

# Explore It

## FOR LEADERS



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## THE IDENTITY OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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### Matthew 4:1-11 The temptations of Jesus

#### AIM: To know how Jesus was tempted

Just after Jesus heard a voice from Heaven telling him how much he was loved, he was taken off into the desert to be tempted. While Jesus was hungry and tired, the devil tried to tempt him to break a promise not to use his powers to take the easy option. But Jesus trusted in God and resisted temptation. In today's session we will explore this story and think about what it means for us and how our choices impact others.

Each child will need:


- Five slips of paper, pens/pencils
- Memory verse wristbands
- Art/collage materials including some child-friendly newspaper stories
- Prayer prompts (optional)


You will need:

- A container to hold the slips of paper
- To enlarge the memory verse poster, for display
- To select some child-friendly news articles – see Action It section


## Start It

Give each child five slips of paper and ask them to write down on each slip one thing that they love. Encourage the children to avoid writing people or pets that they love, and instead stick to items, hobbies, places or activities. Once they have written the five things, ask them to fold up the slips of paper and place them in a container.


 **Say:** On Sunday 5 March, for The Salvation Army it is Self-Denial Sunday. At this time of year members of The Salvation Army think about what they can give up temporarily to help others. If you had to choose, I wonder which of your favourite things you would give up? To help us explore this we are going to play a running game.

 **Say:** For each round two slips of paper are chosen out of the container. (The leader or a child can choose.) For example: chocolate and football. You need to decide which one you could give up. If you choose chocolate, run to one side of the room. And if you choose to give up football, run to the other side. (Establish where the children can run to.)

After each round discuss the children's choices.

 **Say:** In our story today the devil tries to persuade Jesus to give in to temptation. Instead Jesus gave us the perfect example of how we can deny ourselves and follow God's plan for our lives.

### Memory verse

 **Say:** Our memory verse for this month reminds us that we all play an important part in following God's plan for the world. Let's read the verse together.

**'All of you together are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of that body.'**

— (1 Corinthians 12:27 ICB)

Display a large copy of the memory verse in the room where you meet and give each child a memory verse wristband.

**Ask:**

- How does it make you feel that, as a Christian, you play an important part in the body of Christ?
- What do you think it means?

## Sing It

**Say:** Our song for today reminds us of the amazing things Jesus did here on earth and the difference it makes to each one of us.

'Jesus Song' by Saddleback Kids (2 mins 45 secs)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rn84AYtFUSM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rn84AYtFUSM)

## Tell It

**Say:** Today's Bible story took place after a very special event in the life of Jesus.

**Read:**

**'At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River. He came to John [John the Baptist and his cousin] and wanted John to baptise him. But John tried to stop him. John said, "Why do you come to me to be baptised? I should be baptised by you!"**

**'Jesus answered, "Let it be this way for now. We should do all things that are right." So John agreed to baptise Jesus.**

**'Jesus was baptised and came up out of the water. Heaven opened, and he saw God's Spirit coming down on him like a dove. And a voice spoke from Heaven. The voice said, "This is my Son and I love him. I am very pleased with him."**

— (Matthew 3:13-17 ICB)

**Say:** Jesus had just been baptised by John and heard a voice from Heaven telling him how much he was loved. He must have been feeling amazing. But then the Holy Spirit did what seemed like a very strange thing.

**Read:**

**'Then the Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Jesus ate nothing for 40 days and nights. After this, he was very hungry.'**

— (Matthew 4:1-2 ICB)

**Say:** Straight after Jesus had felt God's love, he was tempted in the desert.

**Ask:** Sometimes, when we have had an amazing experience with God or have made special promises to him, the devil tempts us to do the wrong thing. Have you ever experienced that? If so, share it with the rest of the group.

**Say:** After Jesus had been 40 days and nights in the desert, the devil decided this was the best time to tempt Jesus in three different ways:

1. Break a promise
2. Use his power wrongly
3. Take the easy option

### Temptation number one – break a promise

**Read:**

**'The devil came to Jesus to tempt him. The devil said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these rocks to become bread."**

**'Jesus answered, "It is written in the Scriptures, 'A person does not live only by eating bread. But a person lives by everything the Lord says.'"**

— (Matthew 4:3-4 ICB)

**Ask:** What was the first thing the devil used to test Jesus?

**Say:** Jesus was hungry as he hadn't eaten for days. He focused on fasting and praying because he knew that was what God wanted him to do. The devil tried to tempt Jesus to move away from what God wanted, but Jesus stayed strong and trusted God.

**Ask:** What kinds of things are you tempted to have, even though you know they are not good for you?

**Say:** We can often be tempted to eat foods that aren't good for us or desire items we don't really need. They may make us feel better in the short term but might not be the best for us in the long term.

**Ask:** Do you think this Bible reading tells us that bread isn't good for us? Explain your answer.

**Say:** When we are looking at a Bible story, we have to think carefully about what it means. There are lots of times in the Bible when Jesus eats bread, but on this occasion it was a temptation. Jesus was spending time fasting and had promised God that he would not eat bread. This is why the devil used the bread to tempt Jesus.

## Temptation number two – use his power wrongly

**Read:**

**'Then the devil led Jesus to the holy city of Jerusalem. He put Jesus on a very high place of the Temple. The devil said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off. It is written in the Scriptures,**

**'He has put his angels in charge of you.**

**They will catch you with their hands.**

**And you will not hit your foot on a rock.'" [Psalm 91:11-12]**

**'Jesus answered him, "It also says in the Scriptures, 'Do not test the Lord your God.'"**

— (Matthew 4:5-7 ICB)

**Ask:** This one is a little trickier to understand, but how was the devil trying to tempt Jesus this time?

**Say:** The devil was trying to fill Jesus with pride by reminding him of his identity. He was saying, 'If you really are who you say you are, then prove it.' The devil was even more crafty, as he used words from the Old Testament to back up his point.

**Ask:** Why do you think that was particularly sneaky?

**Say:** The devil was trying to use the Bible to say something that it didn't really say. But Jesus could see straight through the trick. He wasn't willing to use his power in any way that went against God's will.

## Temptation number three – take the easy option

**Read:**

**'Then the devil led Jesus to the top of a very high mountain. He showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and all the great things that are in those kingdoms. The devil said, "If you will bow down and worship me, I will give you all these things."**

**'Jesus said to the devil, "Go away from me, Satan! It is written in the Scriptures, 'You must worship the Lord your God. Serve only him!'"**

**'So the devil left Jesus. And then some angels came to Jesus and helped him.'**

— (Matthew 4:8-11 ICB)

**Ask:** How did the devil try and tempt Jesus this time?

**Say:** Jesus is the Son of God. In this encounter with the devil, Jesus already had everything he could possibly have hoped for. The devil tried to make Jesus feel like he was missing out on something.

**Ask:**

→ In what ways can we be tempted by what we don't have?

→ What kinds of things are we tempted by, and how do they show themselves?

**Say:** Jesus declared that God was the only one worthy of worship, not possessions, popstars, or hobbies – only God.

**Ask:** What did Jesus have to do to get 'all the kingdoms of the world'?

**Say:** Sometimes the devil tries to tempt us by encouraging us to take the easy option or go for the quick fix. We might be waiting for God to answer a prayer or we might be struggling with a problem. We can sometimes be tempted to take what seems like the easy option instead of trusting God with the situation. Jesus' third temptation reminds us to keep our eyes fixed on God and not on finding a quick fix.

**Ask:** In what three ways did Jesus tempt the devil?

**Say:** The devil tried to tempt Jesus to break a promise he had made to God, to use his power for his own benefit, and to take the easy option rather than following God's plan. These are all ways that the devil tempts us today, but we can always choose God's way instead.

## Action It

Share some child-friendly news stories for the children to look at with the aim for the children to discover how giving in to temptation can impact other people. Through this activity the children should be able to discuss how many of the difficulties people face in the world are linked to poor choices by others.

→ BBC Newsround: [www.bbc.co.uk/newsround](http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround)

→ First News: [www.firstnews.co.uk](http://www.firstnews.co.uk)

→ Self-Denial resources: [www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/key-dates/self-denial-2023](http://www.salvationist.org.uk/resources/key-dates/self-denial-2023)

→ Find your local newspaper: [www.holdthefrontpage.co.uk/directory/dailynewspapers](http://www.holdthefrontpage.co.uk/directory/dailynewspapers)

**Say:** As human beings we often face the same temptations that Jesus faced. Jesus provides the perfect example of how we can make the right choices and resist doing wrong.

**Say:** A lot of the suffering we see in the world is caused by people breaking promises they have made to God, by using their power selfishly or by cutting corners to take the easy option.

## Artwork/collage

Ask the children to create a piece of artwork or a collage that shows how giving into temptation impacts others. They can use newspaper articles or stories to discover:

→ How giving into temptation impacts other people

→ How people can make different choices so that we are looking out for the needs of others.

The discussion and outcome will depend on the stories chosen by the children, but this activity will hopefully encourage them to consider how the choices we make impact the lives of others.

## Pray It

Ask the children to place their artwork/collage on the floor or on a large table so that they can all see what has been created. Discuss some of the stories they have highlighted. As they look at the stories, encourage the children to think about how a Jesus-led choice might have changed that situation.

Encourage the children to share a prayer out loud in response to what they have discovered today. You may want to display the following prayer prompts to help the children share their prayers.

## Prayer prompts

- Lord, please look after ...
- Jesus, forgive me when I ...
- Please help those that I love, especially ...
- Please bless ...
- Jesus, I ask you to ...
- Jesus, help me to follow your example ...
- When I am tempted to make a choice that hurts others, help me to ...

## Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

# Explore It

## IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

MARCH  
SESSION 01

## THE IDENTITY OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

 Matthew 4:1-11 The temptations of Jesus

© AIM: To know how Jesus was tempted

### FOR ME

### TOGETHER



#### Pray

Explore the *BBC Newsround* website.

[www.bbc.co.uk/newsround](http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround)

Look at some of the stories featured on their site.

- ➔ Who could you pray for?
- ➔ How could you help?



#### Share

In this week's session you looked at lots of news stories where people were impacted by the actions of others. Discuss your discoveries with the people at home and think about how you could help others this week.



#### Song for the week

'Jesus Song' by Saddleback Kids

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rn84AYtFUSM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rn84AYtFUSM)



#### Memory verse

'All of you together are the body of Christ.  
Each one of you is a part of that body.'

— (1 Corinthians 12:27 ICB)

#### KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

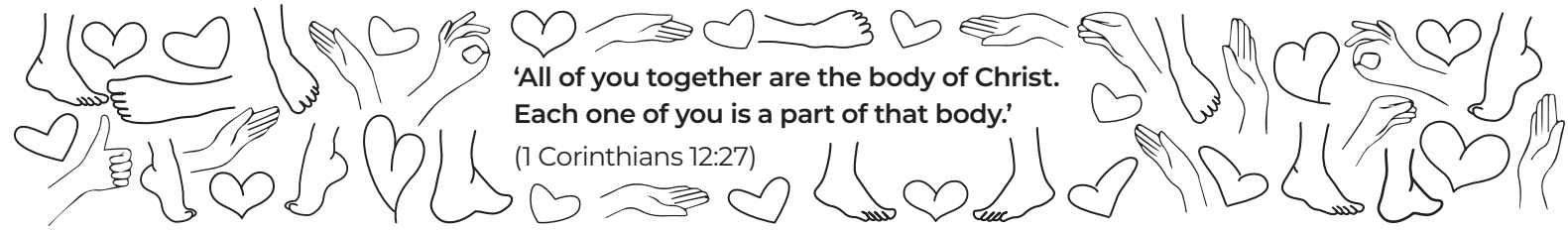
<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

*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!



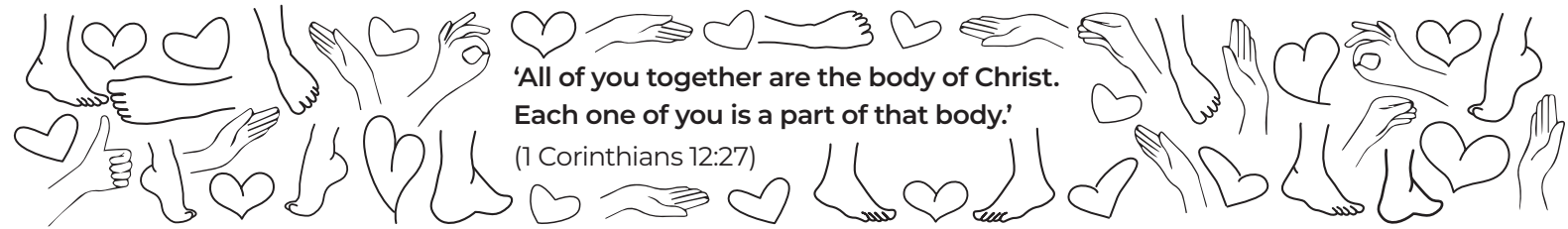
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(1 Corinthians 12:27 ICB)



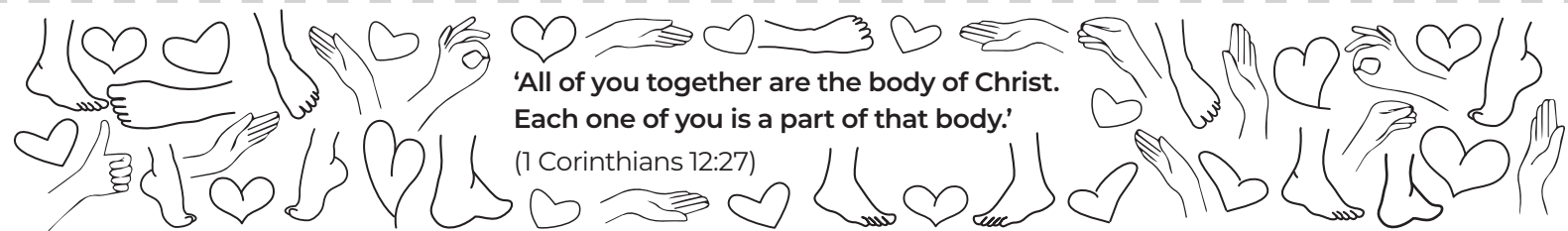
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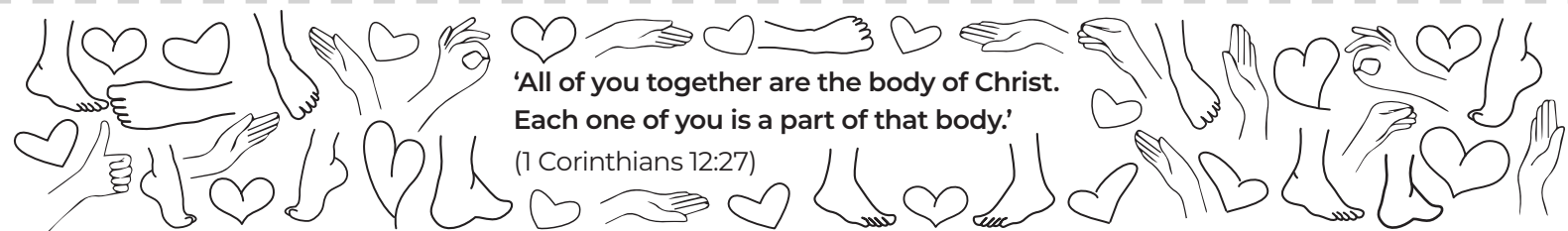
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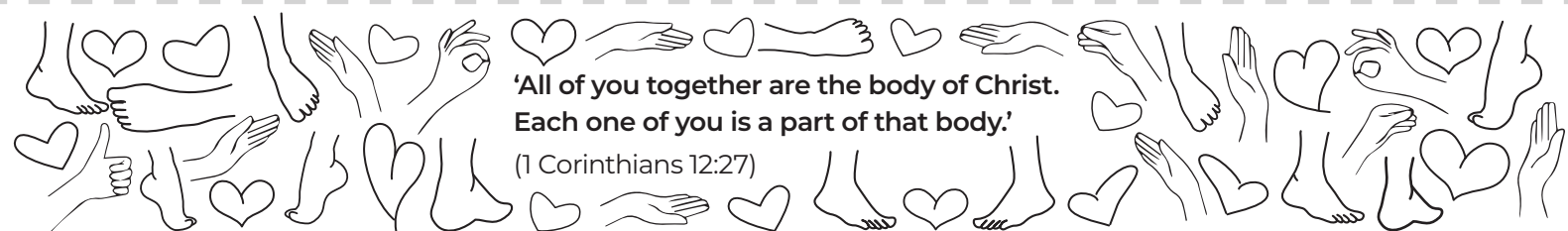
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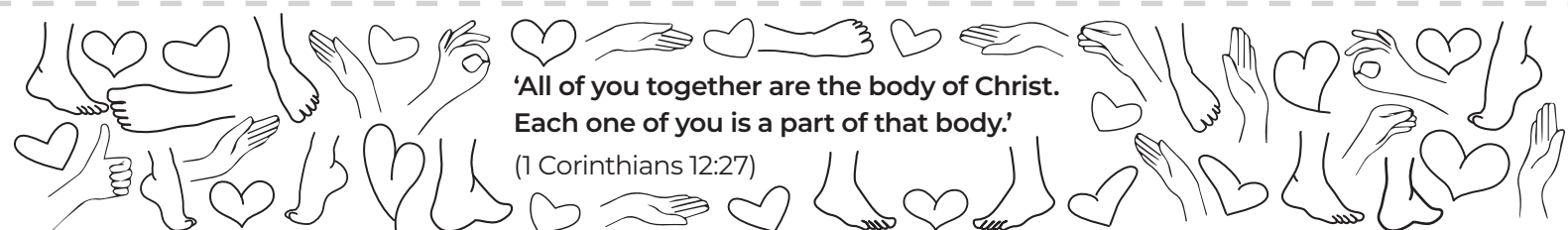
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Lord, please look after ...

Jesus, forgive me when I ...

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especially ...

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When I am tempted to  
make a choice that hurts  
others, help me to ...

# Explore It

## FOR LEADERS



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### THE IDENTITY OF JESUS IS REVEALED

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#### John 2:1-11 The wedding at Cana


#### AIM: To learn about Jesus' first miracle

Our story today takes us to a wedding in Cana, a village in Galilee. Jesus and the other guests are having a great time and then the wine runs dry. Jesus faces a dilemma. Should he perform the miracle his mum (Mary) is asking him to, or stay quiet and continue to keep a low profile? In today's session we find out what happens at the wedding and explore how we can show the miracle of Jesus to others.

Each child will need:

→ A5 paper, pens/pencils

## Start It

 **Say:** In today's session we will be thinking about all the ways we can share the miracles of Jesus with others. As part of this we are going to be thinking about ways that people raise money for charities like Comic Relief and The Salvation Army, so that others can get the help they need. As a fun starter, watch the history of Comic Relief's red nose and then see if you can design your own.


### Video

*The history of red noses by Comic Relief (1 min 9 secs)*

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=3meEwmszBzI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3meEwmszBzI)

Give each child a piece of A5 paper and three minutes to create their own Comic Relief red nose. After three minutes ask the children to share their ideas with the rest of the group.

## Sing It

 **Say:** Our song for today links to our memory verse and reminds us that we are all part of the body of Christ. In Romans 12:5 we read:


**'In the same way, we are many, but in Christ we are all one body. Each one is a part of that body. And each part belongs to all the other parts.'**

— (Romans 12:5 ICB)

*'One body in Christ' by The Gospel Project (2 mins 55 secs)*

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKvYNDMhWKQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKvYNDMhWKQ)

### Memory verse

 **Say:** Let's share our memory verse together.

**'All of you together are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of that body.'**

— (1 Corinthians 12:27 ICB)

## Tell It

### Ask:

- Do you always do what your parent or carer asks you to do?
- When do you find it most difficult to do as you're told?
- Have you ever had a really good reason why you didn't want to do what a parent or carer was asking you to do? Share your story with the rest of the group.

**Say:** In today's story Jesus was asked by his mum to do something very special. The only problem was, it seems like he didn't want to do it. Watch the clip to find out why.

### Video

*Jesus turns water into wine* by Saddleback Kids (1 min 56 secs)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=7plJa\\_qnVug](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7plJa_qnVug)

### Discuss:

- Where did Jesus spend his childhood? What was he doing?
- What special event did Jesus attend, and who was there with him?
- What went wrong at the wedding, and how did Mary ask Jesus to help out?
- What did Jesus tell the servants to do? What happened?

**Say:** From that moment on people started to discuss who Jesus was, and his disciples started to believe in him and follow him.

### Ask:

- Do you think we see miracles from Jesus today? Share some examples.
- What miracles would you like to see in our world today?
- Do you sometimes wonder why we don't see more miracles when they would make the world a better place? If so, why do you think that is?

**Say:** When Jesus came to live on this earth, he did amazing things. Turning water into wine was just the start.

## Action It

**Say:** We might sometimes feel like we don't see the miracles of Jesus any more, but they can be seen in the hearts and actions of people across the world.

**Say:** Red Nose Day is on Friday 17 March and through this event Comic Relief raises millions to help people in this country and abroad. Each person who donates, fundraises, or offers to help, is a mini miracle.

**Ask:** How could you be a mini miracle this Red Nose Day?

Today's Action It section can go in the direction that you would like as the group leader. The main aim is for the children to consider ways that they can be mini miracles in the world. The focus could be on a smaller fundraising activity for Comic Relief or a longer-term project that will go toward your corps' Self-Denial Appeal.

Once you have decided which cause you would like to support, spend time with the children planning a fundraising or helping event. This activity could take many different forms, but the purpose is to empower the children to feel that they can share the miracle of Jesus with others through their actions.

## Pray It

**Say:** For our prayer time today we are going to listen to a song that talks of the miracles of Jesus. There is a lot of suffering in our world, but Jesus is here with us. The song reminds us that Jesus is a God of miracles.

## Video

'The miracle' by Shawna Edwards (5 mins 13 secs)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=uGnucFr119E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uGnucFr119E)

If you feel it would benefit the group, you could ask the children to find a place to lie down or close their eyes. The song is just over five minutes, so feel free to fade it out if the children become restless. When the song has finished, pray with the children.

## Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

# Explore It

## IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

MARCH  
SESSION 02

### THE IDENTITY OF JESUS IS REVEALED

 John 2:1-11 The wedding at Cana

© AIM: To learn about Jesus' first miracle

## FOR ME



### Create

As we continue to learn the memory verse for this month, create a picture version of it to put up at home.

## TOGETHER



### Explore

Have a look on the Comic Relief website with someone at home. What last-minute activity could you do together to raise money to help those in need? [www.comicrelief.com](http://www.comicrelief.com)



### Song for the week

'One body in Christ' by The Gospel Project  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKvYNdMhWKQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKvYNdMhWKQ)



### Memory verse

'All of you together are the body of Christ.  
Each one of you is a part of that body.'

— (1 Corinthians 12:27 ICB)

### KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.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 FOR LEADERS



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## THE IDENTITY OF FOUR FISHERMEN

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 **Luke 5:1-11 Jesus' first followers**

 **AIM: To find out about the first disciples**

More and more people were discovering who Jesus was and wanted to hear him teach. As the crowds gathered, Jesus edged closer to the shore and spotted some empty boats in the water. After a long night of fishing, the fishermen had caught nothing. In today's story we hear how a miracle of Jesus transformed a bunch of ordinary fishermen into fishers of men.


Each child will need:

→ A piece of paper 21 cm by 21 cm, pens/pencils

You will need:

→ Paper and pen to jot down names


## Start It

 **Say:** Our story today is all about a group of fishermen who weren't having much luck catching fish. Before we find out more, let's see what you know about the wonderful world of fish. Have a go at this fun *Beano* quiz together.

## Quiz

How much do you know about fish? [www.beano.com/posts/fish-quiz](http://www.beano.com/posts/fish-quiz)


## Sing It

 **Say:** Today's song introduces us to our Bible story for this session. The first four books of the New Testament, known as the Gospels, often tells the same stories in different ways. This song is based on Matthew's version of today's story.

'Matthew 4:18-20 – Fishers of men' by Seeds Family Worship (4 mins 14 secs)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWD\\_kRWcVjY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWD_kRWcVjY)

## Tell It

 **Say:** Our Bible story is found in the book of Luke in the New Testament. We're going to read and discuss it to discover more.

Read:

**'One day Jesus was standing beside Lake Galilee. Many people were pressing all around him. They wanted to hear the word of God.'**

— (Luke 5:1 ICB)

**Ask:**

→ In the last session we met Jesus at a wedding. What happened?

→ As we listen to the beginning of today's story, how do we know that people started to discover more about Jesus?

**Read:**

**'Jesus saw two boats at the shore of the lake. The fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. Jesus got into one of the boats, the one which belonged to Simon. Jesus asked Simon to push off a little from the land. Then Jesus sat down in the boat and continued to teach the people on the shore.**

**'When Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Take the boat into deep water. If you will put your nets in the water, you will catch some fish."**

**'Simon answered, "Master, we worked hard all night trying to catch fish, but we caught nothing. But you say to put the nets in the water; so I will."**

— (Luke 5:2-5 ICB)

**💬 Say:** These men had been fishermen for a long time and they knew what they were doing.

**Ask:**

- What might they have been thinking when Jesus sent them back out into the water to fish?
- Why do you think they decided to give it another try?

**Read:**

**'The fishermen did as Jesus told them. And they caught so many fish that the nets began to break. They called to their friends in the other boat to come and help them. The friends came, and both boats were filled so full that they were almost sinking.**

**'The fishermen were all amazed at the many fish they caught. When Simon Peter saw what had happened, he bowed down before Jesus and said, "Go away from me, Lord. I am a sinful man!"'**

— (Luke 5:6-9 ICB)

**Ask:**

- Why do you think the fishermen were so amazed by what Jesus had done?
- How do you think you would have reacted?
- Sometimes we can be tempted to give up when things aren't going our way. What does this story remind us to do?
- When Simon Peter realised who Jesus was, he told him to go away. Why do you think he did that?

**Read:**

**'James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were amazed too. (James and John were Simon's partners.) Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid. From now on you will be fishermen for men." When the men brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.'**

— (Luke 5:10-11 ICB)

Ask: What do you think Jesus meant when he said that Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John would become 'fishermen for men'?

**💬 Say:** The disciples were amazed by what Jesus had done and were persuaded to follow him. Think of all the amazing things Jesus has done in your life and the life of your church.

**Ask:**

- How does it persuade you to follow Jesus at school this week?
- What do you think following Jesus looks like in your everyday life?

**Memory verse**

Jesus called the disciples to follow him, but they continued to work together as a team, sharing the good news of Jesus. Our memory verse for this month reminds us that we are all part of the same team (or body), telling the world about Jesus and following him in our everyday lives.

**'All of you together are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of that body.'**

— (1 Corinthians 12:27 ICB)



## Action It

**Say:** Today you are going to make your own fishing boat to remind you of the story of Jesus calling his first disciples. They all decided to believe in Jesus and follow him. From that point on, they were part of a team, working together to tell others about Jesus.

Each child will need a piece of paper measuring 21cm by 21cm. Explain to the children that they are going to follow the instructions on the clip to make a 2D paper sailboat. Watch the clip together so that each child can make their boat.

### Video

*How to make 2D paper sailboats* by Mr Creator (3 mins 32 secs)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQHihR-dk8g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQHihR-dk8g)

Once the children have completed their boat they can decorate it and write on it 'From now on you'll be fishing for men and women.' (Luke 5:11 MSG)

## Pray It

**Say:** There may be people in your life who do not know Jesus yet, but you would like them to. As well as talking to them about Jesus, it is important that we pray for them as well.

**Ask:** Can you think of someone in your life whom you would like to know Jesus and follow him? If you feel comfortable, then share it with the rest of the group. As the children share the names, jot them down.

When all the children have shared, pray with the group mentioning all the names of those who don't know Jesus yet. Ask the children to place all their boats on the floor or table in front of them. Although they are all individual boats on the sea, they can all promise to pray together for those in their lives who do not know Jesus yet. Encourage the children to keep praying for their loved ones and sharing the amazing news about Jesus as much as they can.

## Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

# Explore It

## IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

MARCH  
SESSION 03

### THE IDENTITY OF FOUR FISHERMEN

 **Luke 5:1-11 Jesus' first followers**

 **AIM: To find out about the first disciples**

## FOR ME



### Discover

The stories of Jesus are told throughout the four Gospels. In our *Explore It* session we looked at two different versions of the same story.

Our song for the week was based on Matthew 4:18-22 and then we read the story in Luke 5:1-11.

Have a look at both versions in your Bible. How are they similar or different?

## TOGETHER



### Play

Today's session was all about fishing.

Watch the clip with the people at home and have a go at playing the card game 'Go fish'. You will need a deck of cards to play.

How to play *Go Fish* by Gather Together Games  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2z9xZYWqmo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2z9xZYWqmo)



### Song for the week

'Matthew 4:18-20 – Fishers of men' by  
Seeds Family Worship

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWD\\_kRWcVjY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWD_kRWcVjY)



### Memory verse

**'All of you together are the body of Christ.  
Each one of you is a part of that body.'**

— (1 Corinthians 12:27 ICB)

### KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.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

## FOR LEADERS



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### CAPERNAUM CONFIRMS JESUS' IDENTITY

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**Luke 4:31-44 Jesus removes an evil spirit**

**AIM: To learn how healings confirmed Jesus' identity**

Wherever Jesus went, crowds gathered to hear what he had to say. Today we join Jesus in Capernaum, a fishing village in Galilee, where he continued to teach the people. There was no escaping the fact that Jesus was someone very special, and when he miraculously healed the sick even more gathered to follow him around.

Each child will need:

→ Craft materials to make encouragement cards – see Action It section

## Start It

**Say:** In today's session we see Jesus healing the sick and performing amazing miracles. In our starter we are going to watch a clip that shows less effective ways of looking after those who are poorly.

### Video

*Horrible Histories – Historical Paramedics/Measly Middle Ages* by Horrible Histories (2 mins 41 secs)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KhCSwY-8Zc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KhCSwY-8Zc)

#### Ask:

- What are the chicken feathers used for?
- How do the historical paramedics treat sleeplessness?
- What do they use to heal the bruising on the patient's arm?
- What animal do they shout for when they think the patient has a skin disease?
- What horrible cure do they suggest for ringworm?

## Sing It

**Say:** In today's story Jesus heals the sick and brings them back to full health. Our song for this session talks about Jesus as the healer of the world.

'Jesus is the healer' by IDMC Kids (2 mins)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjmTLwKE3GY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjmTLwKE3GY)

## Tell It

**Say:** In our first three sessions we saw Jesus begin his ministry with a time of temptation in the desert with the devil. We then saw him turn water into wine at the wedding at Cana.

**Ask:** What happened in last week's story?

**Say:** When four men, Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John, saw the amazing miracle Jesus performed, they decided to follow him. They were no longer fishermen, instead they

were fishers of men. Today Jesus performs two more miracles. Let's read and discuss how the people of Capernaum reacted to the miracles of Jesus.

**Read:**

**'Jesus went to Capernaum, a city in Galilee. On the Sabbath day, Jesus taught the people. They were amazed at his teaching, because he spoke with authority. In the synagogue there was a man who had an evil spirit from the devil inside him. The man shouted in a loud voice, "Jesus of Nazareth! What do you want with us? Did you come here to destroy us? I know who you are – God's Holy One!"**

**'But Jesus warned the evil spirit to stop. He said, "Be quiet! Come out of the man!" The evil spirit threw the man down to the ground before all the people. Then the evil spirit left the man and did not hurt him.'**

— (Luke 4:31-35 ICB)

**💬 Say:** Wow! That must have been a pretty unusual thing for the people of Capernaum to see.

**Ask:**

- ➔ How do you think you would have reacted if you had been there?
- ➔ The people had lots of questions they wanted to ask Jesus. What would you have wanted to ask?

**Read:**

**'The people were amazed. They said to each other, "What does this mean? With authority and power he commands evil spirits, and they come out." And so the news about Jesus spread to every place in the whole area.'**

— (Luke 4:36-37 ICB)

**💬 Say:** The people couldn't believe what they had seen.

**Ask:**

- ➔ If something like this happened today, how do you think people would react?
- ➔ How do you think everyone would find out about it?

**💬 Say:** Jesus' amazing miracles didn't stop there. He went to Simon's house and something miraculous happened.

**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.'**

— (Luke 4:38 ICB)

**Ask:**

- ➔ Have you ever had a high fever/temperature before?
- ➔ What did it feel like?
- ➔ What does your parent or carer usually do to help your temperature go down?

**💬 Say:** In Jesus' day there was no Calpol or antibiotics to manage a fever, so people would be very worried if a family member was sick like this.

**Ask:**

- ➔ Why do you think Simon wanted Jesus to see his mother-in-law?
- ➔ What do you think he was hoping would happen?

**Read:**

**'He stood very close to her and commanded the fever to leave. It left her immediately, and she got up and began serving them.'**

**'When the sun went down, the people brought their sick to Jesus. They had many different diseases. Jesus put his hands on each sick person and healed every one of them. Demons came out of many people. The demons would shout, "You are the Son of God." But Jesus gave a strong command for the demons not to speak. They knew Jesus was the Christ.'**

**'At daybreak, Jesus went to a place to be alone, but the people looked for him. When they found him, they tried to keep him from leaving. But Jesus said to them, "I must tell the Good News about God's kingdom to other towns, too. This is why I was sent."**

**'Then Jesus kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.'**

— (Luke 4:39-44 ICB)

#### **Ask:**

- Do you think Jesus heals people today? Explain your answer.
- What do you think happened to Jesus' popularity once people knew he could heal the sick?
- Do you think people were interested in what Jesus had to say, or just what he could do for them? Explain your thoughts.

**💬 Say:** Healing can be a difficult topic, especially because we may know someone who has suffered. Experience shows us that Jesus heals sometimes without us knowing how. At other times he uses special people to help us. What we learn from this passage is that as Jesus continued to teach and perform miracles, more and more people decided to follow him.

## Action It

**💬 Say:** Jesus spent time with those who were sick and performed miracles of healing bringing them back to full health. It must have been amazing for the people to see.

**💬 Say:** In our sessions we have talked about how we can show the miracle of Jesus to others. Today we are going to spend time thinking about those who are unwell and find ways to care for them.

Spend some time discussing with the children about people within their family or church family who are unwell. Give the children craft materials to make cards of encouragement to send to those who are sick.

When the children have completed their cards, spend time praying as a group before sending the cards to their recipients.

## Pray It

#### **Memory verse**

**💬 Say:** Our memory verse for this month has focused on what it means to be part of the body of Christ. Let's share it together.

**'All of you together are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of that body.'**

— (1 Corinthians 12:27 ICB)

Throughout these sessions we have thought about who Jesus is and what it means to follow him. To bring our session to a close, spend time writing a prayer to Jesus asking him to help you as you try to follow him and live your life his way.

This prayer time provides an opportunity for the children to recommit their lives to Jesus or give their heart to him for the first time.

Say: To bring our session to a close we are going to tweak our memory verse just a little. Let's say together, 'Now we are the body of Christ, and each one of us is part of it.'

## Explore It

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

# Explore It

## IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

MARCH  
SESSION 04

### CAPERNAUM CONFIRMS JESUS' IDENTITY

 **Luke 4:31-44 Jesus removes an evil spirit**

© **AIM: To learn how healings confirmed Jesus' identity**

## FOR ME

## TOGETHER



### Pray

There may be someone that you know that has been struggling with their health and is feeling unwell. Spend time writing a prayer for them and promise to spend time praying for them as often as you can.



### Support

Is there someone you know who is feeling under the weather at the moment? Have a chat with the people at home and send a card of encouragement to them.

If you can't think of anyone, then you could cheer up one of the children on the Post Pals website. The Post Pals charity provides a way for people to send cards and letters to poorly children across the UK. [www.postpals.co.uk](http://www.postpals.co.uk)



### Song for the week

'Jesus is the healer' by IDMC Kids (2 mins)

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### Memory verse

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