

# Explore It

## FOR LEADERS



---

### WHAT IS THE GOOD NEWS?

---

#### Mark 1:15

In this opening session let's explore what the Good News of Jesus is – the fact that we can be in relationship with him and that is what he wants for each of us.

This session can be used to help children understand what it means to have a relationship with Jesus. It may be a good space to give opportunity for children to decide to follow Jesus for the first time.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper

### Start It

- **Say:** Today we are thinking about sharing the Good News of Jesus and telling others who he is and what he means to us. The amazing story of Jesus and what he did for us is the best news we will ever hear or could tell anyone else.

### Discuss

- What was the best news that you've ever heard?
- How did you feel when you heard it?
- What did you want to do as soon as you heard it?
- When you told other people, what was the best bit about their reaction?
- **Say:** When we watch the news on television it is often full of sad stories and there isn't much good news. As Christians we always have a good news story to tell and we'll be learning more about that today.

### Sing It

Today's song is full of joy about the Good News of Jesus.

'Rescuer (Good News)' by Rend Collective (4 mins 9 secs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAg7rn7fH3Q>

**Ask:** If you were part of the parade in the video, what would you do to join in the fun and share the Good News of Jesus?

### Tell It

**Ask:**

- Have you ever read a book or watched a film (or watched a football match) that you wanted everyone to know about because it was so brilliant?
- What was it and why did you love it so much?

🗨️ **Say:** When we have experienced something amazing, we want the whole world to know about it. As Christians that is how we should feel when we tell other people about Jesus, because he is the best news ever. Sometimes it's important to stop, think, and answer the question, 'What is the good news of Jesus?'

## Video

Ask the children to jot down what they learn about Jesus as they watch the clip.

**Screen share:** *God's Story – Jesus* by Crossroads Kids' Club (4 mins 45 sec)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8u-ICIHAmKk>

**Ask:** As you think about everything you heard in the clip, how would you describe the Good News of Jesus?

🗨️ **Say:** In the clip it says that anyone can be part of God's family and be close to Jesus. He invites us all to have a relationship with him, as following Jesus is more than just sticking to a set of rules. Jesus loves us more than we can ever imagine.

**Ask:**

➔ What was Jesus like when he was here on Earth? How did he treat people?

➔ What does it mean to be in a relationship with Jesus?

🗨️ **Say:** Part of being in a relationship with Jesus is trying to be more like him and live as he did.

**Ask:** What does it look like when we live like we love Jesus more than anything else?

## Action It

**Screen share:** Mark 1:14-15 (ICB)

**'After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee and preached the Good News from God. Jesus said, "The right time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Change your hearts and lives and believe the Good News!"'**

**Ask:**

➔ What did Jesus do when he went into Galilee?

➔ What do you think he told people?

➔ In verse 15 Jesus said, 'Change your hearts and lives and believe the Good News!' Do you think that's something that Jesus still wants us to do today? If so, why?

**Screen share the phrase:** 'Change your hearts and lives and believe the Good News!'

As a group, create actions based on the phrase, to help remind the children what Jesus preached in Galilee. Practise saying the phrase and doing the actions together.

## Pray It

The Pray It section today will depend on the children within your group.

🗨️ **Say:** When we have a relationship with someone, we spend time with them, talking to them and showing them they are loved. Prayer is the way that we grow in our relationship with Jesus. It's our way of talking to him. We're going to spend some time praying now.

🗨️ **Say:** If you have already prayed to Jesus lots of times, you could ask him to help you talk to other people about the Good News.

🗨️ **Say:** If you have never prayed before, then here is a prayer you can use to say hello to God for the first time.

Hello, God. My name is ...

I've just started to learn more about you and who you are.

As I discover what it means to be your friend and follow you, help me also to know what it means to love you and know that you love me.

Thank you.

🗨 **Say:** As Jesus said in Mark 1:15, we can be in a relationship with him when we change our hearts and lives and believe the Good News.

Here is a piece of music you could use while the children are praying.

'The peace of God' by Scripture Lullabies (3 mins 39 secs)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eyHn\\_KPm3uk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eyHn_KPm3uk)

## Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.