

# Paul and Silas in prison

**Bible verses:**

Acts 16:16-40

Paul and Silas in jail

**Aim:**

To know we can be close to God in difficult times

**Today's fruit:**

Patience



In today's session we will learn about a difficult time for Paul and Silas that led to a miraculous event.

Paul and Silas did exactly what God asked them to do and told everyone they met about Jesus. But the people in today's story didn't want to hear what they had to say. Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into prison. But they trusted in God, and knew he was close to them even when things were difficult.

Paul and Silas knew that God is good and that God is always with us. This helped them be patient, even while they were in prison.

**Each child will need:**

- Memory verse wristband
- Pens/pencils and paper
- Resources to retell the story of Paul and Silas - see Action it
- *Comic template* handout (optional)
- *Explore It ideas* handout

**You will need:**

- *Instructions* handout and Blu-tak/tape
- To display the sequence of events on a flipchart/screen - see Action it
- Today's fruit sign: *Patience*

## Start it

Before the session stick the *Instructions* handout sheets around the room. Explain to the children that our Bible characters for today, Paul and Silas, did exactly what God asked them to do. They followed his instructions.

Using paper and pens, the children can work independently or in pairs to follow all the instructions, in any order. Once completed they can share their answers together.

There is one instruction per sheet:

- Draw a cat.
- Write a girl's name beginning with B.
- Write the name of a song by your favourite singer.
- Draw a picture of something that reminds you of your favourite place.
- Write a boy's name that ends with M.
- Write your favourite line from a film or book.

## Sing it

### Say:

Our song for today is full of praise to God. It also mentions two of the characters from today's story.



## Song

'That's who I praise' by Brandon Lake (motions and lyrics) by Kid Kardia (3:48)

## Tell it

### Say:

In our story today we meet two people who were completely committed to following God and telling the world about Jesus. They did this even when their lives were in danger. Let's find out what happened to Paul and Silas.

## Video

**God's Story: Paul and Silas** by Crossroads Kids' Club (3:42)

**Watch: 0:00-1:05** 'Now remember, Paul and Silas were just trying to tell them about God, and now they found themselves behind bars in prison.'

**Say:**

Paul and Silas travelled to Philippi to tell the people all about Jesus. In the Bible we discover more about why the people were so angry with them.

**Read:**

**'Once, while we were going to the place for prayer, a servant girl met us. She had a special spirit in her. She earned a lot of money for her owners by telling fortunes. This girl followed Paul and us. She said loudly, "These men are servants of the Most High God! They are telling you how you can be saved!"**

**'She kept this up for many days. This bothered Paul, so he turned and said to the spirit, "By the power of Jesus Christ, I command you to come out of her!" Immediately, the spirit came out.**

**'The owners of the servant girl saw this. These men knew that now they could not use her to make money. So they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the city rulers in the marketplace. Here they brought Paul and Silas to the Roman rulers and said, "These men are Jews and are making trouble in our city. They are teaching things that are not right for us as Romans to do."'**

(Acts 16:16-21 *ICB*)

**Ask:**

What was the servant girl doing to make money for her owners?

**Say:**

People would pay for the girl to tell them what was going to happen in the future. Once Paul prayed with the girl and demanded the spirit to leave, she couldn't make money for her owners any more.

**Ask:**

How do you think her owners felt about that?

**Say:**

The people had their own way of doing things, and Paul and Silas said they needed to change. They were angry. The people dragged Paul and Silas in front of the city rulers and said, 'They are teaching things that are not right for us as Romans to do.' (Acts 16:21 *ICB*)

**Ask:**

What happened to Paul and Silas?

**Read:**

**'The crowd joined the attack against them. The Roman officers tore the clothes of Paul and Silas and had them beaten with rods again and again. Then Paul and Silas were thrown into jail. The jailer was ordered to guard them carefully.'**

(Acts 16:16-40 *ICB*)

**Say:**

The whole crowd started attacking Paul and Silas. Even though they hadn't done anything wrong, Paul and Silas were thrown into jail.

**Ask:**

Do you think Paul and Silas deserved to end up in prison? Explain your answer.

**Watch: 1:06-1:41** 'Sometimes you can look a little weird when you're serving others or worshipping, God but that's OK.'

**Ask:**

What surprising thing did Paul and Silas do when they were in jail?

**Say:**

Paul and Silas sang songs of praise to God.

**Ask:**

If you were in Paul and Silas's position, what song of praise would you choose to sing? Maybe you would choose our song for today.

**Watch: 1:42-3:08** 'And that's the story of Paul and Silas.'

**Say:**

The other prisoners listened as Paul and Silas lifted their voices in praise to God.

**Ask:**

What happened next?

**Read:**

**'Suddenly, there was a big earthquake. It was so strong that it shook the foundation of the jail. Then all the doors of the jail broke open. All the prisoners were freed from their chains. The jailer woke up and saw that the jail doors were open. He thought that the prisoners had already escaped. So he got his sword and was about to kill himself.'**

(Acts 16:26-27 ICB)

**Ask:**

Imagine you are the jailer in the story. Your only job is to make sure that the prisoners do not escape. It's already been a strange evening, as instead of causing trouble, your prisoners are singing and praising God. Then an earthquake hits out of nowhere, and the jail doors are thrown open. What is going through your mind right now?

**Ask:**

- Why do you think the jailer was ready to take his own life?
- What would have happened to him if the prisoners escaped while he was supposed to be in charge?

**Read:**

‘But Paul shouted, “Don’t hurt yourself! We are all here!”

‘The jailer told someone to bring a light. Then he ran inside. Shaking with fear, he fell down before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, “Men, what must I do to be saved?”

‘They said to him, “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved—you and all the people in your house.” So Paul and Silas told the message of the Lord to the jailer and all the people in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took Paul and Silas and washed their wounds. Then he and all his people were baptised immediately. After this the jailer took Paul and Silas home and gave them food. He and his family were very happy because they now believed in God.

The next morning, the Roman officers sent the police to tell the jailer, “Let these men go free!””

(Acts 16:28-35 *ICB*)

**Ask:**

How did the jailer feel when he realised that none of the prisoners had escaped?

**Say:**

The jailer took Paul and Silas home with him. It must have been very strange for his wife and family. It can’t have been normal for a jailer to bring prisoners home for tea!

**Ask:**

What amazing thing happened to the jailer’s family when they met Paul and Silas?

**Say:**

The jailer’s family believed in God, and their lives were changed for ever.

## Action it

This story is perfect for the children to retell in their own way. They could create a comic strip, make up actions to go with their own version of the story or act in their own play. An optional comic strip template is provided for you to use with your group if required. Whatever method you decide to use with the children, you can work through the following steps to establish the story’s key points.

**Watch 3:09 to end.**

On a flip chart or screen, jot down the main points of the story for the children to refer to.

## Key events

1. Paul and Silas were two friends.
2. They wanted to serve God.
3. They told people God's story.
4. Some people didn't want to hear it.
5. Those people threw Paul and Silas in jail.
6. Paul and Silas weren't scared.
7. They had a dance party to worship God.
8. God opened the jail doors with an earthquake.
9. Paul and Silas stayed to tell the jail guard about God.
10. They went free and kept on serving God.



When the children have had sufficient time to recreate their version of the story, they can share it with the rest of the group.

## Pray it

### Say:

Paul and Silas found themselves in an extremely difficult situation. They had done everything God had asked them to do, yet they were attacked and thrown in jail. It would have been easy for them to think that God had given up on them.

Display the *Patience* sign.

### Ask:

In what ways did Paul and Silas show that the fruit of God's patience was growing within them?

### Say:

Paul and Silas knew that, no matter the circumstances, they could trust in God. Even when things were difficult, they chose to sing God's praises. Our memory verse for this month reminds us that God is always with us, even when things are challenging.

Give each child a *memory verse wristband*. Introduce the memory verse and read it together.

## Memory verse

**'The Lord is my strength and shield.**

**I trust him, and he helps me.**

**I am very happy.**

**And I praise him with my song.'**

(Psalm 28:7 *ICB*)

**Ask:**

What situations are you, or someone you know, facing where you need to place your trust in God?

**Say:**

To bring our session to a close, we're going to sing a song that reminds us that God can be trusted, even when times are hard.

**Song**

'I trust in him' (Bible adventure worship) by LifeKids (2:30)

Bring the session to a close in prayer, incorporating any concerns raised by the children.

 **Explore it**

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



## Paul and Silas in prison

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



**Bible verses:**  
Acts 16:16-4



**Aim:**  
To know we can be close to God in difficult times



**Today's fruit:**  
Patience



### Pray

During our session you had the chance to share the challenges you or those you love are facing. Spend time praying for your family, friends, and the other children in the group. You could use our prayer song from this week to help you stay focused.

**'I trust in him' (Bible adventure worship)**  
by LifeKids



### Discover

In today's story there was an earthquake which meant that Paul and Silas could escape from the prison. In our world today some countries experience natural earthquakes.

Watch the clip and jot down three fascinating facts about earthquakes. Share what you have discovered with the people at home.

***What is an earthquake?* The Dr Binocs Show (education videos for kids)** by Peekaboo Kidz



### Song for the week

**'That's who I praise'** by Brandon Lake  
(motions and lyrics) by Kid Kardia



### Memory verse

**'The Lord is my strength and shield.  
I trust him, and he helps me.  
I am very happy.  
And I praise him with my song.'**  
(Psalm 28:7 ICB)

*Kids Alive!* Online – [salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive](http://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!



Children  
& Youth



# Paul and Silas in prison



**Bible verses:**  
Acts 16:16-4



**Aim:**  
To know we can be close  
to God in difficult times



**Today's fruit:**  
Patience



## Memory verse

**'The Lord is my strength and shield.  
I trust him, and he helps me.  
I am very happy.  
And I praise him with my song.'**

(Psalm 28:7 *ICB*)



## Start it

Paul and Silas loved to tell people about Jesus, but not everyone wanted to hear what they had to say. In today's story they were treated badly and thrown into prison. But God was with them every step of the way.



## Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Acts 16:16-20 or watch the following clip.

***Slapstick Theatre (Paul and Silas)*** by Saddleback Kids (1:34)

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- Why did Paul and Silas get into trouble?
- What happened to Paul and Silas?
- What did Paul and Silas do when they were in prison?
- What song of praise would you choose to

sing if you were having a horrible day?

- What amazing thing happened to set Paul and Silas free?



## Sing It

**'If I were a butterfly' (lyrics and music)**  
**'The butterfly song'** by Brian Howard, uploaded by Unreached Corners (3:09)

**'Wonderful Lord' (official video)** by Doug Horley (3:13)



## Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Sing your favourite praise song as loud as you can, just like Paul and Silas did.
- Imagine you are in the prison with Paul and Silas as the earthquake brings the walls down. Shake around as if the ground is moving.
- Draw two pictures of the jailor's face: one where he thought the prisoners were missing and one where he discovered that everyone was safe. How are they different?
- Paul and Silas patiently waited for God to answer their prayers. Name one way you could try to be patient this week.

 **Explore it**

**Draw a cat.**

 **Explore it**

**Write a girl's name  
beginning with B.**

 Explore it

**Write the name of a  
song by your favourite  
singer.**

 Explore it

**Draw a picture of  
something that reminds  
you of your favourite  
place.**

 **Explore it**

**Write a boy's name that  
ends with M.**

 Explore it

**Write your favourite  
line from a film or  
book.**

# Explore it

## Paul and Silas

They wanted to serve God.

Paul and Silas were two friends.

They told people God's story.

Some people didn't want to hear it.

Those people threw Paul and Silas in jail.



# Explore it

Paul and Silas weren't scared.

They had a dance party to worship God.

God opened the jail doors with an earthquake.

Paul and Silas stayed to tell the jail guard about God.

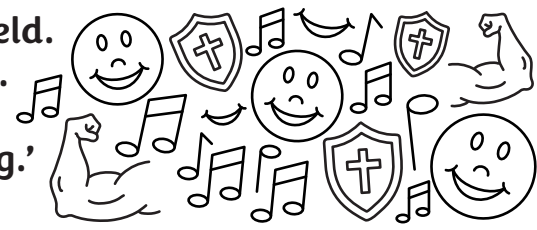
They went free and kept on serving God.





**'The Lord is my strength and shield.  
I trust him, and he helps me.  
I am very happy.  
And I praise him with my song.'**

(Psalm 28:7)



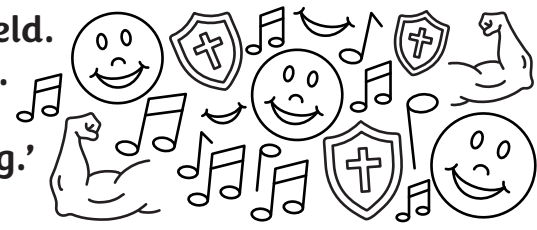
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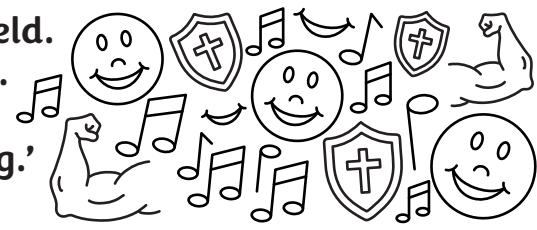
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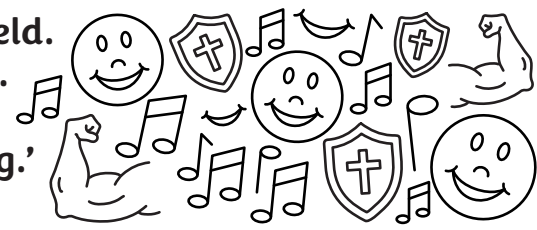
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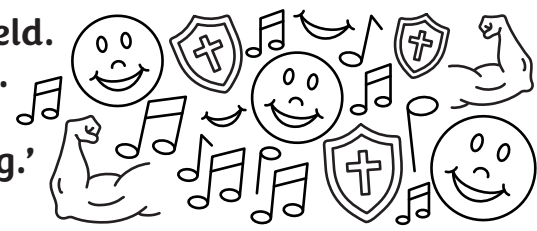
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 **Explore it**

# Patience

March 2025 session 1



Children  
& Youth

# Paul at Sea

**Bible verses:**

Acts 27:13-44

The storm

**Aim:**

To explore what it means to have faith in God, even in difficult times

**Today's fruit:**

Faithfulness



In today's session we join Paul and other prisoners heading to Italy on a boat.

The journey was long and dangerous, but Paul knew that God was with everyone on board. Paul could have doubted God, but instead he had faith that everything would be OK. We can learn from Paul how to trust in God even when life is difficult.

Paul could have been afraid and doubted that God would protect him. However, he showed faithfulness by still believing even during a really difficult time.

**Each child will need:**

- A clean jam jar with lid, washing-up liquid, water, food colouring and glitter
- A sticky label and pens (optional)
- *Explore It ideas* handout

**You will need:**

- A flip chart and pens
- To recall when you trusted in God during a difficult period (optional) - see *Tell it*
- Today's fruit sign: *Faithfulness*



## Start it

Ask the children what kind of weather you would see in a storm and jot down their ideas on a flip chart, eg rain, hail, snow, lightning, strong winds, tornadoes etc. As a group choose a few examples and create an action to go with each one. Ask the children to move around the room.

When you call out one of the types of weather, the children need to complete the action.

At the end of the game, sit the children down and discuss the following questions:

- Have you ever been in a storm?
- If so, how did it feel?



## Sing it

Share this month's memory verse together.

### Memory verse

**'The Lord is my strength and shield.  
I trust him, and he helps me.  
I am very happy.  
And I praise him with my song.'**

(Psalm 28:7 *ICB*)

#### Say:

In our story today Paul continued to stand strong and trust in God even when things got really scary. Our song for today reminds us that God can be trusted no matter what storm we face.

### Song

**'Stand strong'** (Kingdom Rock VBS group publishing) by Lifetree Kids (2:52)



## Tell it

#### Say:

Our story for today is like something out of an adventure book. Watch the clip to discover what happens.

### Video

***God's Story: Paul's shipwreck*** by Crossroads Kids' Club (4:24)

**Watch 0.00-2:51** 'But the officer Julius wanted to spare Paul's life, so Julius convinced the soldiers to let the prisoners live.'

#### Say:

Paul continued to upset people by telling them about Jesus and this got him into trouble. That's how he ended up on a boat as a prisoner, guarded by Roman soldiers. He warned the sailors that it wasn't safe to travel, but they didn't listen to him.



**Read:**

'Then a good wind began to blow from the south. The men on the ship thought, "This is the wind we wanted, and now we have it!" So they pulled up the anchor. We sailed very close to the island of Crete. But then a very strong wind named the "northeaster" came from the island. This wind took the ship and carried it away. The ship could not sail against it. So we stopped trying and let the wind blow us. We went below a small island named Cauda. Then we were able to bring in the lifeboat, but it was very hard to do. After the men took the lifeboat in, they tied ropes around the ship to hold it together. The men were afraid that the ship would hit the sandbanks of Syrtis. So they lowered the sail and let the wind carry the ship. The next day the storm was blowing us so hard that the men threw out some of the cargo. A day later they threw out the ship's equipment. For many days we could not see the sun or the stars. The storm was very bad. We lost all hope of staying alive - we thought we would die.'

(Acts 27:13-20 ICB)

**Ask:**

- How do you think the passengers on the boat were feeling at this point in the story?
- Have you ever made a decision that went wrong and then had someone say, 'I told you so'? What did it feel like?

**Say:**

In the middle of the storm Paul said to the men on the boat, 'I told you not to leave Crete. You should have listened to me. Then you would not have all this trouble and loss.' (Acts 27:21 ICB)

**Ask:**

How would you have felt if you were one of the sailors in the middle of a storm listening to Paul?

**Say:**

Happily, Paul went on to reassure them that they would survive.

**Read:**

'But now I tell you to cheer up. None of you will die! But the ship will be lost. Last night an angel from God came to me. This is the God I worship. I am his. God's angel said, "Paul, do not be afraid! You must stand before Caesar. And God has given you this promise: He will save the lives of all those men sailing with you." So men, be cheerful! I trust in God. Everything will happen as his angel told me. But we will go aground on an island.'

(Acts 27:22-26 ICB)

**Say:**

Paul told the men that God had everything under control and that they would be OK. They needed to have faith in God.

**Ask:**

- What does it mean to 'have faith' in God?

– How easy do you find it to have faith in God?

**Say:**

Sometimes, when we go through difficult things in life, we might call this a ‘storm’.

If appropriate, take a moment to share with the children a time when you have trusted in God during a storm in your life. How did God show his faithfulness to you?

**Say:**

Paul knew he could trust God in the storm because he knew God and had seen God do amazing things before. He had practised staying close to God in good times and bad times.

**Ask:**

What can we do to stay close to God?

**Say:**

The men on the boat lost a lot during the storm, and even though they survived, it was very challenging. Throughout this experience, Paul encouraged them to trust in God.

**Read:**

**‘When daylight came, the sailors saw land. They did not know what land it was, but they saw a bay with a beach. They wanted to sail the ship to the beach, if they could. So they cut the ropes to the anchors and left the anchors in the sea. At the same time, they untied the ropes that were holding the rudders. Then they raised the front sail into the wind and sailed toward the beach. But the ship hit a sandbank. The front of the ship stuck there and could not move. Then the big waves began to break the back of the ship to pieces.**

**The soldiers decided to kill the prisoners so that none of them could swim away and escape. But Julius, the officer, wanted to let Paul live. He did not allow the soldiers to kill the prisoners. Instead he ordered everyone who could swim to jump into the water and swim to land. The rest used wooden boards or pieces of the ship. And this is how all the people made it safely to land.’**

(Acts 27: 39–44 ICB)

Display the *Faithfulness* sign.

**Ask:**

In what way was God faithful to Paul?

**Say:**

Even though the boat was broken apart, every person was saved – just as God had promised.

If the children in your group would like to know what happened to Paul when he landed on the island, then you can watch the rest of the clip together.

**Watch 2:52 to end.**



## Action it

Explain that the children are going to create their own storm in a jar. They can take the jar home to remind them that God is with them in every storm they face.

The clip below can be used with the children or just for the leader. As well as creating their own storm in a jar, the children could decorate a sticky label to put on the lid of the jar saying, 'I put my trust in God.'

## Video

*Tornado in a jar* by SODA POP science (5:40)

Watch 0:00-2:27 'This circular motion is called a vortex.'

### Say:

You can use your storm jar as part of your prayer time this week. Everything is explained on your *Explore It Ideas* handout.

## Pray it

### Say:

Many people worldwide are impacted by physical storms that devastate where they live. Others face situations that could be described as a storm in their life. For our prayer time today, we will think of people who need help and support while dealing with a frightening storm. This could be an actual storm with rain and thunderclouds or a challenging life experience.

This activity continues from last week's Pray It theme, where the children were encouraged to pray for others. This week the children are encouraged to pray for people who face storms in their lives, whatever form that storm may take. Spend time jotting down ideas for prayer with the children. Invite the children to spin their tornado in a jar as they choose a prayer topic to share out loud. Bring the session to a close in prayer.

## 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)

## Paul at Sea

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



**Bible verses:**  
Acts 27:13-44



**Aim:**  
To explore what it means to have faith in God, even in difficult times



**Today's fruit:**  
Faithfulness



### Pray

During our session this week we used our tornado in a jar to pray for people facing storms in their lives. Each day, take a moment to spin your jar and pray for someone who is facing a challenging situation.



### Discover

Which places in the world are recovering from a storm? Research where they are with the people at home and spend time praying for those involved.



### Song for the week

'Stand strong' (Kingdom Rock VBS group publishing) by Lifetree Kids



### Memory verse

'The Lord is my strength and shield.  
I trust him, and he helps me.  
I am very happy.  
And I praise him with my song.'  
(Psalm 28:7 ICB)

**LIVING  
OUT FAITH**

*Kids Alive!* Online – [salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive](http://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!



Children  
& Youth

# Paul at Sea



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Acts 27:13-44



**Aim:**  
To explore what it means to have  
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**Today's fruit:**  
Faithfulness



## Memory verse

**'The Lord is my strength and shield.  
I trust him, and he helps me.  
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(Psalm 28:7 *ICB*)



## Start it

Paul was taken as a prisoner on a boat to Italy. The boat hit a storm which nearly destroyed everyone on board. God promised to protect everyone on the boat, and they were kept safe. God showed his faithfulness when he kept his promise to Paul.



## Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Acts 27:13-44 or watch the following clip.

**God's Story: Paul's shipwreck** by Crossroads Kids' Club (4:24)

**Watch 0.00-2:41** 'All 276 people survived, just as God had promised.'

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- Why was Paul taken on the boat to Italy?

- How did the Roman soldier Julius show kindness to Paul?
- What happened once the boat was out on the water?
- What did God promise to Paul?
- How did God keep his promise?



## Sing It

**'The wise man built his house upon the rock'** by Tiny Tree Tunes uploaded by Lithos Kids. Just the first two verses (1:35)

**'All through history'** Nicky & Becky Drake by Worship For Everyone (3:36)



## Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Create your own picture of a stormy sea.
- Think of some different kinds of stormy weather, like rain or strong winds. Think of an action to go with each kind of weather and show it to the rest of the group.
- Gather your friends together and get on an imaginary boat. Act out what would happen in the middle of a storm.
- Imagine you are one of the sailors who has safely landed on the beach. What would you say to Paul?

 **Explore it**

# Faithfulness

March 2025 session 2



Children  
& Youth

# Peter denies Jesus

**Bible verses:**

John 18:15–18, 25–27; 21:15–17; Matthew 26:33–35  
Peter says he doesn't know Jesus

**Aim:**

To learn that God uses people who aren't perfect in the Church and in the world

**Today's fruit:**

Kindness



In this session we will discover how God uses imperfect people in the Church and in the world.

Jesus was in serious trouble. The people in charge were looking for a way to catch him out. When Jesus was arrested, Peter, one of his closest followers, pretended he had never met him. Even though he made this terrible mistake, Jesus forgave him and used him to build his Church.

Despite Peter denying Jesus, Jesus showed kindness by accepting him back and gave him a key role in the future of the Church.

**Each child will need:**

- Orange A4 card, 3cm-wide strip of red card, small piece of yellow card, 1cm-wide strips of coloured paper, glue, scissors, pen/pencil and googly eye stickers
- *Explore It ideas* handout

**You will need:**

- Today's fruit sign: *Kindness*



## Start it

There is a lot of mention of roosters in today's session. In the United Kingdom, an adult male chicken is known as a cockerel. But in the United States an adult male chicken is known as a rooster. Rocky the Rooster in *Chicken Run* is of course American.

**Ask:**

Who has seen the film *Chicken Run*? What is it about?

## **Say:**

In the film, Rocky the Rooster suddenly arrives in the chicken coop, the area where the chickens live.

## **Ask:**

Do you know what Rocky claims that he can do?

## **Say:**

Rocky the Rooster claims that he can fly. We're going to watch the moment when the chickens discover that, although they have attended all of Rocky's flying lessons, he really cannot fly.

## **Video**

***Chicken Run - the truth about Rocky*** by Aardman Features uploaded by Veggieboy Ultimate (2:46)

## **Ask:**

- How did the chickens feel when they discovered that Rocky had betrayed them?
- Did they ever forgive Rocky? If so, how did Rocky make up for the mistakes he made? (He helps the chickens escape from the farm on a plane they build.)

## **Say:**

Our Bible story today involves a rooster, a cockerel, but it's not the rooster that lets Jesus down. We'll find out later who said they did not know Jesus and what part the cockerel played in the story.



## **Sing it**

Share this month's memory verse together.

## **Memory verse**

**'The Lord is my strength and shield.**

**I trust him, and he helps me.**

**I am very happy.**

**And I praise him with my song.'**

(Psalm 28:7 ICB)

## **Say:**

In our story today Peter turned his back on Jesus and denied ever knowing him. He did not put his trust in God. We can learn from Peter's mistakes and keep trusting God no matter what. Our song for today reminds us how important it is to place our trust in God.

## **Song**

**'I'm trusting you' (Roar VBS group publishing)** by Life Tree Kids (3:44)

## Tell it

### **Say:**

The main character in our story today is Peter, one of Jesus' followers.

### **Ask:**

What do you know about Peter?

### **Say:**

Peter is one of the most influential Christians in the world. He played a huge part in the Church's existence today. However, there was a time when he wasn't willing to let anyone know that he loved Jesus. So, how did this man go from denying he knew Jesus to building the Church? Let's find out in today's story.

## **Video**

*Jesus forgives Peter* by Saddleback Kids (5:59)

**Watch: 0:00-1:48** 'The other disciples vowed the same. [Mumbles] "Yes, us too."'

### **Ask:**

What did you learn about Peter in this part of the clip?

### **Say:**

Peter was called by Jesus to follow him. He loved Jesus, spent time with him and watched him teach the people. He promised that he would do anything for Jesus, including losing his own life.

### **Read:**

**'Peter said, "All the other followers may lose their faith because of you. But I will never lose my faith."**

**'Jesus said, "I tell you the truth. Tonight you will say you don't know me. You will say this three times before the cock crows."**

**'But Peter said, "I will never say that I don't know you! I will even die with you!" And all the other followers said the same thing.'**

(Matthew 26:33-35 *ICB*)

### **Ask:**

How do you think Peter felt when he heard what Jesus had to say about him?

**Watch: 1:49-3:35** 'Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind and Peter left the courtyard weeping.'

### **Ask:**

- What did Peter do when the guards tried to arrest Jesus?
- How did Jesus respond?

**Say:**

Peter went with one of the other followers of Jesus into the high priest's courtyard. He was recognised by a young girl.

**Read:**

**'The girl at the door said to Peter, "Aren't you also one of that man's followers?"**

**'Peter answered, "No, I am not!"**

**'It was cold, so the servants and guards had built a fire. They were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter was standing with them, warming himself.'**

(John 18:17-18 *ICB*)

**Ask:**

Do you think it was brave of the young girl to ask Peter a question like this? If so, why?

**Say:**

Often children are really good at finding the best question to ask, even if the adults around them don't want to hear it. The girl's question caught the attention of the others who were warming their hands.

**Read:**

**'Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They said to him, "Aren't you one of that man's followers?"**

**'Peter denied it and said, "No, I am not."**

**'One of the servants of the high priest was there. This servant was a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off. The servant said, "Didn't I see you with him in the garden?"**

**'Again Peter said it wasn't true. Just then a cockerel crowed.'**

(John 18:25-27 *ICB*)

**Ask:**

- Do you have any sympathy for Peter? If so, why?
- If you were under pressure, or you could get in trouble for being friends with Jesus, what might you do?

**Say:**

Peter said three times he did not know Jesus. Jesus had told him this would happen, and when the moment came, Peter still denied knowing him.

**Ask:**

How do you think Peter felt when he realised Jesus' prediction had come true?

**Watch: 3:35 to end.**

**Say:**

After he had been raised from the dead, Jesus came to visit the disciples at the beach.



## Read:

'When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

'Yes, Lord,' he said, 'you know that I love you.'

'Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

'Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

'He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

'Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

'The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

'Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."'

(John 21:15-17 NIV)

## Ask:

- How many times did Peter deny knowing Jesus?
- How many times did Jesus ask Peter, 'Do you love me?'
- Why do you think Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved him?

Display the *Kindness* sign.

## Ask:

What does this story teach us about the kindness of Jesus?

## Say:

Jesus had forgiven Peter for denying him; and not only that, he wanted him to have a crucial role in caring for God's people when Jesus had gone. Even though Peter wasn't perfect, Jesus believed in him and knew he could do amazing things for God. Jesus feels the same way about us. We don't need to be perfect; Jesus can use us even when we make mistakes.

## Action it

Explain that the children are going to make their own cockerel to remind them of Peter's story. The clip below can be used with the whole group or for the leader's reference.

## Video

*Easy rooster craft tutorial* by pS Craftistic DIY (4:23)



## Say:

Every time Peter heard a cockerel crow in the morning, he could have seen it as a reminder of the moment he let Jesus down. Instead, Peter committed his life to following Jesus and became a foundation of the worldwide Church. Every time the cockerel crowed, Peter was reminded that God had forgiven him and was using him to build his Kingdom. Your cockerel is a reminder that God uses imperfect people to do amazing things.



## Pray it

## Say:

To bring our session to a close, we are going to think about the mistakes we may have made and how God has forgiven us.

## Discuss

Discuss with the children how God wants to use them, even though they are not always perfect and may slip up sometimes. Remind them of the story of Peter and the way God uses people who aren't perfect in the Church and in the world.

Play the music clip and ask the children to pay special attention to the words. When the song comes to an end, pray on behalf of the group.

## Listen

'God forgave' (Cross Culture Thailand VBS Music Video Group Publishing) by Lifetree Kids (3:55)



## Explore it

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



## Peter denies Jesus

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



### Bible verses:

John 18:15–18,  
25–27; 21:15–17;  
Matthew 26:33–35



### Aim:

To learn that God uses people who aren't perfect in the Church and in the world



### Today's fruit:

Kindness



### Reflect

Think of a time you realised you made a mistake that hurt someone else.

How did you make it right? If you were forgiven, then how did that feel?

Now think of a time when someone hurt you because of a mistake they made.

Were you able to show kindness to them when they said they were sorry? If so, how?

What does Jesus teach us about showing kindness and forgiving those who have let us down?



### Share

Watch the clip and have a go at crowing like a cockerel. Ask the people at home to try as well. Who has the best cockerel crow?

**Can you crow like a rooster?** (YouTube shorts) by J House jr



### Memory verse

'The Lord is my strength and shield.

I trust him, and he helps me.

I am very happy.

And I praise him with my song.'

(Psalm 28:7 ICB)



### Song for the week

'I'm trusting you' (Roar VBS group publishing) by Life Tree Kids

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*Kids Alive!* Online – [salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive](http://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!



Children  
& Youth

# Peter denies Jesus



**Bible verses:**

John 18:15-18,  
25-27; 21:15-17;  
Matthew 26:33-35



**Aim:**

To learn that God uses people  
who aren't perfect in the  
Church and in the world



**Today's fruit:**

Kindness



## Memory verse

**'The Lord is my strength and shield.**

**I trust him, and he helps me.**

**I am very happy.**

**And I praise him with my song.'**

(Psalm 28:7 *ICB*)



## Start it

Jesus was in serious trouble. The people in charge were looking for a way to catch him out. When Jesus was arrested, Peter, one of his closest followers, pretended he had never met him. Even though Peter made this terrible mistake, Jesus forgave him and used him to build his Church.



## Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of John 18:15-18, 25-27; 21:15-17; Matthew 26:33-35 or watch the following clip.

**God's Story: Peter denies Jesus** by Crossroads' Kids Club (2:52)

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- What did some people try to do when Jesus said he was God's son?

- How many times did Peter pretend he did not know Jesus?
- Jesus knew that Peter would deny knowing him. Which animal reminded Peter of Jesus' words?
- How did Jesus show kindness to Peter even though he had been let down?
- What did Peter do after Jesus had forgiven him?



## Sing It

**'Great big God!'** Vineyard Kids, Vineyard Worship UK and Ireland (2:51)

**'Jesus song'** by Saddleback Kids (2:45) This song tells us about the amazing thing Jesus did.



## Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- See if you can cock-a-doodle-doo three times like a cockerel.
- Find a partner and act out the moment when Peter heard the cockerel crow.
- Think of a way that you can show kindness to someone who has made a mistake and wants to try again.
- Draw a picture of a cockerel to remind you that even when we make mistakes, God forgives us.

 **Explore it**

# Kindness

March 2025 session 3



Children  
& Youth

# Jesus on trial (part one)

**Bible verses:**

Luke 22:47-53, 66-71

Jesus is arrested

**Aim:**

To learn that God chooses gentleness over violence

**Today's fruit:**

Gentleness



In this week's session we discover what happened when Jesus was arrested in the garden of Gethsemane.

The religious leaders were increasingly angry with Jesus teaching the people and declaring that he was Israel's Messiah and the Son of God. Jesus knew that the time was drawing near for the authorities to take him away. We'll see how Jesus responded to a moment of violence and we'll take a moment to learn from Jesus' example.

In a desperate situation, Jesus showed gentleness, even to people who did not believe in him and chose to be his enemies.

**Each child will need:**

- A range of art materials and paper to make their own memory verse poster – see Action It
- A memory verse from the *Memory verse* handout – optional
- *Explore It ideas* handout

**You will need:**

- A Jenga (or tumbling towers) game
- Today's fruit sign: *Gentleness*
- To display a prayer on a flip chart – see Pray It

**Start it**

Today's session is all about gentleness, so the children are going to play a game of Jenga. Set up the tower and see how gentle the children can be as they remove each brick.

## Sing it

Display the *Gentleness* sign.

### Discuss

Discuss the times when they may get frustrated with people or situations. How does it make them feel? How do they want to react?

#### Say:

There are times when things happen that really frustrate us and may even make us feel angry. Our song for today reminds us to be gentle with others, even when we're frustrated or annoyed.

### Song

'The gentleness song' by Cheeky Pandas (2:48)



## Tell it

#### Say:

As we get closer to Easter, we will be looking at the events leading up to the death and resurrection of Jesus. This week we join the story at the point where Jesus was praying in the garden of Gethsemane with his disciples. Jesus knew that he was close to being arrested and that one of his disciples would betray him. We find the story in the book of Luke.

#### Read:

**'While Jesus was speaking, a crowd came up. One of the 12 apostles was leading them. He was Judas. He came close to Jesus so that he could kiss him.'**

**'But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you using the kiss to give the Son of Man to his enemies?"'**

(Luke 22:47-48 ICB)

#### Ask:

- Why do you think the people in charge were so against Jesus?
- Why did Judas kiss Jesus?

#### Say:

Judas gave Jesus a gentle kiss. This action was normally used to show love and respect, but Judas used it to betray Jesus. Another disciple stands out in this story. During the clip we watched in our last session there was a moment when Peter defended Jesus at the time of his arrest.

**Ask:**

What did Peter do to one of the men trying to arrest Jesus?

**Say:**

Today we are going to find out more about the moment Peter lost his temper and hurt one of the men. We are also going to see how Jesus responded with gentleness. Let's carry on with the story to find out what happened.

**Read:**

**'The followers of Jesus were standing there too. They saw what was happening. They said to Jesus, "Lord, should we use our swords?" And one of them did use his sword. He cut off the right ear of the servant of the high priest.**

**'Jesus said, "Stop!" Then he touched the servant's ear and healed him.'**

(Luke 22:49-51 *ICB*)

**Say:**

The man who had his ear cut off was part of a group trying to arrest Jesus and have him killed. Instead of responding in anger, Jesus chose to heal the man.

**Ask:**

- Why do you think Jesus chose to heal the servant of the High Priest?
- The disciples were ready to use their swords, but why do you think Jesus stopped them when his own life was in danger?
- How easy do you find it to be gentle, especially when you are stressed or angry?
- What can we learn from Jesus and the way he treated those who were unkind to him?

**Say:**

Jesus pointed out to the religious leaders that the timing of his arrest was a little suspicious.

**Read:**

**'Those who came to arrest Jesus were the leading priests, the soldiers who guarded the Temple, and the older Jewish leaders. Jesus said to them, "Why did you come out here with swords and sticks? Do you think I am a criminal? I was with you every day in the Temple. Why didn't you try to arrest me there? But this is your time - the time when darkness rules.'"**

(Luke 22:52-53 *ICB*)

**Say:**

The religious leaders had lots of opportunities to arrest Jesus in a non-violent way, but they chose to bring soldiers to take him away at night.

**Ask:**

- How do you think Jesus managed to stay so calm?
- What can we learn from this, that might help us in our own lives?



## **Say:**

In the morning, they took Jesus away to be questioned.

## **Read:**

**'When day came, the older leaders of the people, the leading priests, and the teachers of the law came together. They led Jesus away to their highest court. They said, "If you are the Christ, then tell us that you are!"**

**'Jesus said to them, "If I tell you I am the Christ, you will not believe me. And if I ask you, you will not answer. But beginning now, the Son of Man will sit at the right hand of the powerful God."**

**'They all said, "Then are you the Son of God?"**

**'Jesus said to them, "Yes, you are right when you say that I am."**

**'They said, "Why do we need witnesses now? We ourselves heard him say this!"'**

(Luke 22:66-71 *ICB*)

## **Say:**

The religious leaders were angry that Jesus said he was the Son of God. When he refused to deny it, they took him away to be questioned by Pilate, the Roman governor.

## **Ask:**

What questions do you have about this part of the story of Jesus?

## **Action it**

## **Say:**

Jesus knew that his Heavenly Father would be with him no matter what happened. He was calm because he knew that God was with him. He was gentle because he had God's strength and power on his side.

## **Ask:**

Why did God's power enable Jesus to show gentleness?

## **Say:**

Our memory verse for this month reminds us that we can rely on God's strength in any situation. Let's share it together.

## **Memory verse**

**'The Lord is my strength and shield.**

**I trust him, and he helps me.**

**I am very happy.**

**And I praise him with my song.'**

(Psalm 28:7 *ICB*)

Explain that the children are going to create their own version of the memory verse. Supply the children with a range of crafts and art materials to create a picture that helps them to remember the main message of the verse. Some children may wish for a printout of the memory verse, from the Memory verses handout to help them. The children can share their creations with each other and discuss the artistic choices they have made.

## Pray it

### Say:

To bring our session to a close, we are going to think about how the Holy Spirit can grow the fruit of gentleness in our lives.

Watch the clip together and discuss what it means to show gentleness to others.

## Video

**God's story: fruit: gentleness** by Crossroads Kids' Club (2:39)

Write the following prayer on the flip chart and ask the children to think about how they would complete it.

**Dear Jesus,**

**I want to be gentle with others, just like you. Help me to be gentle when**

-----

**Amen.**

Ask the children to share their gentleness prayers and then bring the session to a close in prayer.

## Explore it

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



## Jesus on trial (part one)

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



### Bible verses:

Luke 22:47-53, 66-71



### Aim:

To learn that God chooses gentleness over violence



### Today's fruit:

Gentleness



### Pray

Write your own gentleness prayer and read it each day when you wake up in the morning.



### Share

This week we discovered more about gentleness. Watch the clip with the people at home and discuss how you could be gentle with each other.

**God's story:** **fruit:** *gentleness* by Crossroads Kids' Club



### Song for the week

'The gentleness song' by Cheeky Pandas



### Memory verse

'The Lord is my strength and shield.

I trust him, and he helps me.

I am very happy.

And I praise him with my song.'

(Psalm 28:7 ICB)

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# Jesus on trial (part one)



**Bible verses:**  
Luke 22:47-53, 66-71



**Aim:**  
To learn that God chooses gentleness over violence



**Today's fruit:**  
Gentleness



## Memory verse

**'The Lord is my strength and shield.  
I trust him, and he helps me.  
I am very happy.  
And I praise him with my song.'**  
(Psalm 28:7 *ICB*)



## Start it

The religious leaders were angry with Jesus because he told the people he was the Son of God. They plotted to have him arrested. Peter was very angry and hurt one of the people who came to arrest Jesus. Instead of getting angry as well, Jesus showed gentleness and healed the man.



## Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Luke 22:47-53 or watch the following clip.

***The servant's ear healed*** by Jesus 101 (1:30)

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- Peter found it difficult not to get angry about things. Do you ever feel like that? Explain what it feels like.
- What did Peter do to the servant of the High Priest?

- What did Jesus do?
- What important lesson did Peter learn on that day?
- What can we learn from Jesus' example of gentleness in today's story?



## Sing It

**'Shine! (from the inside out)'** by Nick Jackson uploaded by Tangy Crayfish (2:20)

**'Holy Spirit'** for children by Ayi and her friends. Sing only the chorus (0:44-1:15)



## Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Show everyone your best angry face and slowly change it into a face full of gentleness.
- In pairs or small groups, act out the moment when Peter used his sword and Jesus healed the servant of the High Priest.
- Think of three ways you can be gentle instead of showing anger to others.
- See if you can finish this prayer. 'Dear Jesus, help me to be gentle when \_\_\_\_\_'

 **Explore it**

# Gentleness

March 2025 session 4



Children  
& Youth

# Explore it

## Memory verses

'The Lord is my strength and shield.  
I trust him, and he helps me.  
I am very happy.  
And I praise him with my song.'  
(Psalm 28:7)

'The Lord is my  
strength and shield.  
I trust him, and he  
helps me.  
I am very happy.  
And I praise him with  
my song.'  
(Psalm 28:7)

'The Lord is my strength and shield.  
I trust him, and he helps me.  
I am very happy.  
And I praise him with my song.'  
(Psalm 28:7)

'The Lord is my strength and  
shield.  
I trust him, and he helps me.  
I am very happy.  
And I praise him with my  
song.'  
(Psalm 28:7)

'The Lord is my strength  
and shield.  
I trust him, and he helps me.  
I am very happy.  
And I praise him with  
my song.'  
(Psalm 28:7)

'The Lord is my strength and  
shield.  
I trust him, and he helps me.  
I am very happy.  
And I praise him with my  
song.'  
(Psalm 28:7)

'The Lord is my strength and shield.  
I trust him, and he helps me.  
I am very happy.  
And I praise him with my song.'  
(Psalm 28:7)

'The Lord is my strength and shield. I trust him, and he helps me. I am very happy. And I praise him with my song.'  
(Psalm 28:7)

# Jesus on trial (part two)

**Bible verses:**

Luke 23:1-25

Governor Pilate questions Jesus

**Aim:**

To know that the Holy Spirit can help us with self-control in difficult situations

**Today's fruit:**

Self-control



In this week's session we continue to follow the events of Holy Week.

Jesus was brought before Pilate and Herod Antipas for judgement, but both men could not find one thing that Jesus had done wrong. The crowd mocked Jesus and shouted abuse, yet he said nothing. We see how Jesus reacts to very challenging circumstances.

Jesus showed self-control when all around him people were accusing him and harming him. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can also show self-control.

## Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper
- *Explore It ideas* handout

## You will need:

- Today's fruit sign: *Self-control*
- A prayer based on an area of your life where you struggle to show self-control (optional) - see *Pray it*



## Start it

**Say:**

To start our session today, we're going to see how much you know about the Easter story.

The quiz gives the children time to write down or shout out the answers before they are revealed on the screen.



## Video

*School Bible quiz for kids: Easter edition (Sunday School and Homeschool)* by ShareFaith Kids (2:17)



## Sing it

Share the memory verse together.

### Memory verse

**'The Lord is my strength and shield.  
I trust him, and he helps me.  
I am very happy.  
And I praise him with my song.'**

(Psalm 28:7 ICB)

### Say:

Our song for today reminds us that everyone can put their trust in God.

### Song

**'You, you, you'** (Sky VBS group publishing) by Lifetree Kids (2:05)



## Tell it

This week we are continuing to follow the story of Jesus as we move towards Easter. Recap the main events covered in Sessions Three and Four (Peter denying Jesus and Jesus being arrested) so that the children are ready to learn about the trial of Jesus. Encourage them to retell the story in their own words.

### Say:

Our story continues today as Jesus is handed over to the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate for questioning.

### Read:

**'Then the whole group stood up and led Jesus to Pilate. They began to accuse Jesus. They told Pilate, "We caught this man telling things that were confusing our people. He says that we should not pay taxes to Caesar. He calls himself the Christ, a king."**

**'Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?"**

**'Jesus answered, "Yes, that is right."**





**‘Pilate said to the leading priests and the people, “I find nothing wrong with this man.”  
‘They said again and again, “But Jesus is making trouble with the people! He teaches all around Judea. He began in Galilee, and now he is here!”’**

(Luke 23:1-5 *ICB*)

**Ask:**

- Why was Jesus brought before Pilate? What did the religious leaders say he had done?
- Why were people trying to get Jesus to say that he was the Son of God or the King of the Jews?
- What was Pilate’s conclusion about Jesus?
- How did the religious leaders respond to Pilate’s belief that Jesus was innocent?

**Say:**

The Romans were known for their barbaric punishments, but they also had a clear system of rules and laws that were carefully followed. Pilate could not find anything that Jesus had done wrong. When Pilate heard that Jesus was from Galilee, he sent him to another leader to be questioned.

**Read:**

**‘Pilate heard this and asked if Jesus was from Galilee. If so, Jesus was under Herod’s authority. Herod was in Jerusalem at that time; so Pilate sent Jesus to him. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad. He had heard about Jesus and had wanted to meet him for a long time. Herod was hoping to see Jesus work a miracle. Herod asked Jesus many questions, but Jesus said nothing. The leading priests and teachers of the law were standing there. They were shouting things against Jesus. Then Herod and his soldiers made fun of Jesus. They dressed him in a kingly robe and then sent him back to Pilate. In the past, Pilate and Herod had always been enemies. But on that day they became friends.’**

(Luke 23:6-12 *ICB*)

**Ask:**

- How was Jesus treated when he went to see Herod? What kinds of things happened to him?
- How did Jesus react when he was mocked, shouted at, and dressed up in a kingly robe?

**Say:**

The people were trying to provoke Jesus to get a response. If they succeeded, then it would prove that Jesus was a troublemaker. Jesus stayed perfectly calm.

**Ask:**

How do you think Jesus managed to stay so calm when everyone was treating him in such an unkind way?

## Read:

‘Pilate called all the people together with the leading priests and the Jewish leaders. He said to them, “You brought this man to me. You said that he was making trouble among the people. But I have questioned him before you all, and I have not found him guilty of the things you say. Also, Herod found nothing wrong with him; he sent him back to us. Look, he has done nothing for which he should die. So, after I punish him, I will let him go free.” [Every year at the Passover Feast, Pilate had to release one prisoner to the people.]

‘But all the people shouted, “Kill him! Let Barabbas go free!” (Barabbas was a man who was in prison because he started a riot in the city. He was guilty of murder.)

‘Pilate wanted to let Jesus go free. So he told this to the crowd. But they shouted again, “Kill him! Kill him on a cross!”

‘A third time Pilate said to them, “Why? What wrong has he done? I can find no reason to kill him. So I will have him punished and set him free.”

‘But they continued to shout. They demanded that Jesus be killed on the cross. Their yelling became so loud that Pilate decided to give them what they wanted. They wanted Barabbas to go free, the man who was in jail for starting a riot and for murder. Pilate let Barabbas go free and gave Jesus to them to be killed.’

(Luke 23:13-25 ICB)

## Say:

Jesus had stood before two leaders who had both said he had done nothing wrong. Despite this, he was brought before Pilate again. Only one prisoner could go free according to the custom of the occasion, and the crowd chose Barabbas, a convicted murderer, rather than the innocent man who stood before them.

## Ask:

Why did the crowd choose Jesus to go to the cross?

## Say:

There is nothing in the Bible that suggests that Jesus shouted back or tried to defend himself. Jesus was the Son of God and yet he did nothing.

## Ask:

- What could Jesus have done to save himself?
- How many options can you think of?
- Why do you think he didn't do these things?

Display the *Self-control* sign.

## Say:

Jesus knew that death on the cross was God's plan for his life. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was able to show self-control and not react to the shouting crowd.



## Ask:

- Can you think of a time when you have had to show self-control?
- What was it like?

## Say:

At this moment, Jesus was not being weak. There were many times when Jesus spoke out against the leaders and pointed out where people were doing the wrong thing. As Jesus stood before Pilate, he knew he needed to stay quiet and show self-control.

## Say:

There are times when we need to speak out and times when we need to remain quiet. We can ask the Holy Spirit to help us show self-control and make the right decision at the right time. All we need to do is ask.

## Action it

Explain that the children are going to create a game, a short activity that could be used at the start of a session. The aim of the game is to demonstrate the importance of self-control. It could be a quiz, an action game or questions about a film clip where the character shows self-control.

To get the children thinking, watch the following clip together. Give the children time to create their game and then they can share it with the rest of the group.

## Video

*The self control game! (Micah's super vlog)* by Minno – Bible stories for kids (2:38)

## Pray it

### Ask:

- When do you find it most difficult to show self-control?
- How could you ask the Holy Spirit to help you in this area?

Give the children time to write or draw a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to give them self-control. You may like to model how this is done, using an area in your life where you struggle to show self-control.

Share the prayers together to bring the session to a close. An optional piece of music is provided as a background when the children write their prayers.



## Listen

'God gives us The Holy Spirit' by Austin Stone Worship: Kids (3:25)

## Explore it

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



## Jesus on trial (part two)

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



**Bible verses:**  
Luke 23:1-25



**Aim:**  
To know that the Holy Spirit can help us with self-control in difficult situations



**Today's fruit:**  
Self-control



### Discover

Watch the clip to find out more about the Easter story.

**God's story: Easter** by Crossroads Kids' Club



### Play

In our session this week you created a game all about self-control. Try it out with the people at home.



### Song for the week

'You, you, you' (Sky VBS group publishing) by Lifetree Kids (2:05)



### Memory verse

'The Lord is my strength and shield.  
I trust him, and he helps me.  
I am very happy.  
And I praise him with my song.'  
(Psalm 28:7 ICB)

**LIVING  
OUT FAITH**

*Kids Alive!* Online – [salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive](http://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!



Children  
& Youth

# Jesus on trial (part two)



**Bible verses:**  
Luke 23:1-25



**Aim:**  
To know that the Holy Spirit  
can help us with self-control  
in difficult situations



**Today's fruit:**  
Self-control



## Memory verse

**'The Lord is my strength and shield.  
I trust him, and he helps me.  
I am very happy.  
And I praise him with my song.'**  
(Psalm 28:7 *ICB*)



## Start it

Our story continues this week as we find Jesus on trial before Pontius Pilate and King Herod. Both men could not see how Jesus had done anything wrong, but the crowd shouted for Jesus to be crucified. Through all of this, Jesus stayed calm and showed self-control.



## Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Luke 23:1-25.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- Why were the religious leaders so angry with Jesus?
- What did Pilate say about Jesus?
- King Herod and his men were very unkind to Jesus. What did they do?
- How did Jesus respond when the people were being unkind to him?
- Jesus knew that he needed to show self-

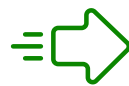
control to follow God's plan for his life. What can we learn from Jesus about showing self-control?



## Sing It

**'The lion's roar'** by Sarah Pickering  
uploaded by Vineyard Worship UK & Ireland

**'Friend of God'** by Israel Houghton uploaded  
by Spring Harvest – Topic



## Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Draw a picture of the moment when Jesus was questioned by King Herod. Think carefully about what Jesus was wearing.
- Imagine you are Jesus being accused of something you haven't done. What would you say to the people listening?
- The crowd shouted for Barabbas to be saved. See how loud you can shout, 'Let Barabbas go free!' How do you think Jesus felt when he heard the crowd shouting?
- Try and show self-control by holding a chewy sweet in your mouth without chewing it or listening to your favourite lively song without dancing.
- Think of a time when you have shown self-control. Tell the rest of the group about it.

 **Explore it**

# Self-control

March 2025 session 5



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