

# Explore It

## FOR LEADERS



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### TRAVELLING TO SAFETY

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#### Matthew 2:13-23 Jesus' parents take him to Egypt

In today's session we continue our travels with Jesus. Filled with anger and jealousy, King Herod made a terrible decision that would impact many families. Jesus and his family fled from Judea to safety in another country. Many Christians in the world today face dangerous circumstances because they follow Jesus and are not afraid to tell others about him. In today's session, the children will have an opportunity to grow in confidence to answer the question, 'What is it like to have a friend like Jesus?'

Each child will need:

→ Session Two's handout, pens/pencils

You will need:

→ Pen and paper

### Start It

Once the children have settled down and are listening, then the following instructions should be given using a whispering voice.

● **Say:** Last week we played 'Simon says'. This week we are going to play the same game, but I am only going to whisper the instructions.

Play a game of 'Simon says' with whispered instructions, and then discuss with the children how the game changed when all the instructions were so quiet. What made it more challenging? How was the game different from when we played it last week?

● **Say:** Today, we are learning all about the way that God guides us in our lives. Sometimes we are so distracted by the noises around us that we are not quiet enough to listen to him. Just like in our whisper game of 'Simon says', we need to spend time quietly listening to God's guidance so that we can be more like him.

### Sing It

● **Say:** When we believe in Jesus, we want to be more like him every day. Our song for today is all about being like Jesus.

'Be like Jesus' by YSPC Children's Ministry (1 min 58 secs)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqquxi0B4oY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqquxi0B4oY)

### Tell It

● **Say:** In last week's session we heard the story of the wise men as they travelled to worship Jesus. They went to see Herod to ask where the new king was born.

**Ask:**

→ What did Herod ask them to do?

- Why did he want them to come and tell him where Jesus was?
- What did the wise men do instead?
- 💬 **Say:** The wise men were warned by God that they should travel away from Herod and return home.

## Video

Here is a recap of last week's story.

*The story of Christmas (Jesus and the wise men)* by Saddleback Kids (3 mins 30 secs)

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

- 💬 **Say:** The clip didn't really say what happened to Herod when he heard that Jesus and his family had escaped.

**Ask:** How do you think King Herod reacted?

- 💬 **Say:** Herod was filled with rage. He hated the thought of Jesus being worshipped instead of him.

**Read:**

**'When Herod saw that the wise men had tricked him, he was very angry. So he gave an order to kill all the baby boys in Bethlehem and in all the area around Bethlehem who were two years old or younger.'**

— (Matthew 2:16 *ICB*)

**Ask:** Why do you think Herod felt so threatened by Jesus?

- 💬 **Say:** Even today, people can feel threatened by those who believe in Jesus. In many places in the world it is dangerous for people to worship Jesus and churches have to meet in secret.

## Video

*Hami's story* by Open Doors UK and Ireland (1 min 57 secs)

[www.vimeo.com/showcase/8767245/video/396427169](http://www.vimeo.com/showcase/8767245/video/396427169)

- 💬 **Say:** Pastor Milad knew that he needed to follow Jesus no matter what. He listened to God's guidance and trusted that God would keep him safe. Just as the wise men followed the guidance of the angel and Joseph listened to God's wisdom, Pastor Milad held strong to his belief in Jesus.

**Ask:**

- Have you ever faced opposition because you believe in Jesus? (Rephrase for younger children: Has anyone made you feel unhappy or made fun of you because you follow Jesus?)
- If so, what did it look like?
- If not, how do you imagine it feels?
- Do your friends away from church know that you follow Jesus? How do they react?
- If you haven't told your friends that you love Jesus, why is that? Are you afraid of what they'll say?
- 💬 **Say:** Jesus guides us to stand strong and share with others that we believe in him. Just like the wise men, Joseph and Mary, and Pastor Milad, we can trust God to guide us through any situation we face.
- 💬 **Say:** Our memory verse for this month reminds us that if we believe in Jesus, then he is within us, always there to guide our path.

Remind the children of the actions you created together in the last session and share the memory verse.

**'If someone says, "I believe that Jesus is the Son of God," then God lives in him. And he lives in God.'**

— (1 John 4:15 *ICB*)

## Action It

- **Say:** Believing in Jesus can be tough sometimes, especially in a world where people ask challenging questions and make fun of our faith. Just like the characters in the stories we have read today, Jesus is always there to guide us.
- **Say:** We are going to think about how we would answer someone if they asked us why we believe in Jesus. The character in the clip we are about to watch faced the same challenges as Pastor Milad, but we can learn a lot from his story.

### Video

You may want to point out to the children that the King Herod in this story is not the same as the King Herod that threatened the life of Jesus when he was a baby.

*What is it like to have a friend in Jesus?* by Bible Kids (3 mins 41 secs)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Fcp0Q6FYcU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Fcp0Q6FYcU)

### Handout

**Ask:** What's it like to have a friend in Jesus?

Jot down the shared ideas, and then ask the children to write their own answers to the question using the handout. Divide the children into pairs and give them an opportunity to answer the question out loud to each other.

Explain that if anyone ever asks them why they believe in Jesus, they will have a prepared answer that they can use as a starting point for discussion.

In the clip Peter prays for guidance from God. Ask the children to write their own prayers asking for God's guidance, using the second half of the handout.

- **Say:** In today's session, we have discovered that there are people who strongly dislike that Christians believe in Jesus. There are other groups of people that do not understand why we believe the things we do.

**Ask:** Today you have had a chance to write down why you believe in Jesus. In what way do you think it will help you to share your faith with other people?

## Pray It

- **Say:** As well as answering the question 'What is it like to have a friend in Jesus?' we have also thought about the importance of God's guidance in our lives. The wise men listened to the angels and made sure that King Herod did not find out the location of Jesus and his family. Joseph listened to the guidance of the angel and moved his family to Egypt to keep them safe. By following God's dreams, all of the characters in the story followed Jesus.
- **Say:** Today you have had the opportunity to write your own prayers, asking for God's guidance, and we're going to share them together.

Give each child the opportunity to share the prayer for guidance from their handout. Bring the time of prayer to a close, drawing on the themes covered in today's session.

## 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.

JANUARY  
SESSION 02

### TRAVELLING TO SAFETY

 Matthew 2:13-23 Jesus' parents take him to Egypt

## FOR ME



### Create

The angel came in a dream to guide Joseph. The angel warned him about King Herod, so Joseph led his family to safety in Egypt. Create a cartoon version of what happened while Joseph was fast asleep.

## TOGETHER



### Share

Today we spent time thinking about Christians who are treated badly because of what they believe. Look at the children and families' resources on the Open Doors website with someone at home. Is there anything that your family could do to support persecuted Christians around the world?

[www.opendoorsuk.org/resources/families/](http://www.opendoorsuk.org/resources/families/)



### Song for the week

'Be like Jesus' by YSPC Children's Ministry

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqquxi0B4oY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqquxi0B4oY)



### Memory verse

'If someone says, "I believe that Jesus is the Son of God," then God lives in him. And he lives in God.'

— (1 John 4:15 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!

