to pray for Justice - 24/7 Prayer**

We live in a world where injustice happens; where situations unfold that need God's presence and power to bring transformation. Starting to pray for justice can feel like a challenging process. Here are three simple suggestions to get started:

#### **1. ASK**

Start by asking God how you can pray for the issue you're concerned about, The Lord's Prayer has a simple, effective framework to inform your prayers.

**"Our Father in Heaven, Hallowed be your name"** - Begin with worship. Jesus is Lord, even in areas of injustice.

**"Your kingdom come, Your Will be Done"** - What does God's kingdom look like? How could His rule and reign change the lives of those who have been affected by injustice?

**"Give us today our daily bread"** - What are the practical needs you see that need to be addressed?

**"Forgive Us our sins"** - Who are the sinners and sinned against? What responsibility do we have to say sorry or to forgive? Pray for outbreaks of mercy.

#### **2. BELIEVE**

We have hope. God can - and does - change the world. Even the greatest injustice can be overcome by the power of prayer. God can

make a difference, and often chooses to act through our prayer and action.

Ask the Lord for the gift of faith to see, pray and act for the redemption of the situation you're concerned about.

#### **3. PERSIST**

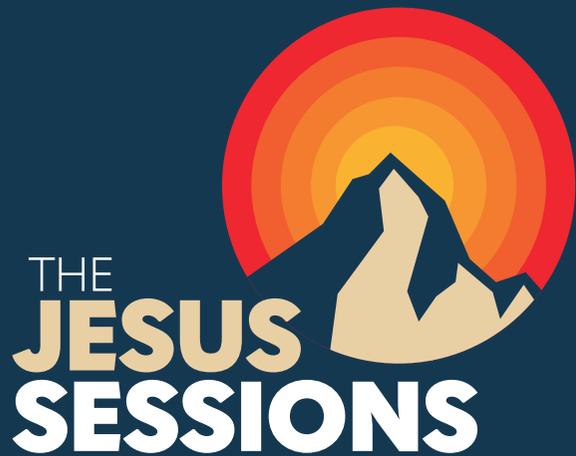
We need to keep persisting in prayer even when nothing seems to be changing. There are many examples in the Bible and throughout Church history of major breakthroughs that required faithfulness through years of prayer.

**If you want to commit to praying until you see change, here are a few suggestions to help you:**

- **Hold a focused prayer day or week** - Invite people to join you to pray together. You could also set up a justice-focused prayer room.
- **Use the Bible** - Write simple prayers from a passage like Isaiah 58, which focus on the issue of justice.
- **Get Outside** - Go to a place connected with the issue you want to pray for, such as a homeless shelter, hospital or government building.
- **Pray with others** - Gather a group of like-minded people: praying together is one of the best ways to keep going.
- **Be responsible** - Some issues of injustice involve crime or danger - ensure that you don't put yourself in danger while you pray.

# 6. REDEFINING STRENGTH

STRENGTH



## 6. REDEFINING STRENGTH



### BIG IDEA

**Strength is not having it all sorted, but having confidence in Jesus. Jesus models a different idea of strength.**



### CORE BIBLE PASSAGE

**Matthew 5:1-12**

**BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEY WILL BE FILLED.**

**MATTHEW 5: 6**



## GAMES

### 1. TASKMASTER TEAM GAMES

Taskmaster has a range of at Home challenges. For example, **throw a piece of paper in the bin**, most spectacular wins or **camouflage yourself**. You might want to watch some clips of the show together for examples. Some best moments and clips.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/Taskmaster>

### 2. RIVER CROSSING

A team game to see who can cross the river the quickest.

<https://www.leadershipgeeks.com/leadership-activities-for-groups/>

### 3. WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE?

<https://www.iup.edu/teachingexcellence/reflective-practice/past-events/2008-09/sample-games-to-be-used-in-the-classroom/instructions-for-playing-who-wants-to-be-a-millionaire.html>



## ACTIVITY

Within groups, discuss what sticks out in this passage, Matthew 5:1-12.

After allowing for feedback, assign each group with a passage involving Jesus, for example;

- *Jesus and Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10).*

- *Jesus heals the blind man (John 9:1-17).*
- *Jesus talks with a Samaritan woman (John 4:1-29).*
- *Jesus and the Children (Mark 10:13-16).*

Have the groups discuss the following questions. Then ask each group to assign a spokesperson to come up to present a summary of the story and give feedback on the questions.

Within your passage was there anything that Jesus did that seemed strange or counter-cultural?

What would have been the expected cultural response?

Was He rebellious or righteous?

While He went against the cultural expectation what was the foundation for His actions?

What does this mean for us?

How did Jesus demonstrate strength?

What is our normal perception of strength?

What does our society regard as strength?

**Please note: Today's talk is shorter to allow extra time for this activity and discussion.**

### CORE POINTS OF TALK:

- *Jesus modelled a different idea of strength*
- *Jesus was confident in who He was*
- *As a child of God, we can be confident in who God is and who He has created us to be*



## FULL SCRIPT OF TALK

Recently there was a video on Youtube of a professional athlete driving through the streets after a big win. The police were trying to contain the crowds as the fans tried to get a glimpse inside the car. At one point the crowds were pushing so hard against an officer I thought he was going to get clipped by the wing mirror. There was cheering, horns were honking, you could feel the excitement in the air. *Matthew 21:1-11* tells the story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. People lined the streets waving palm branches, they placed their clothes on the ground and cheered. It was a greeting for a king. They thought that Jesus was going to save them from being slaves to the Romans. Their expectations were big, but in reality, Jesus was going to do so much more. Jesus was not just a king, He is the King of Kings (*1 Timothy 6:15*). A few days later he would be crucified and buried, but he would rise again as part of God's amazing plan. (*1 Corinthians 15:4*) Jesus did come to save them but not just saving them from a political reign; He came to be the Saviour of the world.

As we dive further into the story it is telling that Jesus rode in on a donkey. It would have been customary during this time that kings would have ridden in on a horse. Why was the Saviour of the world riding a donkey? Not only did this fulfil what was written about Jesus many years before in *Zechariah 9:9*, but the donkey, which was a symbol of peace, carried Jesus who is called the Prince of Peace. (*Isaiah 9:6*)

All of these stories that we have looked at today went against what was normal at the time. Can

you imagine the gossip about Jesus, "Did you hear Jesus talked to a Samaritan woman?" "I heard he had tea with a tax collector!". While we can see that Jesus walked humbly, He walked in strength. His strength was derived from His identity in who He was. In the same way, our strength does not come from having it all sorted, it is having confidence in the One who does. This reminds me of a time I watched a young boy boldly walk into his fathers' office.

His dad was the CEO of a major business and no one just walked right in! Yet, this boy did just that, he knew who his father was. The Bible says we are God's child (*Ephesians 1:3-8*) A friend of Christ (*John 15:15*) Gods creation (*Ephesians 2:10*). If that is who we are, then let's take this a step further, who is He? The Bible says He is the Mighty Creator, the God who sees me, the God Almighty, the everlasting God, the Lord, the Lord who heals, the Dwelling Place, God Most High, Father. This is just a taste of the names of God; the Bible is jammed packed with descriptions of who God is. Can you imagine what our lives would look like if we took this seriously?



## DISCUSSION GROUPS

*How would your life change if you lived like God's child?*

*What name of God stands out to you?*

*How would your life change if you took the names of God seriously (example: would you worry as much, would you be more confident)?*

*How does who He is, impact who we think we are?*



## WORSHIP

**Stronger** - Hillsong Worship  
**The Lord is My Shepherd** - Stuart Townsend  
**How Great is Our God** - Chris Tomlin



## PRAYER

*Thank you, Lord, that you are our Rock, you are our comforter, you are the Good Shepherd, you are our provider. You are our Cornerstone and you are our advocator. You created us, you care about us. We know that regardless of what is happening in our lives that we can trust You. Thank you for revealing your character to us through the Word of God. Help give us strength and wisdom that in everything we face we bring glory to your name, Amen.*



## RESPONSE

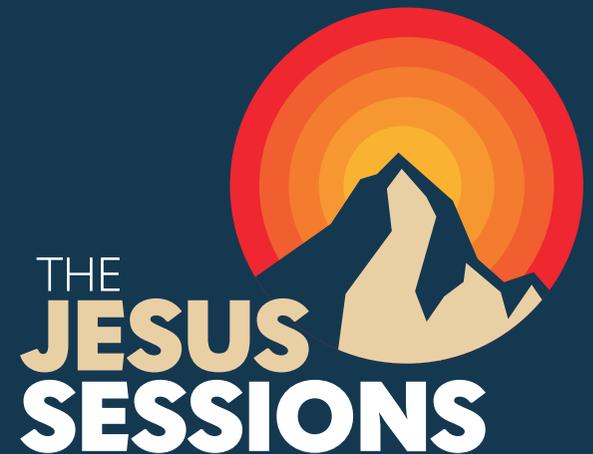
Have each young person select a name of God to meditate on throughout the week.

Song to softly playing during reflection:  
**Nothing Else** - Cody Carnes



# 7. REFRAMING RELIGION

RELIGION



## 7. REFRAMING RELIGION



### BIG IDEA

**When religion is more about the right answer and less about introducing people to God then it may have missed the point.**



### CORE BIBLE PASSAGE

**Luke 10: 25-37**



### GAMES

#### 1. GOOGLE MAP ZOOM IN QUIZ

In teams or individually have a competition to see who can name the European capital first.

<https://www.mapzoomquiz.com>

#### 2. BACK ARTIST

Divide the group into teams of about six each. Each team sits in a line, one behind the other. The last person is shown a simple hand-drawn picture of an object such as a house, a cat, or a Christmas tree, etc. The person who is shown the drawing then tries to draw an exact copy of it, using their fingers, on the back of the person in front of them. The drawing can only be done once. The second person then draws what they felt onto the back of the person in front of them. This continues until it gets to the person at the front of the line, that person then must draw what he or she felt, on a piece of paper. The team whose picture most resembles the original wins that round. This can also be done in pairs, however you should use more complex pictures where the details are harder to communicate.

### DISCUSSION:

*What comes to your mind when someone says the word religion?*

*What do you think about when you hear the word church?  
Feedback.*

### CORE POINTS OF TALK:

- *To love God with all of who we are is to also allow him to bring us on a process of transformation and restoration, one where we plunge the depth of his love towards us in his forgiveness of us, his grace towards us and his desire that we might find life through Jesus.*
- *It is to also love who he has created which includes yourself and literally every other person in the world.*
- *Loving God and loving your neighbour means intentionally and deliberately putting aside our own opinions, thoughts, prejudices and preconceived ideas and choosing to actively look to love and serve people even when it feels risky and uncomfortable.*

**HE ANSWERED, 'LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND'; AND, 'LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'**



## FULL SCRIPT OF TALK

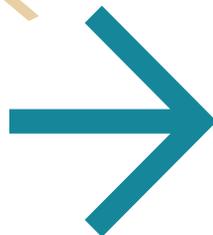
Both words (religion and church) can throw up lots of images for us, both positive and negative and somewhere in between. Let's take a look at how Jesus approaches religion.

### READ AND DISCUSS:

*Luke 10: 25 - 37*

*What do you think it means to 'love God with all your heart, mind, strength and soul, and to love your neighbour as yourself?*

*What does the Good Samaritan story show us about faith?*



In this story Jesus is asked 'what can I do to inherit eternal life?' and rather than answering Jesus asks, 'well what do you think?'

The teacher of the law knows the answer vs 27 and it is based on some verses from the Old Testament, *Deuteronomy 6: 5 & 11:13* and *Leviticus 19: 18*. Take time to look up these verses.

We sometimes take vs 27 as being two distinct things, like we can take the first half of the verse about loving God and really go at that and ignore the second part, or at least relegate it to a simple add on. The thing is these two verses are intrinsically linked, you cannot claim to love God with all of who you are but hate yourself and / or others, it is simply not possible. This is because loving God should have a transformative effect on our view of ourselves and in how we see others. To love God with all of who we are is to also love who he has created which includes yourself and literally every other person in the world. There will be times when you struggle to love you, to love who you are, where you struggle to see beyond the stuff that is wrong.

You will never know every person in the world, but you will know people, people who are easy to love and those who are difficult. You will have people in your life that you just want to love because of the love that they have shown you and you will have others that you may potentially hate because of what they have done or said to you, and even worse they may not even be sorry about it. But to love God with all of who we are is to also allow him to bring us on a process of transformation and restoration, one where we plunge the depth of his love towards us in his forgiveness of us, his grace towards us and his desire that we might find life through Jesus. In

beginning to discover this we see his love to us and his love towards others and this moves us to want to help others discover that. So we begin a process of loving ourselves and others as God does. No limitations, but with the perspective of this:

*You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:6-8 (NIV)*

God gave up all for us so that we would know him and his transformative power, we are loved more than we could ever know and we are invited to taste that love through relationship with God and share it with the world around us.

The teacher of the law knows the concept of this verse but he is looking for more from Jesus, he wanted clarity on who his neighbour was. At their narrowest point of view the Pharisees and teachers of the law defined their neighbour only as a fellow Jew and even within that there were limitations. So he asks Jesus, 'who is my neighbour?' Jesus in his answer opens this up beyond anything his hearers would have been comfortable with and even now when we begin to think through what Jesus shows us in the story it pushes us beyond what is comfortable also.

Let's set the scene a little. The road from Jerusalem to Jericho is about 17 miles long, not too bad, apart from the fact that Jerusalem sits about 700 meters above sea level and Jericho sits about 300 meters below sea level which means a drop of over 1000 meters from one to the other and it is notoriously dangerous.

It's steep and it descends sharply, with lots of rocky valleys and passes. Until the fifth century it was called the red or bloody way, and in the 19th century people still paid safety money to local sheiks before they travelled on it. The road was a happy hunting ground for gangs and thieves, ready to visit violence on people travelling the road.

So Jesus tells the story of a traveller, journeying down this road alone, people would have seen this as foolhardy and he is robbed.

A priest hurries past, sees the man, not wishing to go near him. People would have understood that if the priest went to the man and he was dead then the priest would have been ceremonially unclean and unable to carry out his duties in the temple. He places ceremony over compassion.

A Teacher of the Law comes past, a man who would have known the greatest commandment, but also all the other additional laws they and the religious establishment had built up to keep themselves outwardly guilt free and he chooses religious safety first and walks quickly on.

Then we have the Samaritan, the person who Jesus' listeners would assume to be the villain of the story. Samaritans were seen as unworthy and ungodly. There was constant tension between Jews and Samaritans, they were seen as ceremonially unclean and rejected by God.

But this man stops, not to kick a man when he is down, but to put himself in harms way to care for someone he doesn't know, to love his neighbour. He isn't concerned with protecting his religious virtue, he simply looks to care for someone in distress.

Jesus uses this story to show not only what it looks like to love our neighbour, but also to show what it looks like to love God. We cannot claim to love God and not love people. He wanted us to understand that being in a restored relationship with him would mean loving people despite who we are and despite who they are. He shows what it is to truly love your neighbour. The story of the Good Samaritan would have challenged Jesus' hearers on what it really looks like to love God and people, it would have challenged their thinking on their form of religion. Through this story Jesus is encouraging us to see that loving God and loving your neighbour means intentionally and deliberately putting aside our own opinions, thoughts, prejudices and preconceived ideas and choosing to actively look to love and serve people even when it feels risky and uncomfortable. Jesus emphasises the importance of loving people no matter who they are, where they are, in whatever circumstance they are in. He shows us that unconditional love can transform circumstances and lives.

These verses in Luke's gospel invite us to see the depth of our forgiveness and God's love for us, through the process of giving our whole selves to him. And in the process of giving our whole selves to God we give ourselves to loving because this is the expression of our relationship with God lived out.



## DISCUSSION GROUPS

*Why do you think the Jewish priest and Levite did not help the man?*

*Why is it significant that it was a Samaritan who helped the Jewish man?*

*How does this story help us understand who our neighbour is?*

***You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:6-8***

*Take time to discuss these verses.*

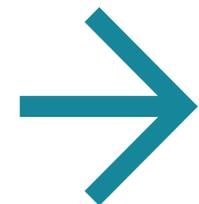
*What do they tell you about Jesus? About God? About people?*

*Why is loving people so closely linked to loving God?*

*What is God saying to you through the story of the good Samaritan?*

*What does it look like for you to love people when:*

- *They are someone you disagree with?*
- *They are different to you?*
- *They are opposed to you?*





## WORSHIP

*In Christ Alone* - Stuart Townend / Keith Getty  
*Jesus paid it all* - Hymn  
*Losing My Religion* - Lauren Daigle



## PRAYER

God of love, give us a deep love for you,  
so that we can see the world as you see it,  
feel the compassion you feel, and be a people  
whose lives mediate your love to others.

So open our eyes that we might see what the  
Good Samaritan saw. Grant us the insight to  
see the need in others, the wisdom to know  
what to do, and the will to do it.

And so we pray for all those, who in many  
and various ways, have been stripped, beaten  
and left for dead.

We pray for children who must grow up  
in the most awful of circumstances, especially  
for those starved of love, or food, or shelter or  
security. May they receive the future you have  
planned for them.

We pray for those we might cross the road to  
avoid. Who have been excluded for whatever  
reason. May the dignity that is theirs be  
restored to them.

We pray for those whose need we would rather  
not face up to, because it requires action of us,  
those who suffer because of war, unjust trade  
rules, or oppressive governments.

May the world receive a true picture of their  
suffering and the factors that cause it, that  
justice may be done.

Open our eyes, that we might not cross the  
road from human need. Give us a deep love for  
you, that we might see your love at work in this  
world, and that we might Go and do likewise.

This prayer is shared from **Re-Worship blog**

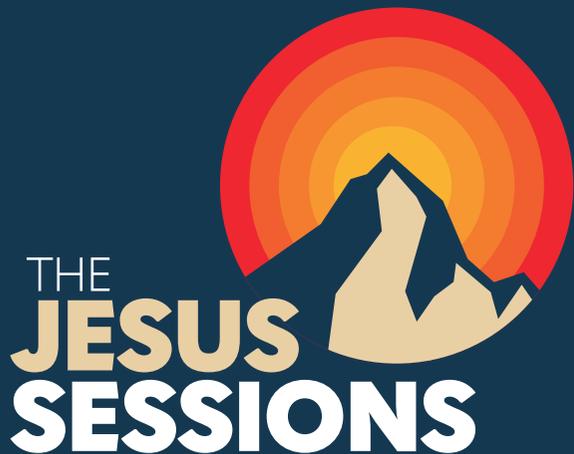


## RESPONSE

Take time as a group to reflect on your local  
community. What are some of the needs that  
you see?

- Discuss as a group one of the needs which you might respond to.
- What practical steps can you take in response?
- Create a worthwhile project from this.
- Take time to pray for your local community.

# 8. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?



## 8. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?



### BIG IDEA

**How will you respond to Jesus' call? What does following Jesus look like?**



### CORE BIBLE PASSAGE

**Mark 8:34-35**

**...WHOEVER  
WANTS TO BE MY  
DISCIPLE MUST  
DENY THEMSELVES  
AND TAKE UP  
THEIR CROSS  
AND  
FOLLOW ME.**

**MARK 8:34**



## GAMES

### 1. COPYCAT GAME

Taking it in turns, a young person needs to guess who is leading as the actions change.

### 2. WORD SCRAMBLE GAME

Young people work together to find as many words as possible.

### 3. SPOON PICTURE GAME

A game to see if people can follow the rules. At least two people will need to know how to play this game. One is sent out of the room (the mind reader), and the other remains inside to take a picture of someone. This is done by holding up a spoon or some polished surface to a player's face. When the picture is taken, the mind reader is called in, given the spoon, told to look at it, and guess whose picture it is. The mind reader studies the spoon and then says whose picture they see on the spoon. The mind reader leaves the room again, while another picture is taken, is called in, and guesses that, and so on.

If any family member thinks he can be the mind reader, he may have a trial, but he may fail. The secret- the person that took the pictures sits in exactly the same position as the person whose picture was taken. If his feet were crossed and his hands folded, the leader will take that position. If another person is in that position, the one who guesses waits until one makes a change, and thus the name can be guessed.

## 4. DEAD CAT GAME

This game invites young people to choose their own adventure. It is a screen game and has a small cost.



## ACTIVITY

In the first session we asked you to work together to collate everything you knew about Jesus. Take a few minutes in groups of 2-3 again and discuss what else you have learned about Jesus through these sessions.

### CORE POINTS OF TALK:

- *Jesus is calling you - "Come and follow me".*
- *Deny yourself and put God first.*
- *Follow God in righteousness.*
- *Seek to live like the example Jesus' set.*
- *As we choose to accept Jesus and live as a Christian, the Holy Spirit (God as Spirit) helps to transform us.*



## FULL SCRIPT OF TALK

In our sessions over the last few weeks, we have begun to discover more about who Jesus is. We hope that what you've heard has interested you and that you've learnt something new about the one who came to earth as Messiah. It might be that you've already started to think about your faith more or consider what it means for you. But in this session we want to give you some time and space to consider how you will respond to what you've heard. Jesus is calling you. Personally. By name. Jesus invites each one of us to "Come and follow me" *Matthew 4:19 (NIV)*.

So now that you've heard about Jesus, this is an opportunity to respond. You can decide what you think about Jesus and what that means for your life. You might even have noticed a change already. For many Christians, they can recognise how God as the Holy Spirit convicts us in our faith, this means the Spirit works in our minds to make us feel confident that what we know about God is true. The Holy Spirit may have been working in your life too.

We have begun to explore together what it means to follow Jesus. It isn't all easy and a promise of a life without any problems. It isn't stuffy or boring either. Following Jesus means a life lived to the full. It means a life of abundance and generosity. It means pursuing justice and speaking up for the vulnerable. It looks like confidence in God rather than having to pretend you've got it all sorted. It challenges us to reframe how we act towards others and what community should look like.

In this session, we want to explore in more detail what it means to follow Jesus. There are three ideas we want to look at to help us explore this together.

Firstly, to be a follower of Jesus means to deny ourselves and our interests to seek God first. In *Mark 8:34-35 (NIV)* Jesus says, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it." There is a cost to following Jesus.

This idea of cost makes sense in knowing that God calls us to a full life, not the good life. This is the cost for every follower of Jesus, to look beyond the good life, to a true adventure, the full life. So once we know what awaits us, we can pay the cost knowing that it's worth it! We will live as we were created to live. We will see things how God planned them to be. We will carry each other's difficult times and as a community share together in the goodness of God. Yes a mighty challenge, but so so worth it.

Becoming a follower of Jesus means we don't continue on with nothing changing. It begins a process of challenging ourselves to live for God and not living selfishly. We do this with Jesus at our side, and in community with others who love God. It can feel lonely but you're not alone. We might want to do something but it isn't what God wants for us. This can be a struggle and that's why it is good to be part of a group and church where you can talk through those things. However, in this challenge there is something much better to point your life toward. The God of the universe loves you and his promises towards you are good. As followers seek God, there is a guide to live by and an adventure to go on together.

Secondly, as you become a follower of Jesus you begin a new life and made right with God. In *Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV)* it says, "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." As you choose to follow Jesus, you are made right because of Jesus' death and resurrection. We are freed from this old life, the former way to become new. And as we follow Jesus this new life is transformed to follow God.

**COME  
AND  
FOLLOW  
ME**

**MARK 4:19**

Through the relationship we are given a new life and a new way to live. This new self seeks to look like God and become holy, which means set apart. We don't have to try really hard but we allow our lives to respond to God's direction and love. Followers can be confident because Jesus has done the hard work! We are already made right with God when we say yes and believe in Him.

Thirdly, because we know the love of God and have experienced his generosity... Followers of Jesus choose to live in a way that looks like the example that Jesus set. Following on in *Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV)*, we read "Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." We have the example of Jesus to guide us in our lives. So followers of Jesus want to keep learning about Him. They want their lives to look more and more like how Jesus lived. Part of this way of life is loving others. Jesus' followers seek to love other people because they were loved first by Jesus. Being loved by Jesus means we can be caring to others with generosity.

Living as a follower of Jesus means denying ourselves and living for God, it means starting into a new life and being right with God, and it means living like Jesus did. Through all of this Jesus' followers have lots of help! Most importantly, Christians get help from God directly. This is through the Holy Spirit, God as Spirit, who helps to transform us.

Jesus says, "Come and Follow me". It is up to you, your choice. How are you going to respond to Jesus?

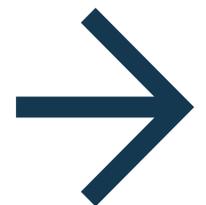


## DISCUSSION GROUPS

*What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus?*

Provide the young people with the Bible passages below and ask them to fill in the right hand column on their own. You could ask each young person to read out a different passage and work together to answer the question.

BIBLE PASSAGE	WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A FOLLOWER OF JESUS?
<b>1 John 3:1</b>	<i>Children of God - To be a follower means to be in a relationship. Yes there are tangible actions, but also what it means in our hearts.</i>
<b>John 1:1-18</b>	<i>Following Jesus means following our true example of what it means to live, fully God and fully human.</i>
<b>Mark 8:34-35</b>	<i>It will cost something. It involves sacrifice.</i>
<b>Ephesians 5:1-2</b>	<i>Love others.</i>
<b>Matthew 7:24-27</b>	<i>Being obedient. Understanding what Jesus teaches and then acting on it.</i>
<b>John 14:15</b>	<i>Keep the commands Jesus gives.</i>
<b>John 8:12</b>	<i>Live following the light not the darkness.</i>
<b>Ephesians 3:14-21</b>	<i>Being promised abundance now and in future.</i>





## WORSHIP

**Who You Say I Am** -  
Hillsong Worship

**Take my life and let it be** -  
Frances Ridley Havergal

**I will offer up my life** -  
Matt Redman

**I have decided to follow Jesus** -  
Cedarmont Kids



## RESPONSE

As Jesus interacts with his disciples, he asks them 'what are people saying about me?' Then he directs the questions to his disciples and says: ""But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?""

So now, **what about you? Who do you say Jesus is?**

Take a moment of quiet to consider what you believe about Jesus. We want you to consider what next. From where you are now, from what you believe, what is your next step? Here are a few suggestions. You might choose one of these or there might be something else.

1. I want to follow Jesus.
2. I want to find out more about Jesus.

3. I want to meet up with a leader and ask questions about Jesus.
4. I want to pray and speak to God.
5. I want to read through the Gospels on my own.
6. I want to treat others like Jesus did.
7. I want to tell others about Jesus.

Once you have given a moment for each young person to choose the response which most accurately connects to them, explain that there will be an opportunity to pray through various activities and the leaders would like to pray for each young person present. For each response, set up the prayer stations as below. Young people can move to different prayer stations if they would like to. As the young people take part in the prayer responses, allow prayer ministry for each young person with two leaders at a time. Encourage the leaders to ask which number they choose and pray specifically for that young person. We have included a small token or gift for each young person as part of this activity. It will require some preparation but is not necessary if it wouldn't be appropriate in your context.

### FOR RESPONSE 1:

I want to follow Jesus! "But whoever did want him, who believed he was who he claimed and would do what he said, He made to be their true selves, their child-of-God selves."  
John 1:12 (MSG)

Take a moment to write a prayer saying that you believe in God and you want to follow Jesus. You might want to say thank you to God, or say sorry to Him, or ask for his help as you explore the Christian life. This is good news! So tell someone you trust at church or youth so they can celebrate with you.

**\*LEADERS:** prepare for young people to respond, be expectant! Have some resources available to give to any young people who make this commitment. For example **YP's for New Christians**. Why not consider supporting those young people by using Walk With Me and setting them up with a mentor? Walk With Me has a specific set of sessions for new christians.

### FOR RESPONSE 2 & 3:

*"This is my prayer for you: that your love will grow more and more; that you will have knowledge and understanding with your love; that you will see the difference between what is important and what is not and choose what is important; that you will be pure and blameless for the coming of Christ; that your life will be full of the many good works that are produced by Jesus Christ to bring glory and praise to God."*  
(Philippians 1:9-11, ERV)

This is our prayer for you and we are so glad that you are interested in learning more about Jesus. Take a moment to consider why you would like to find out more or ask questions. Say a prayer silently to God, expressing your reasons and asking him to be with you as you explore more.

**\*LEADERS:** for each young person at this station we advise giving them a new notebook. You could write some suggested Bible passages to get them started and space for them to write down their questions to share with a leader.

### FOR RESPONSE 4, 5 & 6:

Write a short prayer that asks God to help you as you seek to live out these responses of faith. Whether it be praying, our actions towards others or reading more.

*"You are the children that God dearly loves. So follow his example. Lead a life of love, just as Christ did. He loved us. He gave himself up for us. He was a sweet-smelling offering and sacrifice to God." Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIRV)*

These verses challenge us to live in a way that resembles Jesus, so our lives can look like the things we have learnt and admired over the past weeks. Allow yourself to embrace this adventure and make a plan for how you can respond this week, this month, this year.

**\*LEADERS:** We suggest a different takeaway for each focused response. For those responding to element 4, provide a printout of the ACTS prayer model. You can use the graphic we have designed or make your own.

For those responding to element 5, provide a resource or guide to help them read through a gospel. For example **CIYD's Fuel Resource**.

Finally, for those responding to element 6, provide an encouragement to live like Jesus. Why not purchase WWJD Bracelets to give out or a **handheld wooden cross**.

### FOR RESPONSE 7:

*"Through thick and thin, keep your hearts at attention, in adoration before Christ, your Master. Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you're living the way you are, and always with the utmost courtesy."*  
1 Peter 3:15 (MSG)

You have good news and we're so glad that you want to share this gift with others. Take a moment to think about who and how. Who might you be able to share the good news with? Is there one person you know well? Is there

someone or a group of people in the world you could pray for?

Pray to God asking for opportunities and courage: opportunities to speak about Jesus, clear moments that you are able to share your faith and explain the impact on your life, as well as courage to take those opportunities!

**\*LEADERS:** Provide each young person responding with a sticker, something similar to [https://www.redbubble.com/i/sticker/3-circle-gospel-story-by-Devvon/56547319.EJUG5?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_campaign=g.pla+notset&country\\_code=GB](https://www.redbubble.com/i/sticker/3-circle-gospel-story-by-Devvon/56547319.EJUG5?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=g.pla+notset&country_code=GB). It gives a picture which can be used to explain who Jesus is. You can encourage them to put it on a water bottle or on the back of their phone.

Consider how you can give these young people opportunities that relate to this response within your group in future. For example could they lead a discussion with younger youth or teach the whole group.



### ACTIVITY

Invite each young person to write a letter to themselves. Ask them to focus on what they've learnt during these sessions and write down a few things that they don't want to forget.

You will put these in an envelope and they are to open them 6 months from this session. If doing online, ask them to put them in an envelope and hide in their room. As a leader, remind the young people 6 months from now to find and open the

letters. If running the session in person, ask the young people to seal their letter in an envelope and put their own address on it. Then a leader should post out the letters in 6 months time.



### PRAYER

You may wish to provide a prayer for young people to respond and accept the call to follow Jesus. You could print out copies of this prayer and make it available to young people. Alternatively, you could say the prayer and ask young people to silently repeat it.

*Father God,  
I am responding to your call. I understand that I haven't lived a perfect life and need your help. I believe Jesus is your son and that he died for me. I believe through Jesus' death that I can be forgiven and enter into a relationship with God. I believe through Jesus' resurrection that I can experience life everlasting with God. I will seek to love you God and love others. Help me to grow in my understanding and accept my role within our church community. In Jesus name, Amen.*



