

Jesus Makes Things New



Bible verses:
John 2:1-11



Aim:
To explore Jesus' first miracle



Today's fruit:
Faithfulness



In today's session we will explore Jesus' first miracle which took place at a wedding.

We will discover what this story shows us about who Jesus is. As water is turned into wine, we see that Jesus brings joy, generosity and transformation in quiet and unexpected ways. Through the faithfulness of the servants, we are encouraged to notice how God often works through small acts of trust and invites ordinary people to be part of his work.

Each child will need:

- Memory verse wristband
- *Explore it ideas* handout

You will need:

- Today's fruit sign: *Faithfulness* - download from **Salvationist**
- Memory verse poster
- Resources for whichever food experiments you decide to complete with your group (Action it)



Start it

Clear a space in the room and ask the children to stand in the middle. Choose one side of the room to represent TRUE and the other side FALSE. Explain that you are going to read out statements about amazing things human beings have achieved.

They need to decide whether each statement is true or false and move to the corresponding side of the room. Ask the children to return to the middle of the room after each statement.

Remind the children that the people completing these amazing tasks spent a lot of time training to complete them and they should not try them at home!

True or False Statements

1. A human being can hold their breath for more than ten minutes. **TRUE:** In June 2025, Croatian Vitomir Maricic held his breath underwater for 29 minutes and 3 seconds.
2. A person can jump higher than a double-decker bus. **FALSE:** Even the highest jumpers can't jump that high! The highest standing jump, achieved by Christopher Spell in February 2021, is 1.70m (5 ft 7 in), while the men's high jump world record is held by Cuba's **Javier Sotomayor** with **2.45 metres (8 ft 0.46 in)** set on 27 July 1993.
3. A woman has lifted more weight than a fully grown elephant. **FALSE:** Although a woman has not lifted the weight of a fully grown elephant, women have lifted the equivalent of two fully grown pandas. In December 2025 American powerlifter Samantha Rice deadlifted 297.5 kg, setting a world record.
4. A woman has held the plank position for longer than it takes for you to finish a whole morning at school. **TRUE:** In 2020 American Dana Glowacka held a plank for 4 hours, 20 minutes and 49 seconds. You may like to ask the children to try and hold a plank position so that they can see how difficult it is.
5. A human being can run faster than a cheetah. **FALSE:** Cheetahs can run at speeds up to 65–75 mph. The fastest a human has ever run was 27.78 mph when Usain Bolt set the 100m world record in 2009.

Say:

People can do amazing things, but even the most impressive human achievements have limits. In today's Bible story, something happened that only God could do.



Sing it

Say:

Right through the Bible we see God's power at work. Our memory verse for this month reminds us that God is the one who does amazing things. His miracles show us just how powerful he is.

Give each child a memory verse wristband and then share the verse together.

Memory verse:

'You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.'

(Psalm 77:14)

Say:

Throughout March we will be looking at Jesus and the amazing miracles he performed. Each miracle helps people understand more about who Jesus is and what God's Kingdom is like.

Our song for today reminds us of the wonderful things God does in our world.

Watch:

'You Do Amazing Things' (Preschool Worship Song) by KidSpring Children's Ministry (1:57)

Share it

- Have you ever been asked to help with something when you weren't quite sure why it mattered? What was it like?
- How do you feel when you're asked to do something that doesn't make sense at first?

Say:

In today's Bible story Jesus went to a wedding with his mother, Mary. Weddings were huge celebrations that lasted for days. Part way through the celebration, something went wrong, and Mary turned to Jesus for help. What happened next helped people begin to understand who Jesus really is.

Watch:

Jesus Turns Water Into Wine by Saddleback Kids (1:57)

Ask:

- What problem happened at the wedding?
- Why would running out of wine have been embarrassing for the bride and groom?

Read:

Jesus answered, 'Dear woman, why come to me? My time has not yet come.'

His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you to do.'

In that place there were six stone water jars. The Jews used jars like these in their washing ceremony. Each jar held about 100 litres.

Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water.' So they filled the jars to the top.

(John 2:4-7 ICB)

Ask:

What do you think Jesus meant when he said, 'My time has not yet come'?

Say:

Jesus wasn't saying no. He was reminding Mary that everything he did had a purpose and a right moment. This miracle wasn't just about fixing a problem. It was about showing who he really was and beginning his work in God's way and God's time.

Ask:

- What instructions did Jesus give the servants?
- What happened when they chose to do exactly what Jesus said?

Say:

Most of the guests didn't realise anything unusual was going on. The celebration continued as normal, but the servants knew what had happened. They had seen the water being poured into the jars and then poured out as wine. They didn't fully understand what Jesus was doing, but they chose to trust him and follow his instructions.

From that moment on, people began to ask important questions about Jesus. His disciples started to believe in him and follow him more closely.

Display the *Faithfulness* fruit sign.

Ask:

Who showed faithfulness in this story?

Say:

Through this miracle, the servants and the disciples saw something new and wonderful. Jesus used his miraculous power to bring transformation. He took ordinary water and turned it into wine.

The jars were usually used to help people feel clean on the outside. Jesus used them to create something new and transformed on the inside. This miracle was the first sign that Jesus was bringing God's Kingdom close.

Ask:

- What do you think this story helps us to understand about God?
- What situations are there where you would like to see God do something new?
- Are there any ways that we could help to bring about transformation in that situation?

Say:

Earlier our memory verse reminded us that we love a God who performs miracles. These miracles sometimes happen when people like you and me faithfully follow what God has asked us to do, and they often happen in places where hardly anyone notices. The wedding guests may not have had a clue where the amazing wine came from, but a handful of people saw the powerful work of God that day.

Action it

In this activity the children will explore simple food experiments that show transformation. A selection of activities are suggested, and you can choose one or more that work for your group.

Say:

In today's story Jesus took ordinary water and turned it into something new and wonderful. (Although water itself is an amazing and miraculous thing, of course!) We're going to try some simple experiments that show how small things can lead to big transformations.

Action it Options:

Skittle Experiment

Skittle Diffusion Candy Science - 1 Minute Science by learningscienceisfun (1:08)

Salt Water Experiment

Salt water trick (chemistry experiment at home with food coloring) by KiwiCo (0:39)

Oil and Water Experiment

Fascinating Oil & Water Science Experiment for Kids by TheDadLab (1:51)

Say:

In these experiments, ordinary things were changed into something new. Sometimes the change happened quickly. Sometimes it took time, and sometimes the change did not happen at all because something stood in the way.

In today's Bible story, the servants did not try to control the outcome. They did not need to understand how the transformation would happen. They simply did what Jesus asked and trusted him.

Jesus took what was ordinary and turned it into something amazing. This miracle shows that God is at work bringing transformation, often quietly and through small acts of faithfulness. When we choose to trust Jesus and do what he asks, we become part of what God is doing, even when we cannot yet see the result.



Pray it

Gather together to sit in a circle.

Say:

When Jesus explained to the servants what they needed to do, they had no way of knowing what would happen. They simply trusted Jesus and did what he asked.

Prayer is a bit like that. We don't always know what will happen next, but we can choose to trust God and talk to him.

Ask the children to think about one situation in their life where they need to trust God. It could be something small, or something they don't fully understand yet. Give them a moment to think about that situation and then share the following prayer with the group.

Pray:

Dear God,

Thank you that you are a God who performs miracles.

Thank you that you can work in quiet ways and through ordinary people.

Help us to trust you, even when we don't understand what will happen next.

Help us to be faithful and to do what Jesus asks us to do.

Please use our small actions to bring kindness, joy and transformation into your world.

Thank you, God, that you are always at work even when we cannot see it.

Amen.

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore it ideas* for children and families.



Explore it is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)

Jesus Makes Things New

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:
John 2:1-11



Aim:
To explore Jesus' first miracle



Today's fruit:
Faithfulness



Create

In this week's Explore it story from John 2:4-7, Mary said to the servants, 'Do whatever he (Jesus) tells you to do.' This week choose one small action you could try at home or school to follow Jesus. It could be helping someone without being asked, including someone who feels left out, or any small action that could transform someone else's day.



Experiment

Ask someone at home to help you try this transformational experiment!

Watch:

Baking Soda and Vinegar Balloon Experiment by TheDadLab

www.youtube.com/watch?v=T29OYbFrTgU



Song for the week

Watch:

'You Do Amazing Things' by Preschool Worship Song

www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbqrCUJJM58

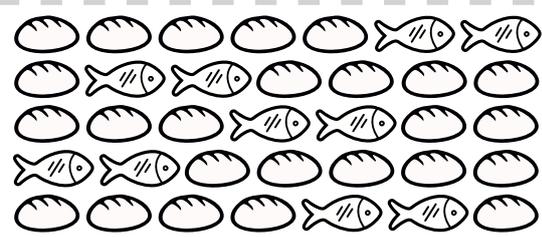
**LIVING
OUT FAITH**

Kids Alive! Online – salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more.. and is now available to read online!

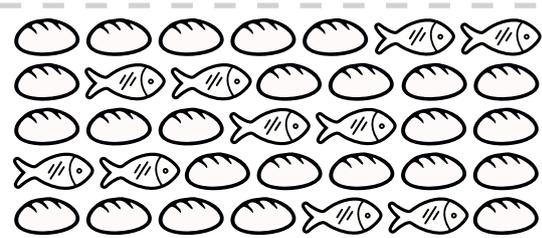
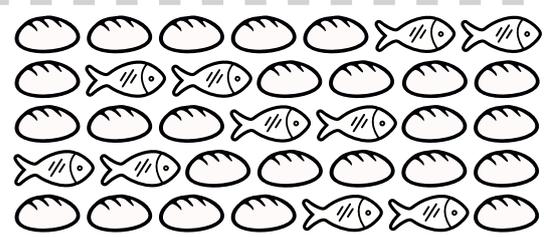
Explore it

‘You are the God who performs
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(Psalm 77:14)



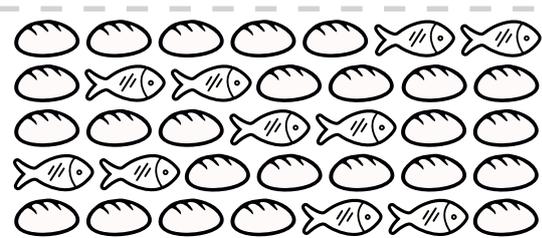
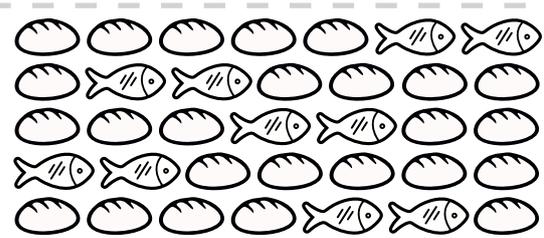
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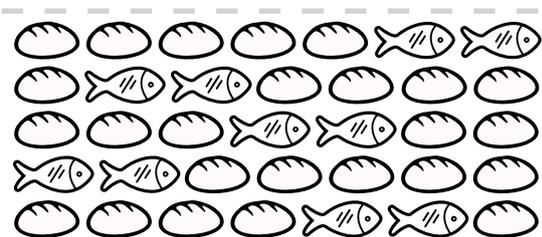
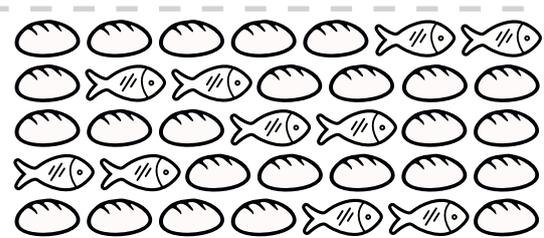
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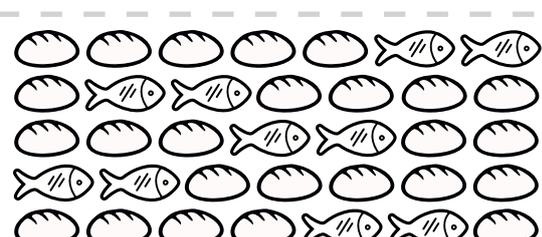
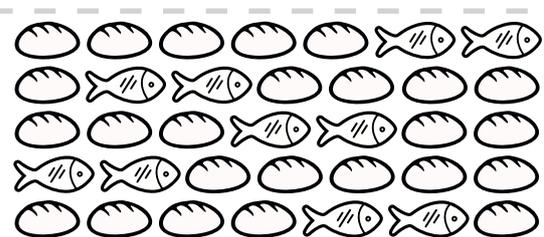
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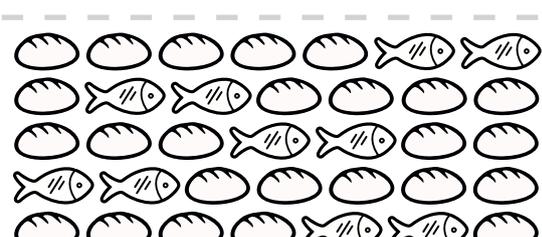
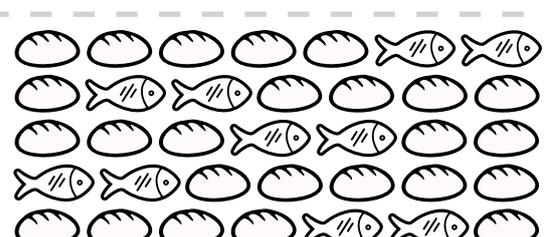
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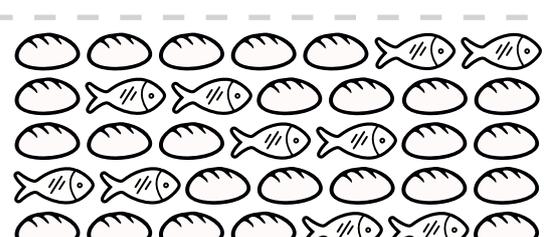
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Jesus Brings Calm



Bible verses:
Mark 4:35-41



Aim:
To explore how the miracle of calming the storm shows us that Jesus brings peace instead of fear



Today's fruit:
Peace



In today's session we will explore the miracle of Jesus calming the storm and what it reveals about who he is and how God's Kingdom works.

As the disciples faced a frightening and chaotic situation, Jesus brought calm and peace rather than fear. Through the story we are encouraged to reflect on how Jesus can be trusted when life feels out of control, and how God's Kingdom is marked by peace in the midst of difficult situations.

Each child will need:

- Pens or pencils and paper
- Coloured paper (including various shades of blue)
- Scissors
- Sticky tape
- Straws
- Slips of blue paper cut into wave shapes
- *Explore it ideas* handout

You will need:

- Today's fruit sign: *Faithfulness* – download from **Salvationist**
- Memory verse poster
- To watch the Jesus calms the storm craft video (Action it)

Start it

For this activity, the children will create a character that represents a weather storm. This could include wind, rain, waves, lightning, clouds, or anything else they associate with stormy weather. The aim is to help the children visualise what a storm is like before they hear the Bible story. Each child will need paper and colouring pencils or felt-tips.

Say:

We're going to start today by thinking about storms. Storms can be loud, messy and unpredictable. They can feel exciting to watch, but they can also feel frightening, especially if you're caught in the middle of one.

Today you're going to create your own storm character.

Ask the children to draw a storm as a character. They might choose to include wind, rain, waves, lightning, clouds, or even give their storm eyes or a face. There is no right or wrong way to do this. Give the children a few minutes to create their storm character.

Say:

Around the world, big storms are often given names. Giving storms a name helps people talk about them, track where they are going and get ready for them. Naming a storm doesn't stop it, but it helps people understand what's happening.

Ask the children to give their storm character a name and then share the pictures together.

Ask:

What words would you use to describe your storm?

Say:

Now that you've created your storm, we're going to explore a true story from the Bible about a time when the disciples were caught in a real storm on the water.

Keep your storm character picture safe as it will help you complete one of the 'Explore it at home' activities.

Sing it

Say:

Our song for today gives us a sneak peek of the miracle we will learn about this week.

Watch:

'Peace, Be Still' (Jesus Calms the Storm Kids Bible Song) by Joyful Beats (2:02)

Share it

Say:

In today's Bible story, the disciples find themselves in a situation that feels frightening and out of control. A sudden storm hits their boat and they are afraid. Let's watch the clip to find out what happened.

Watch:

Children's Bible Story - Jesus Calmed the Storm (Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25) by Grace Baptist Church of Glendale (1:30)

Say:

The Bible tells this story in both the book of Mark and the book of Luke. In Mark's version, we hear the details of what it was like to be on the boat as the storm raged on.

Read:

That evening, Jesus said to his followers, 'Come with me across the lake.' He and the followers left the people there. They went in the boat that Jesus was already sitting in. There were also other boats with them. A very strong wind came up on the lake. The waves began coming over the sides and into the boat. It was almost full of water.

(Mark 4:35-37 ICB)

Ask:

Imagine that you were one of the disciples on the boat. How do you think you would have felt? How would you have reacted?

Read:

Jesus was at the back of the boat, sleeping with his head on a pillow. The followers went to him and woke him. They said, 'Teacher, do you care about us? We will drown!'

(Mark 4:38 ICB)

Ask:

How do you think the disciples felt when they saw Jesus fast asleep?

What do you think they wanted Jesus to do in that moment?

Say:

The disciples were filled with panic. The ship was in danger of sinking, and the person who could save them was taking a nap! The disciples were afraid of the storm and didn't know what to do.

Ask:

The disciples accused Jesus of not caring about them. Do you think that was true? Why did the disciples say that to Jesus?

Say:

Sometimes when we're going through a difficult time, we may think that Jesus doesn't care. The truth is, Jesus cares deeply about every one of us.

Ask:

When you feel scared or worried, what do you usually want to change first – the situation, or how you feel inside?

Say:

Sometimes we want the scary situation to disappear straight away. Other times, what we really need first is help to stop feeling so afraid. The disciples wanted the storm to stop, but Jesus was about to show them something important about God's Kingdom.

Read:

Jesus stood up and commanded the wind and the waves to stop. He said, 'Quiet! Be still!' Then the wind stopped, and the lake became calm.

(Mark 4:39 *ICB*)

Ask:

What do you notice about the way Jesus brings calm? Does he rush, shout, or panic?

Say:

By this point the disciples had spent a lot of time with Jesus and had seen him perform many miracles. He had healed the sick, but they had never seen him calm the wind and the waves. They were obviously amazed, but the Bible describes another feeling.

Read:

Jesus said to his followers, 'Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?'

The followers were very afraid and asked each other, 'What kind of man is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!'

(Mark 4:40-41 *ICB*)

Ask:

Why do you think the disciples were very afraid even when the storm had calmed?

Say:

At that moment, the disciples began to realise who Jesus really was. This wasn't just someone who could help them. This was someone they could trust completely. Even the wind and the waves listened to him.

Ask:

What does this miracle help us understand about who Jesus is?

Display the *Peace* fruit sign.

Say:

This miracle isn't about showing off power. It helps us understand what Jesus is like and what God's Kingdom is like. The disciples learned that Jesus brings peace into frightening situations. God's Kingdom is not built on fear or panic. It is a kingdom where we can trust Jesus, even when life feels a little scary. In this story, the storm didn't just change on the outside. The disciples began to change on the inside too.

Action it

For this activity, the children are going to make their own boat on the water. This craft helps the children retell the Bible story and reflect on how Jesus brings peace in frightening situations. The clip below is for leader guidance only and does not need to be shown to the group. For this activity you will need coloured paper, scissors, sticky tape, a straw and felt-tips.

Watch:

Jesus calms the storm craft by North Douglas Church (1:48)

Say:

In today's story, the disciples were in the middle of a storm that felt scary and out of control. Through a powerful miracle, Jesus brought calm to the stormy water. As we make our boats today, we're going to remember that Jesus brings peace, even when things feel frightening.

Encourage the children to write 'Peace, be still' on the water. You may like to explain that some Bible translations use these words to show how Jesus brought calm to the storm.

Say:

As you look at your boat on the water, let's share our memory verse together.

Memory verse:

'You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.'

(Psalm 77:14)

Say:

Our memory verse reminds us that God performs miracles. In today's story we saw one of those miracles bringing calm and peace when people were afraid.

Pray it

For this activity, the children will need slips of blue paper cut out in the shape of waves, or they can cut the shape themselves.

Explain that just as the disciples faced a storm on the water, we all face situations that can feel worrying or frightening at times. The children do not need to share anything out loud unless they want to.

Invite the children to think quietly about something that feels a bit scary or worrying to them at the moment, or something they would like to ask God for help with.

Remind the children that we follow Jesus, who brings peace. The situations we worry about may not disappear straight away, but Jesus is with us and cares for us.

Give the children the opportunity to write or draw a prayer on their wave. They can ask God to help them, to bring peace, or to be with them in a difficult situation.

A link to a song is provided below if you would like to use it as part of this prayer time. When the music finishes, and if the children feel comfortable, you may invite them to share their prayers or pray on their behalf.

Watch:

'Still' (Lyric Video) by Hillsong Chapel (4:27)

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore it ideas* for children and families.



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Jesus Brings Calm

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



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Mark 4:35-41



Aim:
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Today's fruit:
Peace



Discover

Watch the clip to discover more about this week's Explore it story.

Watch:

Jesus Calms the Storm Bible Story by Kids on the Move

www.youtube.com/watch?v=FSptH1_NqDU



Create

Take your storm character home and use it to create a short story.

In your story, your storm can be loud and chaotic at first. Then something happens and the storm becomes calm. Think about what changes and how the storm feels once it is peaceful. You could draw pictures, write a few sentences, or tell the story out loud to someone at home.



Song for the week

Watch:

'Peace, Be Still' (Jesus Calms the Storm Kids Bible Song) by Joyful Beats

www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOMA_knG6CY

**LIVING
OUT FAITH**

Jesus Heals



Bible verses:
Luke 4:38-39



Aim:
To explore how Jesus' healing miracle reveals God's kindness and care, and to consider how we can reflect that kindness in everyday life



Today's fruit:
Kindness



In today's session we will explore a healing miracle that takes place in an ordinary home.

Jesus notices someone who is unwell, listens when others ask for help, and steps in to bring healing. This miracle helps us understand that God's Kingdom is close and at work in everyday life. As we reflect on kindness as a fruit of the Spirit, we are encouraged to think about how we can care for others and show kindness in simple, practical ways.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper
- Card
- Craft materials for decorating cards
- *Explore it ideas* handout

You will need:

- Today's fruit sign: *Kindness* – download from **Salvationist**
- Memory verse poster



Start it

Clear a space in the room and ask the children to stand in a line.

Explain that you are going to read out different actions. The children need to take one step forward if they think the action shows the person is caring towards someone else, or one step

back if they think it does not. A selection of statements are given below and you can choose which are appropriate for your group. Some of the statements aren't quite as straightforward as they may seem, and this will hopefully prompt some discussion.

Statements:

- Someone notices you're not feeling well.
- Someone listens when you ask for help.
- Someone rushes past you because they're busy.
- Someone helps without needing to be thanked.
- Someone tells everyone they are helping you.
- Someone stays with you even when they can't fix the problem.
- Someone tries to help but doesn't listen to what you really need.
- Someone helps you but only because they were told to.
- Someone gives you space when you ask for it.

Ask:

Which of the statements was the most difficult to decide?

Say:

In today's story, Jesus stepped forward to help a sick woman. This miracle helps us understand who Jesus is and how God's Kingdom works.

Sing it

Say:

In our Start it activity we thought about the different ways people can show they care.

Display the Kindness fruit sign.

Say:

When we ask for his help, the Holy Spirit grows the fruit of kindness within us. Our song for today reminds us of all the ways we can show kindness to others.

Watch:

'The Kindness Song' (Cheeky Pandas) by Cheeky Pandas TV (3:01)



Share it

Say:

Our Bible reading today is only two verses long. However, in these two verses, an amazing miracle takes place.

Read:

Jesus left the synagogue and went to Simon's house. Simon's mother-in-law was very sick with a high fever. They asked Jesus to do something to help her. He stood very close to her and commanded the fever to leave. It left her immediately, and she got up and began serving them.

(Luke 4:38-39 ICB)

To help the children remember the story, read it through and create a set of actions. Suggestions are given below.

Jesus left the synagogue (**walking on the spot**) and went to Simon's house (**create the shape of a roof over your head**). Simon's mother-in-law was very sick with a high fever (**giant sneeze**). They asked Jesus to do something to help her (**hand held out asking for help**). He stood very close (**take a big step forward**) to her and commanded the fever to leave (**wagging finger**). It left her immediately, and she got up and began serving them (**stand tall with a big smile on your face**).

As you work through the story, discuss the following questions together:

- How was medicine different back in the time this story happened?
- Why was Simon so worried about his mother-in-law? Why was she so important to him?
- Why do you think Simon wanted Jesus to see her?
- What do you think he was hoping would happen?
- What do you notice about the way Jesus helps Simon's mother-in-law? Does he make a big scene, or does he help quietly?
- Where does this miracle happen? What does that tell us about where God's Kingdom can be at work?

Say:

In this short story Jesus uses his power to help someone who is unwell in a very ordinary place. He doesn't make a big scene or call attention to himself. He notices, steps in, and brings healing and care into a family home. This miracle helps us understand that God's Kingdom is close, kind, and at work in everyday life.

Read the Bible passage through once more, inviting the children to join in with all the actions together. Encourage big actions and smiles to help them remember the story. Remind the children that even though the story is short, it shows us something important about who Jesus is and how God's Kingdom works.

Action it

Sunday 15 March is Mother's Day. We recognise that this can be a day of celebration for some and a challenging day for others. In today's Action it section the children can choose one of two creative activities. Both are ways of reflecting the care and kindness we see in today's Bible story, and they also provide an opportunity to celebrate Mother's Day.

You can adapt this activity to suit your group.

For this activity you will need card, colouring pens, pencils and other materials for decorating.

Card of Care

The children can make a card for someone who is unwell or going through a difficult time. This could be someone in their family, school, church or community. The card could include a picture and a simple message to let the person know they are being thought of.

Card of Thanks

The children could make a card to thank someone who looks after and cares for them. This could be a mum, dad, grandparent, a carer, or an adult or friend that they can rely on.



Pray it

Ask the children to stand in the same line as they did for the Start it activity. Explain that you are going to guide them through a short prayer using movement. To start the time of prayer, share this month's memory verse together.

Memory verse:

'You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.'

(Psalm 77:14)

Say:

Our memory verse reminds us that God is powerful and performs miracles. Today's story showed us that Jesus' power can bring miraculous healing in gentle ways.

Invite the children to respond as you talk them through the prayer.

Say:

- If you know someone who is unwell, you can take a step forward and take a moment to pray for them.
- If you know someone who looks after you, you can place your hand on your heart as you thank God for them.

- If you want to ask God to help you step in and help when someone needs your care, you can hold your hands open in front of you.

Pray:

Dear God,

Thank you that Jesus shows us what you are like.

Thank you that Jesus' miraculous power brings healing and care in gentle ways.

We pray for all those we have thought about today who are unwell.

We thank you for those who look after others, often in quiet and unseen ways.

Help us to notice when someone needs care and to step in with kindness, just as Jesus did.

Amen.

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore it ideas* for children and families.



Jesus Heals

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:
Luke 4:38-39



Aim:
To explore how Jesus' healing miracle reveals God's kindness and care, and to consider how we can reflect that kindness in everyday life



Today's fruit:
Kindness



Discover

Discover more about kindness as you watch the clip.

Watch:

God's Story: Fruit of the Spirit: Kindness by Crossroads Kids' Club

www.youtube.com/watch?v=squ52pm2CCQ



Share

Find Luke 4:38-39 in your Bible. Read the story to someone at home and teach them the actions. Let them know all that you discovered about Jesus in this week's Explore it session.



Song for the week

Watch:

'The Kindness Song' (Cheeky Pandas) by Cheeky Pandas TV

www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLuRcbQVDt8

**LIVING
OUT FAITH**

Kids Alive! Online – salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more.. .and is now available to read online!

Jesus Provides



Bible verses:
John 6:1-14



Aim:
To explore how the miracle of feeding the 5,000 shows us that Jesus provides for his people



Today's fruit:
Goodness



In today's session we will explore the miracle of feeding the 5,000 and what it reveals about who Jesus is and how God's Kingdom works.

As Jesus notices a hungry crowd, he refuses to send people away and instead provides enough for everyone. Through this story we will discover what goodness looks like in God's Kingdom. We are encouraged to trust Jesus with the ordinary things in our lives and to see how God can use us to care for and love others.

Each child will need:

- 'Explore it Ideas' handout
- 'Five Loaves and Two Fish' handouts (coloured paper for Start it, A5 for Action it)
- Paper plates
- Scissors and glue
- Pens, pencils or colouring pencils

You will need:

- Today's fruit sign: *Goodness* – download from **Salvationist**
- Memory verse poster



Start it

For this activity you will need to copy the 'Five Loaves and Two Fish' handout on to coloured paper. Decide how many teams you will divide the children into and make sure there are five loaves and two fish of one colour for each team. Hide all the different-coloured loaves and fish around the room prior to the session.

The aim of the game is for each team to find their full set of loaves and fish.



Sing it

Say:

Our song for today gives us a sneak preview of our Bible story. Let's sing it together and find out what Jesus does when a big crowd is hungry.

Watch:

'5 Loaves and 2 Fish' (Animated - Bible Songs) by DG Bible Songs (3:52)



Share it

Say:

Today's miracle has already been introduced in our song, but let's listen carefully to Scripture and discover what Jesus did to feed a hungry crowd.

Read:

After this, Jesus went across Lake Galilee (or, Lake Tiberias). Many people followed him because they saw the miracles he did to heal the sick. Jesus went up on a hill and there sat down with his followers. It was almost the time for the Jewish Passover Feast.

Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him. He said to Philip, 'Where can we buy bread for all these people to eat?'

(John 6:1-5 ICB)

Ask:

Why were the people following Jesus?

What do you think it was like for Jesus and his disciples to always be surrounded by crowds?

Say:

More and more people had heard about Jesus' teaching and his amazing miracles, and they wanted to see him for themselves. This meant that Jesus was often followed by big crowds. On this particular day Jesus noticed that the large crowd was getting hungry and he asked Philip where they could buy bread for everyone.

Ask:

When Jesus asked Philip about the bread, do you think Jesus already knew what he was going to do, or was he helping Philip think about the problem?

Say:

That's right. Jesus already knew what he was going to do, and he was also helping his disciples learn and think. He wasn't worried. Philip looked at the situation and saw how difficult it would be. Feeding everyone felt impossible. However, nothing is impossible when Jesus is around.

Read:

(Jesus asked Philip this question to test him. Jesus already knew what he planned to do.)

Philip answered, 'We would all have to work a month to buy enough bread for each person here to have only a little piece.'

Another follower there was Andrew. He was Simon Peter's brother. Andrew said, 'Here is a boy with five loaves of barley bread and two little fish. But that is not enough for so many people.'

Jesus said, 'Tell the people to sit down.' This was a very grassy place. There were about 5,000 men who sat down there. Then Jesus took the loaves of bread. He thanked God for the bread and gave it to the people who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish. He gave them as much as they wanted.

(John 6:6-11 ICB)

Say:

Andrew noticed a young boy with five loaves and two fish, but it didn't seem like nearly enough to feed the whole crowd. On its own, it couldn't solve the problem. However, Andrew brought what he found to Jesus.

Ask:

What do you think it felt like for the boy to see Jesus using his ordinary packed lunch to do something extraordinary?

Read:

They all had enough to eat. When they had finished, Jesus said to his followers, 'Gather the pieces of fish and bread that were not eaten. Don't waste anything.' So they gathered up the pieces that were left. They filled 12 large baskets with the pieces that were left of the five barley loaves.

The people saw this miracle that Jesus did. They said, 'He must truly be the Prophet who is coming into the world.'

(John 6:12-14 ICB)

Ask:

What does this miracle help us understand about what Jesus is like?

Say:

This miracle shows us something important about Jesus. When he sees people in need, he doesn't ignore them and he doesn't send them away. Jesus makes sure everyone has enough.

In the song we sang earlier it says, 'Lay your life before God and miracles will abound.' That doesn't mean we have to do something big or impressive. It means trusting Jesus with what is already there and believing that he is the one who provides.

This story isn't really about how much food there was. It's about who Jesus is. Jesus shows us a Kingdom where goodness looks like caring for people in practical ways and making sure everyone is included.

Action it

Display the *Goodness* fruit sign

Remind the children that in today's story, goodness looks like Jesus caring for people and making sure everyone has enough.

Explain that in the Bible story, Jesus used ordinary food to do something extraordinary. The miracle did not happen because the food was impressive, but because Jesus was trusted with it.

Spend time discussing with the children what we can offer to Jesus as his followers. Explain that in today's story, Jesus used something very ordinary to care for a lot of people, and that following Jesus often means trusting him with the everyday things in our lives.

Together create an ideas bank of different things we might offer to Jesus, such as talents, personality traits, qualities, time, and the things that matter to us.

Each child will need their own copy of the 'Five Loaves and Two Fish' handout (A5) and a paper plate. Using the ideas bank, invite the children to write or draw one thing they could offer to Jesus on each item of food on the handout. When they have finished, they can cut them out and stick them to the paper plate.

When the children have completed the activity, invite them to share the contents of their plate with the other members of the group. If they would like to, they could choose one item on their plate that they want to think about offering to God over the coming week.

Pray it

Over the past few weeks we've discovered that Jesus brings transformation, peace, healing, and provision. Each miracle shows us that Jesus cares about people and meets them right where they are.

Our memory verse for this month reminds us who God is and what he does. Let's share it together.

Memory verse:

'You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.'

(Psalm 77:14 NIV)

To bring the 'Miracles' series to a close, the children are going to share a song of prayer and praise that celebrates our amazing God. It was the song of the week in our first session. After the song, bring the session to a close in prayer.

Watch:

'You Do Amazing Things' (Preschool Worship Song) by KidSpring Children's Ministry (1:57)

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore it ideas* for children and families.



Explore it is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)

Jesus Provides

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:
John 6:1-14



Aim:
To explore how the miracle of feeding the 5,000 shows us that Jesus provides for his people



Today's fruit:
Goodness



Explore

Watch the clip to discover more about the miracles of Jesus. See if you can find some of the stories in your Bible.

Watch:

The Many Miracles of Jesus by Kids on the Move

www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFTs44Jnuzo



Bake

In this week's Explore it, a young boy brought his bread to Jesus. Ask someone at home to help you create your own loaf of bread with this simple recipe.

www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/bread-four-easy-steps



Song for the week

Watch:

'5 Loaves and 2 Fish' (Animated - Bible Songs) by DG Bible Songs

www.youtube.com/watch?v=LjC7ZrSuRak

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